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PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 25, PARAGRAPH 1
OF THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION FOR
THE PROTECTION OF NATIONAL MINORITIES**

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**ESTONIA'S SECOND REPORT
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF
NATIONAL MINORITIES**

JUNE 2004

Introduction

The Republic of Estonia signed the Council of Europe Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities on 2 February 1995 and it entered into force in respect of Estonia on 1 February 1998. On 22 December 1999 the Republic of Estonia submitted its first report on the implementation of the requirements of the Framework Convention. The Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities paid a visit to Estonia from 29 May until 1 June 2001. The delegation of the Advisory Committee met with the representatives of the Government and the Riigikogu, NGOs and other experts with the aim to obtain information about the implementation of the requirements of the Convention in Estonia. The opinion of the Advisory Committee with regard to Estonia was adopted on 14 September 2001. The Council of Europe Committee of Ministers passed the decision on the implementation of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Estonia on 13 June 2002.

The Estonian Government highly appreciates the dialogue with the Advisory Committee and efforts are also made to inform the public about the rights and duties enshrined in the Convention. The opinion of the Advisory Committee and the Government's comments have been translated into Estonian and are available on the homepage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs¹. Following the positive example of other countries, the Government published the Advisory Committee's opinion with comments before the adoption of the relevant decision by the Committee of Ministers.

The second report on the implementation of the Convention has also been published on the homepage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs both in Estonian and English. As the previous report was drafted mainly in English, it was available to the public only in English. In this respect, the recommendations of the Advisory Committee that the public should be able to read the report in Estonian were taken into account. In this regard, the whole practice of submitting reports has changed, as in the future all reports on the implementation of conventions submitted to different organisations will be published on the homepage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs both in Estonian and English.

The previous report and the relevant recommendations were introduced to the public at the seminar on "National minorities in Estonian society: equal treatment and integration", held in Tallinn on 26 September 2002. The seminar was organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Council of Europe Tallinn Information Office and the Council of Europe. The public was informed of the activities relating to the protection of national minorities and integration carried out by Estonian government agencies and various organisations and of the assessments and recommendations in respect of Estonia given in different Council of Europe reports. Attending the seminar was also Rainer Hofmann, the President of the Advisory Committee of the Convention. The seminar held in Estonia was the second of its kind. The first seminar had been held in Helsinki the same year. Today, organising of such seminars is widespread in the member states of the Convention.

¹ <http://web-static.vm.ee/static/failid/152/2001cm159.pdf>
http://web-static.vm.ee/static/failid/212/en_ministrite_komitee_arvamus.doc

According to Article 25 (2) of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and Rule 21 of Resolution (97) 10 of the Committee of Ministers, each Contracting Party shall transmit to the Secretary General on a periodical basis any further information on the implementation of the Framework Convention. Currently the second period of submitting reports is underway.

In drawing up its second report, the Estonian Government has taken into account the guidelines for writing reports adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 15 January 2003 and the questions addressed to Estonia by the Advisory Committee. To enable a better understanding of the report and the topics covered in it, the information requested by the Advisory Committee has been presented article by article, and, where possible, also the answers to some of the Advisory Committee's questions have been presented under the articles dealing with the relevant topic (questions 1 and 7). In addition, attention has been paid to the Committee of Ministers resolution of 13 June 2002 and the opinion adopted by the Advisory Committee on 14 September 2002.

The report was drawn up by the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with various other ministries, government agencies, NGOs and societies of national minorities. Criticism of the Advisory Committee to the effect that in the previous report much information was provided on legislation but insufficient information on the practical implementation of the Convention was also taken into account. The committee also criticised the Government that some national minorities in the report were dealt with superficially. As much as possible, an attempt was made to cover these topics in more detail in the new report.

An attempt was also made to involve, as much as possible, more non-governmental organisations in the drafting of the report in addition to government agencies. Societies uniting national minorities were asked to forward information about their activities and various problems they have, and they were also sent the questions of the Advisory Committee, with a translation into Estonian, for information and for possible comments. Meetings were held with the representatives of some national cultural societies where the representatives of the societies gave an overview of their activities and presented their views on the situation of national minorities in Estonia and outlined the factors that affect the functioning of their societies. In Appendix 5 to the Convention, there is a list of organisations that were contacted for information and comments.

The Government would hereby like to express gratitude to all societies uniting national minorities and to all other non-governmental organisations that were willing to cooperate and significantly contributed to the drafting of this Report.

Article 1

The protection of national minorities and of the rights and freedoms of persons belonging to those minorities forms an integral part of the international protection of human rights, and as such falls within the scope of international co-operation.

Estonia has cooperated with various international organisations for carrying out a review of its legislation and bringing it in compliance with international human rights norms. For example, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, Max van der Stoep, was consulted about the compliance of certain provisions of the Language Act with international norms. There was also close cooperation with the OSCE in preparing the amendments to the election laws, by which the language requirements for candidates were omitted from the law. An important role was played by international cooperation and foreign financing in the implementation of the State Integration Programme and in language learning. In these matters, Estonia has received significant assistance from the European Union as well as governments of various states. Assistance has been provided by the Governments of Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom, Canada, Norway and Denmark.

Since 1996 the European Commission has supported the Estonian language learning and the integration of persons belonging to national minorities in Estonia with approximately 156 million Estonian kroons. Assistance has also been received through several programmes.

PHARE language learning programmes

The main objective of the first European Union PHARE Estonian language training programme was supporting of Estonian language learning of non-Estonians. For activities carried out in the framework of the programme in 1999-2000, 22 million kroons were spent. For supporting the second Estonian language learning programme in 2001-2003, 49.1 million kroons were allocated. The objective of the second programme was supporting of social integration, by increasing the number of non-Estonians attending the Estonian language courses, as well as the number of citizenship applicants and people passing the Estonian language proficiency examination and raising the awareness of multicultural society in Estonia.

Currently, the European Union PHARE programme “Learning of the Estonian language and Estonian language tuition for non-Estonian speaking population” is underway. The programme is aimed at supporting the Estonian language learning of non-Estonian speaking population and the integration of the whole Estonian society. The European Union has allocated 51.6 million kroons for these purposes. The duration of the programme is 2003-2005 and it is implemented by the Ministry of Education and Research and the PHARE 2003 administrative unit under the Integration Foundation.

PHARE economic and social accession programme

In 2001-2002, several projects were developed in regions that have a significant proportion of minorities. Through the projects carried out in recent years, support has been given to the development of economy and the human resource in areas bordering the Russian Federation which have a considerable proportion of minorities: Ida-Virumaa county (36 million kroons) and South-Estonia (68 million kroons). In addition,

these projects have been used to support state programmes for the development of the human resource, vocational education and youth employment.

European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

Since 1994, considerable funding has been given to small projects for integrating human rights and people belonging to national minorities. In the framework of the 1999 EIDHR programme (the programme ended in 2003; total assistance was 1.7 million kroons), assistance was given to north-eastern Estonia, the Human Rights Information Centre and the Cross-Border Cooperation Centre. Money was also allocated for carrying out debates on the rights of minorities.

Future assistance

As of August 2004, a project with a budget of approximately 8 million kroons will be implemented (European Union support of approximately 4 million kroons in the framework of the Transition Facility Programme), which is aimed at supporting the integration of non-Estonians (informing of non-Estonians about the possibilities of naturalisation; their preparation for the citizenship examination and raising the awareness of the usefulness of citizenship). In the framework of the project, a training system for applicants for citizenship will be established. The training system will be co-financed by the Estonian government.

Possible future projects would be aimed at the assessment and review of the state integration programme and at supporting the integration of people with undetermined citizenship.

Article 3

1. Every person belonging to a national minority shall have the right freely to choose to be treated or not to be treated as such and no disadvantage shall result from this choice or from the exercise of the rights which are connected to that choice.

2. Persons belonging to national minorities may exercise the rights and enjoy the freedoms flowing from the principles enshrined in the present framework Convention individually as well as in community with others.

The Framework Convention does not contain the definition of “national minorities”. According to paragraph 12 of the explanatory report to the Convention, the decision was made in favour of the pragmatic approach, as it was found that in the present stage it would be impossible to reach a definition that would be supported by all Council of Europe member states. Therefore, the Convention does not provide a generally applicable definition but leaves it to the Contracting Parties to define the exact scope of application, and it is for the Advisory Committee to assess how the member states fulfil their contractual obligations.

In paragraph 18 of its opinion, the Advisory Committee has stated that Estonia should re-examine the definition reflected in the declaration and consider the application of the Convention also with regard to the remaining persons belonging to national minorities, in particular as concerns non-citizens.

When ratifying the Convention, Estonia made a declaration to specify who are domestically considered as belonging to a national minority. Other Contracting Parties have made similar declarations of interpretation in ratifying the Convention. For the above reasons, the Contracting Parties have certain freedom of interpretation as for who is domestically understood as persons belonging to national minorities, at the same time considering that the definition should be in compliance with international law and the principles established in Article 3.

With the declaration of interpretation the Government expressed its understanding of the factual and legal situation of minorities in Estonia. In making the declaration, the guiding principle was analogous wording contained in the National Minorities Cultural Autonomy Act. The adoption of the Act was inspired by a similar law from 1925, according to which several national minorities created their cultural self-government and which was one of the most progressive laws in Europe at that time. Regardless of the efforts of the authorities to encourage national minorities to re-establish or set up their cultural self-governments, the implementation of the new cultural autonomy act under changed historical and political circumstances has been problematic. Only in 2004 the first national minority group – the Ingrian Finns – established a cultural autonomy of a national minority.

Therefore, at present moment the declaration rather has a political-historical meaning. The Government is of the opinion that in the practical implementation of the provisions of the Convention there is no arbitrary and unjustified discrimination between citizens and non-citizens.

Today, the declaration to the Framework Convention should be seen in the context of the Constitution, general legislation and political developments, first and foremost as regards the state programme “Integration in Estonian Society 1997-2007”² that was approved by the Government on 14 March 2000. In this context, it is appropriate to point out that Article 9 of the Constitution stipulates that “The rights, freedoms and duties of each and every person, as set out in the Constitution, shall be equal for Estonian citizens and for citizens of foreign states and stateless persons in Estonia”. The Government would also like to refer to some other articles of the Constitution, first of all articles 12 (equality before the law), 37(4) (right to education), 44 (right to information), 45 (right to information channels), 50 (right of national minorities to establish self-governing agencies) and 51 (right of national minorities to use their language in local governments agencies). If Estonian laws or other legislation are in conflict with international treaties, the provisions of the international treaty shall apply in accordance with § 123 of the Constitution.

In accordance with Article 2 of the Convention, the provisions of the Convention shall be applied in good faith, in a spirit of understanding and tolerance and in conformity with the principles of good neighbourliness, friendly relations and co-operation between States. It is apparent from the integration programme that in drawing up the state’s integration policy and adopting the integration programme, the generally recognised international customs and the principles enshrined in the Estonian constitution as well as today’s national interests and interests of society and the goal to ensure rapid modernisation of society were taken into account.

In accordance with Article 3 of the Framework Convention, persons belonging to national minorities may exercise the rights and enjoy the freedoms enshrined in the Convention individually as well as in community with others. According to § 13 of the explanatory report to the Framework Convention, the principles of the Convention shall be implemented through national legislation and relevant government policy.

As it was said above, the Estonian authorities have made considerable efforts in recent years to implement the state’s integration policy in the spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue, by integrating minorities to society and at the same time creating possibilities for national minorities to maintain and develop their national culture. The integration programme covers all ethnic minorities living in Estonia and its principles are applicable with regard to everyone who consider themselves as belonging to a national minority, regardless of the size of the minority or other conditions, including the citizenship. The approval of the integration programme and its consistent implementation have made a significant contribution to the development of society through better understanding between different nationalities. If before the drawing up of the programme there could indeed be some criticism that persons belonging to national minorities may have felt excluded from society, now there are nationally approved measures to eliminate the effects of such a phenomenon.

In replying to the question about the necessity of the adoption of the integration programme, it can be said that as a result of extensive migration during the period of occupation a community of people using Russian as their first language had formed in Estonia and many members of the community lacked a sufficient outlet to Estonian

² In Estonian, English and Russian: <http://www.riik.ee/saks/ikomisjon>

society. Language was an attribute that to a large extent predetermined the possible place of work and residence of these people, as well as their education and social mobility. Sociological surveys carried out since the middle of the 1990s referred to the existence of the model “two societies within one” in Estonia, particularly worrying was the fact that many non-Estonian young people did not find sufficient application. Integration as a whole is aimed at the creation of a balanced and democratic multicultural society, but it is evident that it is a complicated and controversial process that requires several decades and long-term and systematic support from the Estonian state.

The state’s integration programme views Estonia as a society where in addition to common characteristics uniting the people there is also linguistic and cultural diversity. Integration in Estonian society means, on the one hand, establishing uniformity in society – creating and promoting something that unites all members of society – and, on the other hand, the possibility to preserve ethnic differences – offering possibilities for ethnic minorities to preserve their cultural and ethnic uniqueness. It is therefore essential that integration should be a two-sided process – both Estonians and non-Estonians equally take part in establishing the uniformity of society.

The Advisory Committee in its opinion has expressed concern about the limited scope of the Convention and has made a proposal to consider the application of the Framework Convention with regard to other minorities remaining outside the scope of the declaration, in particular non-citizens.

Approaching the Convention and the concept contained in it only from a theoretical point of view, without taking into consideration the implementation of the principles of the Convention in practical life, one could indeed reach a conclusion that the provisions of the Convention are not applicable with regard to persons remaining outside the scope of the declaration. However, the Advisory Committee itself in its opinion has noted that, *de facto*, the Government takes a much wider approach to the protection of national minorities.

Although the declaration specifies the direct beneficiaries of the provisions of the Convention, it is also apparent that all provisions of the Framework Convention are applicable in practice without any substantive limitations and the norms of the Convention are equally available for all persons who consider themselves belonging to national minorities.

Accordingly, representatives of national minorities living in Estonia are participating increasingly actively in the work of non-profit associations, and non-profit associations actively apply for support for their projects. One of the objectives of the state’s programme is also to guarantee that non-Estonians would be able to participate equally with Estonians in the activities of the third sector. It is important to achieve a situation where the Estonian population will organise itself, apart from national and cultural characteristics, also on the basis of common interests (education, social welfare, health care etc.). It is important to emphasise that the creation and operation of non-profit associations is not in any way limited to the concept of national minorities contained in the declaration, and non-profit associations are the main form of operation of the third sector. Only the community of Ingrian Finns has so far established a cultural autonomy of national minorities. In financing the projects of different non-profit associations and

national cultural societies, there are also no restrictions arising from the declaration, everyone has equal opportunities to participate in project tenders.

It has been emphasised in the integration programme that languages, religious beliefs, family and other traditions and personal lifestyles must not be the same for all members of society because they belong among the private interests of each individual where there are possibilities for their development. Focusing on the individual means that integration to society is the result of each individual's free choice, not a decision prescribed from "above". The individual's attitudes and views change first of all on his or her own initiative, the state's task is to create the conditions facilitating this. With the consistent implementation of integration policy the relevant conditions have been created for national minorities and it could once again be stressed that the possibility of minorities joining non-profit associations, the minorities' activities for the preservation and development of their language and culture are not in any way limited with regard to non-citizens.

Minorities living in Estonia are guaranteed the possibilities for the preservation of their language and cultural uniqueness, first of all as concerns the organisation of education in the mother tongue and the organisation of social life, as well as introducing the cultural uniqueness of the minorities in Estonian society. These are the possibilities that are not in any way restricted to people's citizenship. Therefore, the aim of integration in Estonia is the adaptation of cultures of different ethnic minorities in Estonia, *not* their assimilation into the Estonian culture. The difference between integration and linguistic and cultural assimilation lies in the fact that integration presumes two simultaneous processes: on the one hand, the possibility for the preservation of the language and cultural uniqueness of ethnic groups, and, on the other hand, the convergence of these groups around a strong common core of Estonian society.

Article 4

- 1. The Parties undertake to guarantee to persons belonging to national minorities the right of equality before the law and of equal protection of the law. In this respect, any discrimination based on belonging to a national minority shall be prohibited.**
- 2. The Parties undertake to adopt, where necessary, adequate measures in order to promote, in all areas of economic, social, political and cultural life, full and effective equality between persons belonging to a national minority and those belonging to the majority. In this respect, they shall take due account of the specific conditions of the persons belonging to national minorities.**
- 3. The measures adopted in accordance with paragraph 2 shall not be considered to be an act of discrimination.**

In Estonia's first report, an overview of the legislation relating to equality was presented, the previous report also contains the text of the relevant provisions of the Constitution. However, a number of changes have occurred in legislation as well as in practice. The following is an overview of such changes.

One of the most important developments in the area of equality is the adoption of the Gender Equality Act. The Act entered into force on 1 May 2004 and its aim is to guarantee the implementation of the constitutional principle of equal treatment and to promote the equality of women and men as one of the fundamental human rights and a general benefit in all fields of social life. The Act stipulates the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex in the private and public sector, defines the concept of equality, the concepts of direct and indirect discrimination on the basis of sex and the notion of sexual harassment.

On 6 June 2001, the Riigikogu passed the Penal Code. In Chapter 10 of the Code, Offences Against Political and Civil Rights, three offences against equality are established: incitement to social hatred, violation of equality and discrimination on the basis of genetic risks.

Activities which publicly incite to hatred or violence on the basis of nationality, race, colour, sex, language, origin, religion, political opinion, financial or social status are considered as incitement to social hatred. Such acts are punishable by a pecuniary punishment or up to 3 years' imprisonment. (§ 151)

Unlawful restriction of the rights of a person or granting of unlawful preferences to a person on the basis of his or her nationality, race, colour, sex, language, origin, religion, political opinion, financial or social status is considered as violation of equality. Such acts are punishable by a pecuniary punishment or up to one year of imprisonment. (§ 152)

Unlawful restriction of the rights of a person or granting of unlawful preferences to a person on the basis of his or her genetic risks is considered as discrimination on the basis of genetic risks. Such acts are punishable by a pecuniary punishment or up to one year of imprisonment. (§ 153)

On 1 July 2004 the amendments to the Penal Code will enter into force according to which punishments foreseen for crimes described in sections 151 and 152 will differ depending on whether or not the crime was committed under aggravating circumstances.

The Advisory Committee in its opinion was concerned about the possible impact of the immigration quota in the context of family reunion. As compared to the previous report, both the practice and legislation in this respect have changed.

Section 6(1) of the Aliens Act stipulates that the Government shall establish the annual immigration quota that may not exceed 0.05 per cent of the permanent population of Estonia annually. However, persons who have the right to settle in Estonia outside of the immigration quota or to whom the immigration quota does not apply are not included in calculating the fulfilment of the immigration quota.

The Supreme Court has, in reference to the principles of equality and the protection of family life declared unconstitutional such decisions of refusal to grant the residence permit, which were grounded solely with exceeding the immigration quota. In the light of these decisions, the Riigikogu passed amendments to the Aliens Act on 12 June 2002, by which the range of persons not included under the immigration quota was expanded. The immigration quota does not apply to the spouse of an Estonian citizen or of an alien who resides in Estonia on the basis of a residence permit, and to a minor child, adult child, parent, grandparent or ward of an Estonian citizen or of an alien who resides in Estonia on the basis of a residence permit. The amendment entered into effect on 1 October 2002.

In the light of the relevant legislative amendments which establish that the immigration quota does not apply to family members, it can be concluded that the amended Aliens Act should now be in line with the Advisory Committee's recommendations.

