

## **ESTONIA in brief:**

Estonia (*Eesti Vabariik*) is an European Union country situated in the north-west of the continent.

Its land border with Latvia and Russia and to the north with the Baltic Sea. It has 45,300 square Km and about 50% of this territory is covered by forests. Furthermore it has an average annual temp. of 5 °C that allows the snow to cover the country from mid-December to late March.

The country is worldwide known for its main city Tallinn, and for its 1,500 different islands, among other things.



Map of Estonia and its situation.



Tallinn is the Capital and the main city of Estonia.



Tallinn's Medieval old Town

But the Rally fans, what we really know about Estonia is still a Rally drivers factory country.

Names like Margus Murakas, Urmo Aava, Markko Märtin, Georg Gross, Martin Rauam, Aigar Pärs, etc. who are consolidated names in our sport or these others: Ott Tänak, Martin Kangur, Siim Plangi, Sander Pärn, Roland Murakas, Miko-Ove Niinemäe, Karl Kruuda, Ken and Martin Järveoja, etc. are some of these names that are the present and the near future of the Rally world in Estonia.

Today, in contrast, we are going to talk about the future itself, and one of these young men is Kenneth Sepp.

## **KENNETH SEPP, the driver:**

Kenneth is only 17, but he has had some great performance already, especially last year. He used to drive a small but competitive Citroën C2 R2, and for the last event of the season he swapped to Clio R3.

To know him slightly better, we've asked him some questions:

**1. Where your Rally passion comes from?**

Kenneth Sepp (K.S.): I think my passion for rallying comes from my dad, who was a rallycross driver and he used to organize rally events. Now he is running a motorsport team called Sar-Tech Motorsport and he is helping me to get to the top level of rallying.



**2. Can you tell us something about your first ever Rally? Which car was used? e.g.**

K.S: Hmm, my first rally was Saaremaa Public Rally in 2008, in winter time, where you could drive with ordinary road legal car. I drove with VW Golf II and my co-driver was Raigo Mõlder. I can remember quite clearly making my first half-spin, we were stuck for a few seconds.

**3. We know you had some academic tuition in motorsport. Is that true? Can you explain us some details? When? How long lasted?**

K.S: Yes, I was chosen to the Estonian Autosport Academy program in 2012.

The program was made based on FIA Institute model and our mentor was Egon Kaur, who was chosen to FIA Institute the year before and basically told us what he was told in the FIA Institute. EAL Academy consisted of six training courses, in which I acquired theoretical and practical knowledge of motorsport and how to be successful in each area.

**4. During last year's season you had 3 different codrivers. Tell us something on each one. Who had the best rapport with your driving style?**

K.S: So far, my codriver has changed every year. Rein Reinsalu and Raul Markus have been in mentoring and teaching role, from whom I have learnt a lot. Perhaps they should be called my teachers and developers. This year, however, I will drive alongside Tanel Kasesalu. Last year we trained Tanel to be my codriver for a longer time period.

As we have said, Kenneth is so young so he has much more in the horizon than behind him. The next short round of questions are related to his present, and of course, to his near future.



**5. We know you had big success on your last event of the 2013 season, Saaremaa Rally. Can you tell us something about it?**

K.S: The 2013 season has been quite disappointing for me despite Rally Saaremaa. I was given the opportunity to drive a Renault Clio R3 in Saaremaa. I had 50km test before the rally. The team orders

were to drive solid times and finish the rally. Confidence and speed raised after every stage done and at that point we were leading our class by over 20secs. Although our pace was quite good, the team told us to drive safely and not pushing anymore. Despite that, we managed to win class A7 and finish second in 2WD class.



**6.Can you appoint and explain us who are your main supporters and sponsors?**

K.S: My main supporter and manager is obviously my dad. Apart from that, my biggest sponsor are Tesman and Tesman Auto, run by Lembit –and Einar Soe-, big regards to them!  
I also want to thank ALM Motorsport Management who are contributing a lot on my future.

**7.2014, tell us if you have any plans on this year's season.**

K.S: This year isn't quite clear yet, but I think we'll continue with R2 class car in the Estonian Rally Championship and we'll do some European Rally Championship events. Also if I get the chance, I'll test a 4WD car.

**8.And finally, the last question: Which is your main goal in this sport? Any dream(s) you can confess?**

K.S: Of course my main goal/dream is to reach the top, the WRC (World Rally Championship).

Last winter I was testing Pirelli tyres for the first time when I met some people from the WRC. It was quite a big challenge, as I was driving on a very poor grip, without really knowing the tyres and alongside me, in the car, was sitting an important person analyzing if I could be someone in the future.

I got some valuable feedback from that experience, but as we all know, motorsport, and rally also, needs big financial support.

**Tesman.ee**

Finally, we run a short quick fire-quiz, to know him better and just for fun!

## **QUICK FIRE-QUIZ**

### **1.Curd Snack or Kama?**

Kenneth Sepp: Kama

### **2.Markko Martin or Ott Tänak?**

Kenneth Sepp: Markko Martin

### **3.#R5 or #S2000?**

Kenneth Sepp: #R5

### **4.Clean Lines or Sideways?**

Kenneth Sepp: Clean Lines

### **5.#JWRC or #ERC Junior?**

Kenneth Sepp: #JWRC

### **6.Night or Daylight stages?**

Kenneth Sepp: Daylight Stages

### **7.Blackadder or Mr.Bean?**

Kenneth Sepp: Balckadder

### **8.Cortina d'Ampezzo or Bora Bora?**

Kenneth Sepp: Bora Bora

### **9.Health or wealth?**

Kenneth Sepp: Health

### **10.Indy500 or Dakar?**

Kenneth Sepp: Dakar



Kenneth Sepp and Tanel Kasesalu

## **Kenneth's social media:**



<https://www.facebook.com/stm.kenneth> (Kenneth Sepp)



<https://twitter.com/KennethSepp> (@KennethSepp)

## **Sources:**

- General Information: Wikipedia
- Photos: Kenneth Sepp, eWRC.com, VisitEstonia.com, oesel.ee
- Interview questions: Opens&Tightens



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