

Questionnaire manual: Research and development (R&D)

Questionnaire code: 11332026

Submitted in: 1.03.2026, data about 2025

Periodicity: Annual

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Please make sure that you enter data in the correct cell. If you enter alphabetical characters in a number field, a corresponding error message is displayed. In the case of some fields, logic (arithmetic) checks have been applied to prevent data entry mistakes. If there is a conflict in the entered data or they conflict with prefilled data, an error message appears when the table is checked. In the case of errors, review the data carefully and make corrections.

After correcting the data, save changes and check the questionnaire again. If there are no more mistakes, confirm and submit the data by clicking "Confirm" on the last page of the questionnaire. You will be displayed a message that the data have been submitted successfully. If you have any questions, please contact Statistics Estonia's customer service either by phone at +372 625 9300 (Mon–Thu 8:30–16:30, Fri 8:30–15:30) or by e-mail at klienditugi@stat.ee.

DATA COLLECTED WITH THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Table 1.0. GENERAL DATA

The purpose of this questionnaire is to collect information on the human resources and funds related to research and development. The abbreviation for research and development activities is R&D.

Row code/ column code	Name of variable * - mandatory	Code of variable	Explanation	Type of data (number of decimals) or list/ classification name	You need not fill in the value: period, economic activity
1 / 1	Existence of internal R&D costs *	RD_ENT_YES	Existence of internal R&D costs in the reference period. If the company only outsourced R&D services, the answer to this question is 'No'. The main criterion of R&D is innovativeness and the absence of a solution for a scientific or a technological problem in the early stage of the work. R&D is the research and development work carried out in the company. A broader definition of R&D: if the main goal is to technically improve a product or process, the work performed is classified as R&D. If a product, process or an approach has basically been developed and the main goal of the work is market expansion, pre-production planning or the smooth performance of a control system, the activity is not classified as R&D.	valik_jah_ei_1v	

Table 1.1. EMPLOYEES ENGAGED IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BY LEVEL OF EDUCATION AND POST AT THE END OF THE REFERENCE YEAR

The end of the reference year does not necessarily mean the last working day of the year, but rather the day in the second half of December on which the data are available. The number of persons engaged in research and development (R&D) includes persons who are directly involved in R&D and spend at least 10% of their working time on it. Doctoral and master's students engaged in R&D are counted as researchers and engineers in the report if they receive remuneration for their R&D work.

Research and development (R&D) is creative and systematic work, the aim of which is to obtain new knowledge, including knowledge about people, culture and society, and the implementation of such knowledge. This work is not only carried out in research institutions and universities, but it also includes the development of new treatment methods and testing of medicaments in medical institutions, home research and scientific description of exhibits in museums, nature conservation and environmental protection surveys which are often carried out together with non-profit organisations, etc. To distinguish R&D from other similar activities which may be performed by the same employees, it must be noted that the main criterion of R&D is innovativeness and the absence of solution for a scientific or a technological problem at the early stage of the work.

Row	Name of variable	Code of	Explanation	Type of data	You need
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code/ column code	* - mandatory	variable		(number of decimals) or list/ classification name	not fill in the value: period, economic activity
1 / 1	Number of employees engaged in R&D at the end of the reference period: total researchers and engineers – total	RD_RES MF_SCF	Number of scientists and engineers at the end of the reference period.	Positive integer	
1 / 2	Number of employees engaged in R&D at the end of the reference period: researchers and engineers with doctoral degree – women and men	RD_RES MF_DOC	Total number of researchers and engineers with a doctoral degree at the end of the reference year.	Positive integer	
2 / 1	Number of employees engaged in R&D at the end of the reference period: total researchers and engineers – women	RD_RES F_SCF	Total number of female researchers and engineers in scientific areas at the end of the reference year.	Positive integer	
3 / 1	Number of employees engaged in R&D at the end of the reference period: other R&D personnel in scientific areas – total	RD_OTH MF_SCF	Number of technicians and support staff engaged in R&D in all scientific areas at the end of the reference period.	Positive integer	
4 / 1	Number of employees engaged in R&D at the end of the reference period: other R&D personnel in scientific areas – women in total	RD_OTH F_SCF	Number of female technicians and support staff engaged in R&D in all scientific areas at the end of the reference period.	Positive integer	

Table 1.2. WORKING TIME SPENT ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE REFERENCE YEAR IN FULL-TIME EQUIVALENTS

Estimated working time spent on R&D during the reference year in full-time years. Unlike Table 1.1, Table 1.2 also takes into account the working time spent on R&D by those employees who were no longer employed at the end of the year or spent less than 10% of their working time on R&D. All working time spent on R&D in the reference year is taken into account.

