

The general principles of the cultural policy up to 2020

I Introduction

The national cultural policy is based on the constitutional aim of ensuring the preservation of the Estonian nation, language, and culture in perpetuity. The national culture policy views this aim as the harmony between the preservation and continuation of culture on the one hand, and the innovativeness and openness of culture, on the other hand.

The general principles of the cultural policy adopted by the Riigikogu are the basis for the state's decisions in the field of culture up until 2020. This strategic document is a continuation of the general principles of the Estonian cultural policy adopted by the Riigikogu in 1998 (RT I, 1998, 81, 1353¹). This document also draws on the national strategy for Estonia's sustainable development "Sustainable Estonia 21", which has the viability of the local cultural space as one of its objectives.

In this document, Estonian culture is defined as both the creation of Estonians as well as that of other nationalities living in Estonia. All members of society take part in the process of culture either as creators or as persons interacting with what was created. Estonian culture along with its unique regional cultural spaces is a part of world culture.

The cornerstone of Estonian culture is the Estonian language. The state has agreed on the objectives of the language policy and activities of the development plan of the Estonian language for 2011-2017², which is why the general principles of the cultural policy do not address the language policy separately. Likewise, sport is a part of culture. The national development strategy for the field of sport is devised in cooperation with the Estonian Olympic Committee and discussions and reporting on development directions takes place on a regular basis at the Estonian Sport Congress.

The cultural policy is closely interlinked with several other national policy areas including educational, economic, social, environmental, employment, integration, regional, tourism, and foreign policy. The many-faceted cultural life has a significant impact on the well-being of the Estonian people, the quality of the local living environment, and the international competitiveness of the country.

The general principles of the cultural policy are based on the conviction that culture is one of the key factors in achieving many goals both on a local and national level. According to the Estonian constitution, all issues related to local life are decided by local governments who operate independently based on the applicable legislation. This document is going to lay down the principles and activity directions for shaping and realising the cultural policy for the government of the Republic, at the same time considering that local governments have an important role to fill in organising local cultural life, sustaining cultural establishments, and supporting cultural activities.

II The objective of the cultural policy

The objective of the cultural policy is to form a society that values creativity by maintaining and improving the national identity of Estonia, researching, storing, and transferring cultural memory, and creating favourable conditions for the development of a vital, open, and versatile cultural space and for participating in culture.

¹ <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/76129>

² <http://www.hm.ee/index.php?popup=download&id=10673>

III The principles of shaping and realising the cultural policy

1. The state creates opportunities for the development of culture and improving the accessibility of various cultural events for creators and participants alike. All Estonian residents must have a chance to create culture and to partake in it regardless of their regional, social, cultural, ethnic, age, gender-related or other individual characteristics and needs.
2. In organising the field of education, it must be considered that in order to ensure a new generation of participants in culture it is important to start accumulating culture-related knowledge and skills from an early age. For this, in cooperation with the state and local governments opportunities must be created in education as a whole, including hobby education and recreational activities. Likewise, creative learning and the development of reading comprehension are important in both formal and informal education. When realising educational programmes and activities, cultural establishments have an important role in diversifying and enriching formal education, which is why the state regards it as important to involve cultural establishments in preparing and filling the curriculum.
3. Higher education in culture must be based on the needs of the job market and demographic changes and must be internationally competitive. The state is going to facilitate developmental activities in universities, the creation of joint curricula, cross-usage of infrastructure, international cooperation and doctoral studies. Education obtained in the field is closely interlinked to its usage potential in other content areas. The state positions itself towards the reorganisation of the network of higher education institutions in the area of arts and culture with the objective to employ the current opportunities in the best manner possible, ensuring the quality and sustainability of higher education. At the same time, the state will issue scholarships in culture-related studies to support learning abroad.
4. The shaping and realising of the cultural policy is open and transparent, involving creative communities, development centres and other partner organisations of both the field as well as representing communities and the third sector. The objectives in the field of culture are formulated as cooperation between the field and the state, based on strategies that are updated on a regular basis. When drafting legislation in the field of culture the state regards the development directions of the legal policy in order to avoid over-regulation of the field.
5. In realising the cultural policy, the collection of systematised statistics in all areas of culture is organised by the state, also surveys are conducted and scientific research is encouraged in order to make justified decisions and to evaluate their impact.
6. The funding of culture is transparent, mainly guided by the content of the activity and not its ownership. For funding more relevant cultural events and activities the state makes up to three-year framework agreements to ensure the sustainable development of cultural initiatives and organisations that have already proved themselves.
7. In addition to the other state budget funds, culture is supported under public law through the Cultural Endowment of Estonia. The basic operating principles of the Cultural Endowment – the organisation of the budget in a manner specified in legislation as well as independent foundation capital and expert groups formed from specialists of different fields – are not changed. The Cultural Endowment of Estonia mainly supports creative individuals and project-based initiatives, while the budget of the Ministry of Culture is used for funding the main activities of state-supported institutions and long-term activities that are important from the aspect of national culture.
8. Cultural facilities need to be built in a responsible manner, taking into account future needs and potential additional costs. The state will be a prudent owner of the cultural infrastructure in their possession, giving a good example with their activities in achieving and maintaining the quality of the architecture.
9. The state is going to direct external resources into the development of the cultural field in order to strengthen the competitiveness of the creative industry, develop information technology

