

# Health Board

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# Outline of presentation

- **Introduction/ history of HB**
- **What has been done?**
- **Detailed structure of HB**
- **Summary**
- **Q&A**

# Health Board

- began to operate on 1 January 2010
- incorporate the functions of the Health Care Board, the Health Protection Inspectorate, and the Chemicals Notification Centre.

# The Health Protection Inspectorate(HPI)

- The HPI has evolved from the soviet sanitary and epidemiology service that has undergone great changes since the USSR fell apart. The former routine control institution has become an organization that aims the promotion of health and prevention of diseases, and where altogether more than 300 civil servants supervise the health of the people and the environment.

# Health Protection Inspectorate

Specific activities within the jurisdiction of the HPI were:

1. communicable diseases epidemiology
2. environmental health, including
  - 2.1 drinking water, mineral water, swimming pools, bathing waters
  - 2.2 child- and long-term-care facilities, schools, kindergartens, camps
  - 2.3 safety of products and services as defined by multiple laws
  - 2.4 assessment of the chemical and biological hazards in people's physical environment, excluding radiation

# Health Care Board

The Health Care Board conducted inspections and issued citations to establishments that fail to comply with legal requirements.

Specific activities within the jurisdiction of the HCA were:

1. keeping register of health care workers
2. issuing licenses
3. oversight of health care providers and hospitals
4. emergency services; emergency preparedness and response
5. occupational health

# Chemicals Notification Centre

The Chemicals Notification Centre:

1. processed the documents at the introduction of a chemical to the market
2. assessed the possible risk to individuals and the environment, rated adequacy of documentation
3. enforced the Biocides Act
4. kept the biocides register
5. gathered and analysed data on the physical-chemical properties and potential hazards of chemicals, biocides and cosmetics on the market, as well as the first-aid measures and definitive treatment of poisoning possibly caused by them

# What has been done?

- The Ministry of Social Affairs has completed draft legislation for combining the Health Protection Inspectorate (HPI), the Health Care Board (HCB), and the Chemicals Notification Centre into a single Health Board.
- The Government approved the reorganization on 8 January 2009
- the Health Board started functioning on 1 January 2010.



# The effects of reorganization

Combine in one agency the following duplicative functions:

1. create a single safety-of-chemicals function incorporating the oversight responsibilities of the Chemicals Notification Centre and the surveillance conducted by the Health Protection Inspectorate's environmental section
2. combine in one department the surveillance over compliance with the requirement for handling biohazardous materials, and the granting of licenses for working with such materials
3. combine in one department oversight over hospital infection control, thereby improving efficiency and collaboration with hospitals
4. combine in one department oversight over the emergency preparedness and response plan, thereby improving collaboration among the agencies involved and clarifying the chain of command
5. assign all oversight over medical devices to the Health Board

