



Securing Minority Participation in the drafting of the New Estonian Society Integration Guidelines

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Integration Policy

- Sweden, Estonia and Latvia have in recent years decided to abandon the separate government bodies on integration and merge the responsibilities with line ministries
- The objectives of integration policies are to be realised through initiatives and measures within several policy areas and by many different Government agencies.
- In Sweden there is a separate focus on recent arrived migrants and recognised minorities
- In Latvia and Estonia until recently integration policy was mainly oriented to those ethnic groups who have lived in the country for many years and have to a greater or lesser extent become a part of the local cultural and linguistic environment



Dialogue Platforms

- In Sweden there is not structural consulting mechanism for policy planning.
Minorities can be members of all consultative bodies (consultation is however regulated for recognised minorities)
Local governments have on their own initiatives included ethnic minorities on decision making.
- In Latvia and Estonia there is general regulation for consulting with interest and target groups in making decision that impact their life.
- In Estonia the most widespread type of consultation is structural consultative body



Dialogue Platforms in Estonia

- most prominent form – permanently functioning structural consultative body
 - voluntary work by members
 - active mostly in the field of culture and education
- ad hoc dialogue platforms - less developed
 - a number of conferences and seminars on topics such as Russian-language school, tolerance in society, diversity in media, etc



State-wide

- **Cultural Advisory Council of National Minorities**
under Ministry of Culture (since 1997)
- **Consultative Council of non-Estonian language Education**
under the Minister of Education and Research (since 2010)
- **Roundtable of Nationalities**
under the Estonian Co-operation Assembly (since 2010)
- **House of Representatives of National Minorities in Estonia**
organised by national minority ethnic organisations (since 2007)



Local and Regional

- **Roundtable of National Cultural Societies**
organised by Ida-Viru County Governor (since 1994)
- **Roundtable of National Minority Organisations**
organised by Pärnu City Government (since 2008)
- **Tallinn Home Peace Forum**
organised by Tallinn City Government (since 2007)
- **Co-ordination Council of National Minorities**
organised by Narva City Government



Integration Policy Framework in Estonia

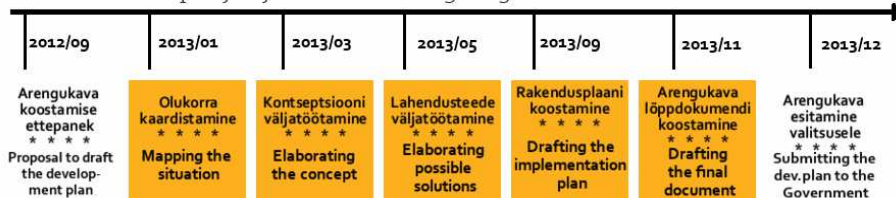
- Responsible institution - Ministry of Culture (from the June 2009);
- Ministry of Education and Research - in the area of education;
- Ministry of the Interior – citizenship, civil society
- Ministry of Social Affairs – equal treatment and non-discrimination
- Local municipalities – do not have legal obligation to carry out integration activities, but many do
 - Integration and Migration Foundation Our People
 - Foundation Innove



Strategy of Integration and Social Cohesion in Estonia 2020

- Estonian Integration Strategy 2008-2013 comes to and end this year
- In October 2012 the Government approved the proposal to draft the new Strategy

Koostamise etapid ja ajakava / Drafting stages and schedule



Participation and Inclusion

- Passive voting rights on local level for long-term residents
- According to the population register
 - 84% Estonian citizens (among other nationalities 53%),
 - 7% Russian Federation citizens (20%),
 - 2–3% citizenship of another country (7%)
 - 7% have undefined citizenship (20%).
- Main issue, outlined both by researchers and minorities, separate social networks (e.g. Civil society organisation divided by language) and low level of contact (although the trend is increasing)



