

COHESIVE ESTONIA STRATEGY

2030

A coherent and cohesive society is the common responsibility
of all Estonian people – it is the Estonia of us all!



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SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The aim of the Cohesive Estonia Strategy 2021–2030 is to make Estonia a more cohesive and inclusive society in the next decade. The strategy focuses on promoting adaptation and integration, global Estonia civil society and the population census, which mainly fall under the area of responsibility of the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs but to which several other ministries contribute with their activities. Population policy, migration policy, education, language policy, defence policy, rural development and regional development also play an important role in making society more cohesive and inclusive. A seamless society is possible only with the help of all state agencies, the private sector, and the people of Estonia. Therefore, the trends and bottlenecks affecting the objectives of cohesive Estonia are looked at in this strategy in a comprehensive way, providing an overview of the role of different areas without which achieving these objectives would not be possible.

Estonia is home to many people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds, and given the future trends, Estonia is becoming increasingly diverse. Unfortunately, language-based and spatial segregation and the resulting inequalities are present in many areas. Therefore, the strategy includes various activities that encourage people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds to carry the Estonian identity, actively participate in society and feel united.

There are an estimated 200,000 people with Estonian roots living abroad – that is 15% of all Estonians. In recent years, the number of people returning to Estonia has increased, but it is still important to ensure that our own people maintain their ties with Estonia. To this end, the strategy features activities that support the Estonian identity of Estonians living abroad. The strategy also helps to create different opportunities for participation in social and cultural life and to support the return of people. It is also important to recognise the work of people who support and value Estonia in shaping a positive image of Estonia in the world, in introducing Estonian culture and in promoting business and international relations.

Alongside the Estonian people, civil society is the cornerstone of a cohesive and inclusive society. There are a total of 23,390 **non-profit organisations** in Estonia and 49% of people have participated in volunteering (survey of 2019). Among older people, young people and people with other native languages, the desire to volunteer is higher than the actual participation so far. For people to have enough diverse opportunities to participate in social and community life, the strategy foresees support activities to increase both the activity of people and the capacity of community and non-governmental organisations.

The heart of the Estonian e-government is a smart population census, incl. high-quality population data and a well-functioning population register. It supports a cohesive society but also all other areas of public life. It is important to keep up with technological progress as this is the only way to use modern IT-solutions in the development of public services and to take the people's changing needs and habits into account – and, of course, to make things easier for everyone.

With regard to the aforementioned topics, the Cohesive Estonia Strategy provides an overview of the most important bottlenecks and presents the objectives agreed upon for the next decade as well as the main policies to achieve them. Public sector institutions, representatives of non-governmental organisations and employers who participated in many discussions contributed to the preparation of the strategy. In order to achieve the objectives of the strategy, there are more detailed programmes for shorter periods which are to be updated annually.

Previously, there were several development documents to promote the topics covered in the Cohesive Estonia Strategy. In the field of integration policy, the strategy titled 'Integrating Estonia 2020' was in effect until 2020, the adaptation of newly arrived immigrants and the policy of population activities was directed until 2020 through the National Defence Development Plan 2015–2020, the development of civil society was directed through the Civil Society Development Plan 2015–2020, and the Compatriots Programme 2014–2020 played a role in directing the topics of global Estonia. The Cohesive Estonia Strategy has found common ground between these topics, and it also contributes to the achievement of the general objective and strategic goals of 'Estonia 2035': 'Estonia's people are smart, active and care about their health', 'Estonia's society is caring, cooperative and open-minded', 'Estonia offers a safe and high-quality living environment that takes into account the needs of all its inhabitants', 'Estonia is an innovative, reliable and people-centred country'.

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

Trends with the greatest effect



Estonian population is aging and shrinking



Urbanisation continues, regional disparities may increase



Migration is increasing



Business models and the nature of work are changing



Technology and engineering are evolving ever faster resulting in various opportunities and threats



Major problems

①

Estonian society is not cohesive enough, language-based segregation and the resulting inequalities are present in many areas. Inequality and lack of unifying values may lead to the polarisation of society and increase the likelihood of value conflicts between people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

②

The ties of compatriots with Estonia weaken when the state does not continue to communicate with and systematically involve Estonians living abroad in different areas with sufficient purpose.

③

The operating environment of civil society does not sufficiently support its viability.

④

Population register software is outdated and does not support the development of modern IT solutions. There are services where data collection does not ensure that the quality of data meets the users' expectations.



Measures to resolve problems and take trends into account

ESTONIA
SUPPORTING
ADAPTATION AND
INTEGRATION

We contribute to making Estonian society more cohesive and stable. We encourage people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds to carry the Estonian identity, participate actively in, share democratic values and a common cultural, information and communication space, and feel a sense of unity. We create equal opportunities for successful independent coping and well-being for all people living in Estonia.

GLOBAL
ESTONIA

We contribute to Estonians living abroad continuing to carry the Estonian identity. We create opportunities to participate in Estonian social and cultural life and support returning. We recognise the work of people who support and value Estonia in shaping a positive image of Estonia in the world, in introducing Estonian culture and in promoting business and international relations.

COMMUNITY
ESTONIA

We support the activity of the residents and their social participation. We increase the capacity of communities and non-profit organisations.

SMART
POPULATION
CENSUS

We ensure high-quality population data that supports the performance of public tasks by the state and local authorities and simple administration for the Estonian population.

Metrics for assessing the achievement of objectives



Proportion of people carrying strong or moderate national identity

(Estonians/people of other nationalities)

78% / 85% → 90%



Sense of unity with Estonia among Estonians living abroad

84% → 90% or more



Satisfaction with the engagement of residents in the local authority

38% → 50% or more



Recommended satisfaction index with the e-services of the population register

70% → 72% or more



1. General objective and metrics for assessing the achievement of the objective

GENERAL OBJECTIVE: Estonia is a cohesive and inclusive society

*Estonia is a **sustainable nation-state** where **everyone** enjoys living. Estonian people are **cooperative, share a common Estonian cultural space, value the Estonian state, and feel a sense of unity, irrespective of their native language, cultural background or place of residence.** In a diverse Estonia, everyone shares **democratic values** and carries a **common Estonian identity.** The activities of the state are **people-centred** and support the **development of communities.** Everyone feels **valued** and **involved.** Estonian people want to tie their lives to Estonia, they **actively participate in community and social activities** and **contribute to the development of the state** – they have many different opportunities to do so while living in Estonia and abroad.*

A coherent and cohesive society is the common responsibility of all Estonian people – it is the Estonia of us all!



EXPLANATION OF THE DEFINITIONS IN THE OBJECTIVE

Estonian people – the strategy is aimed at all the people who are permanently or temporarily living in Estonia but also at people living abroad who have ties with Estonia.

Estonian identity – the strategy aims to enable people to share constitutional values and understandings, to value the Estonian language and culture, and to define themselves as members of Estonian society. It is important that all Estonian people here and abroad feel part of the Estonian state and cultural space and value it. In implementing the strategy, we strive to encourage and support the Estonian identity.

Democratic values – in addition to carrying the Estonian identity, it is important that people have similar fundamental values, specifically democratic values, which include both moral and social aspects: respect for norms and human rights accepted in society, freedom of thought, speech and religion, trust, **cooperation, tolerance, caring and openness** to other people regardless of the differences, etc. Of course, people’s individual values and interpretation of basic values vary to a degree, but the important thing is that there are no conflicts of values in society that would divide the society. The formation of basic values of society is influenced by the state as well as by each individual. With the strategy, we support the sense of unity, shared values, and equal opportunities in society.

Estonia’s common cultural space – based on the Estonian language and culture. The Estonian cultural space is characterised by practices in

behaviour, relationships and organisation of life based on tradition. The Estonian cultural space more broadly is the natural and living environment. The Estonian cultural space is also the background system for the formation of the value. Through the measures of the strategy, we help to maintain and develop the viability of the cultural space. We mainly contribute to making all Estonian people here and abroad feel part of the Estonian cultural space.

Nation-state – the strategy considers the Estonian state a nation-state, the aim of which is the development and continuation of the Estonian nationality, language and culture through the ages. Estonian language as the national language is the main language of information, education and work. In Estonia, everyone is guaranteed communication and administration as well as education in the national language. The Estonian state respects the principles of a state governed by the rule of law and of a welfare state and all the people legally living in Estonia regardless of their native language and cultural identity. Estonian residents are linked through a common Estonian identity.

Diversity – in the strategy, foremost cultural diversity. We respect people’s differences (linguistic and cultural background, incl. religion, beliefs, customs as well as everyone’s other choices with respect to their privacy) and take them into account in policymaking. We keep in mind that despite diversity, people should share similar important values and the Estonian identity as described above.

People-centred and supportive of community development – the implementation of the strategy is based on the principle that solutions are in line with people’s needs and, on the other hand, support community-centred or community-based approach where many different issues concerning the area are attempted to be identified and resolved through the cooperation of many different parties (individuals, community representatives, non-profit organisations, private companies, local authorities, local networks, experts, etc.).

Integrated and cohesive society¹ – all Estonian people, incl. those with other native languages and cultural background, mutually accept and respect one another, feel a sense of unity, cooperate and achieve their common goals in a democratic manner, communicate with one another and form social networks. An integrated and cohesive society is based on the Estonian identity and culture. At the same time, all other languages, cultures and nationalities are also part of an integrated society. In a cohesive society, people’s treatment is not dependent on their gender, age, special needs or disability, racial or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital status, place of residence, etc. A cohesive society is also based on social inclusion, which means the opportunity for people to participate. By implementing the strategy, we help to reduce social segregation and support various aspects that are important for a cohesive society.

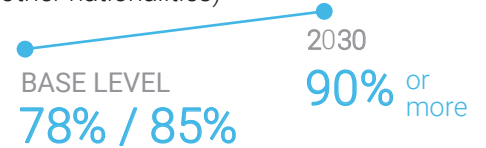
Inclusive society – people have diverse opportunities to participate in decision-making and to contribute to the development of the society; the state supports **social participation** of people, incl. participation in employment, lifelong learning and civil society, **entrepreneurship, communitarianism**, and the **desire to contribute to the state’s development**. In implementing the strategy, we focus on increasing the potential of social participation of both older people and young people as well as on improving the social participation of non-Estonian-speaking residents. Social activity of Estonian residents is also a basis for joint activities and for the development of strong communities.

METRICS² TO ASSESS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STRATEGY

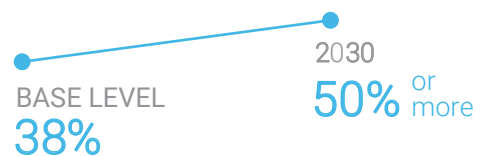


Proportion of people carrying strong or moderate national identity

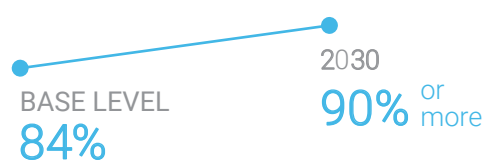
(Estonians/people of other nationalities)



Satisfaction with the engagement of residents in the local authority



Sense of unity with Estonia among Estonians living abroad



Recommended satisfaction index with the e-services of the population register



¹ The definition of a cohesive society is based on the definition by the Council of Europe.

