NOTE TO COLLABORATORS: The information provided in this report contributes to an important part of the CCS project. Your efforts in providing these data are greatly appreciated! Any supplementary documents that you can provide (e.g., electoral legislation, party manifestos, electoral commission reports, media reports) are also appreciated, and may be made available on the CCS website.

Part I: Data Pertinent to the Election at which the CCS was Administered (taken from the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems, version: Module 2, August 23, 2004)

1. Report the number of portfolios (cabinet posts) held by each party in cabinet, prior to the most recent election. (If one party holds all cabinet posts, simply write "all").

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Political Party</th>
<th>Number of Portfolios</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estonian Reform Party</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union of Pro Patria and Res Publica</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The composition of the cabinet as well as the set of portfolios available changed in-between the two latest elections. The report refers to the number of portfolios held by parties immediately preceding the most recent election in 2011.

1a. What was the size of the cabinet before the election?
Cabinet included 13 portfolios prior to the most recent election in 2011.

2. Report the number of portfolios (cabinet posts) held by each party in cabinet, after the most recent election. (If one party holds all cabinet posts, simply write "all").

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Political Party</th>
<th>Number of Portfolios</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estonian Reform Party</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union of Pro Patria and Res Publica</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2a. What was the size of the cabinet after the election?
Cabinet includes 13 portfolios after the most recent election in 2011.
3. Political Parties (most active during the election in which the module was administered and receiving at least 3% of the vote):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party Name/Label</th>
<th>Year Party Founded</th>
<th>Ideological Family (where applicable)</th>
<th>European Parliament Political Group Membership</th>
<th>International Party Organizational</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Estonian Reform Party</td>
<td>1994</td>
<td>(G) Liberal Parties</td>
<td>Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe</td>
<td>European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Estonian Centre Party</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>(D) Social Democratic Party</td>
<td>Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe</td>
<td>European Liberal Democrat and Reform Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Social Democratic Party</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>(D) Social Democratic Party</td>
<td>Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats</td>
<td>Party of European Socialists</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Question to be answered of up to six ‘relevant’ parties, i.e., with the higher vote percentages in the relevant election.

3a. Were there any significant parties not represented in parliament before the election?
No.

3b. Were there any significant parties not represented in parliament after the election?
Yes: Estonian Greens, People’s Union of Estonia.

3c. Were there any other non-represented parties or independent actors whom you believe to have had a significant effect on the election?
No.
4a. Ideological Positions of Parties on the left-right dimension:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party name</th>
<th>Left</th>
<th>Right</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonian Reform Party</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonian Centre Party</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union of Pro Patria and Res Publica</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Democratic Party</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonian Greens</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Measurement is an average based on the party placements of the candidates standing for election at the 2011 Estonian Parliamentary election.
Estonian Reform Party: 8.53 (average based on 36 candidates’ placements)
Estonian Centre Party: 4.33 (average based on 9 candidates’ placements)
Union of Pro Patria and Res Publica: 7.52 (average based on 41 candidates’ placements)
Social Democratic Party: 3.25 (average based on 48 candidates’ placements)
Estonian Greens: 5.33 (average based on 15 candidates’ placements)

4aa. Do you believe there would be general consensus on these placements among informed observers in your country?
Yes. The standard deviations in the candidates’ placements were rather small:
Estonian Reform Party: 1.1
Estonian Centre Party: 1.1
Union of Pro Patria and Res Publica: 1.1
Social Democratic Party: 1.3
Estonian Greens: 1.0

4b. Ideological Positions of Parties on the left-right dimension:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party name</th>
<th>Anti-integration</th>
<th>Pro-integration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonian Reform Party</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonian Centre Party</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union of Pro Patria and Res Publica</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Democratic Party</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonian Greens</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Measurement is an average based on the party placements of the candidates standing for election at the 2011 Estonian Parliamentary election.
Estonian Reform Party: 7.39 (average based on 36 candidates’ placements)
Estonian Centre Party: 5.22 (average based on 9 candidates’ placements)
Union of Pro Patria and Res Publica: 6.95 (average based on 41 candidates’ placements)
Social Democratic Party: 6.40 (average based on 47 candidates’ placements)
Estonian Greens: 6.27 (average based on 15 candidates’ placements)

4ba. Do you believe there would be general consensus on these placements among informed observers in your country?
Yes. The standard deviations in the candidates’ placements were not extensive:
Estonian Reform Party: 1.5
Estonian Centre Party: 0.8
Union of Pro Patria and Res Publica: 2.0
Social Democratic Party: 2.0
Estonian Greens: 2.0
5. In your view, what are the five most salient factors that affected the outcome of the election (e.g. major scandals; economic events; the presence of an independent actor; specific issues)?

