MONITORING OF INTEGRATION IN ESTONIAN SOCIETY 2017

KEY FINDINGS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Positive developments</th>
<th>Distressful points</th>
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<td>Estonian language proficiency amongst the people of other ethnic backgrounds is improving, and the need for Estonian language is increasing at work and during people’s free time.</td>
<td>In comparison to Estonians, people of other ethnic backgrounds continue to have a disadvantaged position in the Estonian labour market, and women from other ethnic backgrounds are in a particularly vulnerable position in terms of job security.</td>
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<td>Four out of five respondents identify with what has been defined in the monitoring as an intermediate or strong state identity – these are the people who underpin the integration in Estonian society.</td>
<td>Estonians and people of other ethnic backgrounds tend to operate in a separate linguistic spaces – the most notable contact with other nationalities is restricted to the workplace, school and public sphere. Only a tenth of Estonian population converse with other nationalities in their free time at a daily basis.</td>
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<td>Most of the Estonian population clearly prefers that Estonian-language learning should start at kindergarten level, there is an increasing support for common Estonian-speaking kindergartens for mixed groups of children and support for language-based segregation in education is in decline.</td>
<td>The proportion of people with an undetermined citizenship who would like to obtain Estonian citizenship is slightly starting do decrease: the reasons such as individuals’ inability to learn the Estonian language or inability to pass the citizenship test have declined compared to previous years, and there is an increase in the amount of people who find that they do not require Estonian citizenship to be able live in Estonia.</td>
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<td>A high proportion of newly-arrived immigrants to Estonia have adapted well to life in Estonia, however language-learning, support with settling in and forming social networks with Estonians are areas which continuously require more of the attention.</td>
<td>People of other ethnic backgrounds continue to have lower trust in government institutions than their Estonian counterparts, the highest differences can be observed in levels of trust in the Defence Forces, the President and the Police.</td>
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Research methodology

The monitoring of integration is an independent in-depth research project into the subject of integration which has been commissioned by the Estonian state and is being carried out every two to four years. The present study is the seventh in the series.

The task of this study is underpinned by the integration-specific divisional development plan “Integrating Estonia 2020”. The monitoring of integration is aiming to find answers to various questions in relation to linguistic space, economic inequalities, labour market, entrepreneurship, education, participation in community life and trust in Estonian state institutions.

Authors of the 2017 research project: Kristjan Kaldur, Raivo Vetik, Laura Kirss, Kats Kivistik, Kristina Kallas, Märt Masso, Külliike Seppel, Kristi Anniste

Research was carried out by the Institute of Baltic Studies and Praxis Centre for Policy Studies

Commissioned by the Ministry of Culture

Data collection methodology

Research sample: 1410 permanent residents of the Republic of Estonia aged 15 years and older (a random sample of 1000 people from across Estonia, and an additional sample of 400 representatives of other ethnic backgrounds).

Survey period: 22nd February to 30th March 2017

The questionnaire was completed by 1410 randomly selected people

Composition of weighted sample of the study:

Gender: male – 46% / female – 54%

Age:
- 15-24 aastased – 12,2%
- 25-34 aastased – 17,5%
- 35-49 aastased – 24,2%
- 50-64 aastased – 23,5%
- 65-74 aastased – 11,6%
- 75+ aastased – 11,1%

Town/rural area:
- Town – 68,7%
- Rural area – 31,3%

Ethnicity:
- Estonians – 67,8%
- Russians – 26,8%
- Other ethnicities – 5,4%
With the purpose of obtaining more detailed information to support the analysis on issues concerning the labour market situation, two focus group interviews were carried out: one with Russian- and another with Estonian-speaking participants.

**Issues discussed in the focus group:**
- Ethnic inequalities in the labour market
- The performance of Russian-speaking schools from the perspective of labour market opportunities for Russian-speakers

In addition to the online survey with new immigrants, a focus group interview was also carried out with the same target group, with the purpose of obtaining an in-depth account about how recently arrived people are settling in Estonia.

**Issues discussed in the focus group:**
- Estonian language learning and proficiency
- Labour market
- Free time and social participation
- Long-term perspective in Estonia and citizenship