² See Appendix 2 for more information on the metrics.

2. Analysis of the situation³

2.1. Key metrics characterising the area of cohesive society

Estonia's development depends on basic demographic processes (births, mortality, and migration), sense of unity and cohesion of society as well as on the ability of society to ensure opportunities for self-fulfilment in economic, social as well as in community and cultural life to all people, irrespective of their socio-economic background (incl. place of residence, gender, age, nationality, special needs, etc.).

BY CARRYING THE COMMON ESTONIAN IDENTITY AND IMPROVING CONTACTS BETWEEN PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT HOME LANGUAGES, WE CREATE PROVISIONS FOR A MORE COHESIVE SOCIETY

According to the data of the population register as of 1 January 2021, there are 1,339,361 residents living in Estonia, of whom 1,133,954 are citizens of the Republic of Estonia. The number of residents with undetermined citizenship whose place of residence is registered in Estonia was 68,992 (5.2% of residents). The number of citizens of other countries whose place of residence was registered in Estonia was 136,415 (the largest proportion is for citizens of the Russian Federation – 84,952 people, followed by persons holding a Ukrainian citizenship (11,416)).

In 2015, immigration to Estonia exceeded emigration for the first time. Short-term migration to Estonia has also increased in recent years, and the number of people returning to Estonia has increased. As of 31 March 2021, short-term employment had been registered 6,682 times.

Research shows that shared values and common identity help to alleviate potential threats to social peace and well-being associated with cultural diversity and to avoid a decline in social capital⁴. **The precondition for coping with a multicultural society and the basis for a cohesive society is the common Estonian identity** for which, inter alia, segregation in different areas needs to be reduced. **According to a survey of 2017, the vast majority (about 80%) of Estonians and permanent residents of other nationalities carry strong or moderate national identity⁵. The implementation of the strategy aims to improve these indicators. This requires, inter alia, focusing on communication and on the development of a common information space and raising awareness.**

The cohesiveness of society has not changed significantly in key areas in recent years: compared to residents of other nationalities, Estonians continue to have a better position in the Estonian labour market. In better times, opportunities in economy and the labour market even out, while differences are exacerbated during economic stagnation and crises.⁶

³ A more detailed analysis of the situation is provided in the proposal for the preparation of the development plan and in the programme documents for the implementation of the development plan, see www.siseministeerium.ee, www.kul.ee. The materials of 'Estonia 2035' have also been taken into account and used in analysing the situation, see www.valitsus.ee/eesti2035

⁴ Ehala, M. (2019). RITA RÄNNE projekt: Mitmikidentiteedi ja ühtekuuluvuse võimalused ja väljakutsed Eestis (RITA MIGRATION project: Opportunities and challenges of multi-identity and unity in Estonia). [www] https://sisu.ut.ee/sites/default/files/ranne/files/7_mitmikidentiteedi_ja_uhtekuuluvuse_voimalused_ja_valjakutsed_eestis_raport_m.ehala_.pdf (19 March 2020).

⁵ Eesti Ühiskonna Integratsiooni Monitooring (Survey on the Integration of the Estonian Society). The proportion of people with strong and moderate national identity among people of other nationalities in 2017 was 39% and 47%, respectively. The information is currently on Estonian citizens and long-term poorly integrated permanent residents, but the plan is to add more target groups to the survey in the future.

⁶ Survey on the Integration of the Estonian Society 2020

One of the reasons is insufficient Estonian language training at different levels of education, which does not help to ensure adequate language proficiency.⁷ Studying in different schools prevents establishing social contacts and networks between students with different native languages. Although the level of proficiency in Estonian among residents of other nationalities has improved over the years⁸ and performance in Estonian language proficiency examinations has improved, about half of all adults with other native languages lack active language proficiency, the opportunities for learning Estonian and foreign languages and the level of teaching are not evenly good or available to different target groups in all regions of Estonia⁹. In several regions (incl. Harju and Ida-Viru County), the issue is the lack of use of the Estonian language and the lack of a communication environment.

Residence-based segregation of the Russian-speaking population is deepening,¹⁰ one of the reasons for which is the location of Soviet-area residences. The majority of the Russian-speaking population still lives in the same settlements where immigrants first arrived, while the proportion of Russian-speaking population remains below five percent in the rest of the Estonian cities and rural areas.¹¹

There is room for improvement in intensifying the contacts between people with different home languages. Over the last decade, the contact of Estonians with Russian-speaking people has increased slightly in most spheres of communication: at work or in school, online, in recreational activities or through families. It has decreased only among neighbours and friends. In 2020, there has been more contact than usual over the Internet, which may be related to the situation arising from the Covid-19 virus when physical contact was replaced by online communication. The contacts of residents of other nationalities with Estonians have mostly increased, while in 2020, most areas of

communication (excl. online) have seen a decrease in contacts.¹²

At the same time, self-assessed awareness of people of other nationalities of events in Estonia¹³ has improved, and ETV+ is also offering the Russian-speaking population a better opportunity to exist in the Estonian information space.

The aforementioned must be taken into account foremost in designing an effective adaptation and integration policy. In addition, it is important to ensure the availability and accessibility of proactive and effective services supporting adaptation and long-term integration as well as equal access to public services necessary for day-to-day administration and participation as a full-fledged member of society (e.g. health care services, driving licenses, labour market and career services, education, etc.). Support for the local level and development of cross-sectoral partnerships also requires attention. **The strategy needs to implement activities that help to increase positive contacts between people with different home languages.**

COMPATRIOTS ARE PART OF THE ESTONIAN SOCIETY AND ESTONIA'S REPRESENTATIVES IN THE WORLD

Compatriots living outside Estonia also contribute to the development and continuation of Estonia.¹⁴ Estonian expat communities played an important role in the restoration of Estonian independence and in building up the state as well as in the preservation and development of the Estonian language and culture through joint activities. **Even today, compatriots are Estonia's representatives in the world who help to introduce Estonia and strengthen economic and cultural ties.** It is estimated that there are up to

⁷ EIA 2016/2017. [www] <https://www.2017.inimareng.ee/>; Saar and Helemäe (2017). *Russian-Speaking Immigrants in Post-Soviet Estonia: Towards Generation Fragmentation or Integration in Estonian Society*. [www] <https://www.socresonline.org.uk/22/2/13/13.pdf>

⁸ e.g. EIM2017

⁹ *Estonian language training for adults with other native languages as part of Estonian integration and employment policy: quality, impact and organisation* (2018). Estonian Centre for Applied Research CentAR. [www] <https://centar.ee/case-studies/eesti-keelest-erineva-emakeelega-taiskasvanute-eesti-keele-ope-loimumis-ja-toohoivepoliitikas-kvaliteet-moju-ja-korraldus>; EIM 2017

¹⁰ Kadi Mägi (2018). *Ethnic residential segregation and integration of the Russian-speaking population in Estonia*. [www] <http://dSPACE.ut.ee/handle/10062/62344>

¹¹ Inimarengu aruanne 2017/2018 (Human Development Report 2017/2018). [www] <https://www.2017.inimareng.ee/>.

¹² Survey on the Integration of the Estonian Society 2020

¹³ EIM 2017

¹⁴ **In this document, compatriots refer to all people of Estonian origin and their descendants, also to friends of Estonia.**

200,000 people with Estonian roots living abroad, who make up approximately 15% of all Estonians.¹⁵ Returnees who often come with children and families contribute to the development and continuation of the Estonian population. **Therefore, purposeful activities of the state aimed at Estonians living abroad are important to ensure that ties with compatriot communities remain strong and the Estonian language and culture reach as many compatriots and friends of Estonia as possible.**

CIVIL SOCIETY IS THE FOUNDATION OF A COHESIVE SOCIETY

Civil society contributes to creating social cohesion by enabling people to work together on their own initiative to pursue their own interests, discuss and make decisions in public matters and to take other joint action. The activities of civil society organisations – non-profit organisations, foundations, religious associations and informal associations, networks and societies – create an opportunity for a large proportion of the population to take part in democratic processes and be involved in decision-making and shaping the living environment. In the development of civil society, it is important to find ways to, on the one hand, value and empower the activities of individuals, communities, and non-governmental organisations and, on the other hand, ensure transparent decision-making with the active participation of civil society and an environment conducive to civil society. There are 23,390 non-profit organisations i.e. **non-profit organisations (MTÜ)**, foundations (SA)¹⁶ and religious associations in Estonia. Of these, 816 are foundations and more than 500 are religious associations.

Compared to previous surveys, the **proportion of non-profit organisations that engage volunteers has decreased**, falling from 68% to 53% when comparing 2014 to 2018. A survey published in 2019 found that in six years, the **proportion of people who have participated in volunteering had increased by nearly one-fifth** (in total, 49% had participated in the year preceding the survey),

but the **desire to volunteer was higher than current participation among older people, younger people and people with other native languages**. Older people and the elderly show a clear readiness to be more involved in volunteering – 45% of 50–74-year-olds are ready to make a greater contribution to society.¹⁷

The overall viability of the Estonian civil society is measured using the United States Agency of International Development (USAID) index¹⁸ based on the following seven criteria: legal environment, organisational capacity, financial viability, advocacy, service provision, infrastructure, and public image. **The Estonian level has stayed the same for years, so the goal is to significantly improve the viability of civil society organisations.**

SMART POPULATION CENSUS SUPPORTS THE FUNCTIONING OF THE STATE AND EFFORTLESS ADMINISTRATION FOR PEOPLE

In addition to the previous topics, the **area of population activities** where it is crucial to keep up with technological progress, take advantage of its opportunities and mitigate risks in the coming years also plays an important role in supporting the objectives of a cohesive society and other areas. Estonian residents are used to using e-services, which is why e-services related to the data of the population register also need to be developed further. Some services cannot be provided as e-services for legal and technological reasons. However, in the e-government it is not practical to go and receive services in person as this would take more time. Therefore, it is necessary to make as many e-services convenient and easy to use as possible. In addition, the entire population register software needs to be reviewed and redesigned.