1. The decision to adopt EURO on 01/01/2011, framed largely as a significant milestone and economic success of the preceding government.
2. Global recession. Media tended to perceive Estonia’s economic distraught in the context of the global recession and the even greater sufferings of several European Union member states in comparison to Estonia.
3. Rising level of inequality across the society was successfully downplayed by the government and did not become a major theme during the electoral competition.
4. The decreasing Estonian population. Extensive efforts to reverse the trend were perceived as necessary and rather successful.
5. Failure in the educational system. Played a rather small electoral role as parties tended to largely agree on the proposed future solutions, allowing the governing parties to escape guilt.

5a. Do you believe there would be general consensus about the importance of these factors among informed observers in your country?

Yes.

6. Electoral Alliances:
   a) Were electoral alliances permitted during the election campaign?

[X] No

[ ] Yes

7. Party Leaders:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Political Party</th>
<th>Name of Party Leader</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estonian Reform Party</td>
<td>Mr. Andrus Ansip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonian Centre Party</td>
<td>Mr. Edgar Savisaar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union of Pro Patria and Res Publica</td>
<td>Mr. Mart Laar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Democratic Party</td>
<td>Mr. Sven Mikser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonian Greens</td>
<td>Mr. Aleksei Lotman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People’s Union of Estonia</td>
<td>Mr. Margo Miljand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The leader of the People’s Union of Estonia was Mr. Andrus Blok at the time of the 2011 Estonian Parliamentary Election.
Part II
Data on Electoral Institutions
(taken from the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems, version: Module 2, August 23, 2004)

1. How many segments (as just defined) are there in the electoral system?
[X] 1 segment
[ ] 2 segments
[ ] more than 2

2.1. How many primary electoral districts are there?
12

3.1. How many members are elected from each district?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Number of Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tallinna Haabersti, Põhja-Tallinna ja Kristiine linnaosa</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tallinna Kesklinna, Lasnamäe ja Pireta linnaosa</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tallinna Mustamäe ja Nõmme linnaosa</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harju- ja Raplamaa</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiiu-, Lääne- ja Saaremaa</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lääne-Virumaa</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ida-Virumaa</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Järva- ja Viljandimaa</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jõgeva- ja Tartumaa</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tartu linn</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Võru-, Valga- ja Põlvamaa</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pärnumaa</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. How many secondary electoral districts are there?
1
The secondary electoral district – country – is only used to allocate seats that were left over from the initial phase of distributing mandates within the primary electoral districts. Therefore, the number of seats allocated at the secondary electoral district is not fixed and varies from election to election. In practice, roughly ¼ of the total seats are eventually divided by candidates from country-wide electoral lists.

5. How many tertiary electoral districts are there?
0

6. Exactly how are votes cast by voters?
Options of how one can cast one’s vote:
* Voting before the main elections day (an established period of 6 days) at an advance polling station or at a local polling station
* Voting at a local polling station on the main elections day
* Postal vote
* Voting at an Estonian embassy abroad
* Voting on a ship that is flying national flag of Estonia
* Electronic voting
* Residential voting if one is unable to cast an electronic vote and physically unable to get to the polling station
6a. How many votes do they or can they cast?

1

6b. Do they vote for candidates, for lists, or for both?
Candidates – they can be either members of party lists or independent candidates.

7. Are the votes transferable?
No

8. If more than one vote can be cast, can they be cumulated?
Not applicable

9. Are there any other features of voting that should be noted?
Please refer to the appendix – ‘Riigikogu Election Act’ – for a detailed account of the electoral system used.

10. Exactly how are votes converted into seats?
A step-by-step account:
* A simple quota shall be calculated for each electoral district, obtained by dividing the number of valid votes cast in the electoral district by the number of mandates in the district.
* A candidate for whom the number of votes cast exceeds or equals the simple quota is elected.
* In the lists of candidates of those political parties in an electoral district whose candidates receive at least 5 per cent of the votes nationally, the candidates shall be ranked according to the number of votes cast for each candidate. The votes cast for candidates standing in the list of candidates of the same political party in an electoral district shall be totalled. A list shall receive as many mandates as the number of times the number of votes it receives in the electoral district exceeds the simple quota. Mandates obtained pursuant to subsection (2) of this section are also deemed to be mandates of a political party. The number of mandates of a political party shall be increased by one if the remaining votes total at least 75 per cent of the simple quota. A political party shall also be given a mandate if the number of votes is at least 75 per cent of the simple quota. The candidates at the top of the list for whom the number of votes cast is at least 10 per cent of the simple quota are elected. If at least two candidates receive an equal number of votes, the candidate who is further towards the top of the national list of candidates shall be elected.
* Mandates which are not distributed in electoral districts on the basis of a simple quota shall be distributed as compensation mandates between the political parties whose candidates receive at least 5 per cent of the votes nationally.
* The compensation mandates shall be divided according to the d'Hondt distribution method with the distribution series of 1, 2 over 0.9, 3 over 0.9, 4 over 0.9, etc. In calculating the comparative figure of each party, as many first elements of the series shall be omitted as the number of mandates obtained by the party in the electoral districts. If the comparative figures of at least two political parties are equal, the political party whose candidates are further towards the bottom of the general list of candidates in the electoral district shall be given the mandate.
* The candidate who is further towards the top of the list and for whom the number of votes cast is at least 5 per cent of the simple quota shall be given a compensation mandate in the national list of candidates. Upon the distribution of mandates, candidates elected in districts are omitted.
* If, upon the distribution of compensation mandates, it becomes evident that there are not enough candidates in the national list of candidates for whom the number of votes cast is at least 5 per cent of the simple quota of his or her electoral district, the candidate of the same list who has received the highest percentage of votes of the simple quota of his or her electoral district shall be given a compensation mandate. In the event of an equal number of votes, the candidate who is further towards the top of the submitted list shall be given a compensation mandate.
10a. Are there legally mandated thresholds that a party must exceed?
Party needs to receive at least 5 per cent of the votes nationally. However, candidates for whom the number of votes cast exceeds or equals the simple quota (number of valid votes cast in an electoral district divided by the number of mandates in the district) receive the electoral mandate regardless of how many votes their parties obtained in total.