services, support integration, and to invest into a cultural infrastructure which supports tourism and regional development.

10. The state will create supportive conditions for involving private funds in the cultural field, recognising those entrepreneurs, NGOs and individuals who support culture, as well as conducting initiatives in cooperation with private companies. The state considers it important that legislation does not impose unnecessary limits on the private sector's opportunities for supporting culture. In addition to the existing models for the funding of culture, in cooperation with the field and the private sector the state is going to search for alternative financing schemes for culture.
11. The state regards it as important to raise the qualification of and offer additional training to cultural workers to ensure their competence in relation to the constantly evolving needs of the information society. At the same time the remuneration of cultural workers needs to be competitive in the Estonian job market ensuring that new specialists continue to enter the field. The state will take the direction towards raising the minimum remuneration of state-employed cultural workers with higher education and professionally qualified specialists up to parity with the average salary in Estonia. The state will treat foundations founded with the participation of the state and public law legal persons, provided their optimum membership, on an equal basis with state institutions.
12. In case of self-employed creative individuals, when labour taxes have been paid from their income in a similar manner to other employees and registered self-employed entrepreneurs, they need to be guaranteed health insurance regardless of the regularity of their income.
13. The state will create opportunities for the internationalisation of culture. Culture has an important role in external relations, export and the country's public image. The network of representatives of culture is going to be widened, cooperation will be increased with the different ministries and export-promoting organisations, support for the development of cultural exports and cooperation is going to be increased significantly. More than before, the state will increase its efforts to network on target markets outside Europe, for which cultural organisations and creative enterprises have expressed their interest and where they have the capacity to enter the market.
14. The state will support the preservation of the national identity of Estonians living outside Estonia and kindred peoples, facilitate expatriate Estonians' contacts with their homeland and promote cultural cooperation with kindred peoples.
15. Estonia will be a proactive participant in the work of international organisations and policy development in the area of culture. In realising the cultural policy, the legislation and initiative of the European union and international agreements will be taken into account.
16. In the case of commissions by the state, as a rule public commissions need to be held, usually involving experts in the field in the evaluation.
17. The state supports the development of creative industries as part of a knowledge-based economy. The objective is to use innovation and creativity to raise the country's competitiveness, thereby transforming from an agent to a creator of value. Professional agents have an important role in the organisation of cultural life and creative industries.
18. The state protects intellectual property laws by adjusting the legislation according to the development of technological solutions. The state's obligation is to create an efficient legal framework to protect intellectual property in order to ensure the proprietary rights of authors and the protection of any rights arising from them in relation to the use of intellectual property. The state also facilitates in the proactive presentation and use of works in case of which the proprietary copyright belongs to the state. When income is created from such activities, it will be directed to the distribution of the work or scholarships.
19. The state will promote the activities of private initiative communities with the aim of memorialising the legacy of remarkable individuals in the field of culture and promoting their creative works by entering into administrative agreements for the maintenance of property and

places that are tied to the memory of such culturally significant individuals, as well as for the realisation of the proprietary rights that have been transferred to the state to ensure the wider use of the works of such individuals.