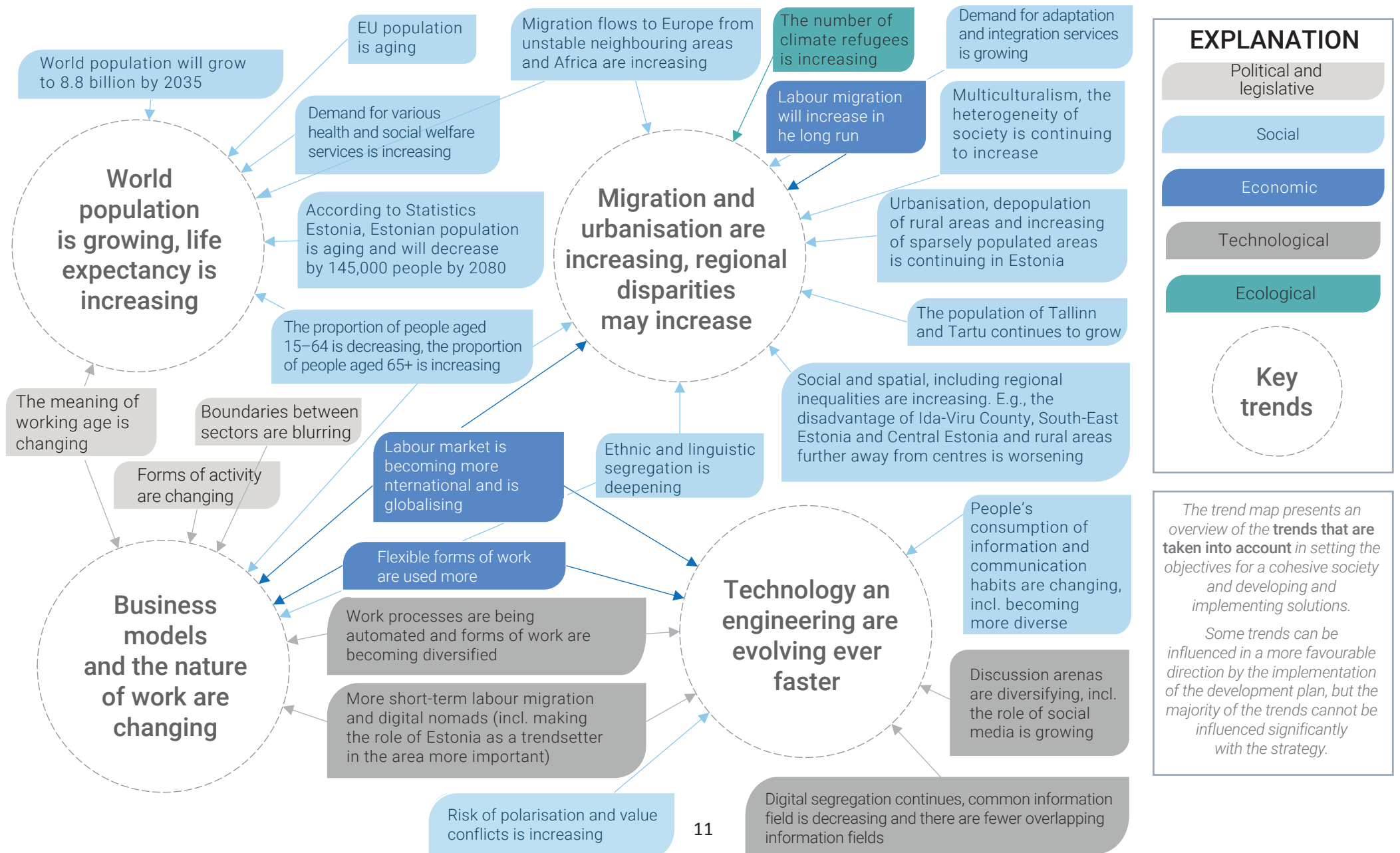
¹⁵ K. Kumer-Haukanõmm, K. Telve. Editor-in-chief T. Tammaru. *Eestlased maailmas. Eesti inimarengu aruanne 2016/2017* (Estonians in the world. Estonian Human Development Report 2016/2017)

¹⁶ Register of non-profit organisations and foundations as of 1 January 2021

¹⁷ Vanemaealiste ja eakate toimetuleku uuring 2015 (Survey on coping of older people and the elderly 2015). [www] https://www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/content-editors/Ministeerium_kontaktid/Uuringu_ja_analuusid/Sotsiaalvaldkond/veu2015aruanne_tnsemorsapraaxis_final.pdf

¹⁸ The index is measured on a scale where 1 is very good and 7 is very poor. Source: United States Agency for International Development Cooperation

2.2. Major trends in the operating environment



WORLD POPULATION IS GROWING, LIFE EXPECTANCY IS INCREASING

World population is expected to grow to 8.8 billion by 2035, while population in the European Union is decreasing and aging,¹⁹ and Estonia is facing the same trends.²⁰ **The declining proportion of people under 65 years of age in the population will exacerbate the question of how to secure enough workers in the labour market in the next decade. One possible solution is to include currently unemployed or less employed groups of population and migrant workers.**²¹ In the long run, measures to support birth rates will help. It is increasingly important to provide effective adaptation and integration measures when engaging migrant workers.

45% of the population aged 50–74 is ready to contribute more to society.²² It is worth offering more suitable participation opportunities to this growing target group.

As the population ages, demand for various health care and social welfare services may increase. In order to alleviate problems associated with this, more attention needs to be paid in the next decade to measures that would support the person's coping throughout their entire life cycle. Flexible and humane support improves the quality of life for those in need and complements formal social and health care services. It also helps to delay the escalation of the need for help and enables people to cope foremost at home. In this context, the role of the community and volunteers who can provide support in activities that are not normally covered by social services is becoming increasingly important. The issue of insufficient access to formal social services cannot be resolved with volunteers, but the contribution of volunteers complements social services.

MIGRATION AND URBANISATION ARE INCREASING, REGIONAL DISPARITIES MAY INCREASE

In the coming decades, Europe is likely to face large-scale migration flows from unstable regions and Africa, and labour migration and climate refugees will also increase. **Migration trends²⁴ and the resulting multiculturalism led to the need for better integration in society.** The above trends can significantly affect the sustainability of the Estonian population, Estonian language and culture. The internationalisation of Estonia also brings new opportunities, for example, to revive economy and introduce the Estonian culture more broadly, which is why it is important to find a balance in setting economic and population policy objectives.

While today, just over half of the world population (55%) lives in urban areas, according to the UN estimates, this number will be 68% in 2050.²⁵ **The continued urbanisation and depopulation of rural areas also creates more and more sparsely populated areas in Estonia,** which poses new challenges to the provision of services and the state's capacity in remote areas. According to the population forecast by Statistics Estonia, **the population of all counties, except Harju County and Tartu County, will decrease by 15–35% by 2045.**²⁶ Current population changes have the greatest impact on the long-term development opportunities of Ida-Viru County, South-East Estonia and Central Estonia and rural areas further away from centres.

This could exacerbate regional inequalities and isolation even further. Social and spatial, incl. regional inequalities have deepened in Estonia and in most of the Central and Eastern European states over the last decades.²⁷ The emergence of regional inequalities is directly related to the

¹⁹ Ageing. United Nations. [www] <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/ageing/>

²⁰ Statistikaameti 14. veebruaril 2014. a pressiteade nr 22 „Statistikaamet koostas uue rahvastikuproгноosi aastani 2040“ (Statistics Estonia, press release 14th of February 2014 nr 22) [www] <https://www.stat.ee/pressiteade-2014-022>

²¹ Puur, A., et al. Integreeritud rahvastiku- ja hõiveproгноos: Eesti valikud aastani 2100. Riigikogu toimetised 38/2018 (Proceedings of the Riigikogu 38/2018) [www] <https://rito.riigikogu.ee/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Integreeritud-rahvastiku-ja-h%C3%B5iveproгноos-Eesti-valikud-aastani-2100.-Puur-Eamets-Piirits-Klesment.pdf>

²² Survey on coping of older people and the elderly 2015. TNS Emor, Praxis

²³ Estonia 2035 background paper 'World in 2035'

²⁴ Overview of migration statistics 2015–2019.

[www] https://www.siseministeerium.ee/sites/default/files/randestatistika_est.pdf; Programme 'National Security' [www] www.siseministeerium.ee/stak2030

²⁵ United Nations. Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 68% of the world population projected to live in urban areas by 2050, says UN (16.05.2018). [www] <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/population/2018-revision-of-world-urbanization-prospects.html>

²⁶ Proгноositav rahvaarv aastani 2045 maakonna ja vanusrühma järgi (aluseks 1. jaanuari 2019 rahvaarv) (Estimated population until 2045 by county and age group (based on the population as at 1 January 2019). Statistics Estonia database RV087. [www] shorturl.at/loGH4 (11 March 2020)

²⁷ Human Development Report 2019/2020. [www] <https://inimareng.ee/>

shrinking population and decrease in economic activity in remote areas – people living in rural areas and small towns lose their jobs and livelihoods close to home.²⁸ The measures of civil society and integration provided in the Cohesive Estonia Strategy also support regional development.

There is still ethnic residential segregation in Estonia, which may deepen in the next decade. This is also exacerbated by newly arrived immigrants who choose habitats with few points of contact with the main population. Differences in residence, in turn, lead to segregation in education and the labour market, which exacerbates the vicious circle of segregation.²⁹

However, language-based segregation in the labour market and education where the majority of children with Russian native language study in schools with Russian language of instruction and children with Estonian native language study in schools with Estonian language of instruction will hamper future contacts between different communities, including integration.³⁰ The development plan for education and development plan for the Estonian language have set a goal to transition to predominantly Estonian-language school education in the next 15 years and to reduce the language-based segregation of the education system. These trends will undoubtedly help to reduce ethnic segregation but will also raise expectations for effective adaptation and integration policy.

CHANGES IN BUSINESS MODELS AND THE NATURE OF WORK OPEN NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR ESTONIA

The rapid development of technology is helping to cope with a shrinking workforce both through the automation of work processes and diversification of forms of work. Technological developments lead to the labour market becoming more international and global. The physical workplace of the employer or a customer does not have to coincide with the location of the employee, and the proportion of jobs that can be done anytime, anywhere (virtual work) is growing.³¹ Indirectly, it also encourages the spread of short-term labour migration and digital nomads. In these areas, Estonia has already taken steps that point the way forward in the world, such as the digital nomad visa and e-residency. Solutions are being developed that will enable the integration of other Estonian e-government solutions with the digital nomad visa. According to preliminary estimates, a maximum of around 1,800 people per year could apply for a digital nomad visa.³² At the beginning of 2021, there were more than 76,000 e-residents in Estonia – more than 10,000 e-residents per year are added every year. By the beginning of 2021, e-residents had founded more than 15,000 new companies employing over 1,700 people whose average wages are in the magnitude of Estonian average wages.^{33,34} These trends will continue in the next decade and must be taken into account both in defining the idea of global Estonia as well as in taking advantage of the opportunities related to the internationalisation of Estonia.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ Kadi Mägi (2018). *Ethnic residential segregation and integration of the Russian-speaking population in Estonia*. [www] <http://dspace.ut.ee/handle/10062/62344>

³⁰ Ühtse Eesti kooli mudeli väljaarendamine Eestis (Development of a unified Estonian school model in Estonia).