Row code/ column code	Name of variable * - mandatory	Code of variable	Explanation	Type of data (number of decimals) or list/ classification name	You need not fill in the value: period, economic activity
1 / 1	Full-time equivalent (FTE) hours spent on R&D in the reference period: researchers and engineers in scientific areas – total	RD_RES MF_FTE _SCF	Full-time equivalent (FTE) hours spent on R&D by researchers and engineers in all scientific areas during the reference period.	Positive real number (0,2)	

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2 / 1	Full-time equivalent (FTE) hours spent on R&D in the reference period: other R&D personnel in scientific areas – total	RD_OTH MF_FTE _SCF	Full-time equivalent (FTE) hours spent on R&D by technicians and support staff in all scientific areas during the reference period.	Positive real number (0,2)	
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Table 2. RESEARCHERS AND ENGINEERS BY FIELD OF SCIENCE AT THE END OF THE REFERENCE YEAR

Researchers and engineers are reported under the field of science that best corresponds to their main activity. The field of science is not determined by the employee's specialisation acquired at a higher education institution or when defending a scientific degree. Doctoral and master's students engaged in R&D are counted as researchers and engineers in the report if they receive remuneration for their R&D work.

Row code/ column code	Name of variable * - mandatory	Code of variable	Explanation	Type of data (number of decimals) or list/ classification name	You need not fill in the value: period, economic activity
1 / 1	Number of employees engaged in R&D at the end of the reference period: researchers and engineers in natural sciences – total	RD_RES MF_NAT	Number of researchers and engineers in the field of natural sciences at the end of the reference period.	Positive integer	
1 / 2	Number of employees engaged in R&D at the end of the reference period: researchers and engineers in natural sciences – women	RD_RES F_NAT	Number of female researchers and engineers in the area of natural sciences at the end of the reference year.	Positive integer	
2 / 1	Number of employees engaged in R&D at the end of the reference period: researchers and engineers in engineering and technology sciences – total	RD_RES MF_ENG	Number of researchers and engineers in the field of engineering and technology sciences at the end of the reference period.	Positive integer	
2 / 2	Number of employees engaged in R&D at the end of the reference period: researchers and engineers in engineering and technology sciences – women	RD_RES F_ENG	Number of female researchers and engineers in the field of engineering and technology sciences at the end of the reference period.	Positive integer	
3 / 1	Number of employees engaged in R&D at the end of the reference period: researchers and engineers in medical and health sciences – total	RD_RES MF_MED	Number of researchers and engineers in the field of medical and health sciences at the end of the reference period.	Positive integer	
3 / 2	Number of employees engaged in R&D at the end of the reference period: researchers and engineers in medical and health sciences – women	RD_RES F_MED	Number of female researchers and engineers in the field of medical and health sciences at the end of the reference period.	Positive integer	

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	engaged in R&D at the end of the reference period: researchers and engineers in medical and health sciences – women		period.		
4 / 1	Number of employees engaged in R&D at the end of the reference period: researchers and engineers in agricultural and veterinary sciences – total	RD_RES MF_AGR	Number of researchers and engineers in the field of agricultural and veterinary sciences at the end of the reference period.	Positive integer	
4 / 2	Number of employees engaged in R&D at the end of the reference period: researchers and engineers in agricultural and veterinary sciences – women	RD_RES F_AGR	Number of female researchers and engineers in the field of agricultural and veterinary sciences at the end of the reference period.	Positive integer	
5 / 1	Number of employees engaged in R&D at the end of the reference period: researchers and engineers in social sciences – total	RD_RES MF_SOC	Number of researchers and engineers in the field of social sciences at the end of the reference period.	Positive integer	
5 / 2	Number of employees engaged in R&D at the end of the reference period: researchers and engineers in social sciences – women	RD_RES F_SOC	Number of female researchers and engineers in the area of social sciences at the end of the reference year.	Positive integer	
6 / 1	Number of employees engaged in R&D at the end of the reference period: researchers and engineers in humanities and the arts – total	RD_RES MF_HU M	Number of researchers and engineers in the field of humanities and the arts at the end of the reference period.	Positive integer	
6 / 2	Number of employees engaged in R&D at the end of the reference period: researchers and engineers in humanities and the arts – women	RD_RES F_HUM	Number of female researchers and engineers in the field of humanities and the arts at the end of the reference period.	Positive integer	

Table 3. RESEARCHERS AND ENGINEERS BY AGE AT THE END OF THE REFERENCE YEAR

The total number of researchers and engineers by age in column 1 must equal that in Table 1.1 (row 1, column 1).