20. The more valuable parts of cultural heritage will be digitalised by 2018, so that its long-term survival is ensured in compliance with international standards and quality requirements. The interoperability of culture-related information systems is ensured with harmonised descriptions and web services. Works digitalised by institutions funded and managed by the state are as a rule, if such rights are established, made freely available. The use of digitalised cultural heritage in e-learning and in the provision of e-services in the field of the media and creative industries is promoted.
21. The state will appreciate the impact of the song and dance festival movement in culture and education and in society as a whole. In order to ensure the viability of the song and dance festivals, the state acknowledges the importance to preserve the movement in its integrity and in a continuous manner and to develop it further and to ensure the continuation of the support system intended for its supervisors and leaders.
22. In the regional management of culture, the state will take the direction of a more clear definition of determining the tasks and responsibility areas in cooperation with the local governments, local government associations and NGOs.
23. The state shall ensure better opportunities for people with special needs to take part in culture by regarding their needs while building and renovating the cultural infrastructure and by supporting initiatives and programmes for involving people with special needs (incl. mobility-related, mental, intellectual or other disabilities) at the cultural establishments.

IV Priorities in specific areas

24. Architecture:

- 24.1. The state appreciates the living environment as a whole, comprising both the built-up and designed environment as well as the natural environment. A high-quality built-up environment has an important role in achieving the state's objectives for sustainable development. The bases for a high-quality built-up environment are well-informed decisions in spatial planning and building design.
- 24.2. In setting and realising the objectives for architectural policy the state shall increase the cohesiveness of the different policies and relevant ministries.
- 24.3. In the case of building design and planning services, the state shall promote sustainable public procurements and conceptual competitions to ensure the architectural quality and diversity of buildings funded by the public sector.
- 24.4. The state shall support participation in major international architectural events and is proactive in shaping international architectural policy.
- 24.5. In order to invigorate entrepreneurship and internationalisation in the area of architecture, the state shall, amongst other things, facilitate Estonian architects practice in foreign agencies, the export of architectural services and local architects participating in international architectural competitions.

25. Design:

- 25.1. The role of design is to contribute to the development of innovative, functional, environmentally sustainable, user-friendly and attractive products and services and the creating of safe and welcoming environments.
- 25.2. The state supports the activities of designers and design agencies, because quality design service helps create added value in other sectors of the economy as well and therefore increases the international competitiveness of Estonian enterprises.

- 25.3. State support measures are directed at increasing the demand for quality design and product development based on it. This increases the value of design in the conditions of public procurements, raises awareness of design and facilitates cooperation between designers, enterprises, and research institutions through supporting the funding of projects, innovation shares, and entrepreneurship centres. It is important to raise the general public awareness of the cultural, social, economic, and environmental value of design and to continue marketing Estonian design in the international arena.
- 25.4. In order to raise the quality of designer training, studies need to be international, provide internship opportunities at various enterprises and include joint curricula and projects between universities providing education in design and technology. When devising curricula, it must be ensured that representatives of enterprises are involved.

26. Performing arts:

- 26.1. The field of performing arts in Estonia is diversified both artistically and institutionally. The programmes of performing institutions has a good balance of domestic and world culture. The state supports the commissioning and performing of original Estonian drama works.
- 26.2. The state funding of performing institutions is done through three-year funding agreements. Performing institutions with a continuous programme are supported directly from the state budget on principles previously discussed in the field. Project-based performing institutions and one-time projects are funded from the Cultural Endowment. The state also supports the activities of the more important theatre and dance agencies, the organisation of performing arts festivals, and the internationalisation of performing institutions.
- 26.3. The importance of professional performing arts targeted at young viewers shall be recognised both through state financing and greater public attention. The activities of amateur and school theatres are also valued.
- 26.4. The state regards it as important to develop the higher education curricula in the field of performing arts in Tallinn, Viljandi, and Tartu.

