



VÄLISMINISTEERIUM

IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 1325 “WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY” IN ESTONIA FROM 2015-2019

OVERVIEW REPORT 2015-2017

Introduction

In 2000 the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 1325 “Women, peace and security” and set the goal that the international community must take into account the gender perspective when solving conflicts. Estonia has been a supporter of resolution 1325 and a co-sponsor of follow-up resolutions 1820, 1888 and 2242. In 2010 Estonia adopted its first Action Plan for the implementation of the resolution for 2010-2014. The second action plan for the period of 2015-2019 was adopted in 2015. Pursuant to Chapter 6 of the action plan, the authorities and NGOs that implement the plan submit overviews of their activities in the second half of 2017 and the second half of 2019. On both occasions, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will compile an overview report on the basis of the submitted inputs. The action plan and the overview reports are sent to the Government of the Republic for their information.

The Overview Report for 2015-2017 was compiled on the basis of the information received from the Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association and NGO Mondo.

Activities for implementation of resolution 1325

The activities for implementation of resolution 1325 from 2015-2019 were decided on the basis of discussions which included representatives of NGOs in addition to the representatives of ministries and authorities. The action plan is executed within the scope of their competency by the Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Defence League and women`s voluntary defence organization “Naiskodukaitse”, which cooperate closely with NGOs, academia and research institutions. Broad-based cooperation guarantees the best implementation of the action plan. NGOs have often gained experience and information from developing countries and conflict zones, which help to improve actions for supporting the protection of human rights of women and empowerment of women in developing countries and conflict zones.

The planned activities are divided into five thematic subgroups:

- 1) supporting the full realization of all human rights of women and the empowerment of women in conflict zones and post-conflict zones;
- 2) cooperation, information exchange and raising awareness at the international level;
- 3) raising awareness at the national level;
- 4) inclusion of women in positions related to peace and security in Estonia;
- 5) increasing the efficiency of cooperation and information exchange in Estonia.

1. Supporting the full realization of all human rights of women and the empowerment of women in conflict zones and post-conflict zones

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Interior in liaison with NGOs have supported guaranteeing the human rights of women and empowerment of women via various development cooperation and twinning projects. They have also provided humanitarian aid and supported the work of international organisations in this field. During the period under review, the Ministry of Social Affairs organised trainings that covered the prevention of trafficking in human beings, helping victims and a broader introduction of the topic of violence against women. The target group consisted of police officers, prosecutors, tax and customs officials, social workers, employees of rehabilitation institutions, employees of women's support centres and others.
- The total amount of humanitarian aid in 2015 was 3.2 million euros. Voluntary donations to the humanitarian organisations of the UN¹ and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) continued at the same level as before and totalled about 550,000 euros. Estonia allocated 2.58 million euros directly for the improvement of gender equality and the situation of women from development cooperation and humanitarian aid funds in the period from 2016-2017.² The development cooperation funds of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been used to finance bilateral development cooperation projects, which fully or partly cover the situation of women and children and/or gender equality – 293,545 euros in 2015 and 1.9 million euros from 2016-2017. Actual support is larger, as the sums above do not include allocations to projects and organisations where guaranteeing gender equality and women's rights is an additional objective.

¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA); World Health Organisation (WHO); Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

² It is possible to review all of the development cooperation projects in the Estonian Development Cooperation Database: <https://rakendused.vm.ee/akta/>.

Endowments/payments within the scope of international cooperation 2015-2016

- Allocation in support of the activities of the UN expert team for strengthening the rule of law and fighting against sexual violence in 2015-2016 – 50,000 euros
- Voluntary contribution to the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) – 30,000 euros
- Voluntary contribution to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) – 60,000 euros
- Voluntary contribution to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) – 80,000 euros
- Voluntary contribution to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) – 150,000 euros
- Contribution in support of the activities of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict in 2015-2016 – 30,000 euros
- Contribution to the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court for supporting victims of sexual and gender violence – 30,000 euros
- Contribution to the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to support their activities from 2015-2016 – 30,000 euros.

Payments and contributions within the scope of international cooperation in 2017

- Contribution to the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict of the Secretary-General of the UN to support their activities – 30,000 euros.
- Contribution to support the activities of the expert team for strengthening the rule of law and fighting against sexual violence – 50,000 euros
- Contribution to support the activities of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence – 30,000 euros
- Contribution to UN Women – 80,000 euros
- Contribution to UNGEI – 30,000 euros
- Contribution to UNFPA – 60,000 euros
- Voluntary contribution to UNICEF – 150,000 euros.

Bilateral projects financed from the development cooperation funds of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2015

- Afghanistan: NGO Mondo's follow-up project for promoting the education of girls in rural areas and the subsistence of women and people with special

needs, in the course of which 100 women of the Char Bagh region were offered thorough IT training lasting two months, taking into account the needs of local entrepreneurs. The result of the project is improvement of the employment and subsistence of women in the Char Bagh region. The quality of girls' education was improved during the project by training 20 rural school teachers and acquiring IT equipment for them. Studies at the Fatima Zahra school in Jalalabad for children of parents with special needs and orphans was also continued with the help of the project. A cannery will start operating in the same region and people with special needs or their family members were trained so they can start working in the factory. The impact of finished health projects on communities was also assessed within the scope of the project. The total cost of the project is 67,408 euros and it is implemented by NGO Mondo. The support allocated in 2015 was 2,873 euros.

- Afghanistan: Improving the quality of vocational health and IT training in the Herat, Balkh, Nangarhar and Faryab provinces in Afghanistan. The project continues Mondo's development cooperation in the field of education in Afghanistan in collaboration with the Tallinn Health Care College, which will improve the healthcare and employment of women in Afghanistan. The project is implemented by NGO Mondo. Its total cost is 265,151 euros, and 106,061 euros was allocated in 2015.
- Georgia: A project aimed at the development of civil society and gender equality in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region, which contributes to the development of democracy in Georgia by wider inclusion women of ethnic minorities in decision-making. The direct goal of the project is to support the civic activity of women in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region, especially Armenian women and women of other ethnic minorities, and their empowerment for participation in Georgian society, policy- and decision-making. The target group of the project consists of representatives of women's associations operating in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region. As a result of the project, the region will have a functioning cooperation network of socially active women with an established common action platform and the members of the target group will have the skills and knowledge required for the implementation of the action platform. The cost of the project is 52,398 euros and it will be implemented by the Civil Training Centre NGO. 3,070 euros was allocated in 2015.
- Georgia: Establishment of a centre for providing legal counselling to women and children in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region. The overall goal is to support the development of democracy in Georgia by guaranteeing the rights of women and children by enhancing the capacity for providing legal counselling to women and children and the establishment of a counselling centre to the NGOs operating in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region. The project is implemented by the Civil Training Centre NGO. The cost of the project is 53,920 euros, and 18,160 euros was allocated in 2015.