# Health Board

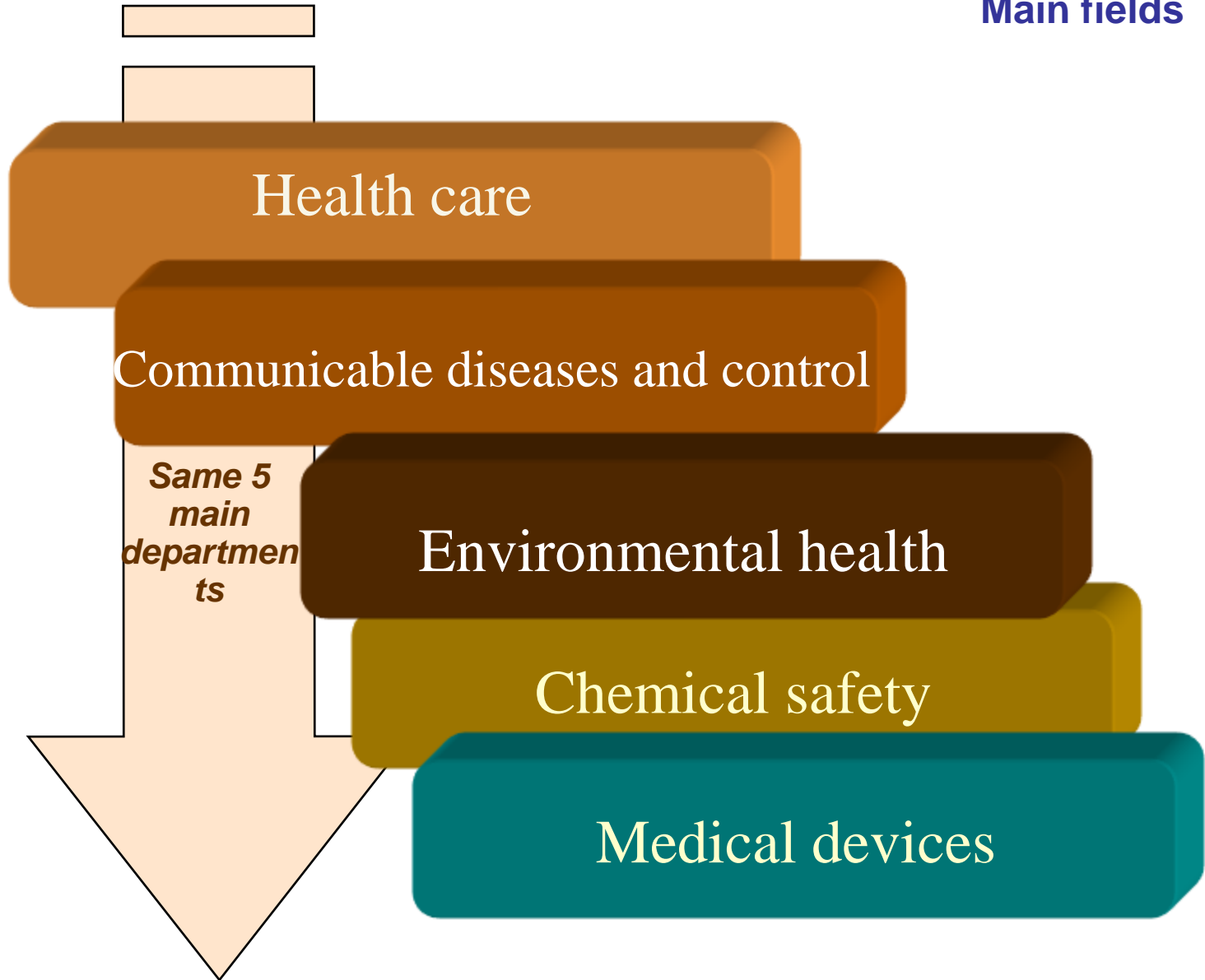
- Governmental agency within the MoSA
- Staff – 334
- Supervisory posts – 183
- Laboratory staff - 121
- Financed from the national budget

# Mission

to protect and preserve the health of the population of Estonia, and to support the devising of a healthful environment for them as well as optimal functioning of the health care system