27. Filmmaking:

- 27.1. The state supports filmmaking in a capacity that meets the prerequisites for ensuring the continuation of professional filmmaking in Estonian and an increase in viewer interest.
- 27.2. The Estonian Film Institute is the umbrella organisation for all important activities in the field, supporting the development, production, and marketing of films. The institute is responsible for the restoration and digitalisation of the heritage in their possession, collects statistics on the topic and carries out activities related to in-service training and raising awareness of filmmaking. Estonian audio-visual heritage is digitalised and made available to the public.
- 27.3. In cooperation with local municipalities and private companies the state will create better opportunities for digital film screenings at theatres and culture halls in larger county centres. Estonian films are distributed at international festivals, as well as in cinemas and on television abroad and they are made available on new digital platforms.
- 27.4. In Estonia, the internationalisation of filmmaking and co-production with film companies and filmmakers from other countries is supported. Estonia has the professional specialists and infrastructure for international companies to realise television and film projects in Estonia. Regional foundations are operating in order to offer the services needed internationally for producing audio-visual content in Estonia, as well as an organisation for marketing Estonia internationally as a filming location.
- 27.5. The state appreciates professional filmmaking as the primary source of medial literacy for young viewers and participants and values the promotion of amateur and school film in Estonia.

27.6. The Baltic Film and Media School of Tallinn University will become a contemporary international higher education institution for film and media studies, where education in the field of film and audio-visual media can be obtained in Estonian as well as in English. Together with other universities, study and research directions will be developed to address the application of information and communication technologies in the creation of culture, but also cross-media studies, video game development, the digitalisation and re-use of cultural heritage, the creation of digital learning ecosystems, incl. educational games. It is important that audio-visual in-service training is provided to teachers of general education schools.

28.Music:

- 28.1. The state supports the diversity of the Estonian music scene, creating opportunities for participating in the high-level music-life all over Estonia and continuously directing concert experiences at children and youth.
- 28.2. The state ensures the necessary operational and developmental conditions for institutions and top collectives forming the basis for the music culture. The activities of various private musical collectives and concert organisers are also supported, as well as the organisation of diverse and high-level music festivals.
- 28.3. The Estonian National Opera is promoting Estonian national musical theatre, making available Estonia's and the world's best musical, opera, and ballet works.
- 28.4. In cooperation between the state and the private sector instrument funds have been created for acquiring, renewing, maintaining, and renting out musical instruments to ensure the international competitiveness of Estonian musicians.
- 28.5. The aim of the state is to create better opportunities for the activities of Estonian composers and interpreters and the popularisation of the works. The state supports the commissioning of new musical works from Estonian composers and helping the Estonian composers and interpreters reach the international arena. The state regards it as important to collect, document, publish, and promote the valuable legacy of Estonian composers and interpreters.
- 28.6. The state supports a wholesome musical education system to prepare competitive professionals for all areas of musical culture. Musical education on all levels of education (i.e. on the level of pre-school, basic, secondary, and higher education) is an essential prerequisite for ensuring the sustainability of professional musical culture. The state also supports the organisation of musical competitions and participation in international competitions supporting the development of interpretation and musical creation and raising the professional level of musicians.
- 28.7. The state facilitates the development of music-related entrepreneurship and professional support structure (incl. managers, agencies) and supports the export of music in the whole chain of operation, incl. in-service training and internships abroad, organising performing festivals and concerts in Estonia and the target market and musical collectives taking part in international festivals. Estonian music plays an important role in the development of the country's international image and cultural tourism.