- Georgia: Development of a crisis centre and shelter. 400 counselling sessions and 200 consultations with a social worker at the crisis centre will be provided within the scope of the project. Psychological counselling will be provided to approximately 150 women and children, and shelter will be offered to 30 women and children. 2015 was 'Women's Year' in Georgia and significant attention was given to combating violence against women. The cost of the project is 12,000 euros, and 10,800 euros allocated in 2015.
- Moldova: Launch of telephone-based counselling service for children in Moldova. One of the biggest problems in the social sphere in Moldova is the inadequate and uneven development of the child protection system. Access to the relevant counselling service is poor, which is why the statistical indicators of child protection and the social sphere in Moldova are among the most worrying in Europe. The overall goal of the project is to improve child protection capacity and the accessibility of child protection services in Moldova. The cost of the project is 67,668 euros, and 27,068 euros was allocated in 2015. The project is implemented by the NGO Estonian Advice Centre.
- Kyrgyzstan: Increasing the competency and capacity of reproductive health counselling and the (sexual) health education of young people. Implemented by the Estonian Sexual Health Union. Cost of the project 150,472 euros. 60,189 euros was allocated in 2015.
- Armenia: The goal of the project "Help the Children – Unified Knowledge and Best Practices for Protecting Armenian Children!" is the prevention and identification of child abuse, intervention and decrease in such activity in Armenia. In particular, this concerns human trafficking (sexual abuse, forced begging and human trafficking in the broader sense). Estonian specialists will train Armenian teachers and psychologists who in their turn will share the knowledge with other Armenian teachers, parents and children. A survey on child abuse will be carried out at schools for the first in Armenia. In addition the focus group interviews with teachers and other key persons on topics related to child abuse and human trafficking will be carried out, as will be organised discussions and role plays with young people. The number of cyber crimes committed in order to take advantage of children for commercial purposes has increased considerably in Armenia. Awareness of child sexual abuse on the internet will also be raised. The course and results of the project will be introduced in Armenian media. The cost of the project is 86,299 euros, and it will be implemented by the Estonian Women's Studies and Resource Centre NGO. 7,509 allocated in 2015.
- Yemen: A cooperation project of Mondo and the Yemen NGO Youth Leadership Development Foundation (YLDF) which is aimed at training girls from illiterate Yemeni families and decreasing early marriages by providing trainings to girls aged 12 to 21 in the Bani Al-Hareth and Maen regions of

Yemen. The training programmes help the girls to stand up to the various problems in the community, such a low awareness of women's rights, early marriages and the dropping out of school caused by these factors. The cost of the project is 60,752 euros, and 4,796 euros was allocated in 2015.

- Tajikistan: Community-based women's entrepreneurship in Tajikistan – development of national handicraft products in Western Pamirs. This is a continuation of a successful project implemented in 2014 and 2015 which promoted production and marketing of natural (medical) products. The follow-up project is aimed at developing entrepreneurship among women (incl. their overall position in society) by developing and marketing the national handicrafts products of the Pamirs, buying handicraft and sewing supplies for the community's cooperative, organising a study trip to Estonia and printing a calendar of the Pamirs. The result of the project will be trained and more informed women in the rural regions who can launch their enterprises by using the shared equipment of the cooperative and the support of Estonian and Tajik experts (as well as joint marketing). The project contributes to equality and reducing poverty, the sustainability of local natural and cultural heritage and raising awareness of development cooperation. Involvement of community members and empowerment of women will be a horizontal priority of the project. The project is implemented by the Peipsi Centre for Transboundary Cooperation NGO. The cost of the project is 31,541 euros, and 15,770 euros was allocated in 2015.
- Palestine: Strengthening cooperation with the civil society organisations of Palestine to empower young people and women in the Al Bireh and Tubas regions and promote development cooperation and development education in Estonia in 2014. This follow-up project will cement the initiated cooperation and strive to establish a more stable partnership in order to complete more exhaustive projects in the same regions. Four volunteers will be sent from Estonia to Palestine within the scope of the project, two of whom will teach at Orient and Dance Theatre in Al Bireh, Ramallah and at the centre of the Jalazone refugee camp, each of them for six months, and two will work in the Tubas region in the Brothers Club Organisation (teaching English and raising environmental awareness). The project is implemented by Ethical Links NGO. The cost of the project is 17,510 euros, and 1,751 euros was allocated in 2015.
- Ghana and Kenya: For sustainable subsistence – an entrepreneurship and education programme in NGO Mondo's partner countries in Africa. The main task of the project is to improve the subsistence abilities of women in the rural areas of Kenya and Ghana, and of disabled young people in Uganda. During the project, we will streamline and expand the entrepreneurship and subsistence programmes in Ghana and Kenya that are already working, initiate new entrepreneurship activities and strengthen the sustainability of women's businesses by selling their products. We will increase the inclusion of young

people with special needs in the Ugandan society by creating an additional vocational education opportunity in the social entrepreneurship established by Mondo. As a result of the project, 300 women in Ghana and Kenya will be able to make a living independently, marketing channels that follow the principles of fair trade aimed at the local and Estonian markets have been created for the products and local schools have received new supplies. The social enterprises established by Mondo in Uganda are capable of managing themselves independently and can continue offering training to disabled people. The cost of the project is 44,371 euros, and 17,749 euros was allocated in 2015.