10b. What electoral formula or formulas are used?
Please refer to the step-by-step account of how votes are converted into seats and to the appendix – ‘Riigikogu Election Act’.

11. If there are lists, are they closed, open, or flexible?
[ ] closed
[ ] flexible, but in practice virtually closed
[X] flexible
[ ] flexible, but in practice virtually open
[ ] open

12. What are possibilities of forming alliances in the system?
Inter-party alliances are only formed after the announcement of electoral results.

Only alliances that occur prior to the announcement of the electoral results are loose supportive networks of independent candidates – e.g. to share a webpage or a campaign slogan. However, they still run as independent candidates without any ties to electoral alliances on the ballot paper.

12a. Can parties run joint lists?
[ ] Yes
[X] No

12b. Is there apparentement or linking of lists?
[ ] Yes
[X] No

12c. Can candidates run with the endorsement of more than one party?
[ ] Yes
[X] No

12d. Do parties withdraw their lists of candidates in some constituencies, urging their supporters there to vote for an ally’s list of candidates?
[ ] Yes
[X] No

13. Are joint lists possible?
Parties can form a joint political entity to act as an umbrella for both parties’ candidates. However, that effectively refers to a merger.
Part III
Data on Regime Type
(taken from the Comparative Study of Electoral Systems, version: Module 2, August 23, 2004)

1. Who is the head of state?
[ ] President
[ ] Monarch
[ ] Prime Minister serves as a ceremonial head of state
[ ] Other

2. How is the head of state election?
[ ] Direct election
[ ] Indirect election
[ ] Birth right
[ ] Divine right
[ ] Other

2b. If by indirect election, by what process?
[ ] Electoral College
[ ] Selections by legislature
[ ] Other

Note: In the first instance, Parliament tries to elect the President. If Parliament is unable to do so, Electoral College will elect the President.

2b1. If by Electoral College, how are electors chosen?
Electoral College is made up of all serving Members of the Parliament and representatives of local governments who are internally elected within the local governments.

2b2. Does the Electoral College deliberate?
[ ] Yes
[ ] No

2b3. What is the voting procedure used by the Electoral College?
In the first round all parties are able to put their candidates forward, and a simple majority is required to get elected.
If no candidate is elected in the first round, second round of voting takes place with the two candidates who got most votes in the first round competing against each other and requiring a simple majority to get elected.

2b4. If by legislature, by which chamber of the legislature? What is the voting procedure used?
Estonia has unicameral legislature. There are up to three rounds of voting in the legislature, and candidates require the support of 2/3 MPs to get elected in each round.
Candidates who are nominated by at least 1/5 MPs are able to stand for election in the first round.
If no candidate gets elected in the first round, the same procedure is carried out once more. If no candidate gets elected in the second round, the two candidates who got most votes in the second round compete against each other. Should neither candidate get elected in the third round, the President will be chosen by the Electoral College.
3. Does the Head of State have the following powers?

3a. Introduce legislation?
[ ] Yes  [X] No

3b. Require expedited action on specific legislation?
[ ] Yes  [X] No

3c. Package veto?
[X] No  [ ] Yes
Note: President can refuse to announce legislation. However, should the legislature ignore the refusal, the President can stop legislation to come into effect only if the Estonian Supreme Court determines it to be in conflict with the Estonian Constitution. As such, the veto power lies with the Estonian Supreme Court.

3d. Partial veto?
[X] No  [ ] Yes

3e. Issue decrees with the power of law?
[X] Yes  [ ] No
Note: Only if the legislature is unable to convene.

3f. Emergency powers?
[ ] Yes  [X] No

3g. Negotiate treaties and international agreements?
[ ] No  [X] Yes
Note: Legislature needs to ratify those.

