

Ministry of the Interior of the
Republic of Estonia

The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for ensuring the internal security of the state, protecting the public order, guarding the state borders and enforcing the border regime, organising crisis management, supervising the rescue services and ensuring readiness for emergencies. The Ministry's area of responsibility also includes dealing with citizenship and migration issues, issues related to churches and congregations, data protection and population affairs, planning and co-ordination of local government, regional administration and regional development policies, and co-ordination of spatial planning activities.

The Ministry has two Ministers who are responsible for the aforementioned areas of activity - the Minister of the Interior and the Minister for Regional Affairs.



*In an often insecure world there is
no place like home*

Ensuring Internal Security and Public Order

The Ministry:

- develops and organises the implementation of the national internal security policy and crisis management policy
- co-ordinates the activities of the Boards in its area of government in ensuring internal security and protecting public order

Guarding and Protecting The State Border, Enforcing The Border Regime

The Ministry:

- develops the policy for guarding the state border
- directs and co-ordinates law enforcement on the state borders
- organises search and rescue activities at sea and on inland transboundary bodies of water
- directs and co-ordinates budgetary issues as well as procurement of assets related to the state border
- co-ordinates co-operation with other ministries in issues related to the state security
- directs and co-ordinates the service and training of the border guards and ensures their readiness for action