Bilateral projects and allocations financed from the development cooperation funds of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2016-2017

- Afghanistan: Allocation to a UNICEF project for fighting polio in Afghanistan – 42,000 euros. A school education programme for girls in the Nangarhar province in Afghanistan – 15,000 euros. Improvement of the quality and accessibility of obstetric care and the education of girls in Northern and Eastern Afghanistan – 120,000 euros. Allocation in support of the LOFTA Fund managed by the UNDP – 250,000 euros. The Fund also supports the training of female police officers.
- Georgia: The fight against domestic violence – 15,000 euros. The Academy of Political Leadership and Communications of European Women – 57,000 euros. Raising awareness of the creative economy and the development of an ecosystem supporting creative entrepreneurship in Georgia – 70,000 euros. Support for the diplomatic training centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia from 2016-2017 – 76,000 euros. Combining the knowledge and experience of Estonia and Georgia for the protection of children and women in the Autonomous Republic of Adjara – 72,000 euros. Social entrepreneurship in the Temi community in Kakheti – 45,000 euros.
- Moldova: Strengthening the capability of the network of Moldovan youth counselling centres in providing counselling about sexual and reproductive health and sexual education – 123,000 euros. Supporting the development of the health insurance system in Moldova – 86,000 euros. Developing the quality of medical care – 50,000 euros. Raising awareness of sexual violence and changing harmful attitudes in Moldova – 150,000 euros. Development of prevention in healthcare – 44,000 euros. Guaranteeing equal opportunities in working life for Moldovan women – 57,000 euros. Inclusion of women and young people in rural entrepreneurship by developing their skills and knowledge in the areas of guest houses and the design of event tourism products – 43,000 euros. The project “Handicrafts that Unite and Give Work” aimed at improving the employment of women – 18,000 euros.

- Ukraine: Protection of the interests of internally displaced persons (IDPs) of Ukraine and broadening the prospects of these people (primarily women) – 76,000 euros. Sustainability and crisis management with active learning and environmental awareness – 85,000 euros. Allocation to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for the alleviation of gender-based violence in Ukraine – 50,000 euros. “Women Are Smart” – protection of the interests of female IDPs in Ukraine and broadening their prospects on the labour market and in business – 80,000 euros. Supporting IT education and small businesses in Eastern Ukraine – 126,000 euros. Educating women about entrepreneurship and encouraging women to become entrepreneurs in Ukraine – 72,000 euros. Support to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) for the gender equality project GenCap in Ukraine – 100,000 euros.
- Belarus: Development of social and women’s entrepreneurship and community cooperation in the Narochi agricultural region in Belarus – 32,000 euros. Development of small business and the start-up community in Belarus – 50,000 euros. Development of e-services of the first contact care system in Belarus – 50,000 euros.
- Gender equality projects have been supported in Africa as follows. For sustainable subsistence: a follow-up project for the development of women’s entrepreneurship in NGO Mondo’s target countries in Africa – Kenya, Ethiopia, Ghana, Uganda – each supported with 23,000 euros. Improving the subsistence of disabled women via employment was also supported with 10,000 euros in Ethiopia.
- The following allocations were made supranationally during the period. To the the International Criminal Court’s Trust Fund for Victims, for supporting victims of sexual and gender violence – 40,000 euros. To the projects of the Council of Europe for promotion of gender equality and the rights of children – 20,000 euros. Some projects that were launched in earlier years continued on a smaller scale or ended in 2016-2017. Estonia supported the acceptance of refugees into nursery schools and general education schools and the counselling of teachers with 94,000 euros in 2016.
- The main strategic target groups of NGO Mondo in the area of development cooperation are children, women and people with special needs; the main lines of action are education, health and improving the economic coping of the target groups. Mondo has received project support from the Estonian development cooperation and humanitarian aid funds for education, health and subsistence activities in Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Burma and Afghanistan. In 2016 Mondo managed to significantly advance social entrepreneurship in support of the subsistence of communities. The visits of Estonian experts to Mondo’s partner countries and the follow-up activities for empowering women and developing

entrepreneurship continued in 2016 and 2017. From 2015 to 2017 Mondo continued giving humanitarian aid to the internally displaced persons of Ukraine and expanded the support measures for the civilians who had fled from the civil war in Syria in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. The focus remained on the topics of education, health, water and hygiene (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene – the WASH Cluster).

NGO Mondo: Improving the accessibility and quality of girls' education

- For the eighth year running, Mondo is offering orphans and other extremely underprivileged children the chance to acquire an education with the support of private donations made in Estonia. A record number of children – over 350 – went to school in Ghana, Kenya and Burma with the assistance of Estonians who made donations to the Mondo's Brilliant Fund in 2016. Mondo continued its collaboration with the Ghana Education Service in the Nabdram region. The new girls' school for the senior level of basic school received mathematics and English textbooks thanks to the donations made to the Mondo Brilliant Fund. In total, we distributed 1,000 textbooks to schools in the Nabdram region in Northern Ghana from 2015-2017.
- Since 2016 Mondo has been supporting the children of the Shan minority in Burma in addition to the children in Ghana, Kenya and Afghanistan. They are village children growing up in families whose economic status is poor and who cannot therefore send them to school in Namlan, as this requires large expenditures on food, supervisors, learning materials and consultations. In villages, education is only given until the fifth grade. In addition to supporting children, Mondo also mediates the private donations of Estonia to the rural schools of the Shan. In 2017 the Namlan student home received a solar panel for the donations made by Pae Upper Secondary School, which is used to supply the school with electricity. Rural schools also get materials for conducting lessons.
- For the sixth year running, the Fatima Zahra School that teaches 250 girls from families of victims of war has been operating near the city of Jalalabad in the Nangarhar province of Eastern Afghanistan. Solar panels have been acquired for the school in addition to helping them carry on with studies. Regular power supply allows the school to organise computer classes for its teachers, most of whom are women.