3h. Commander of the armed forces?
[X] Yes  [ ] No

3i. Initiate referenda or plebiscites?
[ ] Yes  [X] No

3j. Refer legislation to the judicial branch for review of constitutionality?
[X] Yes  [ ] No

3k. Convene special legislative sessions?
[X] Yes  [ ] No
4. Is the Head of Government elected independently of the legislature?
[ ] Yes
[X] No

4a. Is the Head of Government also the Head of State?
[ ] Yes
[X] No

4b. If the Head of Government is not elected independently of the legislature, how is the Head of Government selected?
[ ] Appointed by the head of state alone
[ ] Appointed by the legislature alone
[X] Nominated by the head of state, and approved by the legislature
[ ] Nominated by the legislature, and approved by the head of state
[ ] Other (Please explain):

5. What authorities does the Head of Government have over the composition of the cabinet?
[ ] Names ministers and assigns portfolios alone
[ ] Nominates ministers for approval by the president
[ ] Reviews and approves ministerial nominations made by the president
[ ] Dismisses ministers and reassigns portfolios at own discretion
[X] Other (Please explain):
* Head of Government names ministers and assigns portfolios alone, but requires the support of the legislature to do so.

6. What authorities does the Head of Government have over the policy making process?
[X] Chairs cabinet meetings
[ ] Determines schedule of issues to be considered by the legislature
[ ] Determines which alternatives will be voted on by the legislature, and in which order
[ ] Refers legislative proposals to party or legislative committees
[ ] Calls votes of confidence in government
[ ] Other (Please explain):

7. By what method(s) can the cabinet be dismissed?
[ ] By the head of state acting alone
[ ] By the prime minister acting alone
[X] By majority vote of the legislature where a majority of all legislators is required
[ ] By majority vote of the legislature where a majority of those legislators voting is required
[ ] By some combination of the above, acting in concert (Please explain):
[ ] Other (Please explain):
8. Can the legislature be dissolved prior to regularly scheduled elections?
[ ] No
[X] Yes:
[ ] By the head of state acting alone
[ ] By the prime minister acting alone
[X] By majority vote of the legislature
[ ] By some combination of the above, acting in concert (Please explain):
[X] Other (Please explain):
* President is required to dissolve the legislature if a draft legislation which is put on the referendum does not gain public support.
* President is required to dissolve the legislature if it has been unable to agree on an annual budget within two months since the start of the new business year.
* President is required to dissolve the legislature if it has been unable to name a cabinet within fourteen days since the legislature obtains the right to nominate and elect the Prime Minister.

9. If the legislature can be dissolved prior to regularly scheduled elections, are there restrictions on when and how the legislature can be dissolve?
[ ] On the timing of dissolution (e.g. not within one year after a legislative election)
[X] As a response to action/inaction by the legislature (e.g. only when the legislature has censured the cabinet; only if the legislature fails to pass the budget)
* President dissolves the legislature only if it has been unable to agree on an annual budget within two months since the start of the new business year.
* President dissolves the legislature only if a draft legislation which is put on the referendum does not gain public support.
* President dissolves the legislature only if it has been unable to name a cabinet within fourteen days since the legislature obtains the right to nominate and elect the Prime Minister.
[X] Other (Explain):
* Legislature cannot be dissolved if the legislature has called a state of war or a state of extraordinary.

10. Is there a second chamber of the legislature?
[X] No
[ ] Yes

11. Is there a constitutionally guaranteed division of power between the central government and regional and/or local governments?
[X] Yes
[ ] No

12. Does the central government have the power to remove elected officials of regional and/or local governments?
[ ] Yes
[X] No

REFERENCES:
* Reference ‘Constitution of the Republic of Estonia’
* Reference ‘President of the Republic Election Act’
* Reference ‘Referendum Act’
* Reference ‘Riigikogu Election Act’
Part IV
Data Pertinent to the Process of Intra-Party Candidate Selection

1. When applicable, translate (into English) the relevant legislation (constitutional articles and/or articles in ordinary laws) to understand the process of candidate selection:

Candidate selection is by law an internal matter for the parties, including the choice of mechanisms that they employ to derive the pool of candidates that they later choose from to represent themselves at the forthcoming elections as well as the mechanisms that they employ to choose the candidates whose candidacy they ultimately propose at the forthcoming elections. Please refer to the appendix – ‘Riigikogu Election Act’.
Party A: Estonian Reform Party

2.1 For List Systems/Proportional Representation Electoral Systems or Mixed Systems with a List Component:

2.1.1 Who is responsible for constructing the lists (*multiple choice question*):
- national party leader (X)
- national party organs (X)
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.2 Which party organ is the most important in the process of list making (*single choice question*):
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs (X)
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.3 Which party organ is second most important in the process of list making (*single choice question*):
- national party leader (X)
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.4 If closed lists are used, which party organ is most important in defining the relative position of candidates on the list? (*single choice question*)
Not applicable
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.5. Do the rank and file party members (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate *directly* in the process of candidate selection?  
Yes ( ) PASS TO 2.1.6
No (X) PASS TO 2.1.11