29.Literature and publishing:

- 29.1. Literature is valued by the state as one of the pillars of our native-language culture, which supports the continuation and development of other areas. In order to maintain this pillar, the state is creating and applying support mechanisms for the creation of new works, publishing, and the availability of literature. At the same time the state puts a lot of focus on teaching creative writing at all levels of education, but also on literary studies and research.
- 29.2. Widening the reading habit is important in all age groups but especially among children and youth. The state creates the opportunities for the popularisation of literature and events highlighting the value of reading and literature, incl. public events with writers at libraries, schools, and elsewhere.

- 29.3. The state supports the habit of reading among children and children's literature both through the financing of the respective support structures as well as through literature contests targeted at the development of children's literature. The publication of illustrated children's books is supported, making it possible for the publisher to alleviate the risk related to high printing costs.
- 29.4. The state is creating the pre-requisites for growth in the number of e-books available and their wider distribution, supporting the private publishing of Estonian classics and preferably books on the suggested reading lists of schools. When the state obtains a license from an author for their work to be privately published, then it must be available for all for free and without limitations.
- 29.5. It is important to support translating and translator training on a national level, incl. translation from Estonian into foreign languages, to have Estonian literature known abroad. The more important works of Estonian fiction are fully translated into English, as it is the prerequisite for selling the publishing rights to foreign publishers. When communicating Estonia and Estonian culture to the world through literature, it is important to take part in international literature festivals and publishing fairs. In the context of the internationalisation of literature, supervision on adherence to copyright regulations is carried out according to legislation and international agreements.

30. Visual arts:

- 30.1. The internationalisation of Estonian art life is considered important by the state – that our artists, curators and critics would take an active part in the world's art life and international exhibitions and art projects would be organised in Estonia. With its national pavilion, Estonia is taking part at the Venice Biennale, with even more focus than before put on cooperation projects with other countries.
- 30.2. The state facilitates the mobility of art professionals and their participation in international residency programmes. Art residency programmes operating in Estonia have always been significant in diversifying local art life and networking.
- 30.3. The state supports the activities of exhibition venues in order to create opportunities all over Estonia for people to appreciate the fine arts and for artists to show their work to wider audiences. The technical equipment of exhibition venues is contemporary and their activities professional. In addition to creative individuals and agents, also technical experts of art production and exhibition organising are valued highly and their professional training and in-service training is funded by the state.
- 30.4. The role of the national art museums is to collect and store mainly artworks related to Estonia and to research, mediate, present, popularise, and exhibit both Estonian and world art to Estonian residents and visitors.
- 30.5. The Estonian art market is professional, with galleries belonging to international networks, there is joint marketing between the galleries, and the state is creating possibilities for Estonian artists to conquer foreign markets.
- 30.6. With the application of the Placing Orders for Works of Art Act, the state supports enriching the public space with artworks, involving specialists in the field in the process of commissioning artworks. Amendments will be made to the said act to specify what types of artwork can be commissioned on the basis of the act and how to ensure a high artistic level of the commissioned works.

31. Cultural journalism and media:

- 31.1. A necessary prerequisite for the development of culture is self-reflection and communication, mediation of cultural phenomena, interpretation and evaluation. Cultural journalism presents both Estonian and world cultural assets to the wider public and works as a public forum for exchanging thoughts.

- 31.2. Cultural journalism is a network comprised of Estonian Public Broadcasting, state-funded publications, and private-initiative media. The state acknowledges the importance of private-initiative media as an announcer and mediator of new developments and the basis for the development of culture criticism.
- 31.3. The state ensures the opportunities for the Foundation Kultuurileht for the flexible use of the new technological potential to digitalise and make public those issues having cultural significance from past years and to reach new readers through an on-line solution.
- 31.4. Estonian Public Broadcasting operating under public law is an independent and reliable media organisation which reports on a regular basis to the public and to the cultural committee of the Riigikogu, which evaluates whether the operations of the national public broadcasting organisation is in compliance with the law, the development plan and the public interest. With their activities, Estonian Public Broadcasting promotes the development of Estonian language and culture, the preservation of cultural diversity, and contributes to the commemoration and maintenance of Estonian history and culture.
- 31.5. The state considers it important that the public broadcasting organisation takes an active part in the creation of culture, among other things resulting in the production of television movies and series of historic value on the basis of the works of Estonian authors, recording radio theatre programmes and participation in the co-production of cinema films.
- 31.6. The public broadcasting organisation has an important role in the commemoration of Estonian history and culture in sound and vision and the preservation, restoration and digitalisation of recorded material. The state supports the efforts of the public broadcasting organisation in making public the aural and visual materials available in the archives of the public broadcasting organisation as well as other institutions of historic memory. It is important for the state that people interested in Estonian life, either at home or abroad, have access to the information stream of the public broadcasting organisation. The state supports the development of the public broadcasting organisation on the contemporary level and electronic media platforms.