NGO Mondo: supporting and empowering women with the help of development cooperation

- Mondo has direct contacts with communities in its partner countries. Direct information and the experience of cooperation make it easier to plan activities to support and empower women and girls. From 2014-2015 Mondo developed an entrepreneurship programme for women, which included the establishment

if a shea butter production centre and basket-weaving cooperative in the Nabdram region in Northern Ghana, an agricultural and sewing cooperative in the Mumias region in Western Kenya and a workshop and store in Kampala, the capital of Uganda. The cooperatives were developed further from 2016-2017 using additional funds, training and inclusion of new members. Mondo supported the local market as well as the activities and networking that develop export. The goal is to increase the membership of the cooperatives, as well as the volume and quality of production in such manner that the cooperatives promote employment and independent subsistence via cooperation-based entrepreneurship.

- In the opinion of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, entrepreneurship promotion activities in the partner countries in Africa have had a visible impact on the livelihood of local producers: people have been able to use the income earned from the products to take care of the important needs of their families, and the extra income has helped them get better food or take care of the health issues of their family members. People's self-esteem has increased in addition to the improvement of their skills and income, but the main thing is that society is more cohesive and people understand that joint activities can be used to make changes.
- As the general security situation in Afghanistan has deteriorated since 2015, the employees of Mondo haven't been able to visit the country and largely depend on the capability of local partners to carry out the activities. The in-service training for midwives in Mazar-e-Sharif in collaboration with the Tallinn Health Care College continued in 2016. The training was carried out online. The participants learned about the Moodle environment and how to implement the new knowledge in the society of Afghanistan. The main focus was on the health education of schoolchildren (girls). Sixteen midwives completed the "Midwifery and Health Promotion" course and delivered health education lectures to 150 country school girls.
- The organisation of online trainings continued in 2017 with the e-training offered to 30 midwives of the Faryab province, supporting the purchase of equipment for local hospitals and improving the accessibility of information about women's health (a helpline and radio shows) to the local population.
- Mondo's partner built 40 latrines for schools and village centres from 2015-2016. The plan is to build another 30 latrines in the Faryab province in Afghanistan in the next couple of years. The latrines raise the awareness of schoolchildren and village people of hygiene and protection of the environment.

NGO Mondo: Counselling and education in human rights issues in Ukraine

- Mondo and its local partners are carrying out development cooperation activities and offering humanitarian aid in Ukraine. In addition to humanitarian

aid, which we have been providing in the Donetsk and Lugansk oblasts since autumn 2014, we and our local partner Vostok SOS launched longer-term cooperation for the protection of the rights of internally displaced persons and provision of legal counselling outside Kyiv in summer 2015. We advised 2,350 people in legal issues from 2014-2016. In 2016 we started cooperating with 15 schools in Lugansk oblast in the field of human rights and world education, with whom we're sharing teaching methods and Estonia's experience in the promotion of world education. Advocacy for internally displaced persons continued in Kyiv and the crisis region: press conferences, expert meetings, participation in legislative drafting and advocacy on the enforcement of legislation. We involve Russian-speaking teachers with experience in development education from Estonia in the education activities and this cooperation benefits both sides. Ties of friendship have been created between Ukrainian and Estonian schools. The legal counselling helplines opened in Severodonetsk and Starobelsk operate as a part of the branches of Vostok SOS. Psychological assistance and other education activities for internally displaced persons and the receiving communities is also provided.

NGO Mondo: Syrian refugees and education activities in neighbouring countries

- Mondo has been supporting Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey in collaboration with local partners since 2015. In Jordan, we're cooperating with our Finnish partner Finn Church Aid (FCA) in two of the larger refugee camps in the area (Zaatari and Azraq). In the last three years, Mondo has handed out juice cartons to children, established computer classrooms and organised computer courses for young refugees in the camps. We also helped to cover the football field with artificial grass, where boys and girls alike can play now. In 2017 we established water infrastructure in the Azraq camp, which supports the agricultural activities of the camp's residents.
- Mondo's partner in Turkey is Small Projects Istanbul (SPI), which opened the Olive Tree community centre in Istanbul in 2015. The centre offers language training to Syrian refugees, handicrafts and sewing courses and other activities related to education and livelihood. Mondo will cover for two years the running costs of the centre, including the salaries of the teachers, rent and the supplies required for the activities. In 2017 we sent Estonian volunteer support persons to train at the SPI in order to support their activities and simultaneously improve the competency of the support persons in working with refugees in Estonia.
- Mondo's partner in Lebanon is the Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development (LSESD), with whom we're promoting the education of the children who have fled Syria as well as the sewing skills of women, so they can earn an income for their families. The salaries of the teachers of the Tahaddi Centre in Lebanon, the costs of organisation of the courses and socio-

psychological counselling and the cost of the hygiene packages for families will be covered with the help of Mondo.

2. Cooperation, information exchange and raising awareness at the international level

- Estonia has participated actively in international cooperation in the field covered by resolution 1325 and has taken the floor in the UN as well as in other organisations (the EU, the Council of Europe, NATO, OSCE). Estonia has given information for the 2017 report of the UN Secretary-General on women, peace and security³.
- Estonia belongs to the international network of contact points covering the topic of women, peace and security. The network was initiated by Spain and it was established in New York in 2016; the tasks of the secretariat of the network are performed by UN Women. The objective of the network is to unite the countries that have committed to the topic of women, peace and security – it's important that the network is geographically diverse and informal. Approximately 60 countries plus non-governmental organisations are members of the network. The meetings of the network take place twice a year: within the scope of the open debate of the United Nations Security Council in autumn in New York and the second time in one of the capitals. There will be a meeting in Berlin in spring 2018, and Namibia has announced it would organise the meeting in 2019.
- Estonia participates actively in the EU task force of resolution 1325, which meets a couple of times a year in Brussels and whose goal in addition to sharing the experiences of the Member States is to support the development of the general policy of the EU on the topics of gender mainstreaming as well as women, peace and security. At the end of 2016 Estonian responded to the EU questionnaire about the implementation of resolution 1325 in the Member States from 2013-2015.
- In addition to the global and EU fora, Estonia also cooperates at the regional level. Since 2017 colleagues from the foreign ministries of the Nordic and Baltic countries (the so-called NB8 cooperation format) responsible for the topic of women, peace and security have been meeting once a year to share their experiences and best practices in an informal atmosphere. The first meeting in Copenhagen confirmed that gender mainstreaming in various areas is an important precondition to the successful implementation of resolution 1325. It's often very difficult to do in practice, as it requires good cooperation between several actors. However, streamlined inclusion of women guarantees better results on missions, in the resolution of conflicts and so on.

