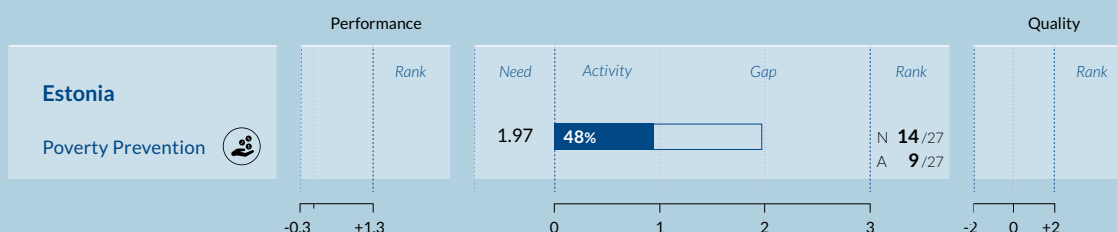


Findings by Country



Estonia

Overview of Reform Barometer Scores



Dimension Findings



Poverty Prevention

Need As in most other EU countries, the experts see a rather low need to reduce poverty among the total population (1.25), but a very urgent need to tackle poverty among specific societal subgroups, such as single parents (3.0), children (2.75) and senior citizens (2.5). The need to improve the situation for the foreign-born population is assessed as being modest (1.67), while tackling poverty among refugees is seen by the experts as a very low need (0.67).

Activity The experts report that 67 percent of the need to tackle child poverty has been addressed. For refugees (50%) and the foreign-born population in general (58%), the activity rates were lower. With regard to poverty among single parents, only one-third of the reform need has been tackled. Concerning poverty among senior citizens, the activity rate was 40 percent. One expert reports that “the amounts of universal child benefit and means-tested family benefit have been increased three times [since] 1 January 2015. In the formula for calculating the means-tested family benefit, the child coefficient has been increased to 1 (previously 0.8). The step-by-step lowering of basic income tax is going on (in 2015, from 21 to 20 percent), with the simultaneous increase in tax-deductible income.” Another expert reports that “in case of retired people, the indexing of pensions increases the levels that support the population at an advanced age.”