

The KidsRights Index 2025

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS

ESTONIA



ESTONIA

OVERALL

RANK: **26**
SCORE: **0,804**

LIFE

RANK: **37**
SCORE: **0,922**

HEALTH

RANK: **51**
SCORE: **0,956**

EDUCATION

RANK: **59**
SCORE: **0,778**

PROTECTION

RANK: **25**
SCORE: **0,981**

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

RANK: **58**
SCORE: **0,500**

THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX AND INFORMATION ABOUT ITS DOMAINS, INDICATORS AND METHODOLOGY ARE
ACCESSIBLE ON WWW.KIDSRIGHTSINDEX.ORG/KIDSRIGHTS-INDEX/

INTRODUCTION TO THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX

The KidsRights Index is the only annual global ranking on how countries worldwide are adhering to children’s rights. Based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Index synthesizes and ranks the children’s rights performance records of state parties to the CRC in relation to the most crucial aspects of children’s lives for which global and comparable data is available. Overall, the KidsRights Index presents an accessible, general, and comparative overview of state performance on selected children’s rights. It also creates a basis for making concrete and evidence-based recommendations on how governments might improve on various children’s rights matters. The five domains that jointly make up the Index are:

- 1. Right to Life**
- 2. Right to Health**
- 3. Right to Education**
- 4. Right to Protection**
- 5. Enabling Environment for Children’s Rights**

DATA SOURCES OF THE KIDSRIGHTS INDEX

The KidsRights Index focuses on more generic issues which in principle are equally relevant for all states parties to the CRC and for which, on the whole, reliable data are available. The KidsRights Index is the outcome of an integrated analysis of existing, high-quality data published by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.¹

DOMAIN 5: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN’S RIGHTS

Domain 5, the ‘Enabling Environment for Children’s Rights’, is an important and unique domain of the KidsRights Index. This Domain charts how states are faring in creating the conditions that need to be in place for realizing children’s rights and/or for making children’s rights policies and putting them into effect. It reveals the extent to which countries have operationalized the general principles of the CRC (non-discrimination; best interests of the child; respect for the views of the child/participation) and the extent to which there is a basic ‘infrastructure’ for making and implementing child rights policy (in the form of enabling national legislation; mobilization of the ‘best available’ budget; collection and analysis of disaggregated data; and state-civil society cooperation for child rights). The Domain 5 scores for the respective countries are derived from the latest Concluding Observations adopted by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

¹ These data are drawn from <https://data.unicef.org/>, www.hdr.undp.org/data, and the ‘Concluding Observations’ published by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child at the end of the periodic state reporting procedure for all states that are legally bound by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Domain 5 - 'Child Rights Environment' - is based on the Concluding Observations adopted by the CRC Committee. The Committee's assessment of the country performance on the earlier mentioned 7 indicators that make up the Domain 5 is used to generate scores on a scale between 1 and 3. The actual score assigned to each indicator is exclusively based on the language used by the Committee in the Concluding Observation. The resulting final scores are standardized.

KidsRights Index scoring system for the Domain 5 indicators:

- Score 1 'bad' = only negative remarks
- Score 2 'average' = negative and positive remarks
- Score 3 'good' = only positive remarks
- NA = not addressed

DOMAIN 5: ESTONIA

	Non-discrimination	Best interests of the child	Respect for the views of the child	Enabling legislation	Best available budget / Resources	Collection and analysis of disaggregated data	State-civil society cooperation for child rights
ESTONIA 2017	NA	2	2	2	1	2	2
ESTONIA 2024	1	2	2	2	2	2	2

COUNTRY RECOMMENDATIONS - ESTONIA

1. Expedite the revision of the 2009 Equal Treatment Act and incorporate the 2004 Gender Equality Act into a comprehensive piece of anti-discrimination legislation. Further protected grounds are recommended to include all protected grounds under Article 2(1) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, specifically with reference to language, and national and social origin.² (Non-Discrimination)
2. Ensure the consistent application of the BI principle in all judicial and administrative decisions and acts relating to and impacting children. (BI of the Child)
3. Provide guidelines for all professionals involved in the above-mentioned decisions and acts to realize the determination of the children's best interest and to follow this principle as a primary consideration. (BI of the Child)
4. Facilitate the implementation of legislation recognizing the right of children to be heard in legal proceedings affecting them by introducing measures for social workers and courts at large to diligently apply this principle. (Respect for the Views of the Child)
5. Encourage the meaningful participation of all children, including younger children, in youth participation bodies, such as the Youth Council under the Estonian Union for Child Welfare and the Advisory Committee for consultation with the Chancellor's advisers. (Respect for the Views of the Child)
6. Implement a mandatory impact assessment procedure for legislation and policies affecting children. (Enabling Legislation)
7. Support the roll-out of legislation relevant to children rights with adequate human, technical, and fiscal resources. This should include raising the number and qualifications of child protection workers in all municipalities, especially considering that two municipalities out of 79 reportedly do not have child protection workers.³ (Enabling Legislation)
8. Allocate adequate budgets to the implementation of children's rights by defining the budgetary lines for programmes affecting children, particularly in the fields of health and the social sector and taking into account disadvantaged and marginalized children. (Best Available Budget)

² United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (adopted 20 November 1989, entered into force 2 September 1990) 1577 UNTS 3, art. 2(1).

³ Committee on the Rights of the Child, 'Combined fifth to seventh periodic reports submitted by Estonia under article 44 of the Convention, due in 2023' UN Doc CRC/C/EST/5-7, 12 June 2023, para. 18.

9. Ensure the widespread collection of disaggregated data covering all areas of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols. (Collection and Analysis of Disaggregated Data)
10. Strengthen collaborative efforts with CSOs, particularly by supporting smaller and newer organizations. (State-Civil Society Cooperation)
11. Facilitate the meaningful participation of CSOs in drafting legislation, policies, and programs related to children's rights. (State-Civil Society Cooperation)