2.1.6 If the rank and file party members/militants (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate *directly* in the process of candidate selection: is this process organized only by the party or does the electoral authority also participate in some way in the process?
Not applicable
- only by the party ( )
- by the party and the electoral authority ( )

2.1.7 Please describe how the electoral authority participates in the process referred to in 2.1.5?  
Not applicable

2.1.8 Are the candidates in the process referred to in 2.1.5 allowed to do open campaign, for instance to buy media advertisement?  
Not applicable
- Yes ( )
- No ( )
2.1.9. Describe the rules about campaign finance of the process referred to in 2.1.5?
Not applicable

2.1.10 How open is the selection process of party, i.e. who is more important in choosing candidates, the party leadership, militants or sympathizers or voters in open elections? (single choice question)
Not applicable
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )
- militants or sympathizers or voters ( )

NOTE: while questions 2.1.1 to 2.1.10 should be answered by the experts in each national CCS team. THIS IS NOT SO WITH REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS. For questions 2.1.11 and 2.1.12, national CCS collaborators should try to obtain this information directly from members of the leadership of each party that are responsible for the process of candidate selection.

2.1.11 “In the process of candidate selection, demands are often made concerning the group affiliation (e.g. local connection, gender, age, occupation etc.) of the candidates. In your view, which are the most important selection criteria in the process of nominations?”
Age and occupation. The Estonian Reform Party has a strong image of being forward-thinking and oriented towards business interests. Therefore, the party tends to attract candidates who are relatively young as well as candidates who have been successful in the private sector and private enterprise in particular.

2.1.12 “In the screening process, demands are also made concerning the personal qualities of a candidate. In your view, which personal qualities are the most important ones?”
No formal requirements are made by the party, but it is once again the image of progressiveness and forward-thinking that the party tries to convey through its candidates.

3. If the rank and file party members/militants (and / or sympathizers and / or voters) participate directly in the process of choosing the candidates in party, please specify whether this is required by the constitution, by ordinary law or only by party statues?
Not applicable
- a. required by the constitution ( )
- b. required by ordinary law ( )
- c. required by party’s statues ( )

4. Describe the process of candidate selection in party by your own words:
The process of candidate selection in the Estonian Reform Party appears to be rather centralized and little regulated through party statutes. Although it is the party’s board that ratifies the list of candidates, there is a lot of room for informal arrangements and negotiations that occur behind the scenes. In practice, a rather small executive core of the party appears to be responsible for drawing up the list of nominations as well as holding significant influence over the final list of candidates.

5. Translate (into English) the relevant parts of party statues to understand the process of candidate selection in party:
‘Party’s board adopts the list of candidates for Parliamentary elections’ – party’s website.
Party B: Estonian Centre Party
2.1 For List Systems/Proportional Representation Electoral Systems or Mixed Systems with a List Component:

2.1.1 Who is responsible for constructing the lists (multiple choice question):
- national party leader (X)
- national party organs (X)
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.2 Which party organ is the most important in the process of list making (single choice question):
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs (X)
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.3 Which party organ is second most important in the process of list making (single choice question):
- national party leader (X)
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.4 If closed lists are used, which party organ is most important in defining the relative position of candidates on the list? (single choice question)
Not applicable
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.5. Do the rank and file party members (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate directly in the process of candidate selection? (directly)
Yes ( ) PASS TO 2.1.6
No (X) PASS TO 2.1.11

2.1.6 If the rank and file party members/militants (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate directly in the process of candidate selection: is this process organized only by the party or does the electoral authority also participate in some way in the process?
Not applicable
only by the party ( )
by the party and the electoral authority ( )

2.1.7 Please describe how the electoral authority participates in the process referred to in 2.1.5? (Not applicable)

2.1.8 Are the candidates in the process referred to in 2.1.5 allowed to do open campaign, for instance to buy media advertisement?
Not applicable
Yes ( )
No ( )
2.1.9. Describe the rules about campaign finance of the process referred to in 2.1.5?
Not applicable

2.1.10 How open is the selection process of party, i.e. who is more important in choosing candidates, the party leadership, militants or sympathizers or voters in open elections? (single choice question)
Not applicable

- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )
- militants or sympathizers or voters ( )

NOTE: while questions 2.1.1 to 2.1.10 should be answered by the experts in each national CCS team. THIS IS NOT SO WITH REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS. For questions 2.1.11 and 2.1.12, national CCS collaborators should try to obtain this information directly from members of the leadership of each party that are responsible for the process of candidate selection.

2.1.11 “In the process of candidate selection, demands are often made concerning the group affiliation (e.g. local connection, gender, age, occupation etc.) of the candidates. In your view, which are the most important selection criteria in the process of nominations?”
Local connection and age. Although there are no formal requirements of the candidates regards to their group affiliation, the party does have an image to live up to. The Estonian Centre Party holds a reputation of representing particularly well people who tend to be elderly and economically disadvantaged. Therefore, its candidates tend to be slightly older and with strong connections to local working class through their pasts.

