



Integratsiooni
Sihtasutus

INTEGRATION FOUNDATION STRATEGY 2024–2029



We have been supporting the formation of a cohesive society with a variety of activities since 1998. We bring together experts in the field of integration and involve partners and volunteers in cooperation, operating under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture.



MISSION

As a centre of competence, we support the formation of an integrated and cohesive society in Estonia.



VISION

Together with a wide and productive network of partners, we effectively implement integration, including carrying out activities that facilitate adaptation, take into account the needs of society and are accessible to target groups all over Estonia.



TARGET GROUPS

Our activities are aimed at four main target groups:

- permanent residents of Estonia with non-Estonian linguistic and cultural backgrounds,
- new immigrants arriving in Estonia,
- those returning to Estonia,
- Estonians and Estonian citizens living outside Estonia.

As integration is a two-way process, our activities are also aimed at people with Estonian as their mother tongue in order to involve them in the integration process.



GOAL

Our goal is an integrated and cohesive society – all Estonian people, regardless of their native language and cultural background, respect each other, feel a sense of belonging, communicate with each other, establish social bonds, cooperate and achieve common goals. The basis of an integrated and cohesive society is the identity associated with Estonia and Estonian language and culture, while still acknowledging that other languages, cultures and nationalities are also an inseparable part of our society.



STRATEGIC BASELINES

We are a partner to government agencies, including the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Research, and the Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture, helping to implement strategic goals in these areas.

Both in the strategy and in our daily work, we proceed from the goals agreed upon in the strategic documents of the Republic of Estonia, including:

[The 'Estonia 2035' Strategy](#)

[Cohesive Estonia Development Plan 2021-2030](#)

[Internal Security Development Plan 2020-2030](#)

[Estonian Language Development Plan 2021-2035](#)

[Education Development Plan 2021-2035](#)

[Ida-Virumaa Action Plan 2030](#)

[Global Estonian Diaspora Action Plan 2022-2025](#)



VALUES

We are guided in our work by the following principles:

OPENNESS

Our goal is to develop a society based on mutual trust, where every person, regardless of their background, feels safe and valued in Estonia, while maintaining their unique cultural identity. We believe unconditionally in the power of collaboration and are committed to engaging with partners and target groups to jointly shape and implement innovative ideas and solve challenges that help bring our common vision to life.

RELIABILITY

Competence is the foundation of what we do. We work diligently, and everything we say and do bears the mark of quality. Our approach to problems and decisions is reasoned and objective, based on facts, the latest knowledge and best practices.

CARING

Caring is at the heart of what we do. The users of our services, our volunteers, partners and colleagues are all invaluable to us. We pay special attention to the unique needs of each person to ensure the best possible experience and support. In our organisation, we value mutual assistance, teamwork and continuous professional development, believing that together we are stronger and more impactful.

PRODUCTIVITY

Productivity is the cornerstone of our work. Our goal is to make a significant and lasting contribution to the integration of Estonian society through our activities. We strive to use resources efficiently and to find effective and sustainable solutions for the development of a cohesive society.



STRATEGIC GOALS

In 2024-2029, we are committed to achieving the following results:

GOAL 1

In Estonia, a pro-integration mindset is in the ascendancy and the conditions have been created for the development of a cohesive society in close cooperation with different parties.

We are working to ensure that people from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds in Estonia have equal opportunities to realise their potential. It is often more difficult for non-Estonian speakers to fulfil their potential, especially in Ida-Viru County, Harju County and Tallinn. It is important to encourage mutual understanding, daily communication and contact, as well as social connections that promote integration. A prerequisite for accelerating the integration process is the contribution of the entire society, including in the form of public debates, volunteering, cooperation between various institutions, companies and NGOs.

GOAL 2

Estonian residents from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds are successfully integrated, actively participate in society, have access to high-quality Estonian language learning, opportunities to practise it, and activities that support integration.

Estonian residents with non-Estonian linguistic and cultural backgrounds are becoming increasingly fluent in Estonian, but the demand for free language learning still exceeds supply. Since knowledge of Estonian language is the key to successful development and integration in Estonian society, it is necessary to expand language learning opportunities so that as many people as possible can learn Estonian and, if necessary, pass the Estonian language proficiency exam. We are working to create a holistic language learning experience, including the development of a counselling service and the expansion of opportunities supporting independent language learning. It is important to create a language environment in areas where people do not have the opportunity to communicate in Estonian. It is equally important to actively raise awareness about the functioning of the state and society, which is the basis for active participation in local community life and in society generally.

GOAL 3

National minorities uphold and value Estonian cultural traditions, work closely with other Estonian national cultural communities, and cultural diversity is respected in society.

We support and recognise the contribution of national minorities to the Estonian cultural space. We place emphasis on activities that introduce the Estonian cultural space, including familiarisation with Estonia's history, traditions and customs. We encourage and support close cooperation between Estonian national and cultural communities with the aim of promoting cultural diversity and mutual understanding. An environment has been created in Estonia where cultural diversity is recognised and deeply valued, which in turn contributes to the cohesive development of society.

GOAL 4

The Estonian community globally maintains close ties with Estonia and helps in the promotion of Estonian culture and language abroad, supports those fellow Estonians and Estonian citizens who are returning to Estonia and aids in their re-adaptation into Estonian society.

We offer Estonians abroad more opportunities to maintain contact with Estonia, thereby increasing the cohesion of Estonian society and the global Estonian community. We support the smooth adaptation of returnees into Estonian society by offering various services to help them and to expand their support network.

GOAL 5

New immigrants, including beneficiaries of international protection, successfully adapt to Estonian society, their awareness of adaptation support services increases, and they are provided with opportunities for further integration.

More and more new immigrants, including beneficiaries of international protection, are arriving in Estonia. For the sake of their future self-sufficiency, it is important to support their adaptation by increasing their knowledge of issues related to the functioning of the state and society, everyday life, work, study and family, and by encouraging them to acquire a knowledge of Estonian. In collaboration with our partners, we are upgrading adaptation services for new immigrants in line with changing migration trends. Successful adaptation is a prerequisite for further integration and active participation in society.

EESMÄRK 6

Integration activities are efficiently organised, they have a tangible impact, and the satisfaction of target groups with the quality of services is high. Society has recognized the role of the Integration Foundation as a centre of competence in the field.

The scope of our activities has expanded in recent years. We ensure that the organisation meets the expectations of target groups, partners and society by effectively and efficiently applying public sector funds to develop our area of competence. It is important for us to update the organisation's work processes, develop services, support the development of employees, expand the network of cooperation and enhance communication. We are guided by the need to ensure the sustainable use of resources and reduce the environmental footprint both in the organisation of work and in the provision of services.