**Main fields**

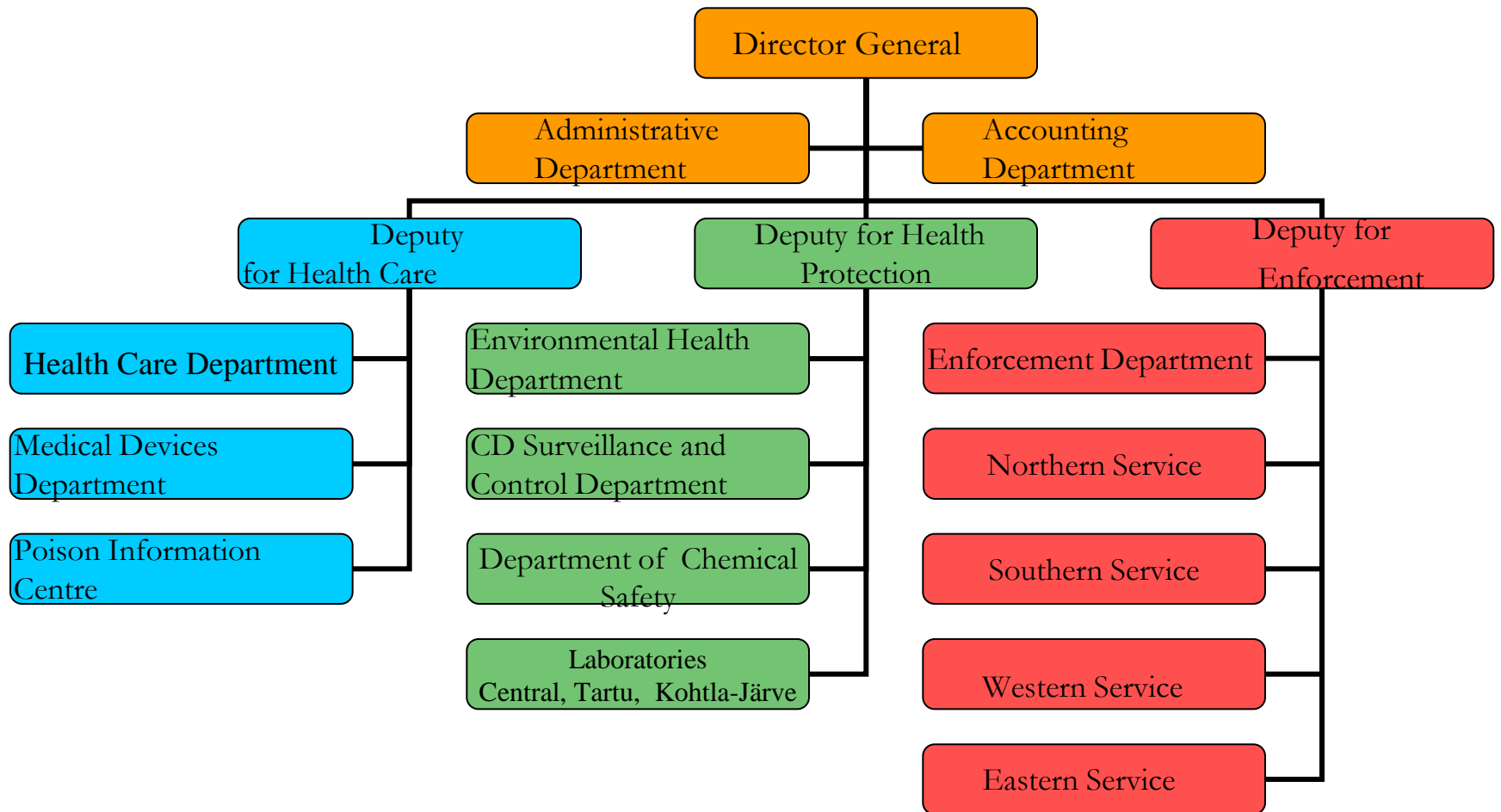


# The HB is the competent authority for

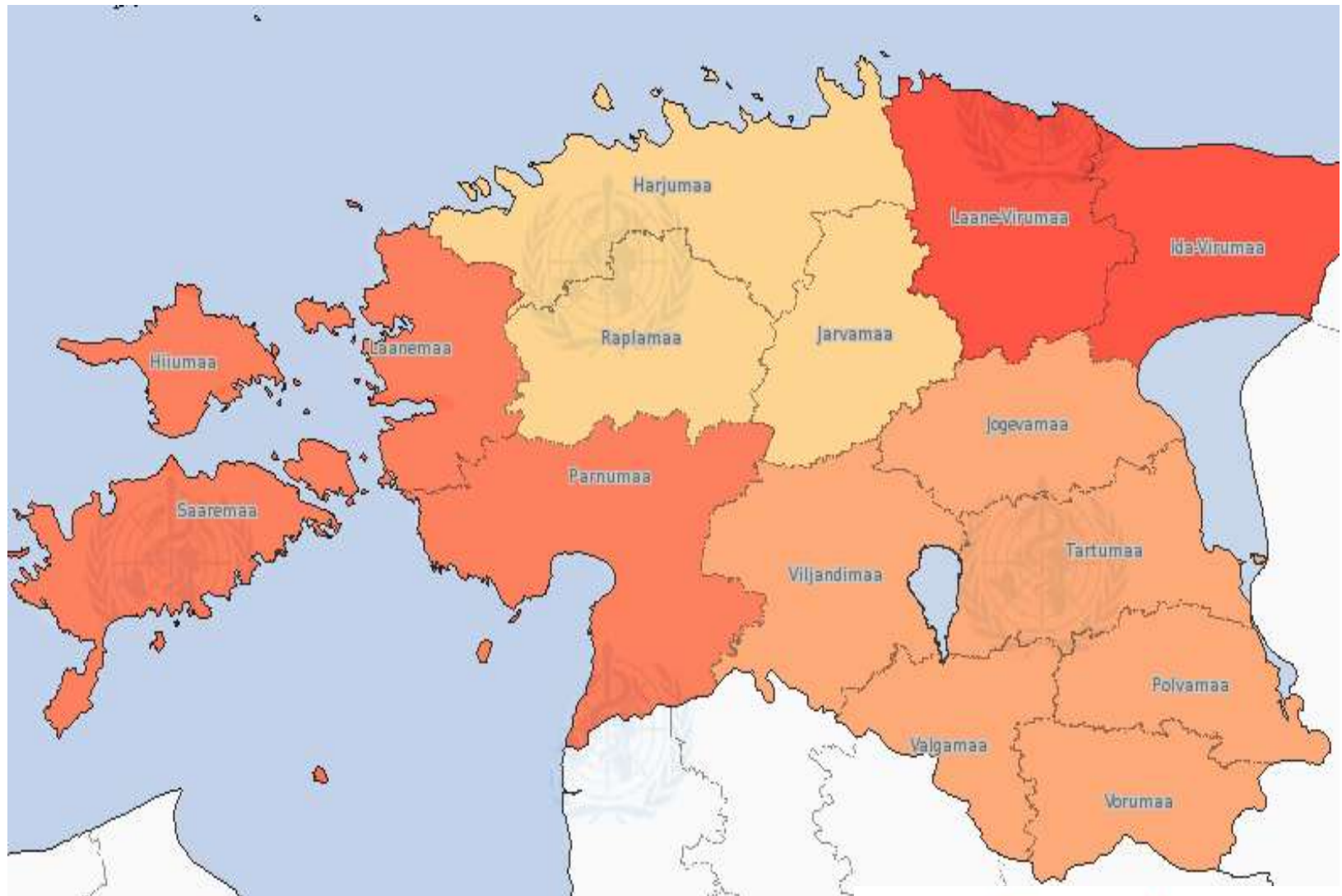
- certification of the credentials of medical practitioners when these were acquired abroad;
- regulation of medical devices;
- surveillance, prevention, and control of communicable diseases; risk analysis in epidemiology of communicable diseases;
- safety of chemicals and biocides;
- cosmetic products;
- drinking water, bathing waters.

And is the responsible agency in the field of natural mineral water.

## Structure of Health Board



## Location of Health Board in Estonia



# Regional services (4) include county divisions

- The regional services conduct surveillance and provide enforcement in the following areas: preservation of the cold chain for vaccines, vaccination coverage in the population; drinking water and natural mineral water; swimming pools and natural bathing waters; schools, pre-school establishments, and children's camps.



# Health Care Department

- keeping register of health care workers
- issuing licenses
- oversight of health care providers and hospitals
- emergency services; emergency preparedness and response
- occupational health

# Environmental Health Department

- Analysis the information gathered during inspections on drinking water and natural mineral water; on swimming pool and natural bathing waters; on environmental health facto in schools, youth camps, and other child care facilities; and on environmental noise, vibration and non-ionizing radiation;
- providing risk assessment regarding health risks in its spheres of activity.