2.1.12 “In the screening process, demands are also made concerning the personal qualities of a candidate. In your view, which personal qualities are the most important ones?”
The Estonian Centre Party’s process of candidate selection is a rather centralized one. Therefore, the candidates need to be personally suitable matches for the party’s leadership.

3. If the rank and file party members/militants (and / or sympathizers and / or voters) participate directly in the process of choosing the candidates in party, please specify whether this is required by the constitution, by ordinary law or only by party statues?
Not applicable

a. required by the constitution ( )
b. required by ordinary law ( )
c. required by party’s statues ( )

4. Describe the process of candidate selection in party by your own words:
The process of candidate selection within the Estonian Centre Party is a highly centralized one. Although it is the party’s board that formally adopts the list of candidates, the process is in practice effectively carried out by the party’s small executive board. It is also widely reported that the party’s leader has very strong informal role in influencing the process.

5. Translate (into English) the relevant parts of party statues to understand the process of candidate selection in party:
‘Party’s board adopts the list of candidates based on the proposal made by the party’s executive board’ – party statute.
Party C: Union of Pro Patria and Res Publica

2.1 For List Systems/Proportional Representation Electoral Systems or Mixed Systems with a List Component:

2.1.1 Who is responsible for constructing the lists (*multiple choice question*):
- national party leader (X)
- national party organs (X)
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.2 Which party organ is the most important in the process of list making (*single choice question*):
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs (X)
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.3 Which party organ is second most important in the process of list making (*single choice question*):
- national party leader (X)
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.4 If closed lists are used, which party organ is most important in defining the relative position of candidates on the list? (*single choice question*)
Not applicable
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.5. Do the rank and file party members (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate directly in the process of candidate selection?
Yes ( ) PASS TO 2.1.6
No (X) PASS TO 2.1.11

2.1.6 If the rank and file party members/militants (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate directly in the process of candidate selection: is this process organized only by the party or does the electoral authority also participate in some way in the process?
Not applicable
- only by the party ( )
- by the party and the electoral authority ( )

2.1.7 Please describe how the electoral authority participates in the process referred to in 2.1.5?
Not applicable

2.1.8 Are the candidates in the process referred to in 2.1.5 allowed to do open campaign, for instance to buy media advertisement?
Not applicable
- Yes ( )
- No ( )
2.1.9. Describe the rules about campaign finance of the process referred to in 2.1.5?
Not applicable

2.1.10 How open is the selection process of party, i.e. who is more important in choosing candidates, the party leadership, militants or sympathizers or voters in open elections? (single choice question)
Not applicable
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )
- militants or sympathizers or voters ( )

NOTE: while questions 2.1.1 to 2.1.10 should be answered by the experts in each national CCS team. THIS IS NOT SO WITH REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS. For questions 2.1.11 and 2.1.12, national CCS collaborators should try to obtain this information directly from members of the leadership of each party that are responsible for the process of candidate selection.

2.1.11 “In the process of candidate selection, demands are often made concerning the group affiliation (e.g. local connection, gender, age, occupation etc.) of the candidates. In your view, which are the most important selection criteria in the process of nominations?”
There are no formal requirements. However, as the party has strong ties with patriotic movements, the nominated members are better placed to become party candidates if they share such an image.

2.1.12 “In the screening process, demands are also made concerning the personal qualities of a candidate. In your view, which personal qualities are the most important ones?”
Following the previous point, an appeal as a patriotic and forward-thinking politician tends to be viewed positively.

3. If the rank and file party members/militants (and / or sympathizers and / or voters) participate directly in the process of choosing the candidates in party, please specify whether this is required by the constitution, by ordinary law or only by party statues?
Not applicable
  a. required by the constitution ( )
  b. required by ordinary law ( )
  c. required by party’s statues ( )

4. Describe the process of candidate selection in party by your own words:
Candidate selection at the Union of Pro Patria and Res Publica appears rather centralized. It is the party’s board that ratifies the lists of candidates, with party’s regional and local organizations possessing marginal powers to influence the process of candidate selection. Although not formalized in the party’s constitution, its executive leadership and its leader are perceived to have significant informal influence over whose candidacy is being put forward and who gets elected to be the party’s candidate.

5. Translate (into English) the relevant parts of party statues to understand the process of candidate selection in party:
‘Party’s board adopts the list of candidates for the Parliamentary elections’ – party statute.
Party D: Social Democratic Party

2.1 For List Systems/Proportional Representation Electoral Systems or Mixed Systems with a List Component:

2.1.1 Who is responsible for constructing the lists (*multiple choice question*):
- national party leader (X)
- national party organs (X)
- regional party organs (X)
- local party organs (X)

2.1.2 Which party organ is the most important in the process of list making (*single choice question*):
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs (X)
- local party organs ( )

