

Monitoring of Integration in the Estonian Society in 2011.

- The monitoring was requested by the Ministry of Culture and carried out by PRAXIS Center for Policy Studies, University of Tartu and EMOR.
- The monitoring process involved ministries, universities, scientific research establishments and experts related to the field of integration.
- The goal of the research was collecting comparative data in order to monitor processes within the society and define the most important fields and target groups of integration.
- The results of the monitoring serve as the input for the new State integration programme for 2014–2020.
- The research was performed in two parts between October and November of 2011.
 - A State-wide opinion poll (1400 respondents between the age of 15–74 , 607 Estonians and 802 persons of other nationalities). Among the respondents holding Estonian citizenship, 80% were ethnic Estonians, 17% Russians, 1% Ukrainians, and 2% were of other ethnicities.
 - Five interviews with focus groups relevant to integration: new immigrants, representatives of citizens` associations, employees of the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund and persons carrying out labour market projects, representatives of employers, social studies teachers from schools where Russian is the language of instruction.
- It should be noted that a fairly large number of non-native Estonian speakers preferred to answer the questionnaire in Estonian.
- The results of the monitoring give an overview of the integration trends in the Estonian society compared to the results of the monitoring performed in 2008.
 - the results were analysed on the basis of target groups broken down into so called integration clusters, giving a good overview of the integration processes and helping to create strategies for the future. Adoption strategies for new immigrants were analysed separately.
 - the main regional particularities of the integration processes were also highlighted
 - analyses of situations in different areas were performed on the basis of three main aspects of the integration process: human asset, participation and identity, as well as information and contacts space at the level of behaviour and attitude.
- In addition, the authors made proposals on their own behalf concerning shaping up and applying the integration policy that requires discussions between connecting and target groups, politicians and experts.
- The monitoring of integration in the society takes place since 2000. The monitoring of 2011 demonstrates that taking into consideration the demographic processes that take place in Estonia and within the common framework of the EU's integration policy, it is necessary to further modernise the monitoring process.
- In the course of the monitoring, on the basis of three integration dimensions (linguistic, political and social) the so-called **integration clusters** were constructed, describing five different integration patterns:
 - A – **“Successfully integrated”**: a group that is characterised by equally strong integration in all dimensions; **21%** of the respondents.
 - B – **“Russian-speaking Estonian patriot”**: a group with strong ties to Estonian citizenship, which means strong integration in legal-political dimension, but at the same time weaker linguistic integration; **16%** of the respondents.
 - C – **“Estonian-speaking critical”**: a group with good language skills but with weak citizen identity, characterised by critical attitude towards both Estonian and Russian policies and by

alternative political activity higher than the average (public meetings, picketing, discussions and online petitions, etc); **13%** of the respondents.

- D – **“Poorly integrated”**: a group consisting predominantly of residents with undetermined citizenship who have weak language skills, actively participating only in local life; **28%** of the respondents.
- E – **“Not integrated”**: a group consisting mainly of people with Russian citizenship, predominantly the elderly, however, also including Estonian citizens (17%) and young people (20%); **22%** of the respondents.

MAIN RESULTS

- **Immigrants and their descendants cannot be viewed as a homogeneous integration subject.** The research describes six main target and connecting groups of the integration policy on the basis of their current situation. Almost one third of the Russian-speaking population are people who manage well, are active, and have a strong citizen identity within the Estonian society, and who can no longer be called as a target group of the integration policy. At the same time they still do not have a sufficient feeling of being included in the State’s policy development and implementation.
- **61% of non-Estonians are, according to their words, moderately, strongly or completely integrated.** The share of those who are completely integrated has increased twofold compared to the results of 2008 (7.5% then and 13.2% now). At the same time, the share of those who are completely not integrated has also increased from 7.5% in 2008 to 13% at present.
- **More than half of the respondents with Russian or other language as their mother tongue take part in organisations with Estonian or both, Estonian and Russian as the working language.** The difference in the degree of participation in non-governmental organisations between the citizenship groups is smaller than before and has become rather insignificant.
- **Political activity and interest towards domestic policy shown by Russians and other nationalities does not differ considerably from that of Estonians’.** During last year the citizens of Russia and other nationalities started to look for new alternatives for expressing their interests in the political sphere.
- **Expectations of the Russian-speaking population regarding education demonstrate increasing orientation toward vocational and university education.** 26% (in 2008 – 12%) of the respondents want themselves or their children (grandchildren) to have at least a vocational education; and while the figure for those respondents who want to have a university education were 39% in 2008, today the figure is 50% of the respondents with Russian or other mother tongue.
- **The preference for higher education in Estonian language has increased among the Russian-speaking population.** In 2008 19% of the respondents with Russian or other mother tongue preferred higher education to be provided in Estonian, and in 2012 their share increased to 26%. The share of those who prefer higher education provided in Russian or other language has not changed.
- **There has been an increase in “social demand” for basic education provided in Estonian.** While in 2008 59% of the population with Russian or other mother tongue expressed biggest support for the option where all children go to the same Estonian-speaking kindergarten, which has assistant kindergarten teachers for children with another mother tongue who can communicate in their language, then in 2012 the share of the respondents supporting this option was 65%. The option of dividing kindergartens on the basis of languages was supported by 32% in 2008, and is now supported by 28% of the respondents with Russian or other mother tongue.