(December 2020) Topic summary of RITA migration project [www] https://sisu.ut.ee/sites/default/files/ranne/files/rita_koolimudelid.pdf

Saar and Helemäe. (2017). *Russian-Speaking Immigrants in Post-Soviet Estonia: Towards Generation Fragmentation or Integration in Estonian Society* [www] <https://www.socresonline.org.uk/22/2/13/13.pdf>

Ühtse Eesti kooli mudeli väljaarendamine Eestis (Development of a unified Estonian school model in Estonia) [www] https://sisu.ut.ee/sites/default/files/ranne/files/rita_koolimudelid.pdf

³¹ *Tööturg 2035. Tööturu tulevikusuunad ja –stsenaariumid (Labour Market 2035. Future Perspectives and Scenarios)*. Foresight Centre. (2018). [www]

https://www.riigikogu.ee/wpcms/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/tooturg_2035_tooturu_tulevikusuunad_ja_stsenaariumid_A4_veeb.pdf

³² *Eesti loob ühena esimestest riikidest maailmas diginomaadi viisa (Estonia is among the first countries in the world to establish a digital nomad visa)*. [www] <https://www.siseministerium.ee/et/uudised/eesti-loob-uhena-esimestest-riikidest-maailmas-diginomaadi-viisa>

³³ *Enterprise Estonia*. [www] <https://www.eas.ee/teenus/e-residentsus/>

³⁴ *udit report of the National Audit Office 'Effectiveness of the e-Residency Programme'* [www]

<https://www.riigikontroll.ee/DesktopModules/DigiDetail/FileDownloader.aspx?AuditId=2507&FileId=14645>

SEVERAL CHALLENGES ARISE FROM NEW TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS

The development and use of technology also affect changes in people's information consumption and communication habits. In the age of social media, the number of public discussion arenas has diversified significantly.³⁵ Younger people in particular prefer social media as their main channel for keeping up with public issues.³⁶ In addition to young people, the Internet has influenced the use of traditional media in other age groups as well.³⁷ Risks associated with the role of social media intermediaries in shaping issues and social meaning may increase.³⁸ For example, the goals and principles of information intermediaries may be hidden and malicious and be polarising to different groups, causing and exacerbating value conflicts.³⁹ **It can be expected that in the next decade, the diversification of discussion arenas will continue and digital segregation, i.e. the digital literacy gap, and differences in the use of information channels may increase.**

Therefore, it is becoming increasingly more difficult for the state to contribute to the emergence of a common information field and its impact on the development of a cohesive and integrated society. At the same time, by involving different sectors, it is possible to find effective solutions to develop people's digital competencies, increase the security of discussion arenas and establish systematic communication (incl. it is important to analyse how messages reach the right addressees and to use different ways to deliver messages as accurately as possible).

The spread of e-solutions creates an opportunity for many to participate more actively in society (e.g. people with reduced mobility can use services more readily).⁴⁰ **It is increasingly important to consider the changing needs and habits of people when designing public services and to make e-services simpler and more efficient for users** – this is also supported by improving the quality and importance of population register data in the provision of services.

³⁵ Estonian Human Development Report 2019/2020

³⁶ Estonian Human Development Report 2019/2020. Vihalemm and Kõuts-Klemm 2017, pp 256, 258; Opermann 2018

³⁷ Estonian Human Development Report 2019/2020; 'Me, the Media, and the World' (MeeMa for short) survey 2002–2014. The MeeMa survey is based on a sociological survey and interviews conducted five times – 2002, 2005, 2008, 2011 and 2014.

³⁸ Estonian Human Development Report 2019/2020

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Tulevikuraport: Kuidas jõuda sotsiaalselt tõrjutute ja vähe kaasatuteni ning miks see vajalik on? (Future Report: How to reach the socially excluded and the poorly engaged and why is it necessary?) [www] <https://heakodanik.ee/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Torjutud-ja-vahe-kaasatud-huviryhmade-kaasamise-raport.pdf>

3. Subobjectives and policies

The following subsections provide a more detailed description of the objectives of a cohesive society in 2021–2030, present a general overview of the challenges involved and explain the main policies that must be implemented together in 2021–2030 to achieve the objectives.

Estonia supporting adaptation and integration



SUBOBJECTIVE 1: Estonian society is cohesive and stable where people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds carry the Estonian identity, participate actively in social life, share democratic values and a common cultural, information and communication space, and feel a sense of unity. We have created equal opportunities for successful independent coping and well-being for all people living in Estonia.

POLICY 1.1: Developing modern, smart and effective adaptation and integrations pathways

POLICY 1.2: A common, understandable and reliable communication and information space

POLICY 1.3: Promoting social contacts that support a sense of unity

POLICY 1.4: Supporting an innovative and responsible labour market

POLICY 1.5: Improving Estonian language proficiency and strengthening ties with the Estonian state and cultural space

POLICY 1.6: Supporting the local level and developing cross-sectoral partnerships

Global Estonia

SUBOBJECTIVE 2: Estonians living abroad carry the Estonian identity, participate in Estonian social and cultural activities, and returning to Estonia is welcomed and supported to the extent necessary. People who support and value Estonia help to shape a positive image of Estonia in the world, introduce Estonian culture, promote Estonian economy and international relations.



POLICY 2.1: Promoting and preserving the Estonian identity abroad

POLICY 2.2: Supporting the return to Estonia and (re)adjustment to the Estonian life

POLICY 2.3: Involving Estonians living abroad and friends of Estonia in the life and development of society, promoting cooperation and ensuring high-quality services⁴¹

⁴¹ The Estonian Foreign Policy Development Plan 2030 addresses topics such as the engagement of Estonians abroad, efficient consular services and Estonia's ties with Estonians abroad in more detail from the perspective of foreign policy.

Community Estonia



SUBJECTIVE 3: Estonia is a people-centred country that promotes the development of communities and civil society where people are valued and engaged, share democratic values and improve their living environment through active participation in community and social activities.

POLICY 3.1: Raising the awareness and activity of the population

POLICY 3.2: Increasing the capacity of communities

POLICY 3.3: Increasing the capacity of non-governmental organisations and social enterprises

POLICY 3.4: Creating a favourable operating environment

POLICY 3.5: Increasing the role of religious associations in community activities in preventing and resolving social problems

Smart population census



SUBJECTIVE 4: Activities related to people's life events are convenient, easily accessible and, where possible, automated. Population data are of high quality and serve as a basis for the performance of public tasks and simple administration for the Estonian population..

POLICY 4.1: Ensuring the quality of data related to people's life events

POLICY 4.2: Ensuring the availability of population register data

3.1. Estonia supporting adaptation and integration

OBJECTIVE

Estonian society is cohesive and stable where people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds carry the Estonian identity, participate actively in social life, share democratic values and a common cultural, information and communication space, and feel a sense of unity. We have created equal opportunities for successful independent coping and well-being for all people living in Estonia.

METRICS ⁴²

 <p>Contacts between social groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• people of other nationalities with Estonians 2,0 → 3,0• Estonians with people of other nationalities 1,7 → 2,0	 <p>Participation of people with other home languages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• in employment 57,3% → 62%• in cultural life 72,9% → 76%• in sports 22,1% → 30%
 <p>Awareness and readiness of the Estonian population to support adaptation and integration</p> <p>The base level of the metric is determined in 2022 → improves</p>	 <p>Being informed of what is happening in Estonia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Estonians 93% → 95%• other nationalities 87% → 90%

CENTRAL ISSUE

Estonian society is not cohesive enough, language-based segregation and the resulting inequality is present in many areas. Inequality and lack of unifying values may lead to the polarisation of society and increase the likelihood of value conflicts between people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

WE FOCUS ON RESOLVING THE FOLLOWING ISSUES

- 1 How to create flexible, modern, systematic, and targeted adaptation and integration pathways?
- 2 How to manage the communication of adaptation and integration and create a common, understandable, and reliable communication and information space for target groups?
- 3 How to increase the emergence of social contacts, incl. how to create a sense of unity and contacts and networks between people of different nationalities? How to deal with spatial, social and virtual segregation?
- 4 How to ensure the success of different target groups in the labour market, incl. in times of crisis, and support employers and employees in coping with a multicultural environment?
- 5 How to increase Estonian language proficiency among people not proficient in Estonian and create opportunities for active language use? How to increase the activity of people speaking other languages and of other nationalities in community and social participation and strengthen ties with Estonia? How to support an environment that encourages people of different nationalities to study together? How to support parents, children, educators of local authorities in coping with linguistic and cultural diversity?
- 6 How to involve all people living in Estonia and different parties such as local authorities, entrepreneurs, cultural, educational and social institutions, and non-governmental organisations more in integration and adaptation policy and activities? How to get them to work more closely together?

We help to achieve the strategic goal/change of 'Estonia 2035':

- Strategic goal: 'Estonia's people are smart, active and care about their health';
- Strategic goal: 'Estonia's society is caring, cooperative and open-minded';
- Strategic goal: 'Estonia is an innovative, reliable and people-centred country';
- Change: Skills and the labour market;
- Change: Sustainability of the nation, health and social public;
- Change: Space and mobility;
- Change: Governance.

We contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals:

- 4. Quality education;
- 8. Decent work and economic growth.

⁴² The base level of the metrics is the latest available information, and the second number indicates the objective for 2030. See Appendix 2 for details.

3.1.1 Overview of the area

PROBLEMS AND DESCRIPTION OF THE SITUATION

In 2019, there were approximately **90** national adaptation and integration services in Estonia



The main reason for non-participation was the **target groups' lack of awareness** of adaptation and integration services

Adaptation and integration services sometimes duplicate one another, the movement between them is not smooth, the target groups are not aware of them

It is difficult for Estonian state agencies to reach the population with other native languages in order to provide information about the services offered, etc.

Social media is playing an increasingly important role in media consumption

People of other nationalities keep up with Estonian media channels little and do not trust them

Newly arrived immigrants do not have suitable information channels to obtain relevant information, incl. information is fragmented



The **ability of Estonian people to critically assess the media** is low

There is little overlap between the media space of Estonians and people of other nationalities

Russian-speaking population of Estonia is simultaneously influenced by the local Russian- language media, Russian media and, to a lesser extent, Estonian-language media and receives **contradictory information from the media**

People of different nationalities and with different native languages communicate little with each other

Nearly one-third (28%) of Estonians do not have a Russian in their circle, and one-tenth of non-Estonians do not have an Estonian in their circle



Spatial, social and virtual segregation is growing

Exposure to and communication with Estonians outside the place of work or school is several times lower

28% of newly arrived immigrants communicate with Estonians actively, i.e. daily, 21% communicate with Estonians a few times a week, and half do not communicate with Estonians actively

Long-term **permanent residents of other nationalities have a weaker position in the Estonian labour market** (higher unemployment rate, low wages, etc.)