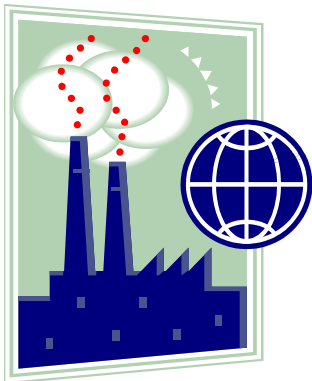


# CD Surveillance and Control Department

- HB has an overview of communicable diseases and of their spreading in the country, gives advice to prevent diseases, and helps to develop and implement different measures that are aimed at stopping and controlling the spreading of diseases.
- In order to fulfil the tasks better, the Bureau of Epidemiologic Preparedness and the Influenza Centre have been founded. The Estonian Influenza Centre has been accepted as a full member of the International Influenza Surveillance Network.

# Department of Chemical Safety

- Member state responsibilities in respect to registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals and biocides, and regulatory procedures on detergents and dangerous chemicals that are banned or severely restricted;
- tasks of national helpdesks under the REACH and CLP Regulations;
- to fulfill Designated National Authorities obligations under the Chemicals Weapons and Rotterdam Conventions;
- instructing assessment on health safety of chemicals, toys and cosmetics;
- the collection and analysis of information about serious undesirable effects caused by cosmetic products.



# Laboratories

- Central laboratory (communicable diseases, physics, chemistry), Tartu Laboratory and Kohtla-Järve laboratory

# Core functions of the laboratories are

- bacteriologic, virologic, chemical and physical testing; assurance of preparedness with respect to identifying particular pathogens, including diagnosis of uncommon diseases; participation in Europe's infectious disease surveillance networks.

# The Laboratory of Communicable Diseases

- actively takes part in the national communicable diseases surveillance and in the activity of the epidemic control system, is the laboratory base of the Influenza Centre, and participates in the World Health Organization (WHO) as the authorized laboratory of Estonia.

# Summary

The reorganization of the HPI into Health Board was needed

Reorganisation of Public Health in Estonia is on-going according to the proposal, which was made by MATRA Project “Capacity Building in Health Protection” and complemented by MoSA

HB has a clear detailed plan of action for coming activities



# Website

<http://www.terviseamet.ee/>



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Estonian Health Board (Terviseamet). The header features the logo and name "Terviseamet Health Board" on the left, and a search bar with language options (Sisukaart | Est | Eng | Rus) on the right. A navigation menu below the header includes links for Üldinfo, Tervishoid, Nakkushaigused, **Keskkonnatervis**, Kemikaaliohutus, Meditsiiniseadmed, and Laborid. The main content area is titled "Uudised" (News) and displays two news items: "Keskkonnatervis uudis 2" dated 30. oktoober 2009 and "Keskkonnatervis uudis 1" dated 29. oktoober 2009. A sidebar on the left contains various menu items like "Toitumine", "Vesi", "Füüsikalised tegurid", etc. A sidebar on the right lists services such as "Teabenõude esitamine" and "Infosüsteemid ja registrid". At the bottom right, there is a "Mürgistusinfo" (Poison Information) logo with the number 16662 and the website address 16662.ee.

# Q&A



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

# Medical Devices Department

- supervision over the medical devices placed on the market (market supervision);
- supervision over the compliance with the requirements set for notified bodies and manufacturers;
- supervision over the notification and investigation of adverse incidents;
- supervision over the organisation of clinical investigations;
- deciding on application of the rules for classification of medical devices in the event of a dispute between the manufacturer and notified body.

# Poison Information Centre

- gives advice in cases of acute poisonings to health professionals as well as to the general public. The database used by the Poisoning Information Centre is being constantly upgraded with the most recent poison information collected by the centre.