A new Labour Contracts Act is being prepared which should better regulate labour relations, as the old Act is from 1992 and is in many ways outdated. The Advisory Committee has recommended to develop and implement anti-discrimination legislation in the fields such as education and housing. The Advisory Committee emphasises that such legislation should protect individuals from discrimination by both public authorities and private entities.

As concerns the field of education, already § 37 of the Constitution stipulates that everyone has the right to education. Education is compulsory for school-age children to the extent specified by law, and shall be free of charge in state and local government general education schools. In order to make education accessible, the state and local governments shall maintain the requisite number of educational institutions. Thus, the general principle of equality is established on the level of the Constitution and, more specifically, the organisation of the provision of education is regulated with pertinent laws. Every school-aged child is guaranteed education free of charge at the child's place of residence. 17% of Estonian schools provide education in Russian. The provision of education in foreign languages is more specifically described under articles 12 and 14 of the Report. As in practice there has so far not been a need to pass a separate anti-discrimination law in the field of education, this question has not been discussed.

The Committee in its opinion was concerned about the high proportion of unemployed among national minorities. In addition to the information given below, labour market issues have also been discussed under article 15 of the Report. The rate of unemployment in the whole of Estonia is relatively high – around 10% of the working age population according to recent data (May 2004). Risk groups endangered by poverty in Estonia are the long-term unemployed and people who have been excluded from the labour market, have dropped out of school, children with special needs, people with disabilities, families with housing problems and homeless people. Three of these groups clearly stick out – unemployed, families with many children and single-parent families. The proportion of long-term unemployed has constantly grown. Unemployment is above average among young people, people with disabilities and non-Estonians. Economically less secured people have more health problems and a general tendency of health-damaging behaviour can be noted, first of all alcohol and drug dependency which in turn causes loss of ability to work and loss of employment, deterioration of living conditions and homelessness.

For systematic solving of social problems and promoting social inclusion, it is essential to integrate measures in different fields – employment, education, health care, social protection, housing, culture, information technology, etc. Important steps towards increasing social inclusion have been made in the form of a joint memorandum on social inclusion, drawn up in cooperation between Estonia and the European Union. Based on long-term goals agreed in the joint memorandum, a detailed national social inclusion action plan for 2004-2006 will be developed in 2004. The Ministry of Social Affairs has taken steps to ensure that in the provision of labour market services particular attention would be paid to regions where the rate of unemployment is higher. Non-Estonian population is concentrated in the Ida-Virumaa county and unemployment there is higher than Estonian average. High unemployment in north-eastern Estonia is due to the reorganisation of economy and the labour market in the transition period, as a result of which state-owned companies were closed or reorganised.

As the knowledge of Estonian is an important factor to be able to compete better at the labour market, several Estonian language courses have been carried out in north-eastern Estonia. Ida-Viru County Employment Office with the support from PHARE organised Estonian language courses for 680 unemployed persons in 2000. In 2001, intensive courses for 643 unemployed persons were organised. Possibilities of Estonian language learning and various programmes are described in more detail under other articles.

In 1999, with the help of the European Union PHARE Estonian language training programme, the application of the fee refund system “Interest” for language learners was started. In the framework of the system, up to 50% of the language learning costs were refunded to persons who successfully passed the Estonian language proficiency examination or the Estonian language examination for citizenship applicants. In 2002, refunds were made to 2472 language learners, in 2003 to 2064 persons and by mid-June of 2004 931 persons have received the refund. All together 9616 persons have received the refund in the framework of the programme. State’s support to the learning of Estonian increased from 1 January 2004. According to the version of the Citizenship Act that entered into effect on 1 January 2004, the state will compensate the second half of the sum spent on language studies to persons who successfully pass both the language examination as well as the examination of the knowledge of the Constitution

and the Citizenship Act. When the PHARE programme ends on 31 December 2005, the state will compensate 100% of the language learning costs to persons who successfully pass the examinations.

In winter 2002/2003 the advertising campaign for the “Interest” was carried out. A Russian-language website www.interest.edu.ee was created, 20 000 information folders were distributed and shelves with information materials were placed in the main information centres like language firms, examination centres, local government offices, non-profit associations, libraries, employment offices, Citizenship and Migration Board offices. People can also call a free information line which gives information in Russian about courses, study materials, state examinations, requirements of the Language Act, etc.

The Advisory Committee has noted under Article 4 that the lack of citizenship often has a detrimental impact on the enjoyment of full and effective equality.

In recent years, the Estonian state has paid great attention to reducing the number of people without citizenship. Various steps have been planned that help to create better conditions and motivation for applying for Estonian citizenship.

People who, for various reasons, have not yet applied for citizenship are explained more actively than before the possibilities and the need for applying for Estonian citizenship. To this end, different possibilities to distribute information have been used, whereas an important role in forwarding such information can also be played, for example, by associations of national minorities, cultural societies of national minorities and their umbrella organisations. For example the Minister for Population Affairs has concluded agreements with the umbrella organisations to the effect that they will assist in the distribution of information about possibilities of acquiring citizenship. Providing better information to people about the possibilities of acquiring citizenship has justified itself, because the number of people applying for citizenship has grown constantly, the growth was particularly noticeable at the beginning of 2004 and it can be presumed that Estonia’s accession to the European Union has played a positive role in it.

Since 1998, Citizen’s Day has been celebrated on 26 November. On that day in 1918 the Land Council passed a decree on “The citizenship of the Estonian democratic republic”, by which, for the first time, the notion of the Estonian citizen was established in the legal sense. The aim of the Citizen’s Day is to value the status of the citizen, to raise civic pride and recognise the decisions made by citizens in shaping the country’s development. The development of a democratic country depends on the citizens who know their rights and also exercise them. The Citizen’s Day is a national event which is largely dedicated to the dissemination of information. It is first of all oriented to all Estonian citizens and citizenship applicants, regardless of their ethnic nationality. Celebrating of the Citizen’s Day at schools and county centres has become popular. In order to raise people’s interest in the state as well as their knowledge about it, quizzes and debates are organised. The Citizen’s Day is also oriented to non-citizens, explaining them what it means to be a citizen, what rights and duties citizens have in relation to the state, and it is hoped that this will help to create a wish in non-citizens to acquire citizenship. At the same time, information about the conditions for receiving citizenship is distributed. For several years the Integration Foundation has supported Citizen’s Day events at schools. In 2003, a debating tournament organised by the

Estonian Debating Society and a series of quizzes organised by the Jõhvi Youth Centre were held in the framework of a similar tender, which covered almost all general education schools in Ida-Virumaa county. For years, the Foundation has also supported and organised the issuing of a topical poster for the Citizen's Day.

Before the Citizen's Day in 2003, the Integration Foundation and the foreign aid project "Multicultural Estonia" announced a tender "Citizen's Day related events for pupils of Russian and Estonian-language general education and vocational schools". All non-profit associations registered in Estonia and having an experience of organising events for pupils, as well as other legal persons and self-employed persons were invited to participate in the tender. Support could be sought for up to 100% of the total cost of the project.

Reducing the number of people without citizenship is not only in the interests of the state but also of the employers. Initiative in this respect has been shown by the largest company in the Ida-Virumaa county, Eesti Põlevkivi Ltd (Estonian Oil Shale Company). On 28 March 2003, the Citizenship and Migration Board, the National Examination and Qualification Centre, the Integration Foundation and Eesti Põlevkivi concluded an agreement for supporting the Estonian language learning and applying for Estonian citizenship among workers without citizenship.

According to the agreement, Eesti Põlevkivi will support the endeavours of its workers in applying for Estonian citizenship, by using its internal information channels to publish materials to introduce the notion of citizenship and the activities needed to apply for citizenship. The company also allows to use its premises for carrying out consultations and conducting examinations. The National Examination and Qualification Centre prepares relevant information, distributes study materials, sample tests and information leaflets concerning the examination for the knowledge of the law. The Centre also organises lectures and consultations on the knowledge of the Estonian Constitution and the Citizenship Act. The Citizenship and Migration Board in cooperation with Eesti Põlevkivi distributes information and materials explaining the procedure of applying for citizenship, helps the applicants in filling out applications and accepts filled applications in the company's premises. The Integration Foundation coordinates cooperation between the other three parties and supports the above activities financially from the funds of the foreign aid project "Multicultural Estonia".

In 2000-2001, the language examination for the citizenship applicants was merged with the basic level Estonian language proficiency examination and the basic school final examination for Estonian as the second language. Secondary school leavers can also pass the examination of the knowledge of the Estonian Constitution and the Citizenship Act as a national final examination in the civic studies.

The model of the citizenship examination has also been changed. On 14 January 2002, the Government passed Regulation No. 14 on "The procedure for the conducting of the examination of the Estonian constitution and the Citizenship Act for applicants for citizenship". The regulation established a new procedure for testing the knowledge of the Estonian Constitution and the Citizenship Act for the applicants for Estonian citizenship. With the implementation of the new examination model, the examination questions were changed and the percentage of correct answers needed to pass the examination was reduced. In selecting the questions, it was considered important that

the new questions would reflect the democratic character of the Estonian Constitution, be positive in nature, reflect the principles of the rule of law and freedom and equality, be important from the point of view of statehood, deal with the so-called typical situations and be necessary in the daily life of an Estonian citizen.

The Citizenship Act has been amended, as it was considered necessary to reduce bureaucracy and shorten processing deadlines in connection with citizenship applications. According to § 19 of the previous version of the Citizenship Act, a person who wished to acquire Estonian citizenship was required, one year after the date on which his or her application to receive Estonian citizenship was registered, to give written confirmation to the government agency authorised by the Government of the Republic that he or she still wished to acquire Estonian citizenship. After the introduction of the amendment, the one-year term for giving the written confirmation was reduced to half a year. The government agency authorised by the Government of the Republic shall submit the person's documents together with its substantiated proposal to the Government of the Republic within three months (instead of the earlier six months) for a decision to be taken on the grant of Estonian citizenship.

Since 1 July 1999, Estonian language proficiency examinations are organised by the National Examination and Qualification Centre (the basis for the organisation of examinations is the Minister of Education Regulation No. 41, 1 July 1999). In 1999, the state language department of the Examination Centre developed a standard test for basic, intermediate and advanced level examinations and a corresponding handbook for the tests. In developing the tests, experts from ALTE (Association of Language Testers in Europe) provided assistance. In May 2001, the test development team started its work (members of the team are lecturers from Tallinn Pedagogical University and Tartu University and researchers from the Estonian Language Institute). As a result of the development work, in autumn 2002 handbooks with cassettes and sample videos for speaking modules of the basic, intermediate and advanced level examinations were published. Since 2003, the evaluation of the examination modules has been changed (the share of speaking has increased while the share of reading was reduced, the types of test parts that caused validity problems have been replaced, the time for doing the test was extended).

In January 2003, the analysis of the Estonian language proficiency examinations for 2001/2002 was carried out. The analysis is available at the National Examination and Qualification Centre's homepage³.

During the period September 1999 – June 2004, 45 742 Estonian language proficiency certificates were issued (377 in 1999, 7319 in 2000, 9201 in 2001, 10 743 in 2002, 10 566 in 2003 and 7537 in 2004), of which 21 946 were issued to basic school and upper secondary school leavers.

Over 70% of examinees successfully pass the basic level Estonian language proficiency examination, which is also necessary for acquiring citizenship. In 2003, 6165 persons attended the basic level examination and 4747 (77%) passed the examination with a result of at least 60 points, among the examinees there were 1930 basic school pupils of whom 1777 (92.07%) successfully passed the examination. In 2003, 8458 persons

³ In Estonian: www.ekk.edu.ee/riigikeel/index/html

attended the intermediate level Estonian language proficiency examination, of whom 5026 (59.4%) passed the examination successfully. In 2003, 1268 persons attended the advanced level Estonian language proficiency examination, of whom 793 (63%) passed the examination successfully.

In spring 2004, steps were taken to simplify the acquisition of citizenship by school pupils. The Examination and Qualification Centre has set as its aim to try and reduce the number of pupils with undetermined citizenship by creating better conditions for pupils to pass the citizenship examination. Previously, the citizenship applicants had to go to a particular examination site to take the examination of the knowledge of the constitution and the citizenship. Now, the officials of the National Examination and Qualification Centre go to a school if there are at least ten pupils who are interested in applying for Estonian citizenship. Officials of the Centre go to schools both for consultations as well as examinations, and also provide pupils with all the materials needed for the examination.

First such examination took place on 27 March 2004 in schools of Tallinn, Narva, Kohtla-Järve, Sillamäe, Tartu and Võru. Total 314 pupils attended the examinations. The general pass rate of the examinations can be considered very good, as 91 per cent of the examinees, or 286 pupils, passed successfully. In future the institution dealing with pupils will be the Citizenship and Migration Board, which will organise information days at schools and help pupils with filling out documents for applying for citizenship. After the passing of the Estonian language final examination pupils without citizenship have fulfilled all the conditions necessary to apply for Estonian citizenship.

Since 2003, students can take the examination of the knowledge of the laws, which is necessary for applying for citizenship, as addendum to the national civics examination. Nevertheless, taking the examination of the knowledge of the constitution and the citizenship outside the national examination is more suitable for students, because, they have to keep in mind that if they do not pass the national examination they cannot finish the school that year, but if a student fails to pass a separate citizenship examination then he or she can try again even in the next month. Since September, the Examination Centre organises information days in larger cities, where it explains to school leaders and students the possibilities and necessity of acquiring Estonian citizenship. There are total about 160 000 people with undetermined citizenship in Estonia. The target group for the simplified examination offered by the Examination Centre are pupils in grades 8-12 at schools, among whom there are currently slightly more than 12 000 young people with undetermined citizenship.

As the interest of schools and pupils in the pilot project was high and the results of examinations were excellent, this autumn most Estonian schools that have pupils without citizenship will be involved in the project. There are total 28 328 stateless children in Estonian schools, of them 8604 attend Estonian-language schools and 19 724 Russian-medium schools. The project will be carried out by the Examination and Qualification Centre. Printing of materials necessary for preparing for the examination is supported through the Integration Foundation's foreign assistance project "Multicultural Estonia", the project is financed by the governments of Finland, Norway, United Kingdom and Sweden.

As at 17 May 2004, there were 160 270 persons with undetermined citizenship having a valid residence permit in Estonia, and 88 575 Russian citizens with a valid residence permit. The number of stateless persons as compared to the 2000 population census data has decreased by 18 000 persons. As at 1 May 2004, 4080 under 15-year-old children of stateless persons who were born in Estonia had received citizenship by way of simplified naturalisation. When comparing the data of last years, it can be seen that the speed of naturalisation has increased – 3090 persons received citizenship in 2001, 4091 in 2002, 3706 in 2003, and 2128 during the first half of the year 2004.

The number of applications for citizenship increased significantly in spring 2004. During the first six months of 2003 2229 persons applied for citizenship, while during the first six months of 2004 the number of applicants was already 3648.

Article 5

1. The Parties undertake to promote the conditions necessary for persons belonging to national minorities to maintain and develop their culture, and to preserve the essential elements of their identity, namely their religion, language, traditions and cultural heritage.

2. Without prejudice to measures taken in pursuance of their general integration policy, the Parties shall refrain from policies or practices aimed at assimilation of persons belonging to national minorities against their will and shall protect these persons from any action aimed at such assimilation.

The preconditions and starting points for maintaining and developing the culture and identity of national minorities are established in the state programme “Integration in Estonian Society 1997-2007”⁴ that was approved by the Government on 14 March 2000.

The Government would like to note that the state integration programme contains a sub-programme “Education and culture of ethnic minorities”, which aims at creating and ensuring possibilities for minority groups for receiving education in their mother tongue and for maintaining their culture. The integration programme emphasises that the target groups of the programme are both long-standing national minorities and ethnic minorities that migrated to Estonia in the second half of the 20th century. The aim of the integration programme is not the assimilation of ethnic nationalities, but raising the awareness of multiculturalism in Estonia, creating possibilities for all people for maintaining and developing their mother tongue and culture.

In the fundamental principles of cultural policy approved by the Riigikogu in 1998 it is confirmed that the main aim of cultural policy is to ensure the preservation of traditions of Estonian national culture, supporting the cultural autonomy of national minorities and the viability of professional and folk culture in all fields. All members of society, regardless of their gender, nationality and residence, have equal rights to participate in cultural life.

The state integration programme mentions as separate missions the obligation to support the preservation of the language and culture of ethnic minorities through the activities of national cultural societies and Sunday schools; the obligation to facilitate cooperation between national cultural societies, including for finding private sector support and foreign financing for the societies, to organise and improve information distribution and the obligation to support the activities of basic schools operating in national languages.

As a result of the implementation of the integration programme, it is expected that a significant number of representatives of national minorities will be involved in the membership of national cultural societies and in their events and activities, that national cultural societies will have sufficient and constant financial support for their activities and that they will be sufficiently informed about the state’s policy with regard to different nationalities and they would be cooperating with the state. Sunday schools are

⁴ In Estonian: <http://www.riik.ee/saks/ikomisjon/programm.htm>

seen as an important medium through which members of ethnic minorities can obtain knowledge about their mother tongue and culture.

Successful implementation of the integration programme is essential for the maintaining and developing of the language and culture of minorities. The possibilities of minorities for cultivating education and culture in their national languages depend to a large extent on the general attitude of society towards the multiculturalism and the form of relationships between nationalities. Assessment of the activities carried out in the first years allows to claim that the attitude of the Estonian population towards multicultural society has become more positive. The sub-section "Education and culture of ethnic minorities" of the report on the implementation of the integration programme in 2001 and in 2002⁵ provide an overview of the changed attitudes in society.

The report of 2001 indicates that people's attitudes towards the integrative form of relations between nationalities have become more positive. Approximately half of Estonians support alongside the model of nation state also the model of multicultural Estonia, in the case of non-Estonians such an attitude is predominant. On the basis of the analysis of the results of integration monitoring, it can be claimed that Estonians are developing essential prerequisites for the adoption of the idea of a multicultural society; thus 84% of Estonians find that even very different nationalities can get along very well and cooperate with each other when living in the same country, and 70% find that different languages and cultures make the society more interesting. It is concluded in the report that in order for the positive developments to continue, however, more attention should be paid to the recognition of multiculturalism of Estonian society.

According to the report on the implementation of the integration programme, people's attitudes in Estonian-language schools towards the teaching of the Russian language, literature and culture and the culture and customs of other national minorities are generally positive. According to Integration Monitoring 2002, 87% of respondents agree that the Russian language should still be taught, 72% share the same opinion about Russian literature and culture. 53% of Estonians think that the teaching of culture and traditions of other national minorities living in Estonia is necessary. Among non-Estonians, 96% support the continuing of the teaching of the Russian language, in the case of Russian literature and culture the relevant percentage is 91 and in the case of teaching of the culture and traditions of other national minorities 70.

One of the preconditions for maintaining the culture of national minorities in Estonia is the absence of serious conflicts on the basis of ethnic nationality. If at the beginning of the 1990s most Estonians as well as non-Estonians considered the relations between different nationalities in Estonia to be poor, now the conflict perception has dropped to a very low level. According to Integration Monitoring 2002, only a few per cent of the population have personally experienced conflicts in recent years.