- **There was an increase in the sense of belonging to the Estonian people (within the meaning of the Constitution of Estonia) and the wish to apply for Estonian citizenship among residents with undetermined citizenship.** In 2008 51% of the respondents with undetermined citizenship wanted to have Estonian citizenship, and in 2011 this share was 64%. Compared to 2008 the share of those who did not want any citizenship decreased (from 16% to 6%). The question “The Constitution states that in Estonia the power belongs to the people. Do you consider yourself belonging to the Estonian people within the meaning of the Constitution?” was given a “yes” answer by 34% of the respondents with undetermined citizenship in 2008, and by 52% of such respondents in 2012. The attitudes of the respondents of other nationalities holding Estonian citizenship have not changed (2008 - 67%, 2011 - 65%).
- **The feeling of native land and considering Estonia as the only native land has increased.** While in 2008 Estonia was considered as the native land by 66% of the Estonian citizens of other nationalities, then in 2012 their share increased to 76%. The share of people with undetermined citizenship, who expressed the same attitude was 48% (2008) and 68% (2012), and of those with Russian citizenship the figures were 20% (2008) and 38% (2012).
- **The attitudes of Estonians with respect to involvement of the Russian-speaking population have become more positive.** In 2008 64% and in 2012 70% of the respondents who were Estonians (rather) agreed with the following statement, “Involvement of the non-Estonians in the Estonian economy and governance of the State is beneficial for Estonia”. While in 2008 59% of the Estonians (rather) agreed with the statement that “The opinions of the Russian-speaking population should be known better and they should be taken into consideration more than before, as they are a part of the Estonian society”, in 2012 their share was already 66%. The Estonians’ support for bigger involvement of representatives of the Russian population in the governance of the Estonian society and economy increased and became stronger. One fifth of the persons eligible to elect the members of the Parliament of Estonia represent other nationalities and the parties should offer them opportunities for participating in Estonian politics.
- **Compared to the opinion polls performed in 2008 the feeling of inequality has significantly decreased among people of other nationalities.** The answers to the question “Have you, in the past two years, encountered a situation where a person was given preference because of his/her nationality or mother tongue in the course of employment application process or distribution of certain positions or benefits?” show that in 2012 the share of the representatives of other nationalities who experienced unequal treatment was 20% (in 2008 - 49%), and that half of them, according to their words, experienced that repeatedly (in 2008 - 24%).
- **Self-assessment of respondents with Russian or other language as their mother tongue regarding their Estonian language skills (understanding, speaking, reading, writing) has slightly improved compared to 2005.**
- **The contacts between different nationalities have grown, however disproportionately** – the circle of people of other nationalities who communicate with Estonians has become wider, however the circle of Estonians who communicate with people of other nationalities has not particularly increased. At the same time, a certain part of Estonians has started to communicate with people of other nationalities more often. According to the research data, 45% of the Estonians almost never communicate with representatives of other nationalities within one month, and 27% claim that there are no people of other nationalities in their circle of closest acquaintances. The share of representatives of other nationalities who do not communicate with Estonians within one month is 20% and the share of those who have no Estonians in

their circle of closest acquaintances is 12%. The number of people among Estonians who have no contacts with other nationalities within one month has slightly increased since 2008 (although the change stays within the margin of statistical error – 4%). Contacts of representatives of other nationalities with Estonians have slightly widened (in 2008 the share of those who had no contact within one month was 33%, and in 2012 - just 20%) and become more frequent (the share of more frequent contacts in 2008 was 30%, and in 2012 - 43%).

- **Self-assessment of the Russian-speaking population of their information level concerning the events taking place in their local community, in Estonia as well as the European Union has slightly increased.** The share of those who consider themselves well-informed of the events taking place in Estonia is 79% (in 2008 – 70%); the share of those who consider themselves well-informed of the events taking place in the European Union is 58%, compared to 45% in 2008.
- **During the period of economic recession there was a slight increase in differences between employment rates of different nationalities.** The difference between employment rates of Estonians and people of other nationalities was bigger than during the years preceding the crisis. There was also an increase in the difference between Estonians and people of other nationalities regarding the share of people who were in stable employment (in 2007 and 2010 it was respectively 96% and 90% among Estonians and 95% and 84% among people of other nationalities).