32. Cultural diversity:

- 32.1. The aim of the national cultural policy is to support the integration of minority nations living in Estonia into the Estonian society and cultural space, at the same time supporting the acknowledgement and development of the cultural identity of the minority nations. For this purpose the state supports the preservation, presentation, and development of the cultures of national minorities, taking into account any region-specific characteristics and needs.
- 32.2. The state supports the promotion of intercultural dialogue to appreciate cultural diversity and to expand the shared cultural space. For this purpose, the state facilitates cooperation between national minorities and Estonian citizens' associations with the purpose of increasing contacts between the communities.
- 32.3. The state reorganises the principles of funding the cultural associations of national minorities to make their financing more open and purpose-driven.
- 32.4. The state updates the legislation in the area of national minorities with the purpose of making the legislative area more comprehensible and accessible to ensure the cohesiveness of different policies.
- 32.5. The state supports increasing the capacity of the umbrella organisations of national minorities by supporting training and counselling activities, youth work and information exchange.

33. Heritage conservation:

- 33.1. Appreciation of cultural heritage as a whole is a national priority –intellectual and material heritage are not separate from each other and object-based protection of cultural monuments has expanded to the appreciation of the environment and context. Besides maintaining

cultural continuity, heritage conservation should be regarded as a part of sustainable development and an economic advantage, incl. an important part of cultural tourism.

- 33.2. Other important aspects include specifying the strategy and measures for protecting cultural heritage (what, why, and how is it protected), an inventory and analysis of the list of monuments, and on the basis of the results of the analysis, an update of the lists and the respective legislation. An important process in the recognition of monuments needs to be the evaluation of the interests of the different parties, a clear definition of public interest, evaluation of public interest against private interest, and the proportionality of protective measures, also taking into account any international agreements.
- 33.3. The state supports the owners of the monuments to ensure the conservation of important objects. The state finances the compilation of the source materials (incl. research, special conditions) necessary for the determination and conservation of the assets protected as cultural heritage.
- 33.4. The state creates opportunities for presenting cultural monuments, as a result of which awareness of heritage conservation is raised within society. Public training and awareness-raising programmes, monument-related signs and markings, and users-friendly e-solutions for learning about heritage are also important.
- 33.5. The state recognises the role of NGOs in heritage conservation and encourages co-operation with third sector organisations and the private sector in the conservation, maintenance, and presentation of national heritage.
- 33.6. In setting and realising the objectives of heritage conservation, it is important to increase the cohesion of the different areas (incl. museums, environmental protection, spatial planning) and the relevant ministries and establishments. Similarly, when planning the activities of the different agencies, it is important to raise the research and counselling capacity in the area. This will make it possible to promote knowledge-based heritage conservation and to make public services in the area more professional and user-friendly.