Row code/ column code	Name of variable * - mandatory	Code of variable	Explanation	Type of data (number of decimals) or list/ classification name	You need not fill in the value: period, economic activity
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1 / 1	Number of researchers and engineers at the end of the reference period: up to 25-year-olds – men and women	RD_RES MF_AGE 1	Number of researchers and engineers aged under 25 at the end of the reference period.	Positive integer	
2 / 1	Number of researchers and engineers at the end of the reference period: 25–34-year-olds – men and women	RD_RES MF_AGE 2	Number of researchers and engineers aged 25–34 at the end of the reference period.	Positive integer	
3 / 1	Number of researchers and engineers at the end of the reference period: 35–44-year-olds – men and women	RD_RES MF_AGE 3	Number of researchers and engineers aged 35–44 at the end of the reference period.	Positive integer	
4 / 1	Number of researchers and engineers at the end of the reference period: 45–54-year-olds – men and women	RD_RES MF_AGE 4	Number of researchers and engineers aged 45–54 at the end of the reference period.	Positive integer	
5 / 1	Number of researchers and engineers at the end of the reference period: 55–64-year-olds – men and women	RD_RES MF_AGE 5	Number of researchers and engineers aged 55–64 at the end of the reference period.	Positive integer	
6 / 1	Number of researchers and engineers at the end of the reference period: at least 65-year-olds – men and women	RD_RES MF_AGE 6	Number of researchers and engineers aged 65 and over at the end of the reference period.	Positive integer	

Table 4. COSTS ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BY FIELD OF SCIENCE, EUROS

Row code/ column code	Name of variable * - mandatory	Code of variable	Explanation	Type of data (number of decimals) or list/ classification name	You need not fill in the value: period, economic activity
1 / 1	Funding of R&D costs: natural sciences – total by source of funding	RD_EXP NAT_FI N	Total funding of natural sciences.	Positive integer	
2 / 1	Funding of R&D costs: engineering and technology sciences – total by source of funding	RD_EXP ENG_FI N	Total funding of engineering and technology sciences.	Positive integer	
3 / 1	Funding of R&D costs: medical and health sciences – total by source of funding	RD_EXP MED_FI N	Total funding of medical and health sciences.	Positive integer	
4 / 1	Funding of R&D costs: agricultural and veterinary sciences – total by source of funding	RD_EXP AGR_FI N	Total funding of agricultural and veterinary sciences.	Positive integer	
5 / 1	Funding of R&D costs: social	RD_EXP SOC FI	Total funding of social sciences.	Positive integer	

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	sciences – total by source of funding	N			
6 / 1	Funding of R&D costs: humanities and the arts – total by source of funding	RD_EXP_HUM_FIN	Total funding of humanities and the arts.	Positive integer	

Table 5. COSTS ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BY TYPE OF ACTIVITY, EUROS

The amount in the "Total" row must equal the amount in row 7 of Table 4, "Total costs by field of science".

Row code/ column code	Name of variable * - mandatory	Code of variable	Explanation	Type of data (number of decimals) or list/ classification name	You need not fill in the value: period, economic activity
1 / 1	R&D costs by type of R&D: scientific areas – total basic research	RD_EXP_SCI_BAS	Total R&D expenditure on basic research by scientific area.	Positive integer	
2 / 1	R&D costs by type of R&D: scientific areas – total applied research	RD_EXP_SCI_APP	Total R&D expenditure on applied research by scientific area.	Positive integer	
3 / 1	R&D costs by type of R&D: scientific areas – total experimental development works	RD_EXP_SCI_EXPW	Total R&D expenditure on experimental development by scientific area.	Positive integer	

Table 6. COSTS ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BY SOURCE OF FUNDING, EUROS

Indicate the summed-up R&D costs which are made from core financing of both the state as well as local government budget, also from the funds granted through state-funded funds and foundations (incl. grants). Support from the EU, international organisations, foreign countries and non-governmental organisations of foreign countries granted through the state budget is considered support from the state, not from foreign sources.

