

Ms Mailis Pukonen - Head of Operations Department



Mailis Pukonen has worked on International Relations and European Integration within the public sector at national and international levels for more than 20 years. During her career, she focussed on EU integration, making a vital contribution to the EU integration process in Estonia, guiding domestic policy and aiding implementation of EU – related reforms. She actively participated in the negotiation process towards entry to the EU. She has two Masters degrees - in Contemporary European Studies, giving her an outstanding knowledge in economic and political integration of the EU, External Relations of the EU and world politics and global governance. She is multilingual, speaking Estonian, Russian and Finnish as native languages and English as a working language.

Since 2018, she has been the head of Operations in CEPOL being responsible for the overall planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the operational activities of the Agency. She also provides strategic advice and deputises the Executive Director.

From 2012 to 2018, she was the Head of the General Coordination Unit in eu-LISA, providing executive support to the Executive Director in development of corporate governance and strategic planning. The Unit's responsibilities involved, among other things provision of legal advice, statutory reporting, monitoring of technologies and events in the ICT field, including Smart Borders. The Unit was also managing relations with the European Commission, European Parliament and Council and provided continuous support and formed the secretariat to the Management Board and Advisory Groups of the Agency. It dealt with the Agency's external and internal communication and technical training to the EU Member States.

In 2010, she was appointed by the Estonian government to work in the Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU in Brussels.

From 1997 to 2010, she occupied different high-level positions within the Government Office of Estonia, serving as Deputy Director of EU Affairs, Deputy Head of EU Secretariat, Head of External co-operation Division and Adviser on EU Affairs. **During 2008-2009**, she acted as the Team Leader of an EU funded project managed by the European Commission Liaison Office named "Support for the Agency of EU integration under the Prime Minister's Office in Kosovo".

In 2006, she was a seconded high-level advisor of the Prime Minister's Office of Finland to support the Presidency of the EU.

From 1991-1997 she worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Estonia as Consular Officer in the Embassy of Estonia in Finland, providing consular services and consular assistance and performing other functions in the consular district of the Estonian Embassy in Finland.