Unemployment rate differed between Estonians and non-Estonian residents

1,55 times in 2019

National and linguistic **segregation** is present in the labour market

A spouse who arrived together with a foreign worker as part of family migration may be in a worse position to adjust because they lack, for example, the employer's support and network

The situation of the Roma in the labour

Gender and language-based segregation is present in the labour market, which is reflected, inter alia, in the pay gap and inequality

Employers are not aware of the services offered and diversity

POLICIES

Developing modern, smart and effective adaptation and integrations pathways

A common, understandable and reliable communication and information space

Promoting social contacts that support a sense of unity

Supporting an innovative and responsible labour market

PROBLEMS AND DESCRIPTION OF THE SITUATION

Many (permanent) residents with other native languages are not sufficiently proficient in Estonian

The national organisation of Estonian language training for adults is complex and fragmented between different providers



There are many people with undetermined citizenship (approx. 70,000 in 2020).



Estonian people here and abroad do not always feel part of the Estonian cultural space.



About 80% of Estonians and permanent residents of other nationalities carry strong or moderate national identity

The demand for Estonian language training and the provision of free training is not balanced: there are far more adults who want to study Estonian in the next three years than there are opportunities to study



Estonian language proficiency among residents of other nationalities has improved slightly. 41% of Estonian residents of other nationalities over the age of 15 consider themselves to have active proficiency in Estonian, one-tenth do not speak Estonian at all



It is difficult for educational institutions to cope with linguistic and cultural diversity

The awareness of local authorities of newly arrived immigrants has increased, but there is still no clear understanding of what local authorities should do about the target group of newly arrived immigrants



Most Estonian local authorities do not pay enough attention to adaptation and integration issues, the area is not regularly analysed at the local level

Adaptation and integration partners are not always able to effectively provide adaptation and integration services and their cooperation is not effective

POLICIES

Strengthening ties with the Estonian state and cultural space

Supporting the local level and developing partnerships

3.1.2. Key policies

Developing modern, smart, and effective adaptation and integrations pathways

We want to achieve a situation where needs-based adaptation and integration services are organised in a customer-centred and efficient manner. The services to be offered to target groups have been agreed upon and target groups are aware of them and happy with the quality of services.

KEY POLICIES

We establish a clear coordination and monitoring system for adaptation and integration services. For this, we

- ❖ create adaptation and integration pathways based on the methodology of event services.

ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT BY THE MoC, MoER, MoRA, MoF, MoSA, MoEAC

We increase the awareness of target groups and stakeholders of the services and the availability of services. For this, we

- ❖ consolidate information about adaptation and integration services into a single web portal and disseminate the information in the public, private, and mutual and **non-profit organisations**;
- ❖ prepare and implement the digitalisation of integration, incl. the field of adaptation (e.g. create new e-services that support integration, incl. adaptation).

A common, understandable and reliable communication and information space

We want to achieve a situation where people in Estonia are living in a common, understandable, and reliable Estonian communication and information space, and people are well-acquainted with what is happening in Estonia through various needs-based information channels. Regular, clear, and factual public communication on adaptation and integration and transmission of relevant state information are ensured, resulting in an increase in the knowledge of the Estonian population of the area of adaptation and integration, human rights and equal treatment, as well as in the reduction of social polarisation. The attitudes of the Estonian population support adaptation and integration.⁴³

KEY POLICIES

We develop and understandable and reliable communication and information space. For this, we

- ❖ support media channels in developing Russian and English-language content and raise awareness of these channels among people with other native languages.

ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT BY MINISTRIES AND THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE

We develop communication on adaptation and integration and facilitate exchange of information. For this, we

- ❖ develop a web-based tool/environment for the public to streamline communication on adaptation and integration;
- ❖ create a communication and information network on adaptation and integration for the public sector.

We ensure the availability of official high-quality (governmental) information in English and Russian. For this, we

- ❖ support (state) agencies and organisations in improving exchange of information in other languages through various activities and tools.

We contribute to limiting the spread of misinformation. For this, we

- ❖ improve the media literacy of the Estonian people and teach them to be critical of the sources.⁴⁴

⁴³ Attitudes that support adaptation and integration are described in more detail in the explanation of the general objective.

⁴⁴ The base level of the metrics is the latest available information, and the second number indicates the objective for 2030. See Appendix 2 for details.

Promoting social contacts that support a sense of unity

We want to achieve a situation where there are trusting, friendly and close direct contacts between people with different native languages. People with different native languages initiate and participate in community activities (incl. volunteering) and feel a sense of unity. A well-thought-out public space strengthens communities, reduces segregation, and increases mutual understanding and respect.

KEY POLICIES

ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT BY THE MoC, MoRA, MoF, MoSA

We ensure that initiatives at the local level (i.e. co-creation and opportunities for participation) are also welcoming to people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. For this, we

- ❖ support local authorities in defining local communities and involving people with other native languages in local initiatives to a greater degree;
- ❖ support the participation of people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds in different civil society organisations;
- ❖ support the active engagement of cultural societies of national minorities in the work of national Estonian-language umbrella organisations and representative organisations.

We reduce spatial, social and virtual segregation. For this, we

- ❖ advise local authorities and other organisations dealing with the public space and the living environment on the creation of a diverse public space.⁴⁵
- ❖ include measures to promote adaptation and integration in regional development documents (e.g. Ida-Viru County Action Plan etc.).

Supporting an innovative and responsible labour market

We want to achieve a situation where socio-economic indicators related to the labour market do not differ between Estonians and people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds, people are treated equally in the labour market, and employers are able to cope with a multicultural environment.

KEY POLICIES

ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT BY MINISTRIES, THE ESTONIAN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FUND, COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CENTRES

We streamline and improve the availability and needs-based nature of labour market services for people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. For this, we

- ❖ support the awareness of the sectoral policymaker of the situation of people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds in the labour market and thereby the efficiency of service providers;
- ❖ raise awareness of people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds of Estonian labour market services and benefits.

We support the recruitment of potential employees with other native languages in state and local government agencies.⁴⁶ For this, we

- ❖ support ministries and other public sector institutions in recruiting people with other native languages;
- ❖ encourage young people with other native languages to apply to and work in civil service.

⁴⁵ Kvaliteetse ruumi aluspõhimõtted (General principles of high-quality space): https://www.kul.ee/sites/kulminn/files/lisa_3_-_kvaliteetne_ruum_aluspohimotted.pdf

⁴⁶ Avaliku sektori tööhõive võimaluste edastamine muukeelsele elanikkonnale. Analüüs ja ettepanekud (Communication of employment opportunities in the public sector to the population with other native languages. Analysis and proposals) [www] https://www.rahandusministeerium.ee/system/files_force/document_files/vtpt_avaliku_sektori_toohoive_muukeelsetele_17102019docx_003.pdf?download=1

We improve the ability of employers to cope with a multicultural and multilingual environment. For this, we

- ❖ provide information, training and relevant support to employers to cope with linguistic and cultural diversity in the workplace;
- ❖ promote opportunities for employers to share their experiences with linguistic and cultural diversity.

Improving Estonian language proficiency and strengthening ties with the Estonian state and cultural space

We want to achieve a situation where the Estonian language proficiency of people with other native languages improves and the number of active users of Estonian increases, where society supports people with different native languages studying together and the full integration of multilingual and migrant students into Estonian society. People's trust in state institutions is high and people with other native languages actively participate in social life.

KEY POLICIES

ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT BY THE MoI, MoC, MoER

We improve the level of Estonian language proficiency of adults as a second language in concurrence with the policies formulated in the strategy for Estonian language (creation of (e-)learning tools and environments, support for language technology reaching language training, improving the quality and organisation of training).⁴⁷

For this, we

- ❖ continue to develop and create new digital platforms for language training and organising language training for adults, incl. contributes to the development and implementation of a digital gateway that brings together language training opportunities, incl. map relevant expectations and experiences of the target group and provide them with information;
- ❖ support and create various opportunities for practicing Estonian in an Estonian language environment;
- ❖ continue to offer language courses (incl. as part of the welcoming programme, activities in the Estonian language houses, etc.).

We strengthen the ties of people with other native languages with the country.

For this, we

- ❖ create a comprehensive solution for services that prepare for applying for Estonian citizenship and ensure that people are informed about it.⁴⁸

We develop the Estonian cultural space, support linguistic and cultural diversity and the preservation and promotion of own culture.

For this, we

- ❖ continue to support national societies and cultural authorities;
- ❖ support cooperation between national societies and cultural organisations with different working languages;
- ❖ support cultural and youth work institutions in contributing to integration.

We create an environment that encourages people with different native languages to study together in different forms. For this, we

- ❖ advise general education schools, local government and educational institutions in matters of adaptation and integration (incl. hobby education and youth work);⁴⁹

⁴⁷ The policy is in line with the objectives of the Estonian Language Development Plan 2021–2035.

⁴⁸ The planned activities are in line with and discussed further as part of the National Defence Development Plan 2020–2030.

⁴⁹ The policy is in line with the documents of the Education Development Plan 2021–2035 and the Youth Field Development Plan 2021–2035.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ advise parents on adaptation and integration; ❖ create opportunities for acquiring the Estonian language, incl. offer long-term student exchanges to students; ❖ create opportunities for developing the students' native language proficiency and cultural knowledge (e.g. Sunday schools at national societies).
<p>THINGS NOT PLANNED IN THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN WITHOUT WHICH THE OBJECTIVE COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED</p>	<p>In addition to the aforementioned activities, various activities are also planned in the Education Development Plan 2021–2035, which aims to develop a plan for developing Estonian-language education, starting with basic education, which provides sufficient language proficiency to continue studies at subsequent levels of education in Estonian. One policy is to support the development of a common cultural and value space through various activities. As such, one activity is to ensure sufficient Estonian language proficiency for basic school graduates with other native languages to both continue their studies as well as to cope in the labour market, and, where necessary, ensure additional Estonian language training or compensatory Estonian language training following basic school so that as many basic school graduates as possible can reach B2 language proficiency level. An integrated approach to case-by-case support for migrant learners is also being developed and implemented.⁵⁰</p>

Supporting the local level and developing cross-sectoral partnerships

We want to achieve a situation where all public, private, and mutual and non-profit organisations that encounter the target group take into account the needs of people with other native languages⁵¹ in their core activities. Providers of adaptation and integration services have good partnerships and are aware of their role and the roles of other actors.