Row code/ column code	Name of variable * - mandatory	Code of variable	Explanation	Type of data (number of decimals) or list/ classification name	You need not fill in the value: period, economic activity
2 / 1	Funding of R&D costs: total scientific areas – from state funds	RD_EXP_SCF_GOV	Funding of scientific areas from state funds.	Positive integer	
3 / 1	Funding of R&D costs: total scientific areas – from companies	RD_EXP_SCF_BES	Funding of scientific areas from companies.	Positive integer	
4 / 1	Funding of R&D costs: total scientific areas – from non-profit private sector	RD_EXP_SCF_PNP	Funding of scientific areas from non-profit private sector.	Positive integer	
5 / 1	Funding of R&D costs: total scientific areas – from universities and higher education institutions	RD_EXP_SCF_HES	Funding of scientific areas from universities and higher education institutions.	Positive integer	
8 / 1	Funding of R&D costs: foreign	RD_EXP_FORI1	R&D costs funded by research grants from the European Union.	Positive integer	

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	sources – from European Union research grants				
9 / 1	Funding of R&D costs: foreign sources – from companies	RD_EXP_FORI2	R&D costs which are funded by companies outside Estonia (incl. foreign parent or affiliate companies).	Positive integer	
10 / 1	Funding of R&D costs: foreign sources – from foreign funds and foundations	RD_EXP_FORI3	R&D costs funded by foreign funds and endowments.	Positive integer	
11 / 1	Funding of R&D costs: foreign sources – other	RD_EXP_FORI4	R&D costs funded from foreign sources not listed under variables RD_EXP_FORI1, RD_EXP_FORI2, RD_EXP_FORI3.	Positive integer	

Table 7. COSTS ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BY TYPE OF COSTS, EUROS

The amount in the "Total costs" row must equal the amount in row 7 of Table 4, "Total costs by field of science". When distributing costs by type, please note that only the total costs on R&D need to be distributed. For labour costs of employees engaged in R&D, only the working time spent on R&D is taken into account.

Row code/ column code	Name of variable * - mandatory	Code of variable	Explanation	Type of data (number of decimals) or list/ classification name	You need not fill in the value: period, economic activity
2 / 1	R&D costs in organisation – labour costs	RD_EXP_LAB_IN S	Labour costs – wages and salaries, holiday pay, scholarships, social fund payments. NB! Indicate the labour costs of employees directly related to R&D, incl. labour costs of master's and doctoral students engaged in R&D. Labour costs of employees not directly engaged in R&D (security service, cleaning and maintenance personnel, etc.) are indicated among other current costs.	Positive integer	
3 / 1	R&D costs in organisation – other current costs	RD_EXP_CUR_O TH	Other current costs – lease and rent of buildings and/or premises, fees for electricity, water and heating, expenditure on the purchase of smaller equipment, instruments, materials and other current assets, business travels, repairs, communication services, etc. Depreciation costs are not included in the R&D costs. Also indicate the labour costs of persons not directly involved in R&D (security service, cleaning and maintenance personnel, etc.), if their activities were related to the premises or equipment used for R&D.	Positive integer	
4 / 1	R&D costs in organisation – acquisition, construction and capital repairs of buildings and facilities	RD_EXP_BUI_IN S	R&D costs (investments) for the acquisition, building and capital repairs of buildings and facilities (incl. for reconstruction or extension), also for the acquisition of land.	Positive integer	
5 / 1	R&D costs in organisation – equipment, apparatus, machinery, inventory and means of transport	RD_EXP_EQU_I NS	R&D costs (investments) for the acquisition of equipment, apparatus, machinery, inventory and means of transport (capitalised costs in acquisition cost, incl. reconstruction expenses), also for the creation of basic libraries or information banks.	Positive integer	
6 / 1	R&D costs in organisation – other investments	RD_EXP_INV_IN S	Other investments, incl. investments in intangible fixed assets (patents, licences, obtained and created special software, etc.).	Positive integer	

Table 8. COSTS ON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BY FIELD OF APPLICATION, EUROS

Field of application is not specified (row 13) for surveys which are conducted for the advancement of knowledge, but which cannot be connected with a specific field, and for which the field of application was also not determined when funds were allocated.

