

The State Programme "Integration in Estonian Society 2000-2007"

Executive Summary

What is it?

The State Programme "Integration in Estonian Society 2000-2007" is an action plan for governmental agencies and other institutions for the years 2000-2007.

How was it created?

The State Programme was created in 1999-2000:

- § by a government commission
- § through public debate
- § approved by the Estonian Government
- § submitted to the Riigikogu (Parliament) for discussion

Why was it needed?

As a result of heavy migration during the Soviet occupation, a very sizeable and somewhat isolated Russian-speaking community has arisen in Estonia. Isolation of this community threatens both social stability and national security.

As of late, non-Estonians are becoming accepting of the need to integrate and Estonians are becoming more tolerant of integration. However, it is now evident that the integration process will take decades and require long-term and systematic support from the Estonian State.

What is integration?

Integration in Estonian society is shaped by two processes:

- § *the social harmonisation of society* around a strong common national core¹ based on knowledge of the Estonian language and Estonian citizenship
- § *the opportunity to maintain ethnic differences* based on the recognition of the cultural rights of ethnic minorities

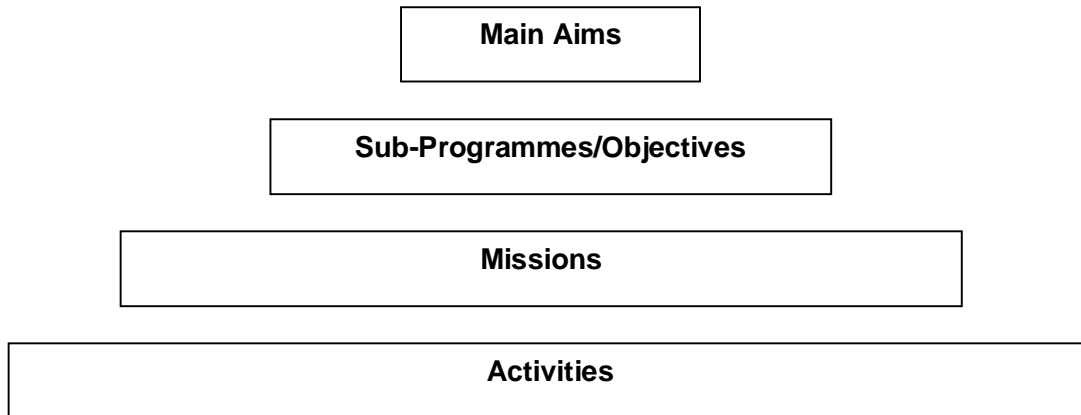
What is the desired outcome of the two integration processes?

- § a strong common national core
- § cultural pluralism
- § the development of Estonian culture

¹

- general humanistic and democratic values;
- a common sphere of information and Estonian-language environment;
- common state institutions;
- knowledge of the basics of Estonian history, the valuing of Estonian citizenship and multiculturalism.

How is the State Programme structured?



What are the main aims?

The following aims are long-term in nature - fully achievable later than 2007:

- § **Linguistic-communicative integration**, i.e. a common sphere of information and the re-creation of an Estonian-language environment in Estonia under conditions of cultural diversity and tolerance
- § **Legal-political integration**, i.e. the formation of a population loyal to the Estonian state and the reduction of the number of persons without Estonian citizenship
- § **Socio-economic integration**, i.e. the increased competitiveness and social mobility of every member of Estonian society

What are the objectives and sub-programmes?

The following objectives are founded on the main aims and are short-term in nature - achievable by 2007. They have been classified under four sub-programmes:

Education

- § Elementary school graduates are socially competent and have medium-level knowledge of the Estonian language
- § Secondary school graduates have the Estonian language knowledge necessary for everyday life and work & are capable of continuing studies in Estonian

Education and Culture of Ethnic Minorities

- § Ethnic minorities possess opportunities to acquire education in their mother tongue and to preserve their culture

Teaching of Estonian to Adults

- § Opportunities have been created for non-Estonian adults to improve their knowledge of Estonian and to raise their socio-cultural competence

Social Competence

- § Individuals participate actively in the development of civil society
- § Attitudes of Estonians and non-Estonians are favourable to the achievement of the main aims of the State Programme
- § Individuals with special social needs have increased opportunities for integration

Where can I get more information?

The Programme is available (in Estonian, Russian & English) on the Home Page of the Minister for Ethnic Affairs' office (www.riik.ee/saks/ikomisjon) or by calling the office at +372-693-5709. Copies can also be obtained at the Integration Foundation (www.meis.ee) and in libraries.

Action plans for sub-programmes for the years 2000-2003

I. Sub-programme "Education"
<p>Objectives:</p> <p>Elementary school graduates will be socially competent and possess medium-level knowledge of the Estonian language</p> <p>Secondary school graduates have the Estonian language knowledge necessary for everyday life and work & are capable of continuing studies in Estonian</p>
<p>Missions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> § To devise a system for the teaching of Estonian as a second language from primary education to the end of the gymnasium level, using diverse and contemporary teaching material and language learning patterns that take into consideration the interaction between languages, so that non-Estonian children and youth acquire the Estonian language in a motivated and productive manner § To focus and expand the basic training and continuing education of teachers of Estonian as a second language and of other subjects, to ensure that the qualifications of teachers employed at non-Estonian-language schools correspond to the requirements § To create in schools conditions guaranteeing that study groups work in the Estonian language and that secondary school graduates possess Estonian-language proficiency in everyday and work-related communication at the level necessary for learners to integrate in Estonian society § To develop linguistic & cultural co-operation between Estonian-medium schools and Russian-medium schools, in the interests of improving students' language proficiency and developing tolerance towards other cultures § To create for non-native speaking students conditions that promote their desire and ability to function as citizens and make conscious decisions about their further studies and working life