<p>KEY POLICIES</p> <p>ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT BY THE MoC, MoER, MoF, MoSA, MoEAC, AECRM</p>	<p>We improve the ability of public, private, and mutual and non-profit organisations to effectively offer services to people with other native languages (incl. local authorities offer more adaptation and integration services). For this, we</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ raise the awareness of local authorities of adaptation and integration, empower them in developing and providing effective adaptation and integration services; ❖ support and advise public, private, and mutual and non-profit organisations⁵² that come into contact with newly arrived immigrants and permanent residents of other nationalities at the local level and provide (public) services to them; ❖ increase the awareness of public, private, and mutual and non-profit organisations of the Roma community, empower members of the Roma community to increase their social engagement, develop a mentoring service for the Roma. <p>We improve partnerships. For this, we</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ support the operation of networks of cross-sectoral cooperation partners in the area of adaptation and integration; ❖ involve and empower cultural societies of national minorities in the development and provision of services (incl. services aimed at newly arrived immigrants and temporary residents).
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⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Refers to newly arrived immigrants and permanent residents of other nationalities.

⁵² For example, cultural and sports institutions, museums, libraries, youth associations, professional associations/trade unions, umbrella organisations of non-profit organisations.

3.2. Global Estonia⁵³

OBJECTIVE

Estonians living abroad carry the Estonian identity, participate in Estonian social and cultural life, and returning to Estonia is welcomed and supported to the extent necessary. People who support and value Estonia help to shape a positive image of Estonia in the world, introduce Estonian culture, promote Estonian economy and international relations.

METRICS⁵⁴



Sense of unity with Estonia

84% → ≥ 90%



Satisfaction of returnees to Estonia with the adjustment process

- Estonians 90% → ≥ 94%
- other nationalities 82 % → ≥ 90%



Estonians living abroad who are interested in social participation

76% → ≥ 85%

CENTRAL ISSUE

The ties of compatriots with Estonia weaken when the state does not continue to communicate with and systematically involve Estonians living abroad in different areas with sufficient purpose.

WE FOCUS ON RESOLVING THE FOLLOWING ISSUES

- 1 How to define clearer roles between the national, local and community levels and to develop cooperation with communities abroad at these levels?
- 2 How to support the ties of compatriots living abroad, foremost children and young people, with the Estonian language and culture to preserve and promote the Estonian identity?
- 3 How to preserve the cultural heritage of Estonians living abroad in the memory institutions of the country of location or Estonia and thereby bring new information about compatriot communities to the cultural and scientific circulation?
- 4 How to create a common information field that is interactive and creates a better awareness of what is happening in Estonia and Estonia's opportunities and arouses more interest in Estonia and thereby makes exchange of information more efficient?
- 5 How to encourage the return of Estonians to their homeland and support returnees in returning to different regions in Estonia and in (re)adjustment?
- 6 How to involve compatriots in the development of Estonian society?
- 7 How to arouse more interest and involve compatriots and friends of Estonia in achieving Estonian goals in culture, economy and international relations?

We help to achieve the strategic goal/change of 'Estonia 2035':

- Strategic goal: 'Estonia's people are smart, active and care about their health';
- Strategic goal: 'Estonia's society is caring, cooperative and open-minded';
- Strategic goal: 'Estonia's economy is strong, innovative and responsible';
- Strategic goal: 'Estonia is an innovative, reliable and people-centred country';
- Change: Skills and the labour market;
- Change: Space and mobility;
- Change: Governance.

We contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals:

- 10. Reduced inequalities

⁵³ „The Estonian Foreign Policy Development Plan 2030 addresses topics such as the engagement of Estonians abroad, effective consular services, Estonia's ties with Estonians abroad in more detail from the perspective of foreign policy, and it plans the objectives and activities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the area of global Estonians in more detail.

⁵⁴ The base level of the metrics is the latest available information, and the second number indicates the objective for 2030. Additional information about metrics is provided in Appendix 2.

3.2.1. Overview of the area

PROBLEMS AND DESCRIPTION OF THE SITUATION

POLICIES

Estonia is one of the smallest countries in Europe. As a result of three waves of immigration, Estonia has a **large and scattered community abroad** – an estimated up to 200,000 people with Estonian roots.

Compatriot communities vary in size, opportunities and background, and their needs and expectations of the country are different

Ties with the Estonian cultural space are lessening and this leads to a change in the identity and weakening of ties with Estonia

The largest compatriot communities are located in **Finland, Russia, Great Britain, Germany, Sweden, and North America**



In 2020, 6,920 Estonians emigrated from Estonia, mostly to Finland, Great Britain, and Germany

Activities supporting the preservation of Global Estonians are being carried out, but more are needed



Estonians abroad do not have access to the practical information that they need easily enough



The number of children and young people studying Estonian abroad is about **4,000**



There are not enough services for returnees to support their return to and (re)adjustment in Estonia

Returning has intensified



Services and support networks are not yet sufficiently systematic

The demand for services that support returning and adjustment **has increased**

Returning is hampered by the dispersion of information that supports it – there are many environments, but necessary information is difficult to find

Returns are often made with family, so **all family members** need support services



The interest of Estonians living abroad in contributing to the development of Estonian society is growing



The demand for public services is growing among Estonians living outside Estonia

Awareness of existing e-services and their availability is not high enough, and sometimes there are no opportunities to use these services



The ties of compatriots with Estonia weaken if the state does not continue communication with them and systematically engaging them in different areas

People's own initiatives play an important role in bringing together Estonians living abroad and friends of Estonia. For example, the **Estonian Worldwide Youth Network** was established as a result of ESTO 2019 to bring together young people with Estonian roots from all over the world.



3.2.2. Key policies

Promoting and preserving the Estonian identity abroad

We want to achieve a situation where Estonians living abroad carry the Estonian identity – a common and diverse information space, the viability of the Estonian language and culture and the preservation of Estonia’s intellectual and material cultural heritage is ensured.

KEY POLICIES

We promote and preserve the Estonian identity abroad. For this, we

ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT BY THE MOFA, MOI, MOER, MOC

- ❖ develop a common information field;
- ❖ preserve and promote Estonian culture abroad;
- ❖ expand and diversify opportunities for studying Estonian abroad⁵⁵;
- ❖ preserve Estonia’s intellectual and material cultural heritage.

Supporting the return to Estonia and (re)adjustment to the Estonian life

We want to achieve a situation where the return of Estonians to their homeland is supported and encouraged by creating preconditions for a smooth return and stay in Estonia.

KEY POLICIES

We support the return to Estonia and (re)adjustment to the Estonian life. For this, we

ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT BY THE MoC, MoFA

- ❖ ensure services that support the return and the development thereof;
- ❖ aggregate knowledge about diaspora politics and returnees and raise awareness in society;
- ❖ engage more local authorities and improve their capacity to work with the target group, incl. in raising awareness and providing necessary services to the returnees (especially in areas outside Tallinn and Tartu).

Involving Estonians living abroad and friends of Estonia in the life and development of society, promoting cooperation and ensuring high-quality services⁵⁶

We want to achieve a situation where Estonia’s ties with Estonians living abroad and friends of Estonia are strengthened through expanding, enriching, and improving the quality of services offered. Through these services, the contribution of Estonians living abroad to the development of Estonian society increases.

KEY POLICIES

We involve the worldwide Estonian community in the life and development of society, promote cooperation and ensure high-quality services. For this, we

ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT BY THE MoFA, MOI, MOER, MoC

- ❖ ensure high-quality consular services in foreign missions and the growing role of foreign missions in engaging local Estonians;
- ❖ engage more young people of Estonian origin living abroad;⁵⁷
- ❖ contribute to the internationalisation of Estonian culture;
- ❖ encourage and support civic initiative and promote popular diplomacy.

⁵⁵ Activities of the Estonian Language Development Plan 2021–2035

⁵⁶ The Estonian Foreign Policy Development Plan 2030 addresses topics such as the engagement of Estonians abroad, efficient consular services and Estonia’s ties with Estonians abroad in more detail from the perspective of foreign policy.

⁵⁷ Also the activities of the Youth Field Development Plan 2021–2035

3.3. Community Estonia

OBJECTIVE

Estonia is a people-centred country that promotes the development of communities and civil society where people are valued and engaged, share democratic values and improve their living environment through active participation in community and social activities.

METRICS⁵⁸



Participation rate in volunteering

49% → 50%



Proportion of the population who feel that they have no opportunity to influence society

48% → < 48%



Estonian non-governmental organisation viability index

2,1 → 1,9

CENTRAL ISSUE

The operating environment of civil society does not sufficiently support its viability.

WE FOCUS ON RESOLVING THE FOLLOWING ISSUES

- 1 How to support the social participation of older people, young people and people with other native languages and undetermined citizenship?
- 2 How to value and empower communities as key players in shaping the living and working environment and providing joint activities?
- 3 How to increase the capacity and economic sustainability of non-profit organisations and social enterprises?
- 4 How to ensure transparent decision-making with the active participation of civil society and the ability of non-profit organisations to have a systematic voice in representing the interests of their members?
- 5 How to increase the role of religious associations in community activities in preventing and resolving social problems?

We help to achieve the strategic goal/change of 'Estonia 2035':

- Strategic goal: 'Estonia's people are smart, active and care about their health';
- Strategic goal: 'Estonia's society is caring, cooperative and open-minded';
- Strategic goal: 'Estonia is an innovative, reliable and people-centred country';
- Change: Skills and the labour market;
- Change: Sustainability of the nation, health and social public;
- Change: Space and mobility;
- Change: Governance.

We contribute to the achievement of all the UN Sustainable Development Goals

as this supports the capacity of non-governmental organisations and non-governmental organisations contribute to the achievement of all the sustainable development goals in one way or another.

⁵⁸ The base level of the metrics is the latest available information, and the second number indicates the objective for 2030. Additional information about metrics is provided in Appendix 2.