For future implementation of the integration programme the Government approved on 6 May 2004 the action plans of sub-programmes of the integration programme for 2004-2007. The action plans, inter alia, foresee the gradual increase of allocations to cultural societies of national minorities with the aim to create possibilities for stable base

⁵ The report of 2001 in Estonian: <http://www.meis.ee/files/failid/4tY12001.pdf>

The report of 2002 in Estonian: <http://www.rahvastikuminister.ee/et/home/programs/integration.html>

funding⁶ of umbrella organisations of national minorities from the state budget. Another aim is to create conditions for supporting cultural self-governments of national minorities (in the form of base funding) from the state budget as of 2005.

Table 1. Financing plans 2004-2007 (thousands of Estonian kroons)

Source of financing	2004	2005	2006	2007	Kokku
State budget	3885	5070	6160	6920	22035
<i>Incl. Integration Foundation</i>	<i>710</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>900</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>3010</i>
<i>Ministry of Education and Research</i>	<i>595</i>	<i>520</i>	<i>510</i>	<i>570</i>	<i>2195</i>
<i>State Chancellery</i>	<i>2500</i>	<i>3200</i>	<i>4100</i>	<i>5000</i>	<i>14800</i>
<i>Office of the President of the Republic</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>530</i>
<i>Ministry of Culture</i>		<i>500</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>1500</i>
Foreign aid	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	3885	5070	6160	6920	22035

Action plans of sub-programmes of the integration programme for 2004-2007.

Until 2004, the financing of cultural societies, associations, unions, artistic societies and collectives of national minorities took place mainly through the Ministry of Culture.

Overview of support allocated through
the Ministry of Culture in 2000-2003:

Year 2000: 1 439 300,00

Year 2001: 1 245 000,00

Year 2002: 1 590 000,00

Year 2003: 2 408 500,00

In the 2004 budget of the State Chancellery under the Office of the Minister for Population Affairs there is an appropriation for cultural societies of national minorities (2.5 million kroons). All cultural associations of national minorities that are entered in the register in accordance with the effective procedure could submit a request for support. In allocating support, preference was given to those applications that had been submitted through umbrella organisations of cultural associations of national minorities (i.e. organisations covering several cultural associations of national minorities). In the

⁶ Base funding covers such general expenses (i.e. rent, lighting and heating expenses, office expenses, etc.), which make it possible for an organisation to function and allow its members to engage in core activities of the organisation. Other expenses may be covered from projects' budgets.

application form separate information is required as to what proportion of the total sum applied for would be used for basic costs and what proportion for projects. Submitting of applications for budget allocations in 2004 was announced both in a Russian- and Estonian-language daily paper and on the homepage of the Minister for Population Affairs. In Appendix 1 to this Report, an overview of the support allocated to cultural associations of national minorities and their umbrella organisations in May 2004 is given. As an explanation to the Table of support contained in Appendix 1, the Government would like to note that currently there are about 150 cultural societies and art collectives of national minorities operating in Estonia, and most of them are united under unions and associations of cultural societies of national minorities, or the so-called umbrella organisations; there are altogether 14 such umbrella organisations. The biggest of them are the International Union of National Cultural Associations “Lüüra”, Slavic Union of Education and Charitable Societies in Estonia, Ida-Virumaa Integration Centre, Association of Estonian Peoples, Congress of Ukrainians in Estonia and the Estonian Association of Turkish and Caucasian Peoples.

The year 2004 can be viewed as a transition year in two aspects: first, in making allocations the transition to giving preference to umbrella organisations (which in turn would distribute the allocated funds to their membership organisations) and, second, the requirement of separate indication of basic costs in applications and in making appropriations.

In allocating money through umbrella organisations it is also important to note the aspect, mentioned by the Advisory Committee, concerning the involvement of national minorities themselves in the decision-making process. Umbrella organisations help the support committee to make more objective decisions, by making preliminary assessment of the support applications of their member organisations, and through umbrella organisations problems of their member organisations also better reach the local and national government bodies. They have a better overview of the activities and needs of their member organisations, and therefore the applications submitted by them were given preference in deciding the allocation of support. At the same time, the Government considers it necessary to note that support has also been allocated to cultural societies and collectives of very small minorities.

The lack of base funding of societies and collectives and the importance of the application of such a funding scheme has been noted by almost all cultural societies of national minorities that submitted their views to the Government in the process of drawing up this Report. The funding system launched this year tries to take into account the views presented by the national minorities.

Financing of action plans of integration programmes only does not foresee base funding of cultural societies of national minorities through the Office of the Minister for Population Affairs, as this only forms part of the plans for the implementation of the sub-programme “Education and culture of ethnic minorities”. Appropriations from the budget are foreseen for the Ministry of Education and Research through which the training of mother tongue teachers for Sunday schools of cultural societies of national minorities as well as mother tongue and cultural traditions study projects will be financed. Through the Ministry of Culture it is planned to support the self-governments of cultural autonomies. For the Integration Foundation appropriations from state budget are foreseen for supporting projects of national cultural societies and art collectives.

Such a financing scheme has functioned also in earlier years, and so the Integration Foundation has distributed up to 700 thousand kroons every year for financing of different projects of national cultural societies and art collectives (publishing, organising of exhibitions and concerts, celebrating of national holidays, training of children and adults, etc). Some of this money has been distributed in the framework of a special tender for national cultural societies, and part of it in the framework of the so-called public tender where a much wider range of non-profit associations are entitled to participate. An overview of the support allocated and grants awarded through the Integration Foundation in the framework of the tender for national cultural societies in 2000-2003 has been given in Appendix 2. The activities of national cultural societies and collectives are also supported by local governments.

Additional information on the implementation of the integration programme and its action plans can be found in the integration yearbooks which have been added to the Report and which are available both in Estonian and English on the homepage of the Integration Foundation⁷.

There are plans to almost double the support paid from the state budget to the President's Roundtable of National Minorities as of 2005. The activities of the President's Roundtable of National Minorities are supported first of all because through the Roundtable the representatives of national minorities can most directly participate in developing recommendations for solving issues connected with the state and society. The forming of the Chamber of representatives of national minorities under the President's Roundtable in 2002 should help the individual national minorities in making their views better heard. The reform of the Roundtable has been described in more detail under the reply to Advisory Committee's second question.

The Advisory Committee has found that the National Minorities Cultural Autonomy Act has had no significant effect in the present-day situation in Estonia.

Shortcomings in the National Minorities Cultural Autonomy Act have been pointed out by experts and representatives of national minorities in Estonia, including the Association of Estonian Peoples and the President's Roundtable of National Minorities. Also the Estonian Ingrian-Finnish Union that unites Ingrian-Finnish societies operating in Estonia and has a membership of approximately 3500 people has paid attention to the need to amend the law. At the same time, Ingrian Finns are the first and the only national minority that has begun to implement the law, and the establishment of the cultural autonomy of Ingrian Finns has reached the final stage. The Ministry of Culture has expressed the opinion that the example of the cultural autonomy of Ingrian Finns will give the best picture of the shortcomings of the law and, on this basis, proposals for amending the law will be made.

On the basis of the "Rules for the election of the cultural council of a national minority", adopted by the Government in May 2003, the elections of the Ingrian-Finnish cultural council were held on 14-16 May 2004; 58.55% of the persons eligible to vote (i.e. persons at least 18 years old and entered in the list of voters on the basis of

⁷ http://www.meis.ee/files/failid/q4NRaastaraamat_yearbook_2001.pdf
http://www.meis.ee/files/failid/117Wmeis_aastsaraamat_02.pdf

the list of people belonging to the national minority) participated in the elections. The central committee of the elections confirmed the results on 1 June 2004.

For supporting cultural autonomies of national minorities, 200 thousand kroons are planned in the state budget for 2005.

Article 6

1. The Parties shall encourage a spirit of tolerance and intercultural dialogue and take effective measures to promote mutual respect and understanding and co-operation among all persons living on their territory, irrespective of those persons' ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, in particular in the fields of education, culture and the media.

The aim of Estonia's integration policy is to create a society characterised by mutual respect among different ethnic groups and equal opportunities for participation in societal life. With the financing from the Integration Foundation, Estonian social scientists have assessed the results of the integration process and the changing of people's attitudes in two-year intervals. The monitoring studies were completed in 2000 and 2002. Although quite a short period has passed from the time when the fundamental principles of the integration policy were developed and the monitoring has been carried out only twice, various tendencies can still be noted that should be taken into account in planning future activities.

Although, on the whole, the progressing of the integration process can be assessed positively on the basis of the monitoring results – mutual tolerance among different ethnic groups has clearly grown, the proportion of people with the knowledge of Estonian has increased, etc. – we are, however, dealing with a very complicated social phenomenon which does not advance without problems, and constant work needs to be done to direct and support it. Social scientists have noted⁸ that the applied side of the integration program in the years 2000-2003 has focused primarily on the cultural-linguistic aspect of the integration, while other aspects have receded relatively in the background. This approach was justified, in a given period of time. In order to secure the success of political and socio-economic integration, the proficiency in Estonian language and the embedding of people in the Estonian society was of paramount importance. By now some success has been achieved by creating motivation for language learning and by acquiring language skills. Alongside more attention should be paid to objectives of political and socio-economic integration and a more open and tolerant attitude towards multiculturalism in society needs to be strengthened. Integration projects should develop the understanding of ethnic differences as a positive phenomenon that enriches the society.

Under the state programme “Integration in Estonian society 2000-2007”, the tasks of the sub-programme “Social competence” are the promotion of tolerance and intercultural dialogue in society, more specifically building the awareness of the potential of non-Estonians and involving them in the decision-making process and in development programmes, and creating awareness of multiculturalism and introducing the culture of national minorities.

To illustrate the above principles, the Government would next like to give an overview of the steps taken in this field in 2002.

One of the missions of the integration programme is to diversify the coverage of integration topics in the Estonian and Russian-language media, to create and expand the

⁸ R. Vetik. The Need to Develop the Integration Model of Estonia. Proceedings of Conference “Multicultural Estonia” Tallinn, 2002

common core of the Estonian and the Russian-language media system, to increase the interactivity of Russian-language media and improve the availability and quality of institutional-utilitarian information in the media. To fulfil this goal, money was allocated for training of journalists, preparing of Estonian, Russian and bilingual seasonal television programmes and supporting of Russian radio programmes on social and integration topics.

Support was given to two media-oriented projects and a seminar for Estonian journalists “Standards of press ethics in Estonian and Russian media”. In the framework of the latter, a publication “The resolution of journalistic conflicts” was issued in Estonian and Russian. In the framework of a tender for Russian and bilingual television programmes, five television series were supported: “Unetus”, “Parim rahvaintegraator”, “Loomakliinik”, “Kevad Narvas” and “Uudistaja”. In the framework of a tender for radio programmes, support was given to series of programmes created in cooperation between Estonian and Russian-language radio channels that were broadcast in the season 2002/2003: Radio Ruut/Radio Kuma bilingual “Serial” and Radio Kuku/Radio 100 FM bilingual “Päevavargad/Zevaki”. Radio 4 series of children’s programmes in the Ukrainian language and a series in Byelorussian were also supported.

The second mission of the integration programme is to increase the number of media and information sector professionals among non-Estonian youth, to raise a generation of people with a habit of regular media consumption and an ability to orientate in information society. To fulfil this goal, an analysis of the necessary further training areas for media teachers at schools was carried out, and a open project tender was launched for the acquisition relevant materials. The further training curriculum and teaching materials for media education for teachers at Russian-medium basic and upper secondary schools were drawn up.

The third mission is to strengthen communication between Estonians and non-Estonians, to establish and develop intercultural dialogue. To accomplish this, a tender for developing television programmes and video material for language studying was organised. As a result of the tender, in 2003 a series of language learning programmes for adult independent intermediate level learners was produced. In addition, a compilation of language learning video materials with accompanying methodological materials were produced. In the framework of publishing bilingual publications, the issuing of the periodical publication “Ruupor” that introduces third sector activities, and the publishing of the bilingual “Laagrileht” that offers an overview of camp and family study projects were supported.”

In the framework of the state integration programme’s sub-programme “Education”, every year different extracurricular language study models are supported. One of the most popular among them is the application of the Estonian language camp and family study model. On the one hand, it is an effective language study possibility for children, but it is not less important that such a system offers children from different nationalities possibilities to build contacts with each other and get acquainted with each other’s customs and culture. In 2002, altogether 60 camp and family study projects were supported which were attended by 2900 children.

In the framework of the sub-programme “Education and culture of ethnic minorities”, projects introducing multiculturalism and projects of national cultural societies were supported, e.g. in the framework of the “Estica” tender the photo project “Culture of Old Believers at Lake Peipsi”, in the framework of the open tender the project international Estonian, Russian and Izhor folklore in border districts, in the framework of the tender of national cultural societies the national cultural festival “Belaruskaje padvorje” of Belarusians in Estonia, days of Polish culture, international Ukrainian cultural festival “Trembita”, literature evening with Estonian and Bashkir writers in Tallinn, days of Ossetian language and culture in Estonia, and many others. A complete overview of the projects that were supported is available on the homepage of the Integration Foundation⁹.

In the action plans of the state programme “Integration in Estonian society 2000-2007”, for the years 2004-2007, one of the aims is that 2000 pupils and 200 teachers from Estonian and Russian-medium schools will be attending tolerance training. A separate mission is to develop multicultural schools and linguistic and cultural cooperation between schools in order to improve the language skills of pupils and develop tolerance towards other cultures. Two activities are planned in this regard: organising of pupils events and developing of materials to promote tolerance and multiculturalism and further training of teachers (incl. leaders of extracurricular activities) on the topic of *taking into account the uniqueness of different nationalities at school*.

2. The Parties undertake to take appropriate measures to protect persons who may be subject to threats or acts of discrimination, hostility or violence as a result of their ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity.

In Estonia, very few criminal offences have been committed on ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious motives. The relevant government agencies are involved in the prevention activities and monitoring of the situation.

Section 151 of the Penal Code that entered into effect on 1 September 2002 stipulates the elements of the offence of inciting to social hatred. Activities which publicly incite to hatred or violence on the basis of nationality, race, colour, sex, language, origin, religion, political opinion, financial or social status are punishable by a pecuniary punishment or up to 3 years' imprisonment.

The preliminary investigation of offences with the characteristics of inciting to social hatred was until 1 July 2004 in the sole competence of the Security Police Board (since this date the Security Police Board investigates those crimes if the aggravating circumstances occur), and one of the Security Police tasks is also the protection of constitutional order. These tasks also determine the Security Police's obligation to deal with the detection and prevention of illegal activities of extremist-minded movements, groupings or persons (incl. those inciting to ethnic or racial hatred). In 2003, the Security Police brought charges against 4 persons in connection with 2 criminal cases under the section of incitement to social hatred. In one of the cases, the court has convicted three persons. In the second case, the judicial proceedings have not yet started. The offences for which persons were convicted were related to incitement to violence.

⁹ http://meisok.cma.ee/index.php?lang=eng&main_id=108,113

Some of the phenomena in the media and the activities of private persons or organisations, which may contain elements of incitement to ethnic, racial or religious hatred, have also been pointed out by non-governmental organisations, representatives of national minorities and ordinary citizens. If a notice of a criminal offence is forwarded to the Security Police and if the result of an independent expert assessment proves the existence of incitement to ethnic or racial hatred, the Security Police will initiate preliminary investigation procedures. However, there are also cases where a person's application notifying about the existence of an offence proves to be ungrounded, as the results of an independent expert assessment do not confirm the claims of incitement to hatred. Notifying the law enforcement authorities about the manifestations of incitement to ethnic, racial or religious hatred is a sign of people's awareness of the essence and punishability of such offences, as well as confidence towards law enforcement authorities.

The Security Police Board informs the public through its annual reports about the matters like characteristics of incitement to social hatred and the activities of extremist movements. Informing of young people about these issues takes place first of all through curricula of general education schools.

Prevention activities involve the explanation work carried out by the Security Police among persons with regard to whose activities an inclination towards incitement to social hatred has already been noticed. As these are mainly young people (pupils at schools), they often do not recognise the negative consequences of their activities both for society as a whole as well as for themselves personally.

Officials of the Security Police have regularly attended various international training events, seminars and conferences. For example, in recent years the US Department of Justice and the FBI have organised various training courses on investigating computer crime and incitement of racial hatred. In 2000, four police officials attended a training course organised by AEPC (Association of European Police Colleges) on controlling extremist phenomena in society. Police officials have also participated in various human rights training events organised by the Council of Europe and other foreign partners.

Article 7

The Parties shall ensure respect for the right of every person belonging to a national minority to freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of association, freedom of expression, and freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

The overview of legislation relating to the area of regulation of Article 7 was given in the first report submitted by Estonia, and there have been no considerable changes in the meanwhile. As the issues relating to this article overlap with other articles to a certain extent, the issue of the freedom of religion is dealt with more closely under Article 8, issues of the freedom of religion in penal institutions are covered under the Advisory Committee's question No. 6. Freedom of expression, thought and conscience is dealt with in more detail under Article 10 and 11.

The Advisory Committee in its opinion has not made many remarks in connection with this article, although the Committee saw some problems in connection with the use of the state language on private signs. This concern has also been addressed under Articles 10 and 11.

It is clear that the intervention in the rights guaranteed by Article 7 should be minimum, but in certain cases the intervention is necessary, and also relevant articles in the European Convention on Human Rights allow state's intervention in the above rights under certain conditions. Below, a brief description of two Supreme Court decisions relating to the topic of this Article is given, in order to demonstrate the practical implementation of these rights and the fact that freedom of expression is subject to certain legal restrictions and that in the exercise of the freedom of expression rights of other persons may not be infringed and there may be no incitement of hatred between ethnic groups.

The Supreme Court with its decision of 14 December 2000 upheld the lower court decision convicting Andrei Bairash under § 72(1) of the Criminal Code and imposing a fine of 100 daily units, i.e. 4100 kroons. Bairash was convicted for incitement of ethnic hatred, as he distributed a media publication issued in Russia which explicitly incited to hatred towards the Jewish nationality.

The Supreme Court with its decision of 29 May 2000 repealed the decisions of lower level courts on the conviction of Juri Mishin and others under § 76(1) of the Criminal Code for organising an illegal public meeting. Defendants had been imposed a fine by the lower level courts. The defendants were accused of having organised five different illegal meetings, as they did not have the permission of the local government agency to hold the public meetings.

The Criminal Law Chamber of the Supreme Court was of the opinion that in this case the Public Assemblies Act had been infringed both by the city government officials as well as by the defendants. The first and more important infringement took place by the city government officials who delayed with replying to request for a permission to hold a meeting. The court found that the meetings that were held had been peaceful, they did not fall under the types of meetings prohibited by law and they also did not take place at a location prohibited by law. The illegality of the meetings merely arose from the fact that they were not registered. The court was of the opinion that although, formally,

there were elements of a criminal offence present in the action of the defendants, the applying of criminal repression in respect of them would be disproportional and unnecessary in a democratic society.

Article 8

The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to manifest his or her religion or belief and to establish religious institutions, organisations and associations.

The principles of the freedom of religion in Estonia are guaranteed by the Constitution, as well as the Churches and Congregations Act and other legislation. (see also the section *Legislation* under Article 8 of the previous Report of Estonia.)

On 1 July 2002, the new Churches and Congregations Act entered into force that was drafted with the aim to improve and elaborate the legal bases of the regulation of the activities of churches, congregations, associations of congregations, monasteries and religious associations. The most important substantive change as compared to the 1993 law, is the introduction of the principle according to which the Estonian register of churches is maintained at the courts, similarly to other registers. In drafting the law, the articles of the Constitution establishing the freedom of religion were taken into account, as well as the Non-Profit Associations Act and the Child Welfare Act. The functioning of the previous version of the Churches and Congregations Act in practice was also taken into account.