Row code/	Name of variable * - mandatory	Code of variable	Explanation	Type of data (number of	You need not fill in
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code/ column code	* - mandatory	variable		(number of decimals) or list/ classification name	not fill in the value: period, economic activity
1 / 1	R&D costs by fields of application: total – agriculture, forestry, fishing	RD_NAB S08	R&D costs in the field of agriculture, forestry and fishing.	Positive integer	
2 / 1	R&D costs by fields of application: total – industrial production and technology	RD_NAB S06	R&D costs in the field of industrial production and technology.	Positive integer	
3 / 1	R&D costs by fields of application: total – generation, distribution and rational use of energy	RD_NAB S05	R&D costs in the field of generation, distribution and rational use of energy.	Positive integer	
4 / 1	R&D costs by fields of application: total – transport, telecommunication and other infrastructures	RD_NAB S04	R&D costs in the field of transport, telecommunication and other infrastructures.	Positive integer	
5 / 1	R&D costs by fields of application: total – protection of the environment	RD_NAB S02	R&D costs in the field of the protection of the environment.	Positive integer	
6 / 1	R&D costs by fields of application: total – health sciences	RD_NAB S07	R&D costs in the field of health sciences.	Positive integer	
7 / 1	R&D costs by fields of application: total – culture, spare time, religion and media	RD_NAB S10	R&D costs in the field of culture, spare time, religion and media.	Positive integer	
8 / 1	R&D costs by fields of application: total – education	RD_NAB S09	R&D costs in the field of education.	Positive integer	
9 / 1	R&D costs by fields of application: total – political and social systems, structures and processes	RD_NAB S11	R&D costs in the field of political and social systems, structures and processes.	Positive integer	
10 / 1	R&D costs by fields of application: total – studies and use of earth's crust, hydrosphere and atmosphere	RD_NAB S01	R&D costs in the field of the studies and use of earth's crust, hydrosphere and atmosphere.	Positive integer	
11 / 1	R&D costs by fields of application: total – space exploration and capture	RD_NAB S03	R&D costs in the field of space exploration and capture.	Positive integer	
12 / 1	R&D costs by fields of application: total – national defence	RD_NAB S14	R&D costs in the field of national defence.	Positive integer	
13 / 1	R&D costs by fields of application: total –	RD_NAB S13	R&D costs in the field of application not specified.	Positive integer	

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	application not specified				
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Table 9. TIME SPENT ON FILLING OUT THE QUESTIONNAIRE (incl. for preparing the data)

Please estimate how much time you spent on filling out the questionnaire (incl. time spent on reading the instructions, collecting and preparing data). Record the total time spent by all employees.

Row code/ column code	Name of variable * - mandatory	Code of variable	Explanation	Type of data (number of decimals) or list/ classification name	You neet not fill in the value: period, economic activity
/	Number of hours spent on completing the questionnaire and collecting and preparing the necessary data	TAITMIS EAEGTU NDI	Number of hours spent by all employees on completing the questionnaire. The time spent on completing the questionnaire includes the time spent on reviewing instructions, collecting and preparing the necessary data.	Positive integer	
/	Number of minutes spent on completing the questionnaire and collecting and preparing the necessary data	TAITMIS EAEGMI NUTIT	Number of minutes spent by all employees on completing the questionnaire. The time spent on completing the questionnaire includes the time spent on reviewing instructions, collecting and preparing data. Permitted value range 0–59.	Positive integer	

Table Y2. Overall assessment on the questionnaire

Row code/ column code	Name of variable * - mandatory	Code of variable	Explanation	Type of data (number of decimals) or list/ classification name	You neet not fill in the value: period, economic activity
/	Overall assessment on the ease of completing the questionnaire	TAGASI SY_1		rahulolu_vaga_lihtne_vaga_keeruline_5L	

Table Y3. Suggestions and comments

Row code/ column code	Name of variable * - mandatory	Code of variable	Explanation	Type of data (number of decimals) or list/ classification name	You neet not fill in the value: period, economic activity
/	Suggestions and comments	TAGASI S_TESS T		Text	