34. Museums:

- 34.1. The objective of museums is to develop according to the contemporary expectations and needs of an institution of memory which, besides the accumulation, maintenance and researching of local cultural heritage would contribute to education, at the same time being an attraction to visitors from home and abroad, thereby increasing Estonia's popularity as a destination for cultural tourism. In addition to historic heritage, the state considers it important that natural heritage is researched and presented to the public by appreciating the activities of natural museums, botanical gardens, and zoos.
- 34.2. Based on the principle of the integrity of cultural heritage, the state facilitates close cooperation between and co-ordinated action of museums, heritage conservation, and research institutions.
- 34.3. The state supports the interpretation of the knowledge that has been accumulated in a museum to bring it to public use, through, amongst other methods, contemporary e-solutions and by digitalising the collections. An analysis of museum collections will be carried out to make sure that the collections of different museums would make up a culturally significant whole with its parts complementing each other. Curation activities are intentional and continuous. Museum exhibits are stored in conditions which ensure their long-term preservation.
- 34.4. Educational programmes at museums are aligned with national curricula and contribute to reaching set study objectives. Particular attention is directed at using the heritage kept in museums in e-learning solutions. All school students are ensured the opportunity to visit Estonian museums. In each school year, at least one day is designated for museum visits. In order to develop the professional qualifications of museum pedagogues and other museum specialists, a co-ordinated in-service training programme is implemented in cooperation between the state and the field.

34.5. When designing the network of museums the state takes into account the sustainability and diversity of the institutions. At the same time, in order to realise activities and improve accessibility to the public, partners are involved both on the level of the local municipalities as well as from the private sector. The owner of a museum collection shall ensure basic financing to fulfil the main tasks of a museum.

35.Libraries:

35.1. The Estonian library network, based on the needs and interests of all its users, comprises public, school, science and specialised libraries and the Estonian National Library. The public library service ensures free access to information and is equally available free of charge to all users. All public libraries in Estonia will have broadband internet.

35.2. Public libraries have an important role in ensuring that all people living in Estonia have an equal opportunity for self-education and participation in culture. As institutions of local municipalities, in addition to the provision of information and guidance to single users for using different sources of information, public libraries operate as flexible and multifunctional centres for invigorating local life and culture and offering opportunities for lifelong learning.

35.3. Books in Estonian are available for all regardless of their format. The state supports the acquisition of quality literature and culture-related periodicals that are significant from the aspect of Estonian language and culture for public libraries.

35.4. The state recognises the value of the cultural and literary programmes of public libraries, the realisation of initiatives related to lifelong learning, programmes targeted at encouraging reading and shaping the reading habits of children and youth, get-togethers involving writers and other creative individuals with readers, initiatives involving several public libraries in different municipalities, and activities targeted at people whose native language is not Estonian, and also acknowledging the interests of readers with special needs.

35.5. The Estonian National Library, an entity operating under public law collects, stores, and makes available the majority of books published in Estonia or related to Estonia. The Estonian National Library is also fulfilling the duties of a parliamentary library, ensuring the information service of the Riigikogu and other constitutional institutions, and a development centre of library studies. In its field of operation, the Estonian National Library is one of the central institutions for digitalising, storing and making available Estonian cultural heritage.

36.Folk culture:

36.1. The strengths of Estonian culture are its value-based nature, participation-centred activities, unique cultural spaces and their specific characteristics, identities and people who pass down the regional customs, dialect and way of life.

36.2. Folk culture is creating opportunities for the new generation of culture specialists to emerge from all areas and encourages people to actively participate in culture.

36.3. Intellectual cultural heritage is appreciated and supported, the holders of heritage and communities are recognised. The state systematically supports collecting, storing and making public intellectual cultural heritage through the state's central memory institutions. The state also targets support towards sectional support structures and the organisation of important events.

36.4. The choir movement and folk singing with instruments played connects folk culture to music, the literary arts and the performing arts. The tradition of song and dance festivals has a large cultural and economic influence, it is a process supported and maintained by local municipalities and the state along with citizens' associations and a network of rural cultural centres, which regularly culminates with regional and national song and dance festivals.

36.5. The state supports the innovative connection of heritage culture with creative industries and entrepreneurship. The state values creative and developmental activities and

entrepreneurship based on heritage and heritage technology. Folk culture events and phenomena of intellectual cultural heritage develop cultural tourism in different areas of Estonia, therefore encouraging the local businesses of the area.