No fundamental changes were made in respect of religious freedom of private individuals. Unlike in the case of the 1993 law, according to which children under 12 years old could only belong to the congregation of their parents, the 2002 law, with the aim to better ensure the freedom of religion of children, provides that under 15-year-old children may also belong to another congregation with the permission of a parent or guardian.

In the course of implementation of the new law, a problem has appeared in practice. The problem was raised by the non-Christian organisation Maavalla Koda that unites people of indigenous faith who believe in nature and the earth. In their complaint to the Legal Chancellor, this religious association claimed that the new Churches and Congregations Act discriminates people of their faith because according to the provisions of the law the name of a religious association or church to be entered in the register must contain the word “church”, “congregation”, “association of congregations” or “monastery”, which according to them are terms relating to Christianity. In December 2003, a meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Justice was held to solve this issue.

On 28 June 2004, the Riigikogu adopted amendments to the Churches and Congregations Act, according to which religious associations will have the right to use other terms in their name in accordance with their historical traditions. With the amendments the deadline for the re-registration of religious organisations was also extended from 1 July 2004 to 1 January 2005. The re-registration deadline was extended at the request of the Estonian Council of Churches, as in practice the re-registration process has proved more complicated and time-consuming than was expected.

The Advisory Committee in its opinion criticised Estonia for the fact the Minister of Internal Affairs had failed to register the Estonian Orthodox Church under the Moscow Patriarch and recommended that all parties concerned should increase their efforts to

solve the issue expeditiously and in a manner that the rights of persons belonging to national minorities to establish religious institutions and organisations would not be infringed.

In recent years, negotiations on this issue have brought along considerable developments. On 17 April 2002, the Ministry of Internal Affairs registered the Estonian Orthodox Church under the Moscow Patriarch and the statutes of its three congregations on the basis of the Churches and Congregations Act. By 1 July 2002 the Estonian Orthodox Church under the Moscow Patriarch and all of its thirty-one congregations were entered in the register of Estonian churches, congregations and associations of congregations. The registration of the church brought an end to the situation where the legal basis of a large religious community in Estonia was unregulated. The registration gives the church a legal capacity. The registration had so far been hindered mainly by legal disputes, which have now been solved.

On 1 October 2002, the Government approved the protocol of intentions between the Republic of Estonia and the Orthodox Church of Estonia, and the draft protocol of intentions for the organisation of property relations between the Republic of Estonia and the Estonian Orthodox Church under the Moscow Patriarch. On 4 October 2002, the above protocols were signed by the Minister of Internal Affairs and the orthodox churches. The Estonian state will give 18 churches and congregation buildings to the disposal of the Estonian Orthodox Church under the Moscow Patriarch for 50 years. The Estonian Orthodox Church under the Moscow Patriarch will thus receive the rights of disposal of all the buildings that it has requested. According to the protocol of intentions signed with the Orthodox Church of Estonia, the church gave to the state free of charge the churches and congregation buildings that were in the factual and purposeful use of the Moscow Orthodox Church. According to the protocol, the state will cover the costs of renovation of 28 churches and other sacral buildings of the Orthodox Church of Estonia in the amount of 35.5 million kroons.

On 24 November 2002, the Estonian Orthodox Church under the Moscow Patriarch also became a member of the Estonian Council of Churches.

The Estonian Council of Churches is an independent and voluntary association of Christian churches and congregations. The members of the Council of Churches include: Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church, Union of Evangelical Christian and Baptist Churches of Estonia, Estonian Methodist Church, Roman Catholic Church Estonian Apostolic Administration, Estonian Christian Pentecostal Church, Estonian Conference of Adventists Church, Estonian Congregation St. Gregory of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Orthodox Church of Estonia, Estonian Orthodox Church of Moscow Patriarchy, and, as an observer, the Charismatic Episcopal Church of Estonia.

The Estonian Council of Churches receives regular support from the state budget. In the budget of 2003, 3.9 million kroons had been allocated to it, and 5.1 million kroons in the budget for 2004. In 2003, the Government made an additional appropriation of 1.3 million kroons in connection with the additional costs relating to the joining of the Estonian Orthodox Church under the Moscow Patriarch. The Estonian Council of Churches uses the money received from the state budget for the maintenance of sacral buildings and the property of cultural value kept there, for the development of

educational work of churches, as well as for introducing ecumenical morals, ethics, education and culture.

In 2001, with the leadership of the Maavalla Koda, non-Christian religious associations established the Roundtable of Religious Associations. Members of the Roundtable, in addition to the Maavalla Koda, are the Estonian Congregation of the Buddhist Drikung Kagyu Ratna Shri Centre, Tibetan Buddhism Nyingma Estonian Congregation, Estonian Islamic Congregation, Krishna Consciousness Tallinn Congregation and Tallinn Baha Congregation. The aim of the Roundtable is to contribute to the development of religious tolerance and the promotion of religious freedom in Estonia. At present, the Roundtable of Religious Associations is not entered in the register as a legal person.

Tables with the information of the churches, congregations and their associations registered in Estonia, and separate information on the congregations of national minorities, has been presented under Article 8 of the first Report.

On 1 December 2001, amendments to the Family Act entered into force, according to which the Minister of Internal Affairs may grant the right to contract marriages to a minister of religion of a church, congregation or association of congregations who has received the appropriate training. The Minister of Internal Affairs in cooperation with the vital statistics offices and the Citizenship and Migration Board organised one training session for ministers of religion in 2001 and two training sessions in 2002. On 30 September 2003, the third training session on the topic of contraction of marriages was held. The training session was attended by 14 ministers of religion. Altogether 134 ministers of religion registered in the Ministry of Internal Affairs have received the right to contract marriages. Thanks to the additional duties voluntarily accepted by ministers, the contraction of secular and religious marriage is now combined and the procedure has become easier for prospective spouses.

The ministers of religion who have received appropriate training must undergo certification in the course of which their knowledge of the Family Act and the ability to fill out the documents for contracting marriages is checked. Since 1 December 2003 until 1 June 2004 the ministers contracted 1024 marriages: 12 marriages in December 2001, 465 in 2002, 470 in 2003 and 77 in the five months of 2004.

Article 9

- 1. The Parties undertake to recognise that the right to freedom of expression of every person belonging to a national minority includes freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas in the minority language, without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers. The Parties shall ensure, within the framework of their legal systems, that persons belonging to a national minority are not discriminated against in their access to the media.**
- 2. Paragraph 1 shall not prevent Parties from requiring the licensing, without discrimination and based on objective criteria, of sound radio and television broadcasting, or cinema enterprises.**
- 3. The Parties shall not hinder the creation and the use of printed media by persons belonging to national minorities. In the legal framework of sound radio and television broadcasting, they shall ensure, as far as possible, and taking into account the provisions of paragraph 1, that persons belonging to national minorities are granted the possibility of creating and using their own media.**
- 4. In the framework of their legal systems, the Parties shall adopt adequate measures in order to facilitate access to the media for persons belonging to national minorities and in order to promote tolerance and permit cultural pluralism.**

Freedom of expression in Estonia is guaranteed by Article 45 and the right to receive information by Article 44 of the Constitution. These and other relevant provisions are described in more detail in the first report submitted by Estonia (see subsections on constitutional provisions and legislation under Article 9).

The Broadcasting Act that is in force since 1994 establishes the principles of broadcasting (freedom of activity, political balance, protection of the sources of information, ensuring of morals and legality, protection of the rights of authorship, etc.) for all radio and television stations operating in Estonia.

The Broadcasting Act also regulates the procedure for the issuing of broadcasting licences. Broadcasting licences that grant the right to natural or legal persons under private law to broadcast programmes are issued by the Ministry of Culture. No more than two international broadcasting licences for television networks or two national broadcasting licences for television networks are issued for simultaneous periods of validity. There are no restrictions on the number of other broadcasting licences that are issued (including broadcasting licences for the cable network).

According to the Broadcasting Act, the Estonian Television (ETV) and the Estonian Radio are legal persons in public law who should accordingly fulfil certain obligations. One of the obligations specifically mentioned in the law is the obligation to satisfy the information needs of all population groups, including minorities.

The Broadcasting Act imposes the requirement of drawing up development plans for broadcasting organisations under public law. The development plan of the Estonian Radio and the Estonian Television for 2003-2005 was approved by the Riigikogu on 18 June 2002.

The above document establishes a clear framework for the activities of broadcasting organisations under public law, including the Estonian Television and the Estonian Radio; *inter alia*, the development plan elaborates issues relating to programmes oriented to minorities. It is noted in the development plan that, in a situation of constant under-financing, the Estonian Television and the Estonian Radio have not been able to perform their functions sufficiently. Thus, for example, they have been unable to cater to the need of society for certain types of programmes; in particular, the programmes oriented to children and minority groups as well as educational and cultural programmes have been insufficient. In order to eliminate these shortcomings, work is continued in accordance with the development plan to find out the needs of different societal groups and more attention is paid to numerically smaller minority groups, there are also plans to develop interactive genres using bilingual communication.

Television

The budget for direct costs of programmes in Russian on the public television channel Estonian Television (ETV) in 2002 was one million kroons and the amount of original (i.e. new) programming was 55 hours, of which approximately 40% was produced with the financing from different funds. According to the development plan for 2003-2005, 2.7 million kroons was envisaged yearly for the direct costs of own-made programmes in Russian, and the amount of programming was to be 96 hours. The approval of the development plan in the Riigikogu was, however, not accompanied by its full-scale financing. Instead of the planned 2.7 million kroons, the Estonian Television could only use 1.132 million kroons (direct costs) for producing programmes in Russian in 2003. From the programmes that had been planned, only the programme "Unetus" could be produced for this money. The production of other programmes continued thanks to cooperation with integration funds and independent producers, which made it possible to retain the level of original programming as it had been in 2002, i.e. approximately 57 hours a year. Of this, 63% was produced with the budgetary means of the Estonian Television. News in Russian are seen by the Estonian Television as part of the overall news programme service and therefore their production costs are covered from the funds allocated for the news department in general, and there was an increase in the news budget for 2003. In 2003, the duration of Russian-language news was also extended by 25 minutes a week.

The scope of the budget for 2004 is the same as for the previous year. In the following years, a new financing scheme for the Estonian Television can be expected, which should correspond to the conclusions of the study on the expedience of establishing the national broadcasting. The study was carried out by the KPMG audit company. This should bring about positive developments also with regard to programming in Russian.

In 2003, the Estonian Television broadcast 230 hours of programmes specifically oriented to non-Estonians (including news in Russian and repeated programmes), of which 197 were own-produced bilingual programmes and programmes in Russian and 23 hours were programmes in Estonian with Russian subtitles. In addition, there were 10 hours of mainly language-learning programmes oriented to non-Estonians which had been procured from independent producers in Estonia. The proportion of own-

produced programmes either in Russian, bilingual or with Russian subtitles was 7.1% of the total amount of own programming (3098 hours).

In 2003, 54 hours of informative programmes and feature films purchased from abroad (the Russian Federation) were broadcast.

In total, there were 284 hours of programmes in Russian, bilingual programmes or Estonian programmes with Russian subtitles on the Estonian Television in 2003, which made up 4.8% of the total programming (5863 hours).

The regularly produced own programme that is broadcast every day on the Estonian Television is the Russian-language news programme “Aktuaalne Kaamera”, with a weekly volume of 130 minutes. Since spring 2004, the Russian-language “Aktuaalne Kaamera” is again broadcast at 18.45 instead of 18.00, and this is definitely a more convenient time for viewers.

Since September 2001, the bilingual programme “Unetus” is broadcast every week (with a duration of 45 minutes, and in the same week it is also shown as a repetition). The programme involves experts who debate on important political and social issues and the audience in the studio are both speakers of Estonian and Russian.

In 2003, in addition to the above-mentioned programmes, the Estonian Television broadcast the following own-produced bilingual programme series: a topical interview “Teadmiseks”, television journal “Sputnik”, informative programme “Kolmas sektor”, life programmes “Saatused”, “See olen mina”, cultural programmes “Estica”, “Vestlused vene kultuuriloost” (St Petersburg series), special programmes for the 300th anniversary of St Petersburg (“Tallinn-Peterburi-Tallinn”, “Mitmepalgeline Peterburi”), information programme for children “Uudistaja”, informative recreation programme for youth “Multicon”, family programme “Elu loomaaias”.

Translated into Russian and broadcast with Russian subtitles were the programme in Estonian on topical issues “Avatud toimik”, journalistic programmes “Nõrgem pool”, “Labürint” and the programme “Liikluspeegel” providing advice about traffic issues.

Among the shorter successive programme series (6-12 series), many have been oriented to supporting the integration process: in autumn 2003, a series “See olen mina”, consisting of 8 programmes (à 30 minutes), was shown (about children who spent the summer on Estonian farms). In winter and spring 2004 it was followed by a series of 10 programmes “Keelekümblejad” (about children who study in a language immersion group). Both series were also supported by the Integration Foundation.

Since November 2003, the Estonian Television showed a 12-part (à 25 minutes) language study series “A ja O” for intermediate learners of Estonian. In the course of the programme, different places in Estonia, cultural history and modern culture were introduced.

In addition to the public Estonian Television channel, there are also two private national television channels in Estonia. One of them, Kanal 2, broadcasts regularly every Saturday a morning programme “Subboteja” in Russian, which is produced by an independent Estonian production firm “Filmimees”. Another channel, TV 3,

sometimes shows feature films and documentaries produced in the Russian Federation.

Through cable television, viewers can see the Pervyi Baltiiski Kanal (PBK) that operates in Latvia on the basis of a broadcasting licence issued there. In Estonia, the PBK operates for the third year and through cable networks it is accessible for approximately 70% of non-Estonian viewers in Estonia.

Two thirds of the PBK programme service is based on the programmes of Russia's most popular television channel Pervyi Kanal (former ORT). The remaining part of the programme service has been commissioned and purchased by the channel itself. The PBK programme service contains news and publicity programmes, TV games, recreation programmes, talk shows, culture, sport, films and series, concert broadcasts, children's programmes, documentary projects. The PBK programme was almost identical in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia until 2003. Since then also broadcasting of local programmes for each country was started. The first such programme in Estonia was the President's New Year's speech which was translated into Russian. Since March 2004, every evening at 19.30 there is a news programme "Novosti Estonii", which covers news in Estonia – politics, economy, culture, sport. The news programme lasts about 15 minutes and is broadcast right after the popular Russian news programme. The news clips for the programme are produced in Estonia in cooperation with the local Estonian video company "Maurum"; Tallinn city information service Raepress participates in the production of news stories about Tallinn.

In addition to the above, also a large number of television channels in Russian and Ukrainian can be seen in Estonia through satellite and cable television. At the beginning of 2004, 74 cable television licences had been issued in Estonia. The majority of the cable television companies do not produce their own programmes, but transmit the programmes of local as well as international television channels.

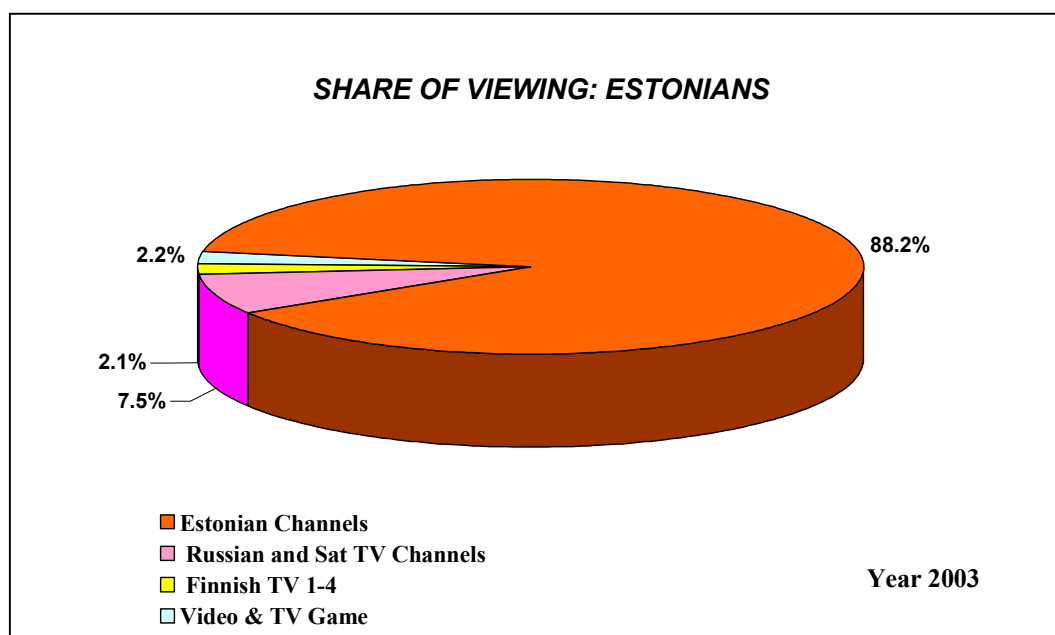
Viewing habits and popularity of programmes for national minorities on Estonian television channels¹⁰

In 2003, the average Estonian living in Estonia spent 26 hours and 7 minutes a week on watching television, and the average non-Estonian 27 hours and 28 minutes a week. Thus, non-Estonians in comparison with Estonians spend approximately 1.5 hours more time a week watching television. The distribution of viewing time among various channels, however, differs considerably.

Estonians spend 88.2% of the viewing time on three Estonian channels (TV3, Kanal 2 and ETV), 2.1% on Finnish channels, 2.2% on videos and TV games, and 7.5% on Russian and satellite channels.

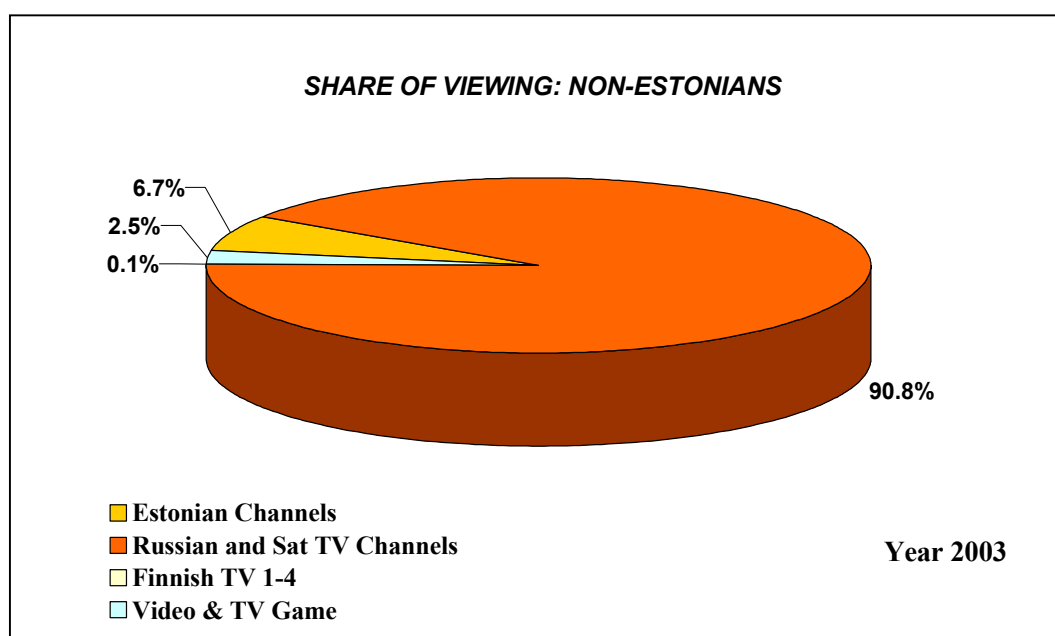
¹⁰ In this section the data from the 2003 Television Viewers survey conducted by TNS EMOR was used.

