

Country Report on multilingual issues

ESTONIA

1. Introduction

Estonia has about 1.351 million inhabitants (as of 01.01.2005). Largest ethnic groups are Estonians (68%), Russians (26%), Ukrainians (2%), Belarussians (1%) and Finns (1%).

Estonian is the only official language in Estonia in local government and state institutions. The Estonian language belongs to the Finno-Ugric language family and is closely related to Finnish. Along with Finnish, English, Russian and German are also widely spoken and understood.

2. Multilingual websites of cultural institutions

In 2004, 8 Estonian institutions took part in the MINERVA survey of multilingualism in cultural websites. These included 2 archives, 1 library, 4 museums and 1 other cultural organisation:

- [Estonian State Archives](#)
- [Estonian Historical Archives](#)
- [National Library of Estonia](#)
- [Estonian Theatre and Music Museum](#)
- [Estonian National Museum](#)
- [The Art Museum of Tartu](#)
- [Estonian Museum of Applied Art and Design](#)
- [Conservation Centre Kanut](#)

Seeing that it is not a representative sample we decided to study some additional websites via the Internet. These included **30 museums** (museums within the government of the Ministry of Culture, county museums, municipal museums that are financed by the Ministry of Culture), **20 libraries** (research and special libraries, central libraries) and **4 archives** (governmental and national archival institutions).

		Est	Eng	Rus	Ger	Fin	Search tools
Museums within the government of the Ministry of Culture:							
Central museums:							
Art Museum of Estonia	http://www.ekm.ee/	+	+				-
Estonian Health Care Museum	http://www.tervishoiumuuseum.ee/	+	+	+			-
Estonian History Museum	http://www.eam.ee/	+	+				-
Estonian Maritime Museum	http://www.meremuuseum.ee/	+					-
Estonian National Museum	http://www.erm.ee/	+	+	+		+	free text

Estonian Open Air Museum	http://www.evm.ee/	+	+	+						-
Estonian Sports Museum	http://www.spordimuuseum.ee/	+								-
Estonian Theatre and Music Museum	http://www.tmm.ee/	+								-
Museum of Estonian Architecture	http://www.arhitektuurimuuseum.ee/	+	+							-
State museums:										
Estonian Museum of Applied Art and Design	http://www.etdm.ee/	+	+							free text
Tartu Art Museum	http://www.tartmus.ee/	+								-
County museums:										
Harjumaa Museum	http://www.muuseum.harju.ee/	+	+							-
Hiiumaa Museum	http://www.muuseum.hiiumaa.ee/	+								-
Iisaku Museum	http://www.hot.ee/iisakumuuseum/	+								-
Järvamaa Museum	http://www.jarva.ee/?CatID=201	+	+			+	+			free text
Läänemaa Museum	http://www.muuseum.haapsalu.ee/	+								free text
Mahtra Peasantry Museum	http://www.hot.ee/mahtram/	+	+							-
Memorial Museum of Dr. Fr. R. Kreutzwald	http://www.hot.ee/muuseumvoru/	+								-
Parish School Museum of Oskar Luts at Palamuse	http://www.palmuseum.ee/	+	+	+	+	+	+			-
Põlva Peasantry Museum	http://talurahvamuuseum.polvamaa.ee/	+								free text
Pärnu Museum	http://www.pernau.ee/	+	+							-
Saaremaa Museum	http://www.saaremaamuuseum.ee/	+	+							-
Tartumaa Museum	http://www.tartumaamuuseum.ee/	+								-
Valga Museum	http://www.valgamuuseum.ee/	+								-
Viljandi Museum	http://www.muuseum.viljandimaa.ee/	+	+							free text
Foundations:										
Anton Hansen Tammsaare Museum at Vargamäe	http://ice.estnet.ee/albuuv/?id=257	+								-
Museums of Virumaa	http://www.svm.ee/	+	+							-
Municipal museums:										
Juhan Liiv Museum	http://www.muusa.ee/	+								-
Muhu Museum	http://www.muuseum.ee/	+	+							-
Setu Farm Museum	http://www.hot.ee/setomuuseum/	+	+							-
Libraries:										
Research and special libraries:										
Academic Library of Tallinn University	http://www.tulib.ee/	+								free text
Estonian National Library	http://www.nlib.ee/	+	+							free text

Estonian Repository Library	http://www.hoiuraamatukogu.ee/	+							-
Tartu University Library	http://www.utlib.ee/	+	+			+			-
Central libraries:									
Harju County Library	-								
Jõgeva County Central Library	http://www.poltsamaa.ee/index.php?lang=est&main_id=72,661,664	+							-
Jõhvi Central Library	-								
Järva County Central Library	http://raamat.paide.ee/	+							-
Kohtla-Järve Central Library	http://k-jarve.lib.ee/	+				+			-
Kõrveküla Library / Tartu County Central Library	http://tmk.tartuvv.ee/tmk/	+							free text
Kärdla Central Library	-								
Lääne County Central Library	http://www.lib.haapsalu.ee/	+	+			+			-
Lääne-Viru County Central Library	http://www.lvkrk.ee/	+							-
Narva Central Library	-								
Põlva Central Library	http://www.raamat.polva.ee/	+	+			+			-
Pärnu Central Library	http://www.pkr.ee/	+							-
Rapla Central Library	http://www.raplakrk.ee/	+							-
Saare County Central Library	http://www.kuressaare.ee/skr/	+	+						-
Sillamäe City Central Library	http://www.slib.ee/	+				+			free text
Tallinn Central Library	http://www.keskraamatukogu.ee/	+							-
Tartu City Central Library	http://www.luts.ee/	+	+						free text
Valga Central Library	http://www.valgark.ee/	+							-
Viljandi City Library	http://www.raamatukogu.viljandi.ee/	+	+						free text
Võru County Central Library	http://lib.werro.ee/	+							free text
Archives:									
Governmental and national archival institutions:									
Estonian Filmarchive	http://www.filmi.arhiiv.ee/	+	+						free text
Estonian Historical Archives	http://www.eha.ee/	+	+			+			-
Estonian State Archives	http://www.riigi.arhiiv.ee/	+	+			+			free text
National Archives of Estonia	http://www.ra.ee/	+	+						-

24 of these websites were monolingual while 30 were multilingual as follows:

- 20 sites were available in 2 languages
- 7 sites were available in 3 languages
- 2 site was available in 4 languages
- 1 site was available in 5 languages

4 foreign languages were represented including English (28), Russian (9), German (4) and Finnish (3). The extent to which the contents are available in these languages varies.

On the web pages there are many signs of work-in-progress: pages in other languages being announced or in an early stage of development.

At present there are no multilingual thesauri in use on the Web by any Estonian cultural institution. 15 sites provide free text search.

3. Best practices:

Estonian National Museum (www.erm.ee) – The full contents of the site are available in Estonian, English, Finnish and Russian.

Marju Reismaa
Specialist, Cultural Heritage Department
Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Estonia

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