2.1.3 Which party organ is second most important in the process of list making (*single choice question*):
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs (X)
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.4 If closed lists are used, which party organ is most important in defining the relative position of candidates on the list? (*single choice question*)
Not applicable
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.5. Do the rank and file party members (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate *directly* in the process of candidate selection?
- Yes (X) PASS TO 2.1.6
- No ( ) PASS TO 2.1.11

2.1.6 If the rank and file party members/militants (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate *directly* in the process of candidate selection: is this process organized only by the party or does the electoral authority also participate in some way in the process? 
- Not applicable
- only by the party (X)
- by the party and the electoral authority ( )

2.1.7 Please describe how the electoral authority participates in the process referred to in 2.1.5?
- Not applicable

2.1.8 Are the candidates in the process referred to in 2.1.5 allowed to do open campaign, for instance to buy media advertisement?
- Yes ( )
- No ( )
- Other (X) – not regulated
2.1.9. Describe the rules about campaign finance of the process referred to in 2.1.5?
Not regulated

2.1.10 How open is the selection process of party, i.e. who is more important in choosing candidates, the party leadership, militants or sympathizers or voters in open elections? (single choice question)
Not applicable
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs (X)
- local party organs ( )
- militants or sympathizers or voters ( )

NOTE: while questions 2.1.1 to 2.1.10 should be answered by the experts in each national CCS team. THIS IS NOT SO WITH REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS. For questions 2.1.11 and 2.1.12, national CCS collaborators should try to obtain this information directly from members of the leadership of each party that are responsible for the process of candidate selection.

2.1.11 “In the process of candidate selection, demands are often made concerning the group affiliation (e.g. local connection, gender, age, occupation etc.) of the candidates. In your view, which are the most important selection criteria in the process of nominations?”
Local connection. The party follows a very de-centralized process of candidate selection. Although party members have little involvement in the process, it is the local and regional party organizations that are most involved in drawing up the lists of nominations as well as selecting the candidates. This clearly shows the focus being put on localism. As the party values the input of its local and regional organizations, it is also the candidates’ local connections that are valued.

2.1.12 “In the screening process, demands are also made concerning the personal qualities of a candidate. In your view, which personal qualities are the most important ones?”
The Social Democratic Party has an image of a youthful party and a lot of attention is being put on attracting younger voters. Therefore, candidates are expected to reflect that image – being energetic and open-minded to reforms and changes.

3. If the rank and file party members/militants (and / or sympathizers and / or voters) participate directly in the process of choosing the candidates in party, please specify whether this is required by the constitution, by ordinary law or only by party statues?
   a. required by the constitution ( )
   b. required by ordinary law ( )
   c. required by party’s statues (X)

4. Describe the process of candidate selection in party by your own words:
The Social Democratic Party has put a lot of emphasis on localism and de-centralized candidate selection. Its constitution gives the party’s regional organizations very big roles in nominating and selecting party candidates who will stand for election at their constituencies, particularly in contrast to other Estonian mainstream parties. Party’s national organs remain relevant in deciding the ranking of candidates at the national list.

5. Translate (into English) the relevant parts of party statues to understand the process of candidate selection in party:
‘Regional party organs are responsible for electing the candidates that stand for election in the corresponding constituency’ – party statute.
Party E: Estonian Greens

2.1 For List Systems/Proportional Representation Electoral Systems or Mixed Systems with a List Component:

2.1.1 Who is responsible for constructing the lists (multiple choice question):
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs (X)
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.2 Which party organ is the most important in the process of list making (single choice question):
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs (X)
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.3 Which party organ is second most important in the process of list making (single choice question):
Not applicable
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.4 If closed lists are used, which party organ is most important in defining the relative position of candidates on the list? (single choice question)
Not applicable
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.5. Do the rank and file party members (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate directly in the process of candidate selection?
Yes (X) PASS TO 2.1.6
No ( ) PASS TO 2.1.11

2.1.6 If the rank and file party members/militants (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate directly in the process of candidate selection: is this process organized only by the party or does the electoral authority also participate in some way in the process?
only by the party (X)
by the party and the electoral authority ( )

2.1.7 Please describe how the electoral authority participates in the process referred to in 2.1.5?
Not applicable

2.1.8 Are the candidates in the process referred to in 2.1.5 allowed to do open campaign, for instance to buy media advertisement?
Yes ( )
No ( )
Other (X) – not regulated
2.1.9. Describe the rules about campaign finance of the process referred to in 2.1.5?
Not regulated

2.1.10 How open is the selection process of party, i.e. who is more important in choosing candidates, the party leadership, militants or sympathizers or voters in open elections? (single choice question)
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs (X)
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )
- militants or sympathizers or voters ( )

NOTE: while questions 2.1.1 to 2.1.10 should be answered by the experts in each national CCS team. THIS IS NOT SO WITH REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS. For questions 2.1.11 and 2.1.12, national CCS collaborators should try to obtain this information directly from members of the leadership of each party that are responsible for the process of candidate selection.