II. Sub-programme “Education and Culture of Ethnic Minorities”

Objective:

Ethnic minorities possess opportunities to acquire education in their mother tongue and to preserve their culture

Missions:

- § To increase Estonian society's awareness of cultural differences, expand the opportunities of the ethnic minorities living in Estonia for the preservation of their linguistic and cultural distinctiveness and increase their knowledge of Estonia
- § To support the preservation of the language and culture of ethnic minorities through the activities of ethnic minority cultural societies, art groups and Sunday schools
- § To promote co-operation among ethnic minority cultural societies and their co-operation with the state
- § To support the activities of new comprehensive schools in languages of ethnic minorities

III. Sub-programme “The Teaching of Estonian to Adults”

Objective:

Opportunities have been created for non-Estonian adults to improve their knowledge of Estonian and to raise their socio-cultural competence

Missions:

- § To develop a system for Estonian language proficiency examinations and advising connected therewith, with the aim of ensuring the greater reliability of examination results and positive ensuring influence on the teaching of Estonian as a second language
- § To create the preconditions for the linguistic-communicative integration of adult non-Estonians through the availability of high-quality Estonian language instruction
- § To expand the Estonian language learning opportunities for non-Estonian adults in order to ensure knowledge of the Estonian language at a level sufficient for everyday and work-related communication
- § To support the linguistic-communicative integration of non-Estonians through the involvement and notification of the public
- § To analyse the development of the linguistic relations and socio-cultural competence of different ethnic groups in various fields of life and on that basis to develop measures for the acceleration of the pace at which Estonian is being established as the lingua franca and for the development of multilingualism

IV. Sub-programme “Social Competence”

Objectives:

Individuals participate actively in the development of civil society

Attitudes of Estonians and non-Estonians are favourable to the achievement of the main aims of the State Programme

Individuals with special social needs have increased opportunities for integration

Missions:

- § To develop co-operation between the third sector and state institutions in the area of the integration of non-Estonians
- § To support the continuity of the development of youth organisations and student self-governments in order to ensure non-Estonian-speaking young people greater opportunities for joint activities and develop their social competence
- § To develop issues of integration more diversely in the Estonian and Russian-language media; create and expand the common element of the Estonian and Russian-language media systems; increase the interactivity of the Russian-language media system, improve the availability and quality of Russian-language institutional-utilitarian information in the media, with the aim of promoting the social involvement of the Russian-speaking population
- § To increase the number of professionals in the areas of the media and information among young non-Estonians; to raise a new generation of non-Estonians with regular media consumption habits and the ability to orient in the information society
- § To intensify communication between Estonians and non-Estonians; generate and develop inter-culture dialogue
- § To support the legal-political integration of non-Estonians
- § To improve the economic subsistence of the non-Estonian-speaking population, permitting them urgent psychological help through a Russian-language confidential help line
- § To raise the economic subsistence of the non-Estonian deaf, helping them to continue their studies and achieve a career
- § To raise the sensorial, intellectual and social functioning of blind non-Estonians to as high a level as possible, cultivating in them greater independence, permitting them to read Braille or listen to audio recordings of fiction, specialised literature, textbooks, sheet music, periodical publications and reference works
- § To develop training models to support the integration of refugees and other minorities into Estonian society

Consolidated budget for sub-programmes for the years 2000-2003

In 2000-2003, activities will be financed mainly from the budgets of several ministries (incl. Ministry of Education, Defence, Culture, Agriculture, Internal Affairs, and Social Affairs) and from state budget resources of the Integration Foundation. Also, the budget includes foreign aid resources, incl the EU Phare Programme, Canada, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, United Kingdom, United States, UNDP, and others. Several activities will be implemented jointly from the resources of ministries and foreign donors in the framework of co-financed projects.

It does not include other direct allocations for integration by local governments, private enterprises, embassies, etc. Also, it does not include permanent support by the state and local governments for administrative costs of functioning of Russian-medium school system, Russian-language public media, and cultural institutions of ethnic minorities. However, in some exceptional cases, funds of the Chancellery of the President, local governments and universities are included.

Budget lines for the years 2000 and 2001 reflect mostly existing resources from the state budget and foreign aid that are already provided for in the budgets of financing institutions and accordingly confirmed by them. Budgets for the years 2002 and 2003 are mostly based on estimated costs of proposed activities and will be confirmed by financing institutions in the future.

Sub-programme	Budget (in '000 EEK)				
	source	2000	2001	2002	2003
I. Education	state budget	14276,2	13126,6	22891,8	23432,8
	foreign aid	12681,5	10555,5	18174,1	7900,2
	TOTAL	26957,7	23682,1	41065,9	31333
II. Education and culture of ethnic minorities	state budget	2873,7	2830	3665	3515
	foreign aid	521	1348	750	750
	TOTAL	3394,7	4178	4415	4265
III. Teaching of Estonian to adults	state budget	1130,8	1288	1125	1325
	foreign aid	12617	5081,38	11532,5	4066,78
	TOTAL	13747,8	6369,38	12657,5	5391,78
IV. Social competence	state budget	1236,1	1332,6	2020	2035
	foreign aid	2172,3	5871,6	4531	3330
	TOTAL	3408,4	7204,2	6551	5365
V.Part: The management and evaluation of the State Programme and the capacity-building of institutions	state budget	3279,2	4394,2	4620	4610
	foreign aid	2454,8	1973,5	1970	1850
	TOTAL	5734	6367,7	6590	6460
SUM TOTAL I-V:	state budget	22796,0	22971,4	34321,8	34917,8
	foreign aid	30446,6	24830,0	36957,6	17897,0
	TOTAL	53242,6	47801,4	71279,4	52814,8

The State Programme Implementation Scheme

Appendices # 3