³ Report in English: <http://www.undocs.org/S/2017/861>

- Bilateral consultations with the specialists of resolution 1325 were held in the United Kingdom in June 2015, which was also attended by the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia. The seven meetings held in London focused on the implementation of the resolution and on other topics of the UN and human rights. There were meetings with the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the parliament and civil society organisations.
- Estonia spoke on the topic of women, peace and security in all open debates of the United Nations Security Council (usually held once a year in October) from 2015-2017. We also took floor on human rights and the empowerment of women and women, peace and security in several public speeches in the UN (New York): 12 times in 2015, 15 times in 2016, and 17 times in 2017.⁴ Estonia also belongs to the informal group of friends of women, peace and security in New York, which unites likeminded countries. Among others, the group of friends discusses how to better advance the topic in the UN.
- Estonia strongly supported the work and mandate of the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Fighting Violence against Women and the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict. Estonia took the floor in their favour every year during the Third Committee meetings of the United Nations General Assembly.
- The representatives of the Ministry of Social Affairs actively participated in important international meetings, including the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which are held every March in New York. Estonian organised CSW's side events on violence against women in 2016 and 2017. Estonia is the Vice-Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women from 2017-2019, which is an opportunity to work with the issue of the human rights of women even more efficiently.
- A representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs has participated in the Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe, in the EU high-level group of gender integration and in the Working Group against Sexism of the Council of Europe.
- Estonia supports the implementation of resolution 1325 in NATO and actively participates in the respective working groups and committees. A new action plan for resolution 1325 was adopted by NATO in 2016. By updating the action plan⁵, NATO considerably specified and expanded its activities in the area of gender equality. In addition to the allies, 26 partners that joined the action plan

⁴ All Estonian statements in the UN in New York are available on the website of the Estonian permanent representation to the UN: http://www.un.estemb.org/statements_articles

⁵ Information about the activities of NATO on the topic of women, peace and security: https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_91091.htm

at the Warsaw summit (55 countries in total) are involved in its implementation. The action plan was prepared on the principle that makes it possible to add the provisions and activities of resolution 1325 to it as the principles, objectives and obligations of NATO, thereby being directly associated with international law and compliance with standards.

- Fifteen years passed since the adoption of resolution 1325 in 2015 and to mark this, UN Women carried out its global study “Women, Peace and Security” (implementation of resolution 1325 of the Security Council). Estonia supported the study with 15,000 euros and also provided its data. The goal of the study was to identify what had and had not been done in relation to the implementation of resolution 1325 globally. A report and proposals were prepared on the basis of the results to ensure the implementation would be more efficient at both the international and national levels in the future. The study also helped to highlight further the issues related to women, peace and security⁶.
- Estonia emphasises the importance of paying attention to the aspects of resolution 1325 and the implementation of the respective actions in the context of the Statute of Rome of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Since women are the largest group among victims of sexual violence, the fight against impunity must include the increased participation of women in peace and security activities. Estonia supports the principle that the implementation of resolution 1325 and its follow-up resolutions should be under the constant attention of the UN.
- The persons who have participated in the missions in the area of government of the Ministry of the Interior have received the necessary trainings to participate in missions, which also covers the topic of gender equality. The total number of participants is 15 and some of them are still on missions.
- In 2015 the share of women on civil missions was 29% (seven women, 17 men), in 2016 it was also 29% (six women, 15 men) and in 2017 26% (five women, 14 men).
- At the international level of the area of government of the Ministry of Defence, especially in the context of international operations, the principles of resolution 1325 have been covered more modestly than other issues, but attention to the resolution is increasing. It is important to Estonia to continue participating actively in discussions of resolution 1325 in order to establish its topics in the subject matter of international operations for the long term.
- In 2016, NGO Mondo started to pay special attention to the role of women in politics and business. In the same year, Mondo’s representatives participated in

⁶ Study in English: http://wps.unwomen.org/pdf/en/GlobalStudy_EN_Web.pdf

the international women's conference "Women Deliver" in Copenhagen, which focused on the issues concerning the health of girls and women. In summer 2016 Mondo organised a discussion about motherhood called "Motherhood Across the World: a Burden or a Privilege?" at the Paide Opinion Festival, where participants from Norway, Afghanistan, Somalia and Sweden discussed the rights and obligations related to having children in different parts of the world. *Eesti Päevaleht* published a special paper on women and development before the festival. The participants in the seminar "Women in Politics: the Weaker Sex or Strong Influencers?" organised in the Estonian Parliament discussed the opportunities women have to have a say in decision-making processes globally and what the respective experience in Estonia is like. Mondo took a broader look at the role of women in community initiatives, implementation of social changes and participation in decision-making in other ways.

- In 2016 the Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association was elected to the NATO Civil Society Advisory Panel on Women, Peace & Security (CSAP), which deals with resolution 1325. Participation in the working group gives NGOs a good opportunity to make proposals about the implementation of the NATO action plan on women, peace and security and helps to raise awareness of the international community on Estonia, the objectives of Estonia and its activities in this field. Head of the Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association Krista Mullenok participated in the second annual meeting of the CSAP from 1 to 3 October 2017.

3. Raising awareness at the national level

- The Government of Estonia approved the Welfare Development Plan 2016-2023 in 2016. One of the main objectives of the document is that women and men have equal rights, obligations, opportunities and responsibilities in all spheres of social life. The measures range from increasing awareness to legal changes.
- Estonia ratified the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence of the Council of Europe (the Istanbul Convention) in 2017. Protecting the victim and strengthening the understanding that the victim is never to be blamed for what happened to them are very important aspects of the convention. Joining the convention directs more attention to preventing violence against women – campaigns for raising awareness, training, development of teaching materials for schools, provision of support services, counselling for victims, promotion of the equality of women and men, etc. Several important amendments to the Penal Code and the Victim Support Act were made as a result. The convention and the legal amendments

have been introduced at various conferences and training events and in the media.