2.1.11 “In the process of candidate selection, demands are often made concerning the group affiliation (e.g. local connection, gender, age, occupation etc.) of the candidates. In your view, which are the most important selection criteria in the process of nominations?”
Estonian Greens encourage diversity and avoid making restrictions to who should consider becoming a party candidate. As the party is largely focused on environmental issues, candidates are, however, expected to have an image that supports those efforts.

2.1.12 “In the screening process, demands are also made concerning the personal qualities of a candidate. In your view, which personal qualities are the most important ones?”
Again, the Estonian Greens emphasise diversity and inclusion of a wide range of people both as their members as well as their party candidates.

3. If the rank and file party members/militants (and / or sympathizers and / or voters) participate directly in the process of choosing the candidates in party, please specify whether this is required by the constitution, by ordinary law or only by party statues? (multiple choice question).
   a. required by the constitution ( )
   b. required by ordinary law ( )
   c. required by party’s statues (X)

4. Describe the process of candidate selection in party by your own words:
Candidate selection is dominated by the party’s board. Although the party’s local branches and backbench members do not have direct influence over the candidate selection, the process is still relatively de-centralized as the leaders of local branches are included in the party’s board along with the party’s national leadership.

In addition, the party appears to promote diversity amongst both its members as well as party candidates. There appears to be a relatively strong sense of openness and expectation of decentralization when it comes to candidate selection within the Estonian Greens.

5. Translate (into English) the relevant parts of party statues to understand the process of candidate selection in party:
‘The board of the People’s Union of Estonia is responsible for confirming the party candidates for elections’ – party statute.
Party F: People’s Union of Estonia

2.1 For List Systems/Proportional Representation Electoral Systems or Mixed Systems with a List Component:

2.1.1 Who is responsible for constructing the lists ((multiple choice question):
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs (X)
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.2 Which party organ is the most important in the process of list making ((single choice question):
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs (X)
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.3 Which party organ is second most important in the process of list making ((single choice question):
Not applicable
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.4 If closed lists are used, which party organ is most important in defining the relative position of candidates on the list? ((single choice question)
Not applicable
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )

2.1.5. Do the rank and file party members (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate directly in the process of candidate selection?
Yes ( ) PASS TO 2.1.6
No (X) PASS TO 2.1.11

2.1.6 If the rank and file party members/militants (and/or sympathizers and/or voters) participate directly in the process of candidate selection: is this process organized only by the party or does the electoral authority also participate in some way in the process?
Not applicable
- only by the party ( )
- by the party and the electoral authority ( )

2.1.7 Please describe how the electoral authority participates in the process referred to in 2.1.5?
Not applicable

2.1.8 Are the candidates in the process referred to in 2.1.5 allowed to do open campaign, for instance to buy media advertisement?
Not applicable
- Yes ( )
- No ( )
2.1.9. Describe the rules about campaign finance of the process referred to in 2.1.5?
Not applicable

2.1.10 How open is the selection process of party, i.e. who is more important in choosing candidates, the party leadership, militants or sympathizers or voters in open elections? (single choice question)
Not applicable
- national party leader ( )
- national party organs ( )
- regional party organs ( )
- local party organs ( )
- militants or sympathizers or voters ( )

NOTE: while questions 2.1.1 to 2.1.10 should be answered by the experts in each national CCS team. THIS IS NOT SO WITH REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS. For questions 2.1.11 and 2.1.12, national CCS collaborators should try to obtain this information directly from members of the leadership of each party that are responsible for the process of candidate selection.

2.1.11 “In the process of candidate selection, demands are often made concerning the group affiliation (e.g. local connection, gender, age, occupation etc.) of the candidates. In your view, which are the most important selection criteria in the process of nominations?”
Local connection and occupation. Being traditionally perceived as the party for farmers and people who work in the agriculture sector, its potential voters presuppose the party’s candidates to represent those occupational traits. In addition, the party tends to attract older voters for whom the notion of localism is particularly relevant and desired.

2.1.12 “In the screening process, demands are also made concerning the personal qualities of a candidate. In your view, which personal qualities are the most important ones?”
LoAs previously highlighted the People’s Union of Estonia tends to attract older voters and voters who have strong ties with the communities they belong to. Therefore, the candidates should reflect those characteristics.

3. If the rank and file party members/militants (and / or sympathizers and / or voters) participate directly in the process of choosing the candidates in party, please specify whether this is required by the constitution, by ordinary law or only by party statues? (multiple choice question).
Not applicable
a. required by the constitution ( )
b. required by ordinary law ( )
c. required by party’s statues ( )

4. Describe the process of candidate selection in party by your own words:
Candidate selection appears to be a dominated by the party’s board. Although its local branches or backbench members do not have direct influence over the candidate selection, the process is still relatively de-centralized as the leaders of local branches are included in the party’s board along with the party’s national leadership.

5. Translate (into English) the relevant parts of party statues to understand the process of candidate selection in party:
“The board of the People’s Union of Estonia is responsible for setting up the list of party candidates for the parliamentary elections” — party statute.