Levels of Engagement

INCREASING LEVEL OF PUBLIC IMPACT 				
INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
Goal: To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives, opportunities and/or	Goal: To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	Goal: To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	Goal: To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	Goal: To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
Promise to the public: We will keep You informed.	Promise to the public: We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	Promise to the public: We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	Promise to the public: We will look to you for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	Promise to the Public: We will implement what you decide.
Example techniques to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact sheets • Web Sites • Open houses 	Example techniques to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comment • Focus Groups • Surveys • Public Meetings 	Example techniques to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops • Deliberate polling 	Example techniques to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen advisory committees • Consensus building • Participatory decisionmaking 	Example techniques to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen juries • Ballots • Delegated decisions



International Association of Public Participation

Participation in Drafting the New Strategy

- Involvement plan was devised
 - Consisting of both public and expert consultations
- Project based debates initiative supported by the European Integration Fund
- Everyone can submit proposals through the web portal www.integration.ee



Kaasamise protsess / The involvement process

- Avalik konsultatsioon / Public consultation
- Teematöörühmad / Thematic working groups
- Ekspertkogu / Expert committee
- Rakendusasutused / Implementing agencies
- Ministeeriumide kooskõlastused / Consultations with ministries

2012/09 Arengukava koostamise ettepanek /
Proposal to draft the development plan



2013/01 Olukorra kaardistamine /
Mapping the situation



2013/03 Kontseptsiooni väljatöötamine /
Elaborating the concept



2013/05 Lahendusteede väljatöötamine /
Elaborating possible solutions



2013/09 Rakendusplaani koostamine /
Drafting the implementation plan



2013/11 Lõppdokumendi koostamine /
Drafting the final document



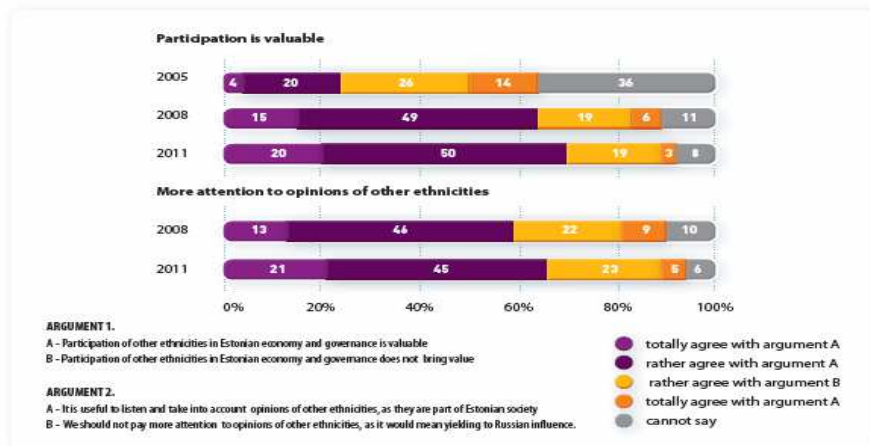


Protsessi juhtimine / Managing the drafting process



Integration Monitoring 2011

Figure 1. Responses of ethnic Estonians about engaging other ethnicities



Integration policy scenarios,

Integration Monitoring 2011

Strategic coordination of a targeted policy

I Conquering

*Minorities treated as
objects of policy*

IV Cooperation

*Minorities engaged as
subjects of policy*

II Formalism

Diffuse and ambiguous political goals, lack of strategic coordination

III Political competition



The Main Conclusions

- Dialogue and different mechanisms of inclusion are a sign and indication that the opinions of the minority has to be taken into account (even in situations when consultation with ethnic minorities is not juridically required).
- Dialogue allows for mapping the problems and enhances finding solutions by all relevant parties.
- The challenge lies in different understanding of the essence and goals of the dialogue and inclusion.
- In general the dialogue is more effective on local level
- Dialogue is more successful in areas, that are less politicised (e.g. in the Estonian case culture, as compared to highly politicised education).





THANK YOU!

**STRENGTHENING
INTEGRATION
DIALOGUE
PLATFORMS**