Graph 1



Non-Estonians, however, spent only 6.7% of the time viewing the three Estonian channels, and they preferred Russian and satellite channels available through cable networks and satellite receivers.

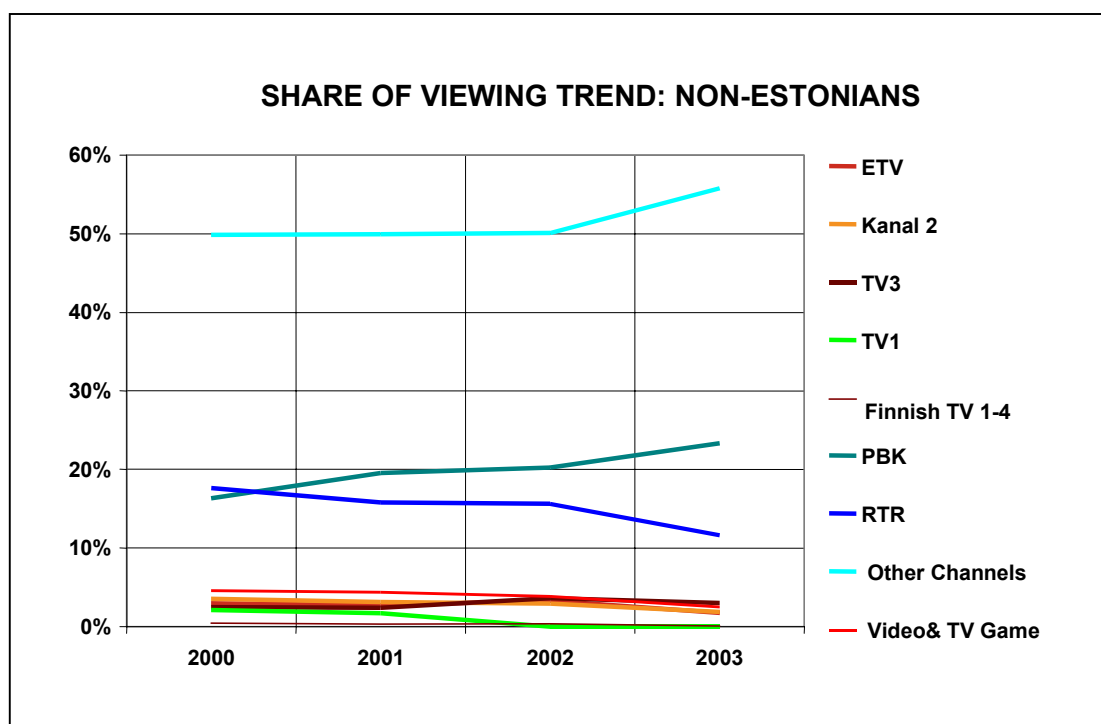
Graph 2



Among Estonians, the most frequently viewed channel in 2003 was TV3 (35%), followed by Kanal 2 (29%) and ETV (24%).

Among non-Estonians, the most popular was Pervyi Baltiiski Kanal (PBK) (23%). Although the public Estonian Television (ETV) has the largest number of programmes for non-Estonians, the most popular Estonian television channel also among non-Estonians was TV3 (1.7%), followed by ETV (1.1%) and Kanal 2 (0.8%). Non-Estonians spent more than half (55.8%) of the time viewing the remaining channels.

Graph 3
Viewing popularity of programmes



The rating and the viewing numbers (by nationality and home language) of the programmes specifically oriented to non-Estonian viewers of the ETV and Kanal 2 in the period September 2003 – January 2004 was as follows:

Table 2. Percentage of viewers of target group / Rating %

Programme	Channel	Estonians	Non-Estonians	Home language Estonian	Home language other
A JA O	ETV	4.0	0.5	4.0	0.5
AKTUAALNE KAAMERA (in Russian)	ETV	3.4	3.6	3.3	3.7
KEELEKÜMBLEJAD	ETV	8.3	1.2	8.4	0.9
MULTICON	ETV	1.2	0.4	1.2	0.3
SEE OLEN MINA	ETV	10.2	0.9	10.4	0.6
SUBBOTEJA	Kanal 2	2.0	0.6	2.1	0.5
TEINE KEEL	ETV	2.2	0.6	2.3	0.6
UNETUS	ETV	3.4	0.4	3.5	0.3
Average		3.3	1.9	3.3	1.9

Table 3. Number of viewers in thousands

Programme	Channel	Estonians	Non-Estonians	Home language Estonian	Home language other
A JA O	ETV	36	2	36	2
AKTUAALNE KAAMERA (in Russian)	ETV	30	15	29	16
KEELEKÜMBLEJAD	ETV	74	5	75	4
MULTICON	ETV	10	2	11	1
SEE OLEN MINA	ETV	91	4	92	3
SUBBOTEJA	Kanal 2	18	2	18	2
TEINE KEEL	ETV	20	3	20	3
UNETUS	ETV	31	1	31	1
Average		30	8	29	8

Thus, the viewing popularity of programmes oriented to non-Estonians was marginal in their target group and the majority of the viewers of these programmes were Estonians (ratio on average 80:20 in favour of Estonians).

TOP 10 programmes of Estonian television channels among non-Estonians (September 2003 – January 2004) were as follows:

Table 4. TOP 10 programmes on Estonian television channels among non-Estonians; period Sept 2003 – Jan 2004

Programme	Channel	Rating %	Viewers '000
ESTONIAN PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR'S SPEECH	ETV	4.5	19
FILM RUSSIAN KILLERS	Kanal 2	4.3	18
FILM CROCODILE DUNDEE IN LOS ANGELES	Kanal 2	4.1	17
FILM OLIGARH	TV3	3.7	16
AKTUAALNE KAAMERA (in Russian)	ETV	3.6	15
FILM HOME ALONE 3	TV3	3.4	14
BUNNY	TV3	3.3	14
SKIING CHAMPIONSHIP, KUUSAMO M15+15	ETV	3.2	13
FILM BABE	TV3	3.1	13
FILM POLICE ACADEMY	Kanal 2	3.0	13

Thus, in TOP 10 there is only one programme directly oriented to non-Estonians – the Russian-language news on the ETV. Predominant in TOP 10 are feature films, and even among those two originate from Russian film producers.

In comparison, the following are the programmes in TOP 10 of non-Estonians on the Russian-language channel PBK.

Table 5. TOP 10 programmes on Russian television channels among non-Estonians; period Sept 2003 – Jan 2004

Programme	Channel	Rating %	Viewers '000
ESTONIAN PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR'S SPEECH	PBK	32.6	137
RUSSIAN PRESIDENT PUTIN'S NEW YEAR'S SPEECH	PBK	31.1	131
FILM KAHE JÄNEST JAHTIDES	PBK	26.8	112
MITTE VIIMANE KANGELANE	PBK	25.9	109
FILM KALDALE UHUTUD	PBK	23.1	97
JURMALINA	PBK	21.0	88
KÕVERPEEGEL	PBK	20.8	87
JAOSKOND JA OSALISED	PBK	20.6	87
FILM ASTERIX AND OBELIX AGAINST CAESAR	PBK	20.0	84
UUED VENE MUTID	PBK	19.9	84

Besides the New Year's speeches of the Estonian and Russian presidents that followed each other close in time, the TOP 10 only contains feature films and recreation programmes.

As can be seen from the above tables, the viewing numbers of the programmes in the case of Estonian and Russian channels are not comparable among non-Estonians. The most popular programmes on the Russian channel are watched by approximately one third of non-Estonians. Thanks to a very wide distribution of cable and satellite television, Russian channels that broadcast high-budget high-quality programmes that are also suitable for people with non-Estonian cultural background are accessible in the whole of Estonia. The PBK that was described above provides the local non-Estonian viewers with its own Estonian news programme in addition to the news programme offered by the local public television channel. In the light of the above, it is very unlikely that in the near future someone will be interested in starting to produce a full-time local programme service in Russian for this clearly very small target group which is therefore not a profitable audience for television channels. It is important for the state to continue financing of the production of Russian and bilingual programmes on public television in order to satisfy the need for high-quality information among minorities.

Radio

Unlike television, local radio stations oriented to non-Estonians are fairly popular among the target group.

Radio 4, which is the most popular local Russian-language radio station in Estonia, broadcasts a round-the-clock programme service which can be heard all over Estonia. Radio 4 programme service contains news, analytical talk programmes, various competitions, games, quizzes, as well as musical, literary, popular scientific and

educational programmes, exclusive interviews with prominent politicians, film stars, musicians, theatre actors.

Although the programme service of Radio 4 is mainly in Russian, the number of programmes in the mother tongue of numerically smaller minorities has increased.

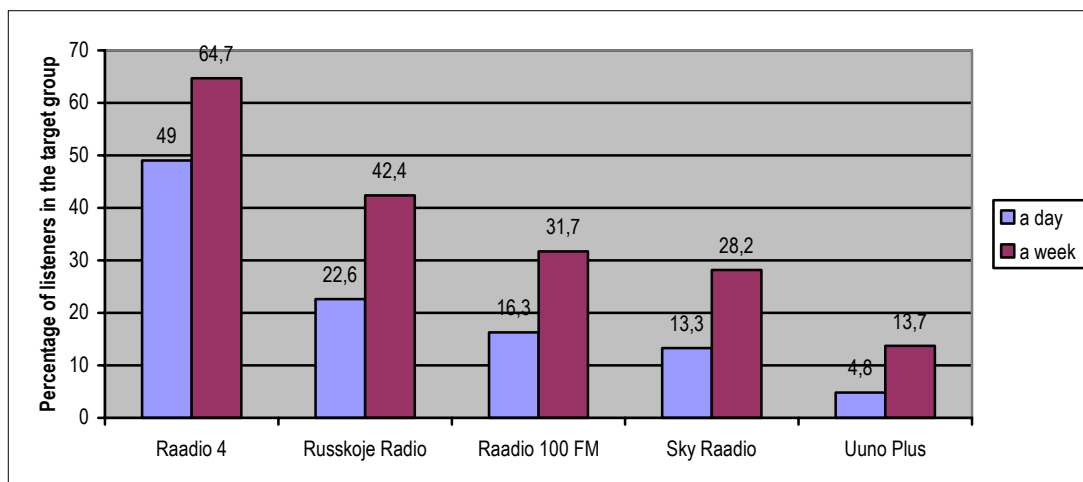
Twice a week there is a programme in Ukrainian (one hour for adults and another programme of 30 minutes for children). There is one hour of programmes a week in Byelorussian (on three first Sundays of the month), on the remaining Sunday(s) there is an Armenian-language programme (depending on the month, either once or twice a month). Once a month there is a Russian-language programme for the Jewish community, every Friday until March 2004 there was a programme in Yiddish that was financed in the framework of the PHARE project. Every Tuesday there is a programme in Russian with the representatives of cultural societies of national minorities.

With the aim of integrating different communities, Radio 4 broadcasts Estonian language lessons and they often play Estonian music. There is also a series of programmes about Estonian writers.

According to statistics, Radio 4 has 239 000 listeners a week, which makes it the most popular non-Estonian radio station in Estonia.

Graph 4

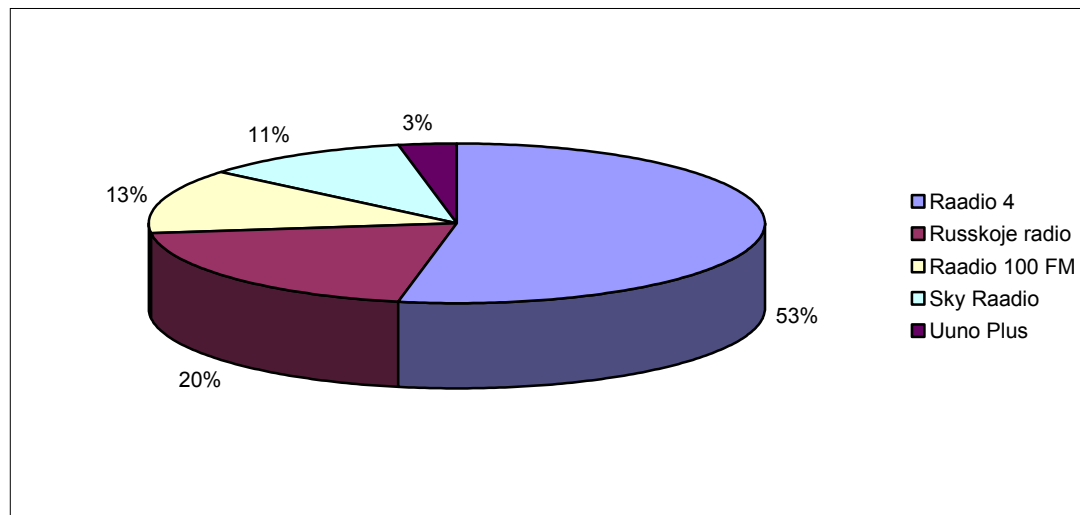
THE FIRST FIVE MOST POPULAR ESTONIAN RADIO PROGRAMMES AMONG NON-ESTONIANS AGED 25-74 (IV QUARTER 2003)



TNS Emor, radio diary survey, IV quarter 2003

Graph 5

THE PROPORTION OF THE FIRST FIVE MOST-LISTENED ESTONIAN RADIO PROGRAMMES IN THE DAYTIME LISTENING TIME AMONG THE TARGET GROUP (NON-ESTONIANS AGED 25-74, 268 000 PEOPLE) (IV QUARTER 2003)



TNS Emor, radio diary survey, IV quarter 2003

Printed media

Table 6. The number of newspapers and magazines published in Estonia in 1994-2003

	<i>Number of newspapers</i>	<i>incl. in Russian</i>	<i>Number of magazines</i>	<i>incl. in Russian</i>
1994	158	27	259	15
1995	146	29	297	25
1996	119	25	294	22
1997	102	25	304	18
1998	109	28	283	17
1999	105	30	255	12
2000	109	25	251	15
2001	109	27	279	17
2002	127	34	292	21
2003	128	34	294	26

Source: Nation Library of Estonia

In terms of language, Estonian publications make up about 80% of all periodicals. In 2003, the proportion of publications in different languages was as follows:

- in Estonian 79,5 % (2002 - 80,5%)
- in English 11,5 % (2002 - 11,5%)
- in Russian 7,9 % (2002 - 7,2%)
- In other languages 1,1 % (2002 - 0,8%)

The share of periodicals in Russian has decreased on the whole, although the number of titles has remained the same. In 1991, the share was 19%, today it has dropped to 7-8%. The number of publications in English has grown; other languages (German, Finnish, Swedish) are represented with occasional publications only.

Members of the Estonian Newspaper Association include nine Russian-language papers, including national daily papers with the biggest readership, such as “*Molodyozh Estonii*” (circulation 9600, published 5 times a week, estimated readership 67 000), “*Estonia*” (circulation 6100, published 5 times a week, estimated readership 41 000) and popular Russian weeklies, such as “*Den za dnyom*” (circulation 16 200, published once a week, estimated readership 75 000) and “*Vesti*” (circulation 16 600, published once a week, estimated readership 71 000).

The Russian-speaking population is quite well covered with newspapers; however, as regards magazines, there are no local family journals or children’s and youth publications that would be oriented to the wider readership. There have been attempts to establish such publications but, after publishing some issues, the publishers have always quit. There are such publications available in Russian, although originating outside Estonia.

On the project basis, the state budget supports every year the Russian-language cultural and literary magazines like “*Vyshgorod*” (circulation 660, published six times a year), “*Raduga*” (circulation 418, published four times a year) and “*Tallinn*” (circulation 323, published three times a year).

Among the minority groups, the Jewish community has its own periodical publication, once a month the newspaper “*Hashahhar*” in Russian is published.

Internet

According to surveys, in autumn 2003 there were 47% of active Internet users among the Estonian population. 38% of the population had a computer at home and 71% of PCs at home had an Internet connection (source: e-track survey, TSN EMOR, autumn 2003).

Similarly to the written press, there are no restrictions on the use of language in the Internet. The Russian language is widely used in the Internet environment within Estonia, many newspapers and magazines have their Internet publications, and news and recreation is also offered by Russian-language as well as bilingual or trilingual (Russian, Estonian, English) Internet portals. For example, Russkii Portal (www.veneportaal.ee), which is owned by the Estonian-Czech chamber of commerce, started its work in February 2001 and has now become an important source of information, having more than 25 000 regular customers. According to the portal, the aim of its activities and development is to inform the Russian-speaking population in Estonia about all aspects of business, culture and political and public life in Estonia. Among other larger bilingual or Russian-language Internet portals, the following could be mentioned: Delfi (www.delfi.ee), Everyday (www.ee.everyday.com), DownTown (www.downtown.ee), and Ant (www.ant.ee). Operating more specifically in the Ida-Virumaa county are also (www.gazeta.ee), (www.tribuun.pri.ee/index.php), (www.infopress.ee).

Armenians in Estonia have their own Internet portal (www.armenia.ee), which contains mainly information about Armenia but also about Armenians in Estonia.

The local Azerbaijan community also has its Internet page (www.azeri.ee), as well as the Estonian Association of Lithuanians (www.hot.ee/elu), the Estonian Society of Poles (www.polonia.ee), and Ukrainians (www.hot.ee/uke).

Unlike in the case of very expensive television and a cheaper radio (which still requires special equipment) or also the printed media, having and operating an information channel in the Internet is accomplishable also for small minority groups.

Article 10

1. The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use freely and without interference his or her minority language, in private and in public, orally and in writing.

In Estonia's first report on the implementation of the Framework Convention, an overview was given of the provisions of legislation regulating the use of Estonian and other languages. On 1 July 2001, the amendment into the Language Act entered into force (§ 2¹), according to which the scope of regulation of the Language Act was explicitly limited to the public interests. It means that outside the public sphere (state and local government agencies, courts, national defence forces) the use of Estonian is regulated only if it is justified in the public interest. Public interest for the purposes of the Language Act means public safety, public order, general government, public health, health protection, consumer protection and occupational safety. The Language Act also stipulates that the establishment of requirements concerning proficiency in and use of Estonian with regard to persons employed by private businesses shall be justified and in proportion to the objective being sought and shall not distort the nature of the rights which are restricted.

With the addition of this provision to the Language Act, it was clearly established that the scope of regulation of the Language Act does not extend to the use of language in the private life of individuals and that language requirements for entrepreneurs and people employed by private businesses can only be imposed in the strictly limited public interests.

2. In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if those persons so request and where such a request corresponds to a real need, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible, the conditions which would make it possible to use the minority language in relations between those persons and the administrative authorities.

On 1 January 2002, amendment of § 8 of the Language Act entered into effect, which specified the use of other languages in communication with government agencies and local government bodies. According to the provisions of this section, in oral communication with servants or employees of state agencies and local governments, and in a notary's office, bailiff's office or certified interpreter or translator's office, by agreement the parties may decide to use any language which both of them understand. State or local government agencies may also accept applications, requests or other documents in other languages besides Estonian. This amendment set a legal basis for the widespread practice in state and local government agencies to use the language suitable for both parties in the communication. The earlier version of the Language Act only allowed communication in Estonian. In practice, however, even before the amendment was passed, communication in foreign languages with persons not proficient in Estonian was widespread. The new provision is worded flexibly, so that the use of any language is not ruled out.