Participation rate in volunteering. Proportion of the population who have participated in volunteering in the last 12 months. Source: Survey on participation in volunteering

Proportion of the population who feel that they have no opportunity to influence society. The metric shows the proportion of people who agree or rather agree that they cannot influence society. Source: Survey on the integration of the Estonian society

Estonian non-governmental organisation viability index. The index consists of seven components: legal environment, organisational capacity, financial viability, advocacy, service provision, infrastructure, and public image. The index is measured on a scale from 1 to 7 where 1 is very good and 7 is very poor. Source: United States Agency for International Development Cooperation (USAID)

3.3.1. Overview of the area

PROBLEMS AND DESCRIPTION OF THE SITUATION

POLICIES

Older people, young people and non-native speakers are more willing to take part in volunteering than their actual participation

There are no suitable participation opportunities for everyone

Non-native speakers do not have access to enough information

45% of newly arrived immigrants have not participated in volunteering but would like to do so

The involvement of residents aged 55 and older in volunteering is one of the lowest in Estonia

Private persons and businesses donate little to civil society

Estonian young people are more passive in participating in volunteering compared to young people in other European Union Member States (27% in Estonia, EU average 31%)

The proportion of permanent donors in the population is 12%, but nine out of ten people aged 18–60 would be willing to donate money

Raising the awareness and activity of the population

Communities are not systematically and daily engaged and empowered in local authorities

14% of people consider it important to have a say in public matters and to protect the freedom of speech

So far, community empowerment has not been systematically addressed nationally

Increasing the capacity of communities

1/3 of non-profit organisations have more than three sources of funding

The amount of donations made by legal entities has not increased in different years

In 2017, there were 57% of non-profit organisations earning own revenue. 36% of non-profit associations had salaried employees, and this has increase slightly over the years

Involvement in decision-making is not sufficiently possible, the ability of stakeholders to participate is poor

Increasing the capacity of non-profit organisations and social enterprises

The advocacy capacity of Estonian non-governmental organisations is good compared to other organisations in the region, but it has remained unchanged for the last five years

State-budget funding of non-profit organisations is not sufficiently transparent, effective or accessible to all

Involvement in policymaking is often formal and not given enough time

Creating a favourable operating environment

Strengthening the role of religious associations in community work needs more support and attention

There are about 500 religious associations operating in Estonia. Most religious associations belong to churches or congregational associations

Increasing the role of religious associations in preventing and resolving social problems

3.3.2. Key policies

Raising public awareness and activity

We want to achieve a situation where older people, young people and residents with other languages participate in volunteering and activities of civil society organisations at least as much as other age groups and Estonian-speaking residents. They have enough information about opportunities to participate. Private persons donate to civil society organisations systematically and consciously.

<p>KEY POLICIES</p> <p>ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT BY THE MOI, MOC, MOF, MOSA</p>	<p>We increase the social participation of older people, young people and residents with other languages. For this, we</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ improve people's awareness and knowledge of opportunities to participate; ❖ raise awareness of residents with other languages and young people of the opportunities to participate in civil society; ❖ increase the readiness of non-governmental organisations to engage residents with other languages, older people and young people as volunteers; ❖ help to develop products and services with a social impact for children and young people and develop a systematic community-based engagement model for children and young people. <p>We encourage private persons and companies to donate. For this, we</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ create preconditions in law to encourage donation; ❖ promote the ability of non-governmental organisations to collect donations, incl. to offer support and advice to non-governmental organisations; ❖ spread participation in volunteering and donation campaigns as a form of building teamwork both in the public and private sector.
<p>THINGS NOT PLANNED IN THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN WITHOUT WHICH THE OBJECTIVE COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED</p>	<p>The Youth Field Development Plan 2021–2035 supports the participation of young people in the activities of non-governmental organisations within the framework of community practice and increases the participation of young people in youth work institutions or organisations.</p>

Increasing the capacity of communities

We want to achieve a situation where communities are recognised as important actors, and they actively participate in shaping the living and working environment. Networking and cooperation between different actors is functional. Community-centred approach, i.e. systematic network-based engagement and community empowerment, is being introduced and developed.

<p>KEY POLICIES</p> <p>ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT BY THE MOI, MoRA, MOF, MoSA</p>	<p>We empower communities to participate in decision-making processes. For this, we</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ develop the activities of settlement and village societies and take into account the needs of communities when designing urban space; ❖ make the funding of non-governmental organisations in local authorities more transparent and raise the awareness of local government officials about civil society; ❖ apply the community-centred approach model, i.e. help local authorities to determine and map their communities in cooperation with local residents and involve them in decision-making processes by offering them more diverse opportunities to do so.
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THINGS NOT PLANNED IN THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN WITHOUT WHICH THE OBJECTIVE COULD NOT BE ACHIEVED

The policy 'Protection of the rights of young people in the country is consistent an the active civic engagement of young people is supported' provided in the Youth Development Plan 2021–2035 supports the meaningful and active engagement of young people and their participation both in considering choices and in making and implementing decisions. Among others, young people will have the opportunity to have a say and be heard at all levels. Young people are empowered to be active citizens.

Increasing the capacity of communities

We want to achieve a situation where Estonia has capable non-governmental organisations and social enterprises with good financial and economic skills and a diverse income base. There are various ways for non-governmental organisations to obtain funds. Non-governmental organisations apply impact and research-based evaluation and contribute to the creation of innovation in Estonia.

KEY POLICIES

We support the growth of the capacity of non-governmental organisations. For this, we

- ❖ use the methods of co-creation, design thinking, etc. to identify problems and develop solutions together with non-profit organisations;
- ❖ diversify the funding sources of non-governmental organisations and reduce the dependence of non-governmental organisations on project grants by implementing various financial instruments.

ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT BY THE MoI, MoJ, MoEAC, MoF, MoSA

We create favourable conditions for the engagement of volunteers and donations. For this, we

- ❖ reduce the costs, risks and other obstacles related to the engagement of volunteers – insurance of volunteers, secondment within the country, etc.

We support the founding and operation of social enterprises. For this, we

- ❖ agree on the meaning and practical use of social entrepreneurship;
- ❖ adapt the legal space to account for social entrepreneurship;
- ❖ extend enterprise support to social enterprises and non-governmental organisations engaged in economic activities.

Creating a favourable operating environment

We want to achieve a situation where decisions are made together with stakeholders who are affected by the decision or who contribute to the development of a particular area. Engagement is substantive and has a reasonable timetable, leaving sufficient time for actors to react. The advocacy capacity of non-governmental organisations has increased, and public authorities use forms of cooperation of strategic partnership. Funding of non-governmental organisations is transparent and efficient and can be accessed by different non-governmental organisations, but with a reasonable administrative burden.

KEY POLICIES

We streamline and improve the course of policymaking⁵⁹ in ministries and at the local level. For this, we

- ❖ remote engagement processes by making more effective use of engagement coordinators of ministries and the network of engagement coordinators;
- ❖ increase the engagement capacity of policymakers;
- ❖ increase the advocacy capacity of non-governmental organisations involved in policymaking.

ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT BY MINISTRIES, THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE, LOCAL AUTHORITIES

We make the funding of non-governmental organisations transparent. For this, we

- ❖ introduce strategic partnerships with non-governmental organisations in ministries and their sub-offices;
- ❖ promote cooperation between funders of non-governmental organisations and update the 'Guidelines for Financing Associations'.

⁵⁹ More detailed activities are planned in the Open Government Partnership Action Plan.

Increasing the role of religious associations in community activities in preventing and resolving social problems

In the Republic of Estonia, religious freedom is ensured at the individual and collective level both in law and practically in everyday life. In ensuring religious freedom, policies are shaped by knowledge and taking the changes in society into account. The role of religious associations in supporting communities has grown.

KEY POLICIES

We promote knowledge-based policymaking in the field of religious affairs and systematically support the activities of religious associations. For this, we

ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT BY THE MoI, MoC





- ❖ advise state and local government institutions on matters related to the religious situation in Estonia;
- ❖ support religious associations in self-organisation and supporting communities;
- ❖ increase the state's contribution to the restoration of historical and state-protected places of worship as well as protected buildings and artistic assets
- ❖ together with the Estonian Council of Churches, map out the opportunities and needs for conducting joint research and analyses that contribute to the development of the activities in the area;
- ❖ together with the Estonian Council of Churches, guide our activities to raise the awareness and trust of the Estonian population in oecumenical cooperation;
- ❖ involve the representatives of the Estonian Council of Churches in matters concerning the area of activity of religious associations where the Estonian Council of Churches represents the shared positions and interests of their members in relations with the ministry;
- ❖ promote cooperation between religious associations.

3.4. Smart population census

OBJECTIVE

Activities related to people's life events are convenient, easily accessible and, where possible, automated. Population data are of high quality and serve as a basis for the performance of public tasks and simple administration for the Estonian population.

METRICS ⁶⁰

 <p>Proportion of data corresponding to the reality of residence data in the population register</p> <p>75% → > 75%</p>	 <p>Number of queries to the population register (millions)</p> <p>125 → > 119</p>
 <p>Number of population register e-services</p> <p>15 → > 15</p>	 <p>Recommended satisfaction index with the e-services of the population register</p> <p>70 → > 72</p>

CENTRAL ISSUE

Population register software is outdated and does not support the development of modern IT solutions. There are services where data collection does not ensure that the quality of data meets the users' expectations.

WE FOCUS ON RESOLVING THE FOLLOWING ISSUES

- 1 How to ensure high-quality residence data in the population register which serve as a basis for the provision of public and local government services to the Estonian population?
- 2 How to ensure that the population register software is up-to-date and suitable to conveniently provide the services offered?
- 3 How to contribute to making e-services related to population register data convenient, easily structured and logically connected?
- 4 How to ensure that the data of all aliens in contact with the country are stored centrally?

We help to achieve foremost the strategic goal/change of 'Estonia 2035':

- Strategic goal: 'Estonia offers a safe and high-quality living environment that takes into account the needs of all its inhabitants';
- Strategic goal: 'Estonia is an innovative, reliable and people-centred country';
- Change: Governance.

We contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals:

16. Peace, justice and strong institutions

⁶⁰ The base level of the metrics is the latest available information, and the second number indicates the objective for 2030. Additional information about metrics is provided in Appendix 2.

3.4.1. Overview of the area

PROBLEMS TO BE RESOLVED AND DESCRIPTION OF THE SITUATION

There are services where the data collection process does not ensure that the quality of data meets the users' expectations

Many e-services related to population register data are inconvenient

Residents are used to using e-services




The population register will continue to be central to the functioning of Estonia as an e-state



Increasing pressure to develop software

Population register software is outdated and does not support the development of modern IT solutions

POLICIES

Ensuring the quality of data related to people's life events

Ensuring the availability of population register data

3.4.2. Key policies

Ensuring the quality of data related to people's life events

We want to achieve a situation where population data is of high quality and supports the performance of public tasks of the state and local authorities and simple administration for the Estonian population.

KEY POLICIES

ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT BY THE MoI (PBGB, MSIT), MoJ, MoFA, MoER, NATIONAL ARCHIVES, MoF (TCB), LAND BOARD, ROAD ADMINISTRATION, LGS, ETC.

We ensure that the data to be entered in the population register is of the highest possible quality. We increase the importance of population register data in the provision of services. For this, we

- ❖ develop new software for the procedures to be performed in the population register;
- ❖ develop integrated services (event services);
- ❖ provide services without the involvement of an official;
- ❖ update the procedures of the population register;
- ❖ reduce the amount of paper documents;
- ❖ develop new e-services;
- ❖ improve the quality of residence data.

Ensuring the availability of population register data

We want to achieve a situation where the population register is reliable and allows providing flexible services.

KEY POLICIES

ACTIVITIES ARE CARRIED OUT BY THE MoI, SMIT, MoEAC

We ensure that population register data is available. For this, we

- ❖ updating the population register software;
- ❖ compliance of the population register software with the requirements of e-government;
- ❖ lawful use of the population register;
- ❖ security of the population register;
- ❖ introduction of up-to-date technology and consistency with work processes.