*Borders bring neighbours
together*



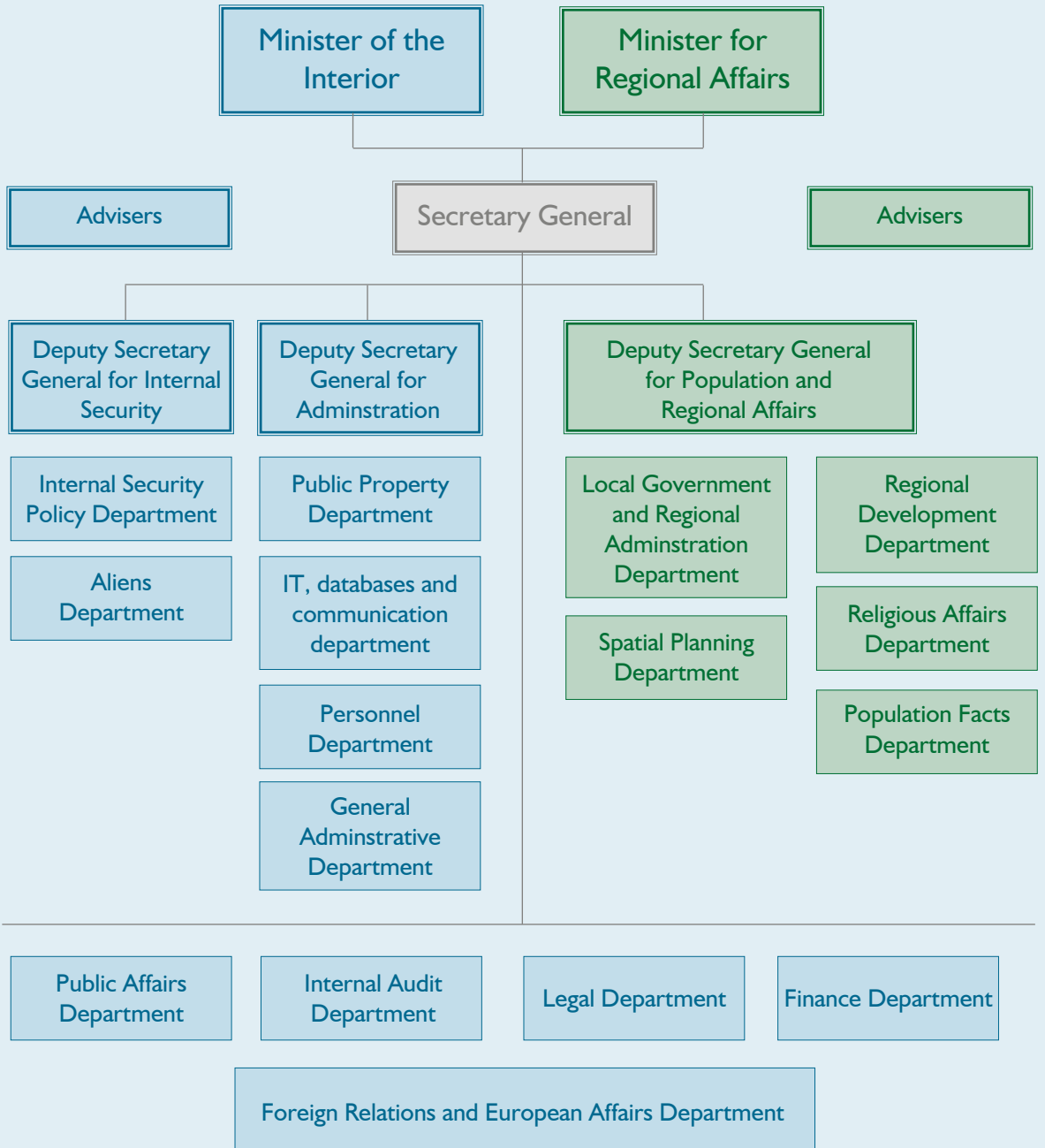
*Always lend
a helping hand*

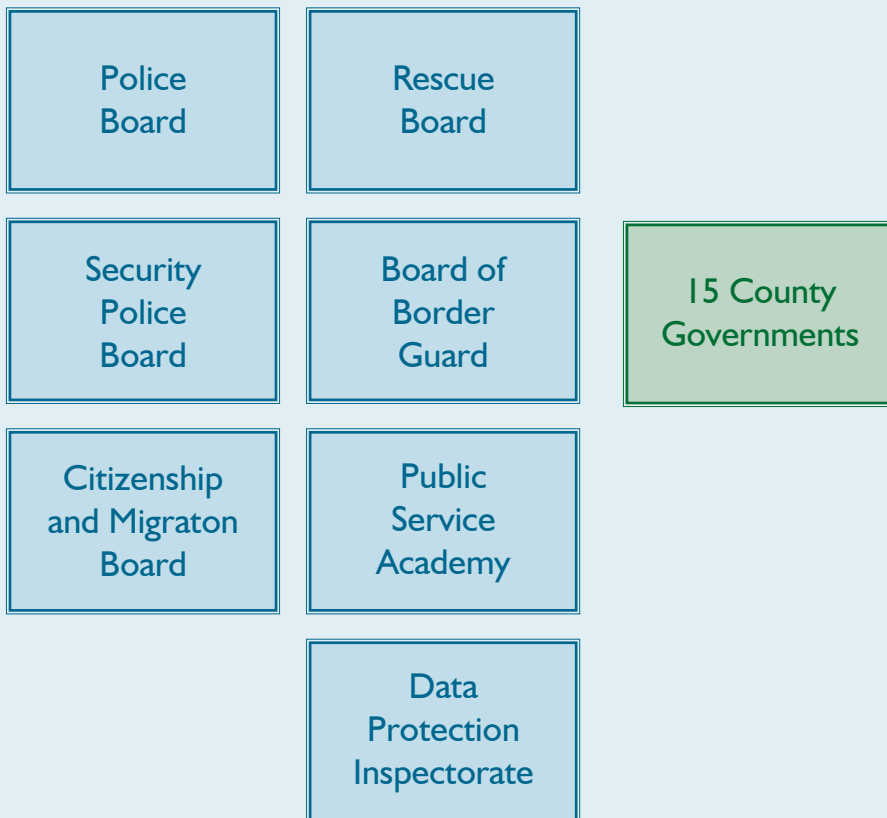
Crisis Management, Emergency Preparedness and Rescue Services

The Ministry:

- co-ordinates national emergency preparedness, including supervision of the rescue, fire and police services and development of radio communication systems for all emergency services
- co-ordinates crisis management planning across the governmental sector. There are four areas involved: risk analysis; crisis management plans; state emergency stockpiles; and organising crisis management preparedness exercises

Structure of the Ministry






Co-ordination of Citizenship and Migration Issues

The Ministry:

- directs and co-ordinates implementation of the national citizenship and migration policy and policy concerning the foreign nationals
- directs and co-ordinates prevention and combating of illegal immigration
- directs and co-ordinates in co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs implementation of the national visa policy
- directs and co-ordinates implementation of the national asylum policy
- directs and co-ordinates issuing of personal identification documents to Estonian citizens and foreigners



*We are different,
yet so similar
in our goals and dreams*



One should live
where life feels good
and life should be good
where one lives

Planning and Co-ordination of Local Government, Regional Administration and Regional Development Policies

The Ministry:

- analyses, plans and co-ordinates the country's local government, regional administration and regional development policies
- participates in the formation of the income and expenditure base of local government budgets and in the elaboration of the equalization system of local authorities
- organises the general county government issues related to regional development
- analyses and organises the administrative division of the state territory
- analyses, plans and co-ordinates the active community development and the co-operation between the state and civil society associations
- analyses the regional influence of branch policies, and advises other ministries on this subject
- implements the structural assistance measures for local socio-economic development
- prepares and implements the EU territorial co-operation (INTERREG and PHARE cross-border co-operation) programmes in Estonia, and carries out general supervision and monitoring of the programmes
- carries out general supervision of the regional gambling tax investment programme benefiting children, young people, families, senior citizens and disabled people, and render service to the committee for granting assistance funded by the gambling tax

Co-ordination of Spatial Planning activities

The Ministry:

- organises spatial planning on the national level and carries out planning supervision
- supports spatial planning activities at the local and regional level through counselling and development of planning methods

Co-ordination of Population Affairs

The Ministry:

- directs, organises and co-ordinates activities related to the documentation of population events
- performs the tasks of the chief processor of the population register
- preserves, updates and accesses the Estonian family archives
- organises co-operation related to population affairs at the national and international level



*Life is made up
of memories*

*- good or bad,
they are always
a part of us*



Faith gives

peace of mind

*whether we put our trust in God,
destiny or a happy future*

Co-ordination of Issues Related to Churches and Congregations

The Ministry:

- promotes social, economic, educational, legal and cultural co-operation of the state and local governments with churches, congregations, associations of congregations and their subordinate institutions
- assists, where necessary and possible, churches, congregations, associations of congregations and their subordinate institutions in their arrangements
- keeps the register of Estonian churches, congregations and associations of congregations
- deals with issues related to church property on the basis of appropriate agreements
- analyses and summarises problems related to religious life in Estonia