Usually, however, another language that is used is Russian, because the majority of persons who cannot or do not wish to communicate in Estonian have Russian as their first language.

The Advisory Committee has expressed regret that such a positive practice is not applied to other minority languages besides Russian. The relevant provision of the Framework Convention lists three preconditions in connection with the recommended possibility to communicate with administrative authorities in a language of a national minority. First, communication in a minority language could be considered in areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, and, second, those persons should express such a request, and, third, such a request should correspond to a real need.

The Government would hereby like to provide an explanatory overview of the numerical size of ethnic groups living in Estonia according to the 2000 population census, and of the proportion of people among ethnic groups who speak their mother tongue.

Table 7. Ethnic groups living in Estonia and of the proportion of people among ethnic groups who speak their national language as mother tongue

Nationality	Number		National language as mother tongue	
	1989	2000	1989, %	2000, %
Estonians	963 281	910 463	98,9	97,9
Russians	474 838	344 796	98,6	98,2
Ukrainians	48 271	29 012	44,2	41,1
Byelorussians	27 711	17 241	31,9	28,7
Finns	16 622	11 837	31,0	38,5
Tatars	4 058	2 582	55,4	47,6
Latvians	3 135	2 330	57,2	53,3
Poles	3 008	2 193	20,0	24,6
Jews	4 613	2 145	12,4	5,8
Lithuanians	2 568	2 116	62,7	54,2
Germans	3 466	1 870	36,0	24,3
Armenians	1 669	1 444	50,1	49,2
Azerbaijani	1 238	880	70,2	65,9
Moldavians	1 215	645	54,6	47,8
Mordvins	985	562	37,3	39,3
Roma	665	542	69,9	78,6
Chuvashi	1 178	494	47,8	46,5
Georgians	606	430	53,6	43,5
Karelians	881	430	29,7	23,0
Swedes	297	300	9,8	35,7

Source: Statistical office of Estonia

The above table shows that the majority of ethnic groups living in Estonia are numerically rather small, above the 10 000 threshold are only Estonians, Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians and Ingrian Finns. It must also be kept in mind that Ukrainians, Byelorussians and Ingrian Finns, as well as other numerically even smaller ethnic groups are not concentrated in the area of one particular local government, which means that in any particular local government their number is fairly small. Among the five biggest groups, the proportion of people speaking their mother tongue is very big (close to 100%) among Estonians and Russians, in the case of others it is below 50%. Thus, in any particular local government the number of people speaking any other ethnic language besides Estonian or Russian is so small that a realistic need and possibility to arrange communication with authorities in any other language would be extremely small. The Government has also not received any request from any of the numerically smaller minority groups to enable them communication in other languages.

3. The Parties undertake to guarantee the right of every person belonging to a national minority to be informed promptly, in a language which he or she understands, of the reasons for his or her arrest, and of the nature and cause of any accusation against him or her, and to defend himself or herself in this language, if necessary with the free assistance of an interpreter.

On 12 February 2003, the Riigikogu passed the new Code of Criminal Procedure that enters into effect on 1 July 2004. As of the same date, the old Criminal Procedure Code will no longer be in effect.

The provisions regulating the use of languages in criminal procedure will remain more or less the same as before. According to the Code of Criminal Procedure, the language of criminal proceedings is Estonian. With the consent of the body conducting the proceedings, the participants in the proceedings and a party in the judicial proceedings the criminal proceedings can also take place in another language if they are proficient in that language. A participant in a criminal proceeding and a party in judicial proceedings who is not proficient in Estonian is guaranteed the assistance of an interpreter or translator. At the request of a party to the judicial proceedings, also text which is not in Estonian can be entered in the minutes of the proceedings. In that case, a translation of the text into Estonian will be added to the minutes. If the defendant does not speak Estonian, he or she is forwarded the text of the statement of charges as a translation into his or her mother tongue or to a language that he or she understands. Hearing of a matter without an interpreter in a language that the defendant does not speak is considered a material violation of the law of criminal procedure.

In misdemeanour proceedings the interpreter participates in accordance with the bases and rules provided for in criminal procedure.

In 2003, there were 52 interpreters/translators working in Estonian county, city, administrative and circuit courts whose working languages were Estonian and Russian. In court hearings interpretation is provided (mostly the so-called whispered interpretation to the participants in the proceedings), also written translation of court decisions and, if necessary, other documents is provided (Estonian-Russian, Russian-Estonian).

The need for interpreters/translators of other languages has been small. There is no official statistics, as there have only been occasional cases. The languages used have been English, Finnish, German, Turkish, Spanish etc and the need has been covered by local translation bureaus. If necessary, interpreters/translators have also been hired from abroad.

Article 11

1. The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use his or her surname (patronym) and first names in the minority language and the right to official recognition of them, according to modalities provided for in their legal system.

In Estonia, the giving and changing of names and their spelling is regulated with the laws described in the first report submitted by Estonia, i.e. the Family Act, the Organisation of Family Names Act, and the Language Act. Issues relating to personal names, more specifically the entering of personal names in the personal identification documents, are regulated by the Personal Identity Documents Act.

In spring 2004, the Riigikogu received the Draft Personal Names Act initiated by the Government, which envisages various changes to the organisation of names. The provisions of the above-mentioned laws relating to the organisation of names will mostly be repealed and the whole regulation in connection with the names will be merged into the Personal Names Act.

The Draft Personal Names Act, similarly to the currently effective Act, stipulates that a child is given a first name by the agreement of the parents and the surname will be either the common surname of the parents or surname of one parent by the agreement of the parents.

The choice of the first name will be somewhat restricted with the new law. The draft law provides that a first name may not be a name that is not in accordance with good morals or Estonian name tradition. The draft law, however, foresees an exception to this rule if the child or the child's parents, due to their citizenship, family relations, ethnic origin or other circumstances have a personal relation to the name traditions of another language.

According to the draft law, the personal name consists of a first name and surname. In the official spelling of a name, the Estonian Latin alphabet and symbols will be used and, if necessary, the transcription rules for other languages will be applied. It is envisaged that the spelling of a name in a foreign language should conform to the orthographic rules of that language.

In Estonian, names do not have gender indications. However, the Draft Personal Names Act takes into account the linguistic and name traditions of other nationalities living in Estonia, and therefore common surnames are considered to be not only names which have the spelling matching letter-by-letter but also names which have differences in spelling due to the indication of the gender, family status or other characteristic in the name in accordance with the person's national traditions. This enables persons belonging to an ethnic minority to observe their name traditions in adopting a common name after the marriage as well as in choosing the surname for their child.

According to the Draft Personal Names Act, the changing of both the first name and surname is allowed at the request of the person concerned.

The rules for entering names in documents are established in the Personal Identity Documents Act. According to the rules, the personal name that contains foreign letters is entered in the document in accordance with the transcription rules of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), maintaining the original letters where possible.

For entry into the documents of very long names (a first name with more than 15 characters or a family name with more than 28 characters), the same law provides a rule that the letters not fitting into the data field will be omitted from the end of the name. In that case, the full original name will be entered on the observations page of the document and will be certified with a stamp.

As a problematic aspect relating to the compliance with the Framework Convention, the Human Rights Information Centre has pointed out that Estonian legislation does not enable the persons of East-Slavic origin to use the patronymic in the official form of their name in addition to the first name and the surname. The use of the patronymic, however, has an important role in the name tradition of these people.

According to Estonian laws, the patronymic is indeed not entered in the personal identity documents, because the laws provide that the person's official name consists of a first name and surname. The Government is of the opinion that this does not constitute a violation of Article 11(1) of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities which provides for the person's right to use their name in the minority language. According to Estonian legislation, the name of persons belonging to a national minority is used in its original form, using strict transcription rules for foreign names. In the case of entry in documents, the names will retain the indications reflecting gender, family status or other similar characteristics, also no endings characteristic of the Estonian language are added. In the case of adoption of a common surname upon marriage, the reflection of gender, family status and other similar characteristics in the name inherent to a foreign language is accepted upon person's wish. Upon person's wish, in practice, in first documenting the person's name the administrative authorities have also registered the person's patronymic as a second first name. The use of the patronymic outside official personal identification documents is not restricted or hindered in any manner. The Government finds that such an approach is in conformity with the meaning of Article 11(1) of the Framework Convention.

2. The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to display in his or her minority language signs, inscriptions and other information of a private nature visible to the public.

The Advisory Committee has expressed its concern in connection with § 23 of the Language Act, which provides that public signs, signposts, announcements, notices and advertisements should, as a rule, be in Estonian.

On 14 July 2000, the Riigikogu passed the amendment to the Language Act, restricting the interference of the law in the private sphere. Provisions of the Language Act are interpreted in accordance with the general principles of § 2¹ of the Act (which determines its scope of application). § 2¹ provides that the use of Estonian by companies, non-profit associations and foundations, by their employees and by

sole proprietors is regulated only if it is in the public interest, which, for the purposes of this Act, means public safety, public order, general government, public health, health protection, consumer protection and occupational safety. Further, it is provided that the establishment of requirements concerning proficiency in and use of Estonian shall be justified and in proportion to the objective being sought and shall not distort the nature of the rights which are restricted. This provision considerably restricts the state's possibility to interfere in the use of language in the so-called private sphere.

Although § 23 of the Language Act can be interpreted in the way that any information visible to the public should be only in Estonian, in practice the Language Inspectorate, however, proceeds from the premise that imposing of such strict restrictions is not in compliance with Estonia's international obligations. According to the Estonian Constitution, generally recognised principles of international law are an integral part of the Estonian legal system. Article 123 of the Constitution also stipulates that, in the case of conflict between an international treaty and a domestic law, the provisions of the international treaty shall apply. Taking this into consideration, the Language Inspectorate has not ascertained any violations in the cases when another language alongside Estonian has been used on public signs, notices or advertisements. The Human Rights Information Centre in its contribution to drawing up this report has also admitted that the practice of the authorities has become more liberal. The Legal Chancellor also expressed the opinion that other languages alongside Estonian may be used on public signs.

The Language Inspectorate and the Ministry of Education have repeatedly discussed the possible amendment of § 23 of the Language Act in recent years, so that it would be explicitly allowed to use other languages alongside Estonian on public signs, notices and advertisements.

3. In areas traditionally inhabited by substantial numbers of persons belonging to a national minority, the Parties shall endeavour, in the framework of their legal system, including, where appropriate, agreements with other States, and taking into account their specific conditions, to display traditional local names, street names and other topographical indications intended for the public also in the minority language when there is a sufficient demand for such indications.

In Estonia, the protection of the place names of national minorities is mostly concerned with Estonian-Swedish place names in Vormsi and Ruhnu island and in Noarootsi municipality and north-western Estonian coastal areas, as well as Russian place names in Petseri region and along Peispi Lake.

On 1 July 2004, the 1997 Place Names Act that was described in Estonia's first report will lose effect and a new Place Names Act, approved by the Riigikogu on 5 November 2003, will enter into effect. The need for drawing up a new law was due to the changed legal environment, inefficiency of some of the earlier provisions and also additions needed for launching the state place names register. The main conception of the law, however, did not change, although the wording was revised throughout the text.

As concerns place names in minority languages, the regulation in general will remain the same in comparison with the 1997 law. However, according to the new law there

will no longer be a need to seek the approval of the Minister of Internal Affairs with regard to a foreign language name to be given if the object with the foreign language place name is located in a territory of a settlement the majority of whose inhabitants were non-Estonian speaking as at 27 September 1939. Thus, a municipality with an indigenous population of a national minority may itself decide the use of old names in the languages of minorities.

By now, the historical names in a minority language have been approved in the areas of settlement of coastal Swedes: parallel names in Noarootsi rural municipality and only in Swedish in Vormsi rural municipality. In the latter, in two villages the Estonian names were retained.

The Advisory Committee has noted that municipalities have not widely used the possibility of introducing names in minority languages and the Government should examine to what extent the municipalities are aware of this possibility.

There is a place names council operating under the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The members of the council are appointed by the Government. The council also has the right to make proposals for giving place names. In the course of reform of the list of names of settlement units, which was aimed at restoring the historical village names that had been distorted or lost during the Soviet period, the place names council, for example, recommended Kasepää municipality in Jõgeva county to follow the example of Noarootsi municipality and apply for the official establishment of bilingual names with regard to those villages where in September 1939 there was a population of Russian majority. The following villages in this municipality could have bilingual names: Kasepää/Kazepil', Kükita/Kikita, Nõmme/Alekseevka (popularly Lisseifka), Raja/Rayusha, Tiheda/Tihotka.

The municipality council, however, did not follow the recommendation.

The attention of other such municipalities (for example, Peipsiääre, Piirissaare, Alajõe), which could use historical Russian names as parallel names, has also been drawn to this possibility. So far, these municipalities have not decided to use the bilingual names. The Government, on its part, is prepared to support and consult the municipalities on this issue through the place names council.

Article 12

- 1. The Parties shall, where appropriate, take measures in the fields of education and research to foster knowledge of the culture, history, language and religion of their national minorities and of the majority.**
- 2. In this context the Parties shall *inter alia* provide adequate opportunities for teacher training and access to textbooks, and facilitate contacts among students and teachers of different communities.**
- 3. The Parties undertake to promote equal opportunities for access to education at all levels for persons belonging to national minorities.**

Article 14

- 1. The Parties undertake to recognise that every person belonging to a national minority has the right to learn his or her minority language.**
- 2. In areas inhabited by persons belonging to national minorities traditionally or in substantial numbers, if there is sufficient demand, the Parties shall endeavour to ensure, as far as possible and within the framework of their education systems, that persons belonging to those minorities have adequate opportunities for being taught the minority language or for receiving instruction in this language.**
- 3. Paragraph 2 of this article shall be implemented without prejudice to the learning of the official language or the teaching in this language.**

The Advisory Committee has expressed a concern about the reduction in the availability of education available in the minority languages.

According to the provisions of the Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act, any language can be a language of instruction in a basic school in Estonia; the choice of the language depends on the decision of the owner of the school. In the case of a municipal school, the decision is made by the local government council, in the case of a state school it is the Minister of Education and Research. It should also be kept in mind that a relevant proposal should come from the school's board of trustees, which includes the representatives of the local government council and of teachers, and five representatives of parents, graduates and organisations supporting the school who are appointed with the decision of the general meeting of parents. It means that also parents of pupils attending the school have the right to participate in making the decision about the choice of language of instruction in a particular basic school. It is also possible to open classes with a different language of instruction than the general language of instruction at the school.

The law provides that, by the year 2007, the curriculum as well as the organisation of operation of schools with instruction in a language other than Estonian should become such as to guarantee for all basic school leavers the knowledge of Estonian on a level that allows them to continue studies in Estonian. On the basis of experience of other countries and also Estonia, it can be said that the preparation of pupils for transfer to another language of instruction must take place at a preceding school level, i.e. at basic school. Estonia has already made preparations for this. In seven schools with Russian as the language of instruction, early language immersion has been implemented, and in four schools late language immersion. In autumn 2004, late

language immersion will be extended to 15 more schools. In 64 out of the total 89 Russian-medium schools some subjects were taught in Estonian. In doing this, schools have followed the wishes of parents but also the goals envisaged in the state integration programme and the possibilities offered for achieving the goals in the action plans.

At the level of upper secondary schools, the language of instruction is Estonian. At the same time, the law also allows to use another language as a language of instruction at the level of the upper secondary school or in some of its classes. The permission for this is given by the Government of the Republic at the request of the local government. The relevant proposal should be made by the school's board of trustees, which comprises the representatives of the local government council and of pupils, two teachers appointed with the decision of the school's faculty meeting and five representatives of parents, school graduates and organisations supporting the school who are appointed with the decision of the general meeting of parents.

As a rule (though exceptions are possible on the basis of the provision described above), the law prescribes that no later than in the school year 2007/2008 the transfer to Estonian as the language of instruction will be started in state and municipal upper secondary schools. The transfer must be based on a well-considered development plan, which should also determine the necessary and possible measures for transfer to Estonian as the language of instruction.

It should be noted in this respect that a language of instruction is the language in which at least 60% of the curriculum is taught. Therefore, even in an upper secondary school with Estonian as the language of instruction, it is possible to have study partly in Russian or in another foreign language. The possibility to study the mother tongue and literature and also some subjects in the mother tongue will be retained.

Currently, it is possible in Estonia to acquire basic and upper secondary and vocational education in Estonian, Russian and English (in private schools). The need for maintaining basic schools that provide instruction in other languages is not questioned, in particular as concerns education in Russian, considering the ethnic composition of Estonian population. In the school year 2002/2003, there were 636 general education schools with daytime form of study in Estonia, of them 65 kindergarten-primary schools, 52 primary schools, 279 basic schools, 240 secondary schools and upper secondary schools. Of those schools, 525 had Estonian as the language of instruction, 89 Russian and 21 Estonian-Russian, 1 Estonian-Finnish. 572 were municipal schools, 32 were state owned and 32 private schools. There were 45 schools for children with special needs.

According to the register of pupils, there are many children attending schools with both Estonian and Russian as the language of instruction whose mother tongue is different from the language of instruction at their school. As in Estonia it is possible to choose mainly between two languages of instruction, in 2003 a provision was added to the Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act, according to which for pupils whose mother tongue is not the language of instruction at their school, the school in cooperation with the state and local government will create possibilities for learning their mother tongue and studying the national culture with the aim to maintain their ethnic identity. Before the introduction of this amendment, there were a

couple of attempts to open a class with an instruction in a minority language (Ukrainian and Byelorussian), but the attempts failed due to the lack of interest on the part of parents. As an exception, there is state-owned Tallinn Jewish School, although its language of instruction is Russian. With the support from the government of Israel, lessons of the Hebrew language and Jewish history and culture are organised at the school.

On the basis of the above amendment, on 20 May 2003 the Government adopted a regulation laying down the procedure for establishing the conditions necessary for the learning of the mother tongue and national culture for pupils who are acquiring basic education and whose mother tongue is not the language of instruction at school. In accordance with the regulation, the schools shall organise the study of language and culture in the amount of at least two lessons a week as an optional subject for pupils who are acquiring basic education, if parents (guardians) of at least ten pupils with the same mother tongue have submitted a written application with a relevant request to the director of the school. According to the Ministry of Education, if necessary a flexible approach can be taken to the issues of language learning and culture study; for example, in the case of a smaller number of applications, by creating a joint language study group from the pupils of several schools, etc.

An academic curriculum committee has been created which deals with the issues of study literature and the curriculum. In 2003, for the first time, the first training was carried out through Tartu University Open University for teachers who can provide mother tongue training (the project was coordinated by the Integration Foundation and funded by the Ministry of Education and Research). 17 teachers attended the training: representatives of ethnic groups of Byelorussian, Ukrainian, Polish, Lithuanian, Ingrian Finnish, Jewish, and Chuvashi ethnic groups. The training involved 160 hours on the topics of multicultural education, methodology of language teaching, Estonian education legislation. At the end of the training, 85% of the participants expressed a wish for follow-up training which was organised in spring 2004. The feedback has been positive, and teachers use the acquired knowledge in their daily work, in Sunday schools, etc. The new group will start in autumn 2004.

In teaching the mother tongue and culture of numerically smaller minorities, an important role is also played by Sunday schools, which, as a rule, operate under national cultural societies. Sunday schools have an important role in valuing Estonia's multiculturalism and in ensuring the continuity and integrated development of personalities. On the basis of experience of Sunday schools, there are plans to draw up the basic principles for supporting Sunday schools operating under national cultural societies. In the future, the Ministry of Education and Research would follow these principles in giving its support to Sunday schools.