- The Ministry of Social Affairs organised during three years training events of two to eight days on the topics of gender violence and trafficking in human beings as well as an international conference in the area of trafficking in human beings. There were about 200 participants. An information day about the amendments to the Victim Support Act for women's shelters was also organised and was attended by 19 people.
- The Ministry of Social Affairs has organised gender integration training for the policymakers of ministries. The training gave a good overview of gender equality and gender integration, but practical exercises in the policy area were also solved at the training event. The training took place in 2015 and the next gender integration training for policymakers is planned for winter 2017/18.
- Human rights and their protection with the help of international cooperation is covered in the current school curriculum, in the context of recent history.
- Gender equality is an underlying principle of the national curriculum of basic schools and upper secondary schools, which must be relied on when shaping the learning environment. The Ministry of Education and Research and the University of Tartu will train at least 40 teachers of personal, social and health education in 2017 and 2018 to use the science-based handbook "Expect Respect" about the prevention of dating violence.
- The activities of the UNESCO school network and the distribution of global citizen's education via NGO Mondo, which also covers the topics of international security, is supported from the general education programmes of the Ministry of Education and Research.
- The experts who participate in missions have received the necessary training. The mission experts of the Police and Border Guard Board have been separately informed about resolution 1325. The subject matter of gender violence, human rights and equality is a part of the training given to the experts participating in missions. The Rescue Board participates in urgent missions on the basis of the Participation in International Civilian Missions Act. Everyone who joins the Estonian Disaster Relief Team (EDRT) passes the basic training offered by the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences, which also covers cultural differences.
- According to the public opinion surveys carried out on the order of the Ministry of Defence twice a year, the number of people who support giving women the possibility to perform the conscript service has increased. All in all, the public opinion surveys carried out in recent years indicate that the voluntary participation of women in military defence force has become the norm for the

majority of the population. However, about half of the population still doubts whether women could cope with the service equally to men and should be appointed to all positions, including in combat forces. Thus, it can be said that it is possible to increase the social support to women who have chosen to serve in the Defence Forces. Whilst 90% of the population support a general compulsory conscript service, the voluntary participation of women in military defence is clearly less supported, which probably mainly hinders the number of women voluntarily undergoing the conscript service.

- The topics of resolution 1325 are integrated in the training of non-commissioned officers and officers, especially the training offered before operations. They are mainly covered in legal and cultural training and training about the culture of the region of the operation given before the mission, which includes topics such as human rights and gender equality, humanitarian law, violence against women and trafficking in human beings.
- The objectives of resolution 1325 and actions on the Estonian and international stakeholders are introduced in the Baltic Defence College. As an international institution of education, the college offers English study modules or sub-modules on topics such as human rights, international humanitarian law, violence against women and trafficking in human beings.
- The Estonian Women's Studies and Resource Centre organised the conference “20 years from the fourth global women’s conference ‘Women for gender equality, development and peace’ of the United Nations” in Tallinn in autumn 2015. Minister of Foreign Affairs Marina Kaljurand spoke about women, peace and security at the conference.
- The Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence, the NATO headquarters and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation have organised the series of events on “Women, peace and security” since 2012. The Association has dedicated each event to a specific aspect of the framework of women and security. The event is co-funded from the general education programme of the Ministry of Education and Research to raise the awareness of teachers of history and civic studies of broad-based national defence.
- In 2015 the Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association organised three round tables on the topic of “Women, peace and security” in Tallinn and a conference in Narva. The events focused on the role of women in politics and Estonian society, the situation of women in Ida-Viru County and the broader impact of resolution 1325. The project was a contribution to the implementation of the Estonian action plan of resolution 1325. The round tables had 30-40 participants on average (excl. the conference in Narva, which had 100 participants), who represented the Defence Forces, the public sector and the

civil society, as well as representatives of media. The first round table was held on 10 February and its topic was “More Women in Politics?!”. The International Women’s Day was celebrated with the conference “Women and Security” held in Narva on 8 March. The round table on the topic “Gender Equality. Woman as a Leader – Does Estonia Need a Female President or General?” was held on 26 May. The last round table was held on 6 October and it focused on the topic “The UN Resolution 1325 - Impact in an Equal Society”.

- As of 2016, the Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association changed the traditional series of the “Women, Peace and Security” round tables to a larger thematic conference held once a year. The annual conference “Women, Peace and Security” was organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the NATO headquarters on 11 March 2016. The conference was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The speakers included the Minister of Foreign Affairs Marina Kaljurand, the Ambassador of Canada to Estonia Alain Hausser, Member of the European Parliament Urmas Paet, and Commander of the Estonian Defence League Brigade General Meelis Kiili. Ambassador Marriët Schuurman (NATO Secretary General’s Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security from 2014-2017) spoke via video link from the NATO headquarters. The objective of the conference was to introduce resolution 1325 to the general public and the target group of the event consisted of the networks of NGOs contributing to the activities of resolution 1325 in Estonia, other NGOs, embassies and the relevant ministries.
- The annual conference “Women, Peace and Security” was held in the conference hall of the Riigikogu at the initiative of the Estonian Atlantic Treaty Organisation on 10 March 2017 and it was preceded by the opening reception of the Chancellor of Justice on 9 March. International experience of the role of women in maintaining peace and security and the contribution of Estonia to this were discussed at the meeting. The objective in 2017 was to include teachers in the conference in addition to representatives of NGOs and the officials involved in the implementation of the action plan, as it’s important for teachers and educational workers to be informed about this field. The objective of the conference was to explain the significant role of women in guaranteeing security and to draw attention to the situation of women in situations of crisis. One of the objectives of organising the conference was to start a discussion of the importance of the inclusion of women in guaranteeing peace and security in the global and local perspectives. The general public could observe the event via an online broadcast.

4. Inclusion of women in positions related to peace and security in Estonia

- The principles of gender equality are followed in recruitment and promotion in the area of government of the Ministry of the Interior. However, no special selection based on the gender has been made upon recruitment, as the existence of professional skills is the precondition.

Official policy “Women in the Defence Forces” of the Ministry of Defence

- In addition to the regular activities related to the topics of resolution 1325 in the area of government of the Ministry of Defence, the latest big success is the elaboration and approval of the the official policy “Women in the Defence Forces”. Although some of the measures arising from the policy and the possibilities for the participation of women in the Defence Forces have already been implemented, this policy will perpetuate the topic in the area of government of the Ministry of Defence and create the preconditions for systematic and targeted follow-up activities. The objective of the policy is to create a general background for the topic and a broader basis for social discussions, thereby shaping and introducing attitudes and encouraging women to participate more in military service. The area of government of the Ministry of Defence proceeds from following principles in the inclusion of women in military defence:
 - national defence is the joint effort of all citizens and the whole society, which is why men and women are expected to contribute equally to defence;
 - society in general must equally support and recognise the contribution of men and women to social life and guarantee equal career opportunities irrespective of gender;
 - there are no specialities or positions in the Defence Forces or the Defence League where the participation of women is restricted or preferred due to their gender, and equal requirements and conditions apply to all members of the Defence Forces irrespective of gender. The separate norms in the physical preparation tests of the Defence Force will remain an exception.
- The following measures are implemented to achieve this goal and implement the principles:
 - information is provided in order to change social attitudes and guarantee support for the military service of women;
 - the awareness of women of the option of military service will be raised;
 - the women who voluntarily enter the military service will be able to serve in all military units that prepare reserve units;

- it is guaranteed that the person's motivation as well as their physical and mental abilities are taken into account when the military specialities of male and female conscripts are assigned;
 - female conscripts are guaranteed the necessary organisational and living service conditions in military units, and uniforms and individual equipment will be developed or adjusted;
 - the target group of the policy and the Defence Forces are asked to give regular feedback to identify and remove possible obstacles to the participation of women in military service.
- The permanent campaign "Women into Uniform" (*Naised vormi*), which promotes the participation of women in the Defence Forces, was launched within the scope of the policy in 2017. The funds for the campaign were allocated from the area of government of the Ministry of Defence. The web portal "Naised vormi⁷" will be created within the scope of the campaign in 2018. Different events will be regularly organised to support the policy (e.g. meetings with stakeholders and target groups to explain the campaign). A public opinion survey will be ordered twice a year to assess the attitudes of society towards the inclusion of women in the Defence Forces.
 - The broader objective of the campaign is to change society's attitudes towards the conscript service and military service of women. The campaign must shape the public opinion in such a manner that all people are welcome to participate in national defence irrespective of their gender, and speak of the benefits of the broader inclusion of women in military service. The increasing participation of women in military service must gradually become the new norm.
 - The campaign normalises the participation of women in national defence and conscript service by presenting a positive example (preferably by the leaders and also outside the ordinary specialities), exposing myths, valuing the knowledge and experience gained during the time contributed to conscript service (the experience of coping in critical situations, awareness of contributing to national defence, leadership experience, improving physical form and endurance, and further career opportunities).
 - Outdoor advertisements and social media will be used in the campaign and will be supported by media activities. Public figures who have performed conscript service and/or are members of the Defence League are included in the campaign. They will help draw attention to the campaign, and their participation in it will attract the attention of the target group and be an extra motivator to them. Spokespersons who are persons of authority to the opinion leaders of the target group (parents, teachers) will also be included.

⁷ <https://www.kra.ee/naisedvormi/>

- At the same time as the campaign, the Defence Forces and the Defence League will work on internal communication by using seminars, focus groups, brainstorming, etc. Defence-related publications like *Sõdurileht*, *Sõdur* and *Kaitse Kodu!* will continue to cover the topic by showing women in service and using them as authors.
- The Ministry of Defence updates the Facebook page “Women in Defence Forces” and keeps the topic in the public eye using the opportunities to speak in mainstream media and initiating discussions of equality and the role of women in defence forces.
- In order to raise awareness, agencies in the area of government of the Ministry of Defence will be able to use the existing means to raise the awareness of young people of national defence and military service – the optional subject of national defence in schools and the activities of the Recruitment Centre of the Defence Resources Agency at schools, fairs and elsewhere. The national defence textbook will be updated in 2017-2018. The chapter on military service will be more thorough in the new version and it will have a sub-chapter that focuses on the ability of women to participate in conscript service. The knowledge and skills of national defence teachers in the popularisation of conscript service among female and male students will also be improved.
- The Facebook page “Women in Defence League” has also been active since November 2016 and will become the central social media channel covering news, information and recommendations to women interested in contributing to national defence as well as the experiences and recommendations of female conscripts about completing the service as smoothly as possible.
- In order to improve the organisation the service of female conscripts, answer questions and solve problems operatively and at the grass-roots level, we will continue with and expand the practice already to some extent present in military units according to which a mentor for female conscripts will be appointed from amongst active female members of the Defence Forces, whose duty is to answer possible specific questions at the start of the service and later regularly request feedback from female conscripts and solve any possible problems.
- Until the end of 2017, the ability of female call-up selectees to perform the service was limited to the Kuperjanov infantry battalion of the 2nd infantry brigade and the military units of the 1st infantry brigade based in Tapa. The division of call-up selectees and female persons between military units in 2018 was established on the basis of the Military Service Act with Regulation No. 22 signed by the Minister of Defence on 18 October 2016, and unlike the former conscript distribution plans, the regulation makes it possible to accept female conscripts to all units that train conscripts and to do this at each of the three

times when new conscripts are invited to perform conscript service. The regulation stipulates that up to 108 female selectees will be called up to military service. The former regulations stipulated that only up to 30 female persons will be called up to conscript service. The amendment to the regulation ends the situation at the level of the regulation of the Minister of Defence where the ability of women who voluntarily enter military service to choose their place of service is limited to just two structural units. The opening of all military units increases the possible number of female call-up selectees, as they will be able to choose the military unit, type of weapon and speciality that seems the most suitable to them.