4. Implementation of the strategy and estimate of costs

4.1. Implementation and management of the strategy

The strategy is implemented according to the State Budget Act and the Government of the Republic Regulation no. 117 'Procedure for the preparation, implementation, reporting and evaluation of the sectoral strategy and the programme and the amendments thereto' of 19 December 2019. There are programmes to implement the objective and subobjectives of the strategy. Programmes are in line with the State Budget Strategy, and another planned year is added to the programmes annually. The programme is approved by the ministries who plan funds for their activities in the programme, but it is also submitted for opinion or information to those who plan funds for their activities through some other sectoral strategy programme but who also play an important role in the achievement of the objectives set by the Cohesive Estonia Strategy

The implementation of the Cohesive Estonia Strategy is coordinated by the Minister of Culture, the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. The tasks of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in implementing and guiding the strategy include implementing the activities of their area of responsibility, general monitoring of the implementation of the strategy, harmonising the activities and dissenting opinions, organising the reports and updates of the strategy. Also establishing a steering committee or another working group or council necessary for the implementation of the strategy and support of reporting and assigning their duties to contribute to the prioritisation of topics and finding the best

opportunities to achieve the general objective and subobjectives.

The work of the strategy steering committee is coordinated by the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and it is comprised of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Justice, the Government Office, representative of the Association of Estonian Cities and Rural Municipalities, representatives of stakeholders and experts. The exact composition of the steering committee is determined when the committee is set up.

If necessary, expert groups are set up to monitor the preparation and implementation of programmes and to provide information for the activities of the sectoral committee.

Other ministries and authorities in their area of government participating in the implementation of the strategy implement the strategy in accordance with the programme(s). The Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, the Ministry of Rural Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Social Affairs contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the strategy. Local authorities, non-governmental organisations related to the topic and stakeholders are also involved in the implementation of the strategy.

4.2. Reporting and updating the strategy

In order to get an overview of the achievement of the objectives of the strategy, the performance thereof is assessed annually as part of the reporting of the performance area. To this end, the ministry participating in the implementation of the development plan that is planning their funds in the respective performance area must

annually prepare an overview of the implementation of the measures and activities in their area of responsibility and submit it to the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by the agreed deadline. Ministries that support the achievement of the objectives of the strategy with their

activities but plan their funds in another performance area present the overview pursuant to agreements. Based on the summaries submitted, a report of the performance area is prepared under the coordination of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The strategy and programmes thereof are

reviewed and updated as necessary during the process of preparing the State Budget Strategy and draft state budgets. The reports and final report of the performance of the strategy is prepared in accordance with the relevant regulations of the Government of the Republic.

4.3. Links between the strategy and other strategy documents

The Cohesive Estonia Strategy contributes to the achievement of the objectives of several other development documents and sets cross-sectoral goals. Other strategies also have an impact and create preconditions for the achievement of the

objectives set in the Cohesive Estonia Strategy. An overview of the links between development documents is presented in the figure on pages 35 and 36⁶¹ and the links are explained in more detail in Appendix 1.



⁶¹ ↘ – indicates the impact of another development document on the area of cohesive Estonia.

↖ – indicates the impact of the Cohesive Estonia Development Plan on the goals of another development document.

<p>Cultural Development Plan 2030</p> <p>promotes a cultural space that values diversity, allows for cultural self-determination and encourages engagement </p> <p>contributes to these goals through integration and civil society policies </p>	<p>Education Development Plan 0. 0/ – 0. 13</p> <p>helps to shape people's common cultural and value space; the aim is Estonian-language studies, high-quality learning opportunities in all counties </p> <p>shaping a common cultural and value space </p>	<p>Youth Field Development Plan 0. 0/ – 0. 13</p> <p>policies to empower young people; supports the goals of civil society, cohesion of society and global Estonia </p> <p>supports social activism, cohesion, engagement of young people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds </p>
<p>National Defence Development Plan 0. 0. – 0. 1.</p> <p>provides preconditions for a cohesive society through security; goals of migration and citizenship policy; helps to increase people's activity </p> <p>helps to prevent the emergence of sharp social tensions, reduces susceptibility to fragmentation policy, supports people's proactive attitude </p>	<p>Principles of Estonian Defence Policy</p> <p>principles of resilience and cohesion of society; goals of tolerance, caring, engagement, attitudes, integration, regional development </p> <p>contributes to the aforementioned, in particular through creating cohesion and increasing civic activism </p>	<p>General Principles of Criminal Policy</p> <p>general goals for the prevention of offences in cross-sectoral cooperation </p> <p>supports the achievement of criminal policy goals </p>
<p>Welfare Development Plan 0. / 4 – 0. 1.</p> <p>social security, social protection; helps to reduce the risk of poverty for women and children, creates preconditions for increasing the birth rate </p> <p>helps to improve people's quality of life, promotes civic activism, contributes to adaptation and integration </p>	<p>Digital State and Cyber Security Development Plan 2030 (in preparation)</p> <p>Cross-sectoral goals of digital society and cyber security, incl. what is necessary in order to promote public services </p> <p>creates preconditions for achieving the objectives of digital society through the development of population activities and the population register </p>	<p>General Principles of Estonian Sports Policy until 2030</p> <p>promotes joint activity and integration, regional development </p> <p>promotes communication and a common information space between people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds </p>
<p>Estonian Agriculture and Fisheries Development Plan until 2030</p> <p>development of rural and coastal areas, incl. activity of residents </p> <p>creates preconditions for the development of rural and coastal areas both through activating civil society and return policies </p>	<p>Estonian Research and Development, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Plan 0. 0/ – 0. 13</p> <p>among others, helps to create conditions for social entrepreneurship </p> <p>contributes to people's activity and entrepreneurship and helps to increase the capacity of non-governmental organisations and social enterprises </p>	

4.4. Links between the strategy and European Union policies⁶²

The strategy takes into account the law and policies of the European Union, incl. goals. The Cohesive Estonia Strategy 2021–2030 is in line with the European Union Strategic Agenda for 2019–2024. For example, one of the policies of the European Strategic Action Plan priority **‘Protecting citizens and freedoms’** is to agree on a comprehensive migration and asylum policy. The development trends of this area are taken into account in implementing the policies of the Cohesive Estonia Strategy related to adaptation and integration. In the European Union Strategic Agenda, one of the policies of the priority **‘Protecting citizens and freedoms’** is to protect society from hybrid threats and misinformation. The Cohesive Estonia Strategy helps to reduce the impact of hybrid threats and misinformation through increasing the cohesion of society, incl. promoting social contacts that support unity and promoting common communication and information space.

The European Union Strategic Agenda also highlights the importance of engaging citizens and promoting civil society. For example, the position of the Commissioner for Democracy and Demography has been established at the European Commission and the Conference on the Future of Europe has been organised, giving people a greater opportunity to have a say in matters relating to the EU. The engagement of people and the promotion of civil society is also important in the Cohesive Estonia Strategy, which provides several policies for increasing the capacity of non-governmental organisations and

creating a favourable operating environment for civil society.

The Cohesive Estonia Strategy contributes to the priority **‘Building a climate-neutral, green, fair and social Europe’**, one policy of which is to pay attention to social issues, reducing inequalities and social protection. Policies of adaption and integration, policies of sustainable Estonia and policies of community Estonia provided in the Cohesive Estonia Strategy contributes to the achievement of these goals.

In the Estonian EU policy priorities, it has been considered important in respect of the same subobjective that cooperation and programmes in the area of culture and sports at the level of the European Union continue to contribute to shaping a cohesive society, for example through developing and ensuring access to culture, incl. developing digital tools and digital competences. This topic is related to the adaptation and integration activities of the Cohesive Estonia Strategy, but they are also indirectly related to the policies of global Estonia that are planned to be used to promote and preserve the Estonian identity abroad, incl. to develop a common information field and preserve Estonia’s intellectual and material cultural heritage.

⁶² More detailed links with European Union policies are provided in Appendix 1.

4.5. Financing and estimated cost of the development plan

The strategy programme is financed from the state budget and foreign funds are also used. The allocation of funds is specified in the State Budget Strategy. It shows the planning of state funds by areas of government and programmes. The achievement of the objectives and subobjectives of the development plan is covered by the state budget, but, going forward, the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility and, in 2021–2027, the European Social Fund+ and the EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund will also contribute to the achievement of the objectives.

The cost of the strategy is based on the budget for 2021–2025 planned as part of the budget strategy of the area of government of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Culture. The data of 2025–2030 is indicative. The data does not include the amounts across programmes (revenue and value added tax). The data of the existing budget includes costs by subobjectives, incl. depreciation cost. As the amount indicated in the estimate of the cost of the strategy does not cover all the expenses necessary for the policies, choices will be made in the preparation of programmes for the achievement of objectives based on the state budget and the possibilities and restrictions for the use of European Union funds. The possibility of additional funds for the implementation of the activities depends on economic development and fiscal policy choices.

The share of the budget of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Culture in the cost of the strategy (million euros)		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	TOTAL
Subobjective	Estonia supporting adaptation and integration (adaptation)	1,56	1,75	0,80	0,52	0,54	0,54	0,54	0,54	0,54	0,54	7,84
Subobjective	Estonia supporting adaptation and integration (integration)	6,885	4,869	4,659	4,589	4,589	4,589	4,589	4,589	4,589	4,589	48,54
Subobjective	Global Estonia ⁶³	0,155	0,221	0,221	0,221	0,221	0,221	0,221	0,221	0,221	0,221	2,14
Subobjective	Community Estonia	6,13	3,00	2,99	2,96	2,97	2,97	2,97	2,97	2,97	2,97	32,90
Subobjective	Smart population census	5,57	5,30	5,29	5,30	5,14	5,14	5,14	5,14	5,14	5,14	52,26
	Financing of political parties	5,41	5,41	5,41	5,41	5,41	5,41	5,41	5,41	5,41	5,41	54,13
	TOTAL	25,71	20,54	19,36	19,01	18,86	18,86	18,86	18,86	18,86	18,86	197,81
	Additional needs	0,00	7,35	10,45	10,82	10,44	10,44	10,44	10,44	10,44	10,44	91,26

⁶³ Part of the funds are planned in the performance area of foreign policy. Only the budget of the Ministry of Culture for the achievement of the subobjective 'Global Estonians' is shown here.

Abbreviations

AECRM	Association of Estonian Cities and Rural Municipalities
MoER	Ministry of Education and Research
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
LG	Local government
MoC	Ministry of Culture
MoRA	Ministry of Rural Affairs
MoEAC	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications
TCB	Tax and Customs Board
PBGB	Police and Border Guard Board
MoF	Ministry of Finance
Mol	Ministry of the Interior
SMIT	Information Technology and Development Centre of the Ministry of the Interior
MoSA	Ministry of Social Affairs
MoSA SIB	Social Insurance Board
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs

