

# DEVELOPING THE SYSTEM OF SCIENTIFIC ADVISERS IN ESTONIAN MINISTRIES

Liina Eek  
Estonian Research Council  
1 December 2021

## *System of scientific advisers in ministries*

In the frameworks of programme **RITA – National programme for Addressing Socio-Economic Challenges through R&D** that is co-financed by structural funds (ERDF).

Budget: ca 32 M €

Duration: 2015-2023



## *Scientific advisers*

### Role of scientific advisers:

- \* advise ministries on **R&D issues**,
- \* planning national and international R&D cooperation, developing plans of R&D needs,
- \* coordinate their implementation,
- \* organizing connections with scientists,
- \* representing Estonia in International R&D actions,
- \* being Members of advisory bodies like Horizon 2020 programme committees, science policy committee etc.



## *Scientific advisers*

### **Criteria:**

doctoral degree  
or at least four years of research experience.

### **Current situation:**

First scientific adviser started in 2015.

14 scientific advisers in 10 ministries and Government Office

In Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Economic Affairs  
two advisers

In Ministry of Social Affairs three advisers (one of them part-time)

## *Scientific advisers*

**Estonian Research Council (ETAg) and Ministry of Education and Science mediate interministerial cooperation through:**

### Formal activities

- Formal advisory meetings on interministerial R&D topics, including giving opinion to government;
- Collecting and reporting ministrie's R&D budgets and allocations.



## *Scientific advisers*

### **Informal activities:**

- regular monthly (during Corona period virtual) meetings;
- special list for everyday communication for advisers;
- panel of scientific advisers evaluate project proposals that are submitted by ministries for co-funding from RITA programme;
- different seminars, trainings, study visits, incl international meetings, for example study-visits to Brussels:

### **ETAg Liaison Office in Brussels:**

- encouraging and supporting the participation in framework programme activities,
- organising joint events on R&D topic;
- engaging ministries to participate in EU partnerships and its related coordination activities at national level (Programme of Participation in EU partnerships).

## *Scientific advisers*

### **Benefits:**

- \* Improved cooperation among different ministries: good personal contacts, social networking, cooperation;
- \* Good interministerial overview about activities and plans;
- \* Knowledge transfer: sharing of experience (methodology, contacts, TORs etc);
- \* Shared interests and common goals, interministerial projects...



## *Scientific advisers*

### **Future plans:**

- Continued support from ETAg for trainings, seminars and study tours, financed from structural funds;
- More attention to international cooperation with scientific advisers in other countries, for example through JRC.



# Thank you!

Liina.eek@etag.ee