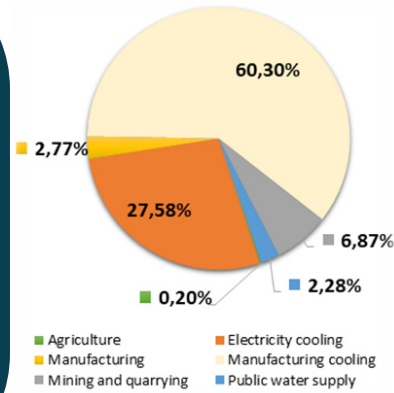
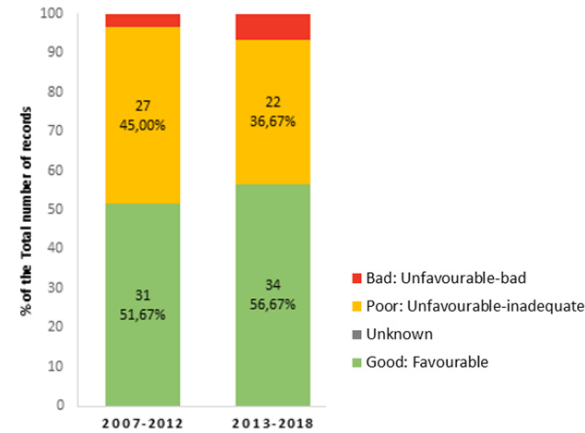




of inhabitants **1.4 million**
 Surface area **43 110 km²**
 GDP per capita **87 pps [1]**
 Significant bodies of water (RBDs) **Ida; Lääne**
 Polity **unitary republican state**
 Layers of government **central government; 79 municipalities**
 Legislative powers at the sub-national level **No**
 Decentralisation index **1.6 (14 out of 27) [2]**
 Water Exploitation Index plus (WEI+) **5.44% (2019) [3]**



Water abstraction per sector in Estonia - Source: EEA (2022)



Conservation status for habitats in 2007-2012 and 2013-2018 in Estonia - Source: EEA (2021)



Water bodies with less than good ecological status in Estonia - Source: EEA (2021)

Main actors responsible for WEFE nexus relevant governance

NEXUS PILLARS

POLICY MAKING

POLICY EXECUTION

Nexus Pillar	Policy Making	Policy Execution
Water	Ministry of Environment	Estonian Environment Agency, Estonian Environmental Board, Estonian Environmental Research Centre.
Energy	Ministry of Economic Affairs & Communication, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Regional Affairs & Agriculture.	Local authorities
Food	Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture	Local authorities
Ecosystems	Ministry of Environment	Estonian Environment Agency, Estonian Environmental Board, Estonian Environmental Research Centre.

CHALLENGES

- Implement the 2019 Water Infrastructure Investment Plan
- Address issues with small-scale drinking water and wastewater treatment systems
- Establish conservation objectives and measures for all Natura 2000 sites
- Reduce surface water eutrophication from agriculture
- Provide clear information to farmers on how to comply with nature and nitrates policies

OPPORTUNITIES

- Estonia is a pioneer in wetland restoration, demonstrating its potential to co-exist with successful farming practices (e.g. EU Pärnu river basin project)[3]
- The new Estonian Nature Conservation Development Plan focuses on the restoration of peatlands, grasslands and forests
- Estonia's Recovery and Resilience Plan supports a shift towards sustainable forms of energy production leading to less pressure on water resources and reduced pollution
- The LIFE IP CleanEst project[4] (2019-2028) develops a methodology to assess freshwater ecosystems and their associated services

[1] EU purchasing power standard
 [2] <https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Decentralization-Index.aspx>
 [3] The threshold for water scarcity is set at > 20%
 [4] https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/natura-2000-award/meet-natura-2000-heroes/improving-parnu-river-basin-its-migratory-fish_en
 [5] <https://lifecleanest.ee/en>

More information on WEFE nexus governance in the EU



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