- The practice of appointing female conscripts to positions will be amended. The objective of the measure is to create a simple and unambiguous procedure in the Defence Forces on the basis of which both male and female conscripts would be appointed to positions after they have completed basic military training and which, as such, would be understandable to conscripts as well as the active members of the Defence Forces that make the selection.
- Until now, the military units of the Defence Forces have generally proceeded from the principle that female conscripts are accommodated separately from male conscripts and have separate sanitary rooms. Based on the example of Norway and Sweden, the military units of the 1st infantry brigade have started accommodating female conscripts in the same rooms in the barracks as male conscripts. As all of the military units will be open to female conscripts as of 2018, it is necessary to establish clear principles for how the accommodation of female conscripts and other similar questions will be resolved.
- The experience of other countries and the feedback given by women who have served in the Estonian Defence Forces and Defence League indicate that the standard outdoor uniform elements and individual equipment (harnesses, backpacks) are not often compatible with the size and shape of women's bodies. On the one hand, this makes training and the performance of tasks more difficult and on the other hand, it lowers the level of comfort and may be negative from the viewpoint of the satisfaction and motivation of the member of the Defence Forces. Thus, one of the measures is to acquire suitable uniforms for women or to adjust the existing uniform sets at the start of the service. The ability to adjust the individual equipment sets of members of the Defence Forces is also analysed.
- In order to monitor the situation in the organisation of service by female members of the Defence Forces, identify possible problems and assess the efficiency of the policy measures, we will regularly request feedback from female members of the Defence Forces – both conscripts and active members of the Defence Forces. In the case of female conscripts, the main mechanism of requesting feedback will be the complex survey carried out among all

conscripts by the Centre for Applied Research of the Estonian National Defence College and the University of Tartu as of 2016, which is used to study the motivation of the conscripts, their satisfaction with the service and other issues. The first feedback survey among female conscripts was carried out in 2017 on the order of the Ministry of Defence, and they will be regularly carried out in the future.

Participation of women in the Defence Forces

- In the end of 2017 the share of women among the active members of the Defence Forces was 10% in positions of commanding officer and specialised positions alike. The average age of female active members of the Defence Forces was 35.6 years. Women have served in the Defence Forces since their recreation and at all levels of leadership. The number of female conscripts has increased every year and will continue to increase in the coming years as well. Proceeding from specialised and military training, the women in active service can participate in operations on the same bases as men. This opportunity is used, although the share of women in operations is still considerably lower than the share of men. Twenty women have taken part of operations lasting longer than three months in the last five years (2012-2017), which comprises 2.55% of the total number of persons who have been on missions. The actual participation of women is also influenced by the culture of the target country of the operation, the tasks assigned to the unit and whether there are women with the required training in the Estonian unit preparing for a particular mission. The policy “Women in the Defence League” should also promote the dispatch of women to operations in the long term. Those who participate in operations follow the codes of conduct of international operations, and supervision of compliance with this obligation is guaranteed at the level of leadership of the operations. Investigations are carried out if any breaches of rules are identified.

5. Increasing the efficiency of cooperation and information exchange in Estonia

- The state agencies and NGOs that have been involved in the implementation of the action plan of resolution 1325 have met when necessary, but at least once a year, in order to exchange mutual experiences.
- Information about the Estonian action plans and reports of resolution 1325 and its follow-up resolutions can be found on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs⁸. All of the speeches made in New York, including on the subject matter

⁸ <http://vm.ee/et/tegevused-eesmargid/inimoigused/uro-julgeoleku-noukogu-resolutsioon-1325naised-rahujajulgeolek>

of resolution 1325, are accessible on the website of Permanent Representation of Estonia to the UN⁹.

- The Ministry of Social Affairs has constantly cooperated with the Social Insurance Board, the Police and Border Guard Board, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of the Interior and NGOs on the topic of gender violence. The Ministry of Social Affairs participates actively in the network of the Strategy for Prevention of Violence 2015-2020 and in the network for prevention of trafficking in human beings.
- Support from the general education programme of the Ministry of Education and Research is granted to:
 - NGO Mondo for the promotion of the global citizen's education;
 - the Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association for covering the topic of security among the teachers and students of general education schools;
 - the Estonian Refugee Council for raising awareness of the issue of refugees at schools and nursery schools.
- In 2017 representatives of Estonia participated in the conference held in Germany after the meeting of the management board of the European Network of Policewomen (ENP), which is closely related to the subject matter of the resolution "Women, Peace and Security" – the role of women on UN missions; women's experience of participation on missions; and the share of women in Kosovo's police force and its background, cultural impact and the changes made.
- The international symposium "Women and Peace" was held in 2017 at the initiative of a board member of the Estonian Section of the International Police Association (IPA), which was attended by members of the IPA from Estonia and the Ignalina Prefecture in Lithuania, members of the European Network of Policewomen (ENP), representatives of the Estonian Association of Female Lawyers and the Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association and other representatives of NGOs. Articles are written for the website of the IPA to increase the impact of similar events and introduce the subject matter on a larger scale.
- NGO Mondo cooperates actively with state agencies, other NGOs as well as the Public Broadcasting and music festival organisers in Estonia to raise society's awareness of the need to support vulnerable target groups – women and children of developing countries and conflict zones.
- NGO Mondo offered journalists, including young journalists, several opportunities for training and study trips to Palestine, Nepal, Uganda and Ghana during the year. Twelve documentaries were prepared in cooperation

⁹ http://www.un.estemb.org/statements_articles

with Estonian Public Broadcasting in the “Our World” series, which introduced the lives of people, including the situation of women from Ethiopia to Georgia and Ukraine to Burma, to Estonian viewers. We published two new issues of the Development Policy News (*Arengupoliitika Teataja*), which is targeted to the policymakers.

- NGO Mondo completed two new exhibitions about women in 2016: “Women and Children in Conflict” and “Women in the Heart of Society”. We cooperated with the Viljandi Folk Music Festival and the Tallinn Music Week festival in support of a girls’ school in Afghanistan.
- 2016 and 2017 were active years of information exchange and advocacy work for NGO Mondo. We discussed the prospects of strategic partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the transfer of the coordination of UNESCO schools from the Estonian National Commission for UNESCO to Mondo. Mondo actively participates in the Estonian Round Table for Development Cooperation, the Anna Lindh Foundation, the Human Rights Round Table, the European Network of NGOs in Afghanistan and other networks. We continue to invite volunteers, community trainees and foreigners living in Estonia, including refugees, to help us with our outreach activities and in the office. Our consistent cooperation with Estonian schools has increased the number of schools that support children in Ghana or Kenya, or that have friendship schools in developing countries.