Under the state programme "Integration in Estonian society 2000-2007", in the action plans of sub-programmes for 2004-2007, one of the envisaged activities is determining the status of Sunday schools of national minorities and drawing up the principles for the provision of state's support to them. This task will be carried out by the Ministry of Education and Research and the Centre for Education Programmes, and also leaders of national cultural societies and representative associations. It is also planned to continue the training of mother tongue teachers of Sunday schools of national minorities and supporting of mother tongue teaching projects of Sunday

schools and cultural societies of national minorities as well as supporting of projects for mother tongue teaching and culture studies projects of national cultural societies.

Today, in accordance with the Private Schools Act, only one Sunday school has officially registered itself as a hobby school – the Ukrainian Sunday school in Sillamäe. In reality, there are about 30 functioning Sunday schools, but as there is no uniform legal definition for describing them and as their number changes according to the number of interested people and availability of teachers, it is hard to give the exact number of the schools. They apply for money from the local governments, the Integration Foundation, the Ministry of Culture and other funds. Therefore, it is essential to carry out the above-mentioned initiatives for defining the status of Sunday schools and establishing the principles for their financing.

Under Article 12, the Advisory Committee has stressed the need to teach minority languages for the persons belonging to the majority. In the school year 2002/2003, in addition to teaching English, French, German and Spanish, the schools also had study modules for teaching Russian (441 schools), Finnish (30 schools), Swedish (10 schools), Hebrew (1 school); several schools also taught different languages as optional subjects.

Both under Article 12 and 14, the Advisory Committee has drawn the attention to the need for training for teachers in connection with the reforms in the Estonian education system.

One of the missions of the state integration programme's sub-programme "Education" is to target and expand the basic and in-service training of teachers of Estonian as a second language and also teachers of other subjects, in order that schools with a language of instruction other than Estonian will be able to have teachers who meet all the qualification requirements. One of the objectives in this respect is to develop and implement a regional further training network for teachers of Estonian as a second language.

The joint project of the Ministry of Education, the British Council, the Nordic countries, the United Kingdom and the UN Development Programme "Regional In-service Training Network for Teachers of Estonian as a Second Language" began its operation in 1998. The aim is to offer further training in methodology as well as subject-related training for teachers of Estonian as a second language.

In the framework of the integration programme, in 2001 a summer camp was organised for involving new members in the network (young teachers with an experience of less than three years); three support centres were launched (in Tallinn Mahtra Upper Secondary School, Virumaa Higher School and Tartu Annelinna Upper Secondary School) which are equipped with materials for the teaching of Estonian as a second language; 777 teachers attended the 46 training sessions organised by the network; members of the network are also active as supervisors for traineeships for students who are studying to be teachers of Estonian as a second language. Five development seminars and training sessions were held for members of the network; members also compiled the third set of methodology articles "Teaching of Estonian as a Second Language III"; articles were introduced at a one-day training seminar in

September in Tallinn, where 59 teachers of Estonian as a second language from all over Estonia attended.

In January 2002, the Association of Teachers of Estonian as a Second Language was registered as a non-profit organisation and three regional centres were formed as its structural units. At the seminar in June, 22 teachers from the network participated. The website of the network was completed (www.eestikeelteisekeelena.ee) which offers information about regional centres and training events. The methodology school for young teachers offers training for 55 teachers of Estonian as a second language. Under the leadership of the Association, the tradition of summer and winter schools was continued as a form of further training also in 2003: a summer school was held in Värskas and winter school near Tallinn. There are also plans to organise a summer school for teachers of Estonian as a second language in August 2004. Additional information is available in the integration yearbooks for 2001 and 2002¹¹.

One of the tasks of the sub-programme “Education” is also further training of Estonian for teachers of other subjects. In the framework of this, in 2002 a training seminar for teachers of pre-school establishments was carried out and also various activities within the European Union PHARE Estonian language training programme 2001-2003 were oriented to fulfilling this task.

In the framework of the PHARE Estonian language training programme which ended on 30 November 2003, 57 teachers participated in the teacher exchange programme between Estonian and Russian schools which offered them a possibility to practice Estonian in a professional language environment. For further and formal training of teachers of Estonian as a second language, 14 different study aids and several training programmes were prepared, 257 teachers of Estonian as a second language were offered free computer training to help them prepare study materials. 42 Estonian language teachers of vocational schools attended a training course (100 hours) to improve their professional skills. More detailed information is available in the final report of the PHARE Estonian language training programme 2001-2003, which has been added to this report.

Today, work is underway in the framework of the PHARE programme “Estonian Language Training and Teaching in Estonian for Non-Estonian Speakers”. The programme is aimed at providing Estonian language training for non-Estonian population and supporting integration in the whole Estonian society, thus creating conditions for a homogeneous society where all people living in Estonia have equal access to education and employment. The European Union has allocated 51.6 million kroons for these objectives. The programme includes activities for developing the competence of teachers, improving the language skills, cooperation between people between different nationalities, improving the quality of Estonian language teaching within formal education, etc.

Under the PHARE 2003 programme there will be developed ten basic and further training modules for teacher training, which aim is to provide teachers with the competence to work in multicultural class environment. The duration of the

¹¹ http://www.meis.ee/files/failid/q4NRAastaraamat_yearbook_2001.pdf
http://www.meis.ee/files/failid/117Wmeis_aastsaraamat_02.pdf.

programme is 2003-2005 and it is implemented by the Ministry of Education and Research and the PHARE 2003 Administrative Unit at the Integration Foundation.

In the framework of the integration programme and with the aim to support integration, the Estonian Language Immersion Centre was formed at the Integration Foundation. There has been implemented a language immersion programme, the participation in which is voluntary and in accordance with the will of parents.

In September 2000, five classes with 134 pupils in four general education schools began working in accordance with the principle of full early language immersion. The Language Immersion Centre was opened in October 2000.

In the school year 2000/2001, language immersion in four Russian-medium schools was implemented in Kohtla-Järve, Narva and Tallinn; in the school year 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 it was done in seven Russian-medium schools in Kohtla-Järve, Maardu, Tallinn and Valga, and in 2003/2004 early language immersion was implemented in nine Russian-medium kindergartens in Jõhvi, Kohtla-Järve, Narva, Sillamäe and Tallinn, and in seven Russian-medium schools in Kohtla-Järve, Maardu, Narva, Tallinn and Valga; and late language immersion in four Russian-medium schools in Narva, Tallinn and Tapa.

Under Article 14, the Advisory Committee has pointed out that the allocation of resources to language immersion programmes should not hamper the availability or quality of minority language education.

In the full early language immersion programme, all subjects are first taught completely in Estonian. Russian language lessons begin in the second half of the second school year. The proportion of Russian as a language of instruction increases gradually up to 44% in grade 6. In the sixth school year, 44% of instruction is in Estonian and 44% in Russian and 12% in a third language.

In the case of late full language immersion, grade six is the transition level, where only 33% of instruction is in Estonian. In grade 7 and 8 the proportion of subjects taught in Estonian will increase to 76% of the curriculum, the remaining 24% is covered by Russian as the mother tongue and by a foreign language. In grade 9, Estonian language and subjects taught in Estonian make up 60% of the curriculum.

The aim of the language immersion programme is not to replace one language with another or teaching of other subjects with language classes. The aim of the Estonian language immersion programme is to create conditions for pupils of Russian-medium schools participating in the programme, so that they would acquire the functional proficiency in Estonian (listening, speaking, reading and writing), would know Russian according to their age and maturity (listening, speaking, reading and writing); would progress according to their age and ability in other subjects, for example mathematics; would understand the value of Estonian and Russian culture and acquire the functional use of a third language for listening, speaking, reading and writing.

The study results of language immersion classes conform to international experience; according to an independent assessment, the results of the Estonian language immersion programme are comparable to the results of similar programmes in Canada

and Finland. 98.4% of pupils who start with language immersion also continue in the immersion programme, all pupils have been transferred to the next grade.

The efficiency of the programme is assessed regularly – all pupils are tested twice during an academic year, the parents of all pupils are questioned once in an academic year, and internationally recognised research methodology is used.

More detailed information is available in the bulletin “Immersion Center: Three Years of Accomplishment”, which has been added to this report.

Under the state programme “Integration in Estonian society 2000-2007”, in the action plans of the sub-programme “Education” for 2004-2007, one of the objectives is to expand the network of kindergartens and schools involved in the language immersion programme to cover the whole country (by 2007, early language immersion would be applied in 20 kindergartens and 7 schools, and late language immersion in 19 schools).

Under Article 12, the Advisory Committee has considered it important to note that it is necessary to ensure that young people whose mother tongue is not Estonian should have equal opportunities for access to higher education.

Sociological surveys have indicated that the majority of young people of non-Estonian origin, in the light of opportunities in the Estonian labour market, consider it to be without perspective to acquire higher education only in Russian. Therefore, the Ministry of Education and Research has drawn up a procedure according to which pupils of upper secondary schools with Russian as the language of instruction, who have entered a higher educational establishment, have a possibility to extend their standard study time by one year. This enables young people who did not acquire the knowledge of Estonian in the secondary school (approximately 1500 lessons of Estonian) to attend intensive courses for Estonian during their first year at the university, and subsequently continue their studies in a group where the language of instruction is Estonian. Even then, by agreement with the lecturer, they can take examinations and do written work in Russian. During the period of studying Estonian, students have the right to receive a student loan. This possibility has been used in all public universities and several applied higher educational institutions.

In the longer-term perspective, the aim is to ensure a sufficient increase in the level of the knowledge of the state language, so that school leavers, regardless of their mother tongue, would be equally prepared to enter higher educational institutions or the labour market. Under the state programme “Integration in Estonian society 2000-2007”, in the action plans of the sub-programme “Education” for 2004-2007, one of the objectives is to raise the percentage of non-Estonian secondary school pupils who successfully pass the intermediate level national examination of the Estonian language to 88% by 2007. The objective is to create appropriate conditions at schools to ensure the functioning of study groups in Estonian and the knowledge of Estonian as a second language among school leavers that would be sufficient for daily and professional communication, in order to enable the learners integrate to Estonian society.

Presently, 25 different educational institutions (including all major public higher educational institutions) in Estonia offer possibilities to study specialities where Russian is used as the language of instruction. In the academic year 2003/2004, there were 161 such specialities available. The number of students studying according to these curricula was 6371. A year before, the number of such students had been 6748, in 2001 it had been 6877 and in 2000 6502 (see Appendix 3).

Article 13

- 1. Within the framework of their education systems, the Parties shall recognise that persons belonging to a national minority have the right to set up and to manage their own private educational and training establishments.**
- 2. The exercise of this right shall not entail any financial obligation for the Parties.**

The provisions regulating the setting up and management of private schools were described in Estonia's first report. As compared to that period, some changes have occurred in supporting the financing of private schools.

In accordance with the Private Schools Act, the salaries of teachers employed at a pre-school child care institution on the basis of the framework curriculum for pre-school education and the costs of acquiring teaching aids may be covered from the relevant rural municipality or city budget on the bases provided for in the Pre-school Child Care Institutions Act.

The costs of nursery-primary schools (the primary school part), nursery-basic schools (the basic school part), primary schools, basic schools and upper secondary schools shall be partially covered on the bases provided for municipal schools in section 44(3) of the Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act. On the basis of the number of pupils and in accordance with the State Budget Act, every year support is allocated from the state budget for covering the expenses for salaries of teachers, social tax, further training and procurement of textbooks.

Private schools may receive subsidies for specific purposes from the state budget or a local government budget.

In the academic year 2003/2004, there were 29 private schools in Estonia, 18 of them had Estonian and 8 had Russian as the language of instruction, one school was with instruction in Estonian/Russian, one in Estonian/Finnish and one in Estonian/English.

The following table provides an overview of the private schools that were operating in Estonia in the last academic year, by language of instruction, number of pupils and type of the educational establishment.

Table 8. Private schools 2003/2004

Name of school	Language of instruction	Number of pupils	Type of educational establishment
Aruküla Free Waldorf School	Estonian	67	basic school
Audentes Private School	Estonian	651	upper secondary
Audentes Private School Tartu branch	Estonian	120	
Audentes Sport School Otepää branch	Estonian	51	
EBS Upper Secondary School	Estonian	142	upper secondary
EBS Upper Secondary School	English	13	
Private Upper Secondary School of Commerce	Russian	10	upper secondary

Haabersti Russian Private Upper Secondary School	Russian	82	upper secondary
Johannese School at Rosma	Estonian	54	basic school
Keila SOS Hermann Gmeiner School	Estonian	60	primary school
Kohtla-Järve Private Upper Secondary School of Humanities	Russian	133	upper secondary
Narva Orthodox School of Humanities	Russian	81	basic school
Narva-Jõesuu Private Basic School "Tuvike"	Russian	39	
Mihkli School	Estonian	53	basic school
Maria-School	Estonian	15	basic school
Nõmme Private School	Estonian	116	basic school
Põhja Private Upper Secondary School	Russian	53	upper secondary
Pärnu Sütevaka Upper Secondary School of Humanities	Estonian	342	upper secondary
Pärnu Small Free School	Estonian	76	primary school
Rakvere Private Upper Secondary School	Estonian	71	upper secondary
Rakvere Private Basic School	Estonian	169	basic school
Rakvere Lille School	Estonian	31	basic school
Rocca al Mare School	Estonian	695	upper secondary
Salu School	Estonian	16	basic school
Tallinn Free Waldorf School	Estonian	22	basic school
Tartu Word of Life Christian School	Estonian	66	basic school
Tartu Catholic School	Estonian	161	primary school
Tartu Catholic School	Finnish	7	
Tartu Waldorf Upper Secondary School	Estonian	179	upper secondary
Russian Private Upper Secondary School "Polüloog"	Russian	38	upper secondary
Vilisuu Private Basic School	Estonian	17	basic school
Vilisuu Private Basic School	Russian	42	basic school
Viljandi Free Waldorf School	Estonian	33	basic school
Vladimir Kornijenko Private Upper Secondary School	Russian	209	upper secondary

Source: Ministry of Education and Research

Article 15

The Parties shall create the conditions necessary for the effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in cultural, social and economic life and in public affairs, in particular those affecting them.

Under Article 15, the Advisory Committee has noted that shortcomings remain as concerns the effective participation of persons belonging to national minorities in economic life, in particular with respect to their access to the labour market, and the Committee has drawn the attention to the need to continue the initiatives launched to counter this problem.

According to the labour force survey, among people aged 15-74 there were 594.3 thousand employed persons, 66.2 thousand unemployed persons and 387.4 thousand inactive persons in 2003. The rate of employment was 62.6% and unemployment was 10%. Unemployment among men is somewhat higher than among women (10.2 and 9.9% respectively).

Unemployment is characterised by considerable regional differences. In different counties, the rate of unemployment differs threefold, ranging from 5% in Rapla county to 18.2% in Ida-Viru county. In addition to north-eastern Estonia, throughout the transition period unemployment has also been above the Estonian average in the counties in south-eastern Estonia.

Labour market policy in Estonia is developed by the Ministry of Social Affairs. On 1 October 2000, two laws entered into effect: the Social Protection of Unemployed Persons Act and the Labour Market Services Act. On 1 January 2002, the Unemployment Insurance Act entered into effect. To promote employment, the following strategic documents have been drawn up:

- Joint Assessment of Employment Priorities in Estonia, prepared in cooperation with the European Commission¹²;
- National employment action plans for the 4th quarter of 2000 and 2001, 2002, 2003¹³, which proceed from the European Union employment strategy and the main employment guidelines;
- The national employment programme for Ida-Virumaa county, prepared under the leadership of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications and in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Education¹⁴.

In 2003, in cooperation between Estonia and the European Union, the Joint Memorandum for Social Inclusion¹⁵ was drawn up. On the basis of the long-term goals agreed in the memorandum, a detailed national social inclusion plan for 2004-2006 will be drawn up in 2004.

¹² In English: http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/intcoop/news/estonia.pdf

¹³ In Estonian: [http://www.sm.ee/est/HtmlPages/THTK2003/\\$file/THTK2003.pdf](http://www.sm.ee/est/HtmlPages/THTK2003/$file/THTK2003.pdf)

¹⁴ In Estonian: http://www.mkm.ee/dokumendid/Ida-Virumaa_riiklik_tooh6iveprogramm.pdf

¹⁵ In English: [http://www.sm.ee/est/HtmlPages/JIM_Estonia/\\$file/JIM_Estonia.pdf](http://www.sm.ee/est/HtmlPages/JIM_Estonia/$file/JIM_Estonia.pdf); in Estonian: [http://www.sm.ee/est/HtmlPages/Sotsiaalsekaasatuseühismemorandum\(eestikeeles\)mitteametlik%20tõlge/\\$file/Sotsiaalse%20kaasatuse%20ühismemorandum%20\(eesti%20keeles\)%20mitteametlik%20tõlge.rtf](http://www.sm.ee/est/HtmlPages/Sotsiaalsekaasatuseühismemorandum(eestikeeles)mitteametlik%20tõlge/$file/Sotsiaalse%20kaasatuse%20ühismemorandum%20(eesti%20keeles)%20mitteametlik%20tõlge.rtf)

In January 2004, the Government approved the Estonian National Development Plan for the Implementation of the European Union Structural Funds – Single Programming Document 2004-2006 (hereinafter the programming document for the national development plan)¹⁶, which *inter alia* deals with the issues of employment.

The main implementer of labour market policy in Estonia is the Labour Market Board whose area of administration includes 16 regional employment offices. Employment offices provide labour market services, register unemployed persons and pay them national benefits.

The state's expenditure on labour market measures has increased constantly, though its share in the GDP is still small. In 2001, it was only 0.22%, while in the EU on average the financing of these measures makes up 3-4% of the GDP. The main share of the increase has been spent to cover the growing needs for the payment of benefits.

The national employment action plans, drawn up for the periods of 4th quarter 2000–2001, 2002, and 2003, proceed from the European Union's annual employment guidelines for the employment strategy. In order to increase employment, the state's labour market agencies implement active labour market measures with regard to job seekers – labour market training, labour market support to unemployed persons for setting up a business, and labour market support for the employer for employing unemployed persons with a lower competitive ability. Only 14.1% of registered job seekers participated in active labour market measures in 2001. According to the European Union's employment guidelines, the aim is to achieve the participation of at least 20% of unemployed in active labour market measures. In 2000, the average length of labour market training was 24.7 days, the average length of re-training was 41.5 days. According to the adult training survey carried out in 2001, 63% of persons who had participated in training subsequently found a job.

Various steps have been taken in recent years to improve the efficiency of the national employment system – new consultants have been hired by employment offices, the vocational counselling service has been developed, the new labour market information system was launched at the end of 2002, and the self-service information system was implemented at the end of 2003. Despite this, the number of registered job seekers per one staff of employment office is relatively high in Estonia (228), and there is also no sufficient capacity to offer the vocational counselling service to all job seekers who would need it.

In order to make better use of the local initiative for alleviating regional employment problems, in 1999 a tripartite agreement between the Government, employers and trade unions was concluded for the setting up of employment councils under county employment offices. The employment councils are advisory bodies whose aim is to counsel local employment offices in planning and implementing active labour market measures. Employment councils have been set up under all employment offices (a total of 16 for the whole of Estonia). In addition, there is a national employment council operating under the National Labour Market Board and comprising the

¹⁶ In English: http://www.struktuurifondid.ee/failid/Programme_Complement27.04.pdf
In Estonian: http://www.struktuurifondid.ee/RAK_final.pdf

representatives of central organisations of social partners and of the Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications.

The analysis made in the process of drawing up the joint memorandum on social inclusion showed that factors such as age, little or unfinished education, outdated qualifications and skills, and insufficient knowledge of Estonian contribute to the unstable situation of a person at the labour market. At the Estonian labour market, the situation is particularly difficult for young unemployed persons with low level of education, long-term unemployed, people with disabilities, people in pre-retirement age, and people not speaking the state language. These groups have also been indicated as risk groups in many other countries.

Unemployment among the young people (aged 15-24) is traditionally higher than unemployment in general in most countries. In Estonia, youth unemployment has constantly been on the rise. In 2000, more than 6000 new young unemployed persons were registered and by the end of the year the number of young unemployed persons had reached 25 000. In the 4th quarter of 2000, the rate of unemployment among young people was 26.4%, while in the European Union the same indicator was 15.8%. In 2001, youth unemployment dropped to 22.2% and the downward trend continued in 2002, together with an overall decline in unemployment. In the 2nd quarter, the youth unemployment was 17.3%. In the framework of the implementation of the employment action plan for the period of 4th quarter 2000 until 2001, nine pilot projects for youth employment were implemented by employment offices with the aim to reduce youth unemployment and raise employment, by adjusting and implementing in an integrated manner the existing labour market services (vocational counselling, information about training possibilities and about the situation of the labour market, labour market training, employment intermediation). These projects covered altogether 291 young unemployed persons, 210 of them subsequently found employment.

At the end of 2003, the PHARE project "Promoting youth employment" was launched. In the framework of the project, active measures for better integration of young people in the employment market in Ida-Virumaa county, south-eastern Estonia and on the islands will be developed and implemented. As a result of the project, guidelines for an integrated implementation of different labour market measures in accordance with the needs of young unemployed people will be developed.

The rate of unemployment is very high among non-Estonians who do not speak Estonian. Inability to speak the state language is often also a hindrance to finding a job farther away from home. Consequently, a large number of unemployed persons live in Ida-Virumaa county where unemployment has been one of the highest since the beginning of the transition period. With the aim to achieve the concentration of the state's resources through an integrated implementation of economic, social and educational measures for reducing unemployment in Ida-Virumaa county, the Ida-Virumaa national employment programme was drawn up, which was approved by the Government on 10 April 2001. To attract investments, it was considered necessary to offer additional benefits through infrastructure establishment and training of employees to companies investing in the region. In parallel to the work with investors, the programme is also aimed at supporting local small businesses, updating the

vocational education system, creating the vocational counselling systems for young people and providing further and re-training for unemployed persons.

For implementing and financing the employment programme, resources were planned in the state budget and in the budget of the Enterprise Estonia Foundation. The implementing body for the measures of the Ministry of Economic Affairs is the Ida-Viru County Agency of the Enterprise Estonia Foundation. In accordance with the agreement concluded between the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Enterprise Estonia Foundation, 25% of the resources directed to the development of entrepreneurship will be used in Ida-Virumaa county. In addition to this, there will also be investments through PHARE and through regional programmes, as well as other measures.

The joint memorandum on social inclusion emphasises the need to expand the scope of active labour market measures, in order to ensure the linkage of unemployed persons, in particular long-term unemployed and other risk groups, with the labour market. The memorandum stresses the importance of promoting an individual approach to the beneficiaries, which is made possible through individual action plans.

Today, the Ministry of Social Affairs has drawn up a draft of a uniform conception of labour market measures¹⁷ with the aim of mapping the Estonian labour market system – to analyse the substance of labour market measures and the management of the process of delivery of the measures, and to develop a new employment strategy. In drawing up the conception, an account was taken of the European Union employment strategy and the employment guidelines adopted for three years by the Council of Europe in 2003. Among the latter, the need for strengthening social cohesion and inclusion are mentioned individually. To strengthen social cohesion, also regional differences in the rate of unemployment need to be reduced. One of the priorities within the conception is also developing the employability of people with smaller competitive ability, improving the possibilities of employment and preventing discrimination.

The conception outlines the major problems in the current situation – small number of unemployed persons covered with active labour market measures, disintegration, one-sidedness and insufficient flexibility of the existing labour market measures, problems relating to long-term unemployed, insufficient cooperation with employers, etc. To solve the situation, it is planned to adopt an individual approach; it means that, upon turning to the employment office, every customer will immediately receive individual assistance that takes into account his or her skills and needs.

Another important change that has been envisaged is the implementation of the case management principles in the provision of services. In integrating the unemployed people back to work, social services and other measures play an important role, as in certain cases, before using the labour market measures or during their application, it is necessary to solve other social problems that hinder the use of labour market services, seeking of a job or taking up employment. In such a situation, it is important to provide individual integrated assistance to an unemployed person, and such assistance

¹⁷ In Estonian:

[http://www.sm.ee/est/HtmlPages/tooturumeetmetekontseptsioonieelnõu/\\$file/tööturumeetmete%20kontseptsiooni%20eel nõu.doc](http://www.sm.ee/est/HtmlPages/tooturumeetmetekontseptsioonieelnõu/$file/tööturumeetmete%20kontseptsiooni%20eel nõu.doc)

can be offered through joint efforts of the welfare and labour market systems. The main principle of case management is that one and the same person solves the case from the beginning to the end, and the aim is to develop and improve a person's social functioning (coping) and to prevent the occurrence and deepening of social problems (including unemployment).

Since 2004, Estonia can receive support for its priority activities from the European Union structural funds. In accordance with the programming document "National Development Plan for the Implementation of the Structural Funds – Single Programming Document 2004-2007", the European Social Fund supports the development of the human resource. Although there are no direct separate measures for supporting national minorities, a contribution to improving their situation comes first and foremost through the measure "The education system which is accessible for all and which ensures the flexibility, coping and lifelong learning of the labour force". The measure is aimed at developing the human resource and raising its competitive ability at the labour market through improving the education and training system, creating an environment for lifelong learning and providing training. Another measure to this effect is "Equal opportunities at the labour market" which is aimed at preventing and alleviating unemployment, poverty and social exclusion and increasing social inclusion.

The European Social Fund is used to co-finance the European Community EQUAL initiative, which is aimed at promoting and supporting new methods of fighting against any kind of discrimination and unequal treatment at the labour market. In 2004, Estonia as a new European Union member state will join the second round of the EQUAL programme.

The Ministry of Social Affairs has prepared a programme for the use of the resources of the Community initiative for implementing the EQUAL. EQUAL is a measure of support for employment and social policy provided for in the national employment and social inclusion action plan, and therefore the programme in general was devised on the basis of the Joint Assessment Paper on employment and the Joint Inclusion Memorandum.

In accordance with the recommendations given to new member states (in particular to states with small budgets), Estonia has decided to limit the number of priority topics and focus on two or three key areas. One of the selected areas is the facilitation of entry or return to the labour market for persons who have difficulties with integrating or reintegrating to the open labour market. The main attention will be given to the groups who are in a particularly difficult situation and/or who have not been targeted by other policies or programmes. Therefore, the EQUAL programme will focus on the following:

- people who have multiple risks at the labour market (e.g. non-Estonian women, young people with disabilities);
- groups who are in a particularly unfavourable situation and who are not covered or are largely uncovered by other policy measures (e.g. homeless, discouraged persons, former prisoners, drug addicts, gamblers);
- all groups who are victims of the main forms of discrimination at the labour market (discrimination on the basis of sex, race, ethnic origin, religion, belief, disability, age, or sexual orientation);

- victims of trafficking in people or victims of prostitution.

Some particularly problematic issues for Estonia (e.g. long-term unemployment, unemployment among non-Estonians) are priority areas both under the programming document for the national development plan as well as the EQUAL programming document. This does not necessarily mean that the activities implemented under either of the programmes should be the same. Depending on the significance of problems, the traditional measures need to be implemented on a wider scale (in the framework of the programming document for the national development plan) and new measures should also be tested (in the framework of the EQUAL programming document). The programming documents for the EQUAL and for the national development plan complement each other by offering different types of assistance to target groups.

Both programmes are similar in terms of wider goals, problems and target groups, but different in terms of approach, activities, methods of work and expected results. When implemented in parallel, the traditional ESF projects and development partnerships implemented under the EQUAL programme offer a different angle to the same problems and help to achieve better and more comprehensive results.

Although the activities are to a certain extent similar, a more specific and innovative approach is expected from the EQUAL programme. The development partnership under the EQUAL programme should involve different parties from different sectors, and the projects should be based on combining different activities and measures to tackle one central problem.

EQUAL focuses on the reduction of discrimination. Discrimination and unequal opportunities are to a large extent related to attitudes and habits, and, therefore, EQUAL is aimed at changing them. Usually, projects are focused on raising the qualification and skills of people, but fail to pay much attention to external reasons of discrimination and exclusion.

Under the state integration programme, in the action plans for 2004-2007, one of the aims is to improve the work-related knowledge of the Estonian language of non-Estonian unemployed people and employees, in combination with the proficiency in the state language, which would enable them to integrate successfully to the labour market. To this end, 3.4 million kroons are planned in 2004. For the following years, it is intended to raise the sum to 10 million kroons.

Under Article 15, the Advisory Committee has also raised issues in connection with elections, electoral advertisements and the Presidential Roundtable on National Minorities. These topics are covered in more detail in the answers to the questions put by the Advisory Committee.

Under Article 15, the Advisory Committee has also drawn attention to the issue of validity of language proficiency certificates.

On 10 December 2003, the Riigikogu passed the amendment to § 28¹ of the Language Act, according to which certificates of category of work-related proficiency in Estonian that were issued until 1999 were declared to be valid for an unlimited period and to conform to the particular level of language proficiency. According to the

previous version of the law, the certificates would have become invalid as of 1 January 2004. The amendment was necessary because declaring the certificates of category of language proficiency invalid would have violated the legitimate expectation of many law-abiding persons who had the right to expect that the certificates issued to them on the basis of an effective law would also remain valid.

Article 17

1. The Parties undertake not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to establish and maintain free and peaceful contacts across frontiers with persons lawfully staying in other States, in particular those with whom they share an ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious identity, or a common cultural heritage.

2. The Parties undertake not to interfere with the right of persons belonging to national minorities to participate in the activities of non-governmental organisations, both at the national and international levels.

In respect of implementation of Article 17, the Advisory Committee has expressed concern that the abolishment of visa-free travel for residents of the Russian-Estonian border region has caused new challenges for persons belonging to national minorities. The Advisory Committee found it important that the new visa requirements should be implemented in a manner that does not cause undue restrictions on the right of persons belonging to national minorities to establish and maintain contacts across frontiers and welcomed the initiatives that had been launched to create an expeditious procedure for the issuance of free visas for the residents of the border region.

Visa-free travel for residents of the border regions was abolished already some time ago and the abolition of visa-free travel was due to existing international obligations. At the same time, the Government cannot agree with the Committee's criticism that changing of the border-crossing regime has made the cross-frontier movement of the residents of border areas significantly more complicated. Many inhabitants of Narva hold the citizenship of the Russian Federation and they can cross the Estonian-Russian border without any restrictions as often as they wish. Previously, Russia did not require the Russian visa also from the holders of the Estonian alien's passport for entering Russia, but now Russia has imposed the relevant requirement. Holders of the Estonian alien's passport can enter Latvia without a visa and they can stay in Latvia for 90 days during a 6-month period.

The first agreement between the Republic of Estonia and the Russian Federation for issuing visas for residents of border areas on the basis of a simplified procedure was concluded in 2000. On 13 October 2003, a third similar agreement was concluded, which established the issuance of visas to residents of border regions on the basis of a simplified procedure until 31 December 2004. In accordance with the signed protocol, 4000 residents of border regions both from the Russian and the Estonian side can receive a visa in accordance with the simplified procedure for travel to the territory of the other side. The pertinent local governments draw up lists of persons living in the territory of local governments in the border regions and wishing to receive a visa in accordance with the simplified procedure. In Estonia, the drawing up of the lists is coordinated by the Misso rural municipality in southern Estonia and by Narva city in north-eastern Estonia.

The local governments gather the passports and forms from applicants and through diplomatic channels the documents are forwarded to the relevant consular service that reviews the applications and issues visas. As a rule, it is possible to issue a visa without the person having to go to the consular establishment personally, but, if necessary, the consul can always require the submission of additional information or

appearing in person. Visas are issued with a duration for a period of one year. On the basis of the visa, the person has the right to stay 90 days during a 6-month period on the territory of the other state. Long-term visas for residents of border regions are issued free of charge.

The simplified procedure for issuing visas was agreed between Estonia and Russia with the aim to facilitate closer cultural ties among the inhabitants of border regions and to maintain and develop better social and family contacts.

Answers to the questions of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

The Government would hereby like to provide answers to the questions of the Advisory Committee on the implementation of the Framework Convention which were asked separately. Questions 1 and 7 have been answered in detail under Articles 12/14 and 15.

Question No. 2. *Please provide information on the reform of the Presidential Round-Table on National Minorities, including on the establishment of a chamber of representatives in 2002.*

The Advisory Committee has asked additional information about the Presidential Roundtable on National Minorities. The Presidential Roundtable on Minorities is one of the oldest bodies of its kind in Eastern Europe. The Roundtable was convened in 1993 and it is a permanent body with advisory capacity whose aim is to discuss issues of state and society, including ethnic, economic and socio-political issues. The general overview of the activities of the Roundtable was given in the first report. The present overview reflects the changes that have taken place since then. Until 2002, the Roundtable only comprised an expert body that was approved with the decree of the President of the Republic.

On 23 May 2003, the following changes to the procedures of the President's Roundtable on National Minorities were approved:

- Members of the Roundtable include members of the expert body and the chamber of representatives of national minorities.
- Members of the expert body of the Roundtable are appointed by the President of the Republic.
- The list of representatives of the chamber of national minorities, drawn up on the proposal of the Roundtable, in consultation with the President of the Republic, is approved by the expert body of the Roundtable, taking into account the need for the representation of associations and communities of national minorities.

Thus, since 2002, the chamber of representatives of national minorities exists under the expert body of the Presidential Roundtable. As at 23 September 2003, the chamber comprised 139 representatives of cultural and educational societies of national minorities.

The expert body comprises 23 people, including representatives of all political parties represented in the Riigikogu (and also the Russian party – the Estonian United People's Party – that is not currently represented in the Riigikogu), larger umbrella organisations uniting national cultural societies of national minorities and different experts dealing with the issues of national minorities. Meetings of the expert body are usually held once a month.

Members of the chamber of representatives of national minorities include representatives of all organisations of national minorities who have expressed a wish to be represented. The chamber meets once or twice a year at plenary sessions.

The chamber of representatives makes proposals to the expert body of the Roundtable for solving issues of state and society. Materials for the plenary sessions are prepared by the expert body. The chamber's proposals, recommendations and statements are considered as adopted when at least 2/3 of the members of the Roundtable attending the meeting vote in favour. The chamber of representatives also informs the public about its activities.

The first meeting of the chamber was held on 9 November 2002 and it was dedicated to developing the system of financing of Sunday schools of cultural societies of national minorities. The relevant programme and proposals were forwarded to the Office of the Minister for Population Affairs, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education. The second meeting of the chamber was devoted to the process of European Union accession, and the problems of stateless persons in the context of the EU were discussed.

On 13 June 2003, the 10th anniversary of the Presidential Roundtable on National Minorities was celebrated. The work of the Roundtable was recognised by the President who said that the Roundtable had done remarkable cooperation with the committees of the Riigikogu as well as the Office of the Minister for Population Affairs. With its analysis of problems and specific proposals, the Roundtable has made an important contribution to the drafting of bills. In the framework of international cooperation, also conferences and seminars have been held on the topics of interest both for Estonia and other countries. The next meeting of the chamber of national minorities is scheduled for autumn 2004.

The Roundtable has cooperated with relevant institutions from abroad. For example, on 24 May 2004 fifteen experts on national minorities from similar roundtables in Russia attended the meeting of the expert body. The main topics of the meeting were issues relating to the implementation of the National Minorities Cultural Autonomy Act and the situation of Sunday schools of national minorities. The topics were introduced by the representatives of the Ministry of Education and Research. Attending the meeting of the Roundtable were also guests from Stavropol region, Moscow, Chuvashi Republic and the Republic of Bashkortostan.

Question No. 3. *Please provide information on the way in which the linguistic and other rights of persons belonging to national minorities were implemented in the context of recent elections, including the 2003 parliamentary elections, and comment on the results of these elections from the point of view of the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in elected bodies.*

The Advisory Committee in its opinion noted that the right of persons belonging to national minorities to participate in elections is now better ensured by the law, as non-citizens can vote in the local government council elections. However, the Advisory Committee was seriously concerned about the Estonian language proficiency requirements that the Parliamentary Elections Act of 1994 and the Local Government Council Elections Act stipulated for candidates in the respective elections. The Advisory Committee found that these requirements had a negative effect on the participation of persons belonging to national minorities in elections and were not compatible with Article 15 of the Convention and that such requirements should be abolished from legislation.

By the time of submitting of the second report, the concern of the Advisory Committee with respect to this issue has been solved and the relevant amendments to legislation have been introduced. The requirement of language proficiency for candidates at parliamentary as well as local government elections has been abolished. On 21 November 2001, amendments were made to the Riigikogu Elections Act and the Local Government Council Elections Act, abolishing language requirements for candidates running at these elections. The laws have been brought in line with international norms and standards, including Article 25 of the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. Amendments have a positive effect on Estonia's integration process, ensuring the possibility of all citizens, regardless of their knowledge of the Estonian language, to participate in political life.

The Advisory Committee was also concerned about § 23 of the Language Act which stipulates the requirement to provide information in Estonian, as it had been interpreted as prohibiting electoral advertisements posted in a language of a national minority. By the time of the submission of the new report, this practice has also changed. Both the Language Inspectorate and the Legal Chancellor have taken the view that electoral advertisements may also be posted in another language in addition to Estonian and that § 23 of the Language Act cannot be interpreted as prohibiting the parallel use of any other language.

The latest elections of the Riigikogu took place on 2 March 2003.

After the elections in 1995 and 1999, the so-called Russian parties were individually represented in the parliament. However, in the elections of the 10th composition of the Riigikogu in 2003, none of the Russian parties gathered enough votes to exceed the election threshold and, therefore, there are no representatives of those parties in the Riigikogu. The Russian Party in Estonia received only 0.2% of the votes. At the same time, many non-Estonian politicians have joined other political parties which are not formed on the basis of national belonging but on the basis of people's ideology and world view. Several of those politicians were elected to the parliament on the lists of different political parties. This is a sign that many Russian speaking voters made their choice based first and foremost on political platforms, not on the basis of national belonging.

As the choice of belonging or not belonging to a national minority is based on the person's free will, it is not possible to provide exact information about non-Estonians elected to the parliament. The Advisory Committee in its recommendations also noted that it was not correct on the part of the authorities to ask a compulsory question about the person's national belonging during the 2000 census. It can be pointed out, however, that in 2003 six members of the Riigikogu formed a support group for dealing with the issues of national minorities.

The latest local government council elections took place on 20 October 2002 in accordance with the amended law. In fact, the effect of the abolition of the language proficiency requirement in election laws is most noticeable in local government elections. In the elections of local government councils a similar tendency to parliamentary elections could be noted – namely, that people make their choice

between candidates based on their world view, not on national belonging. In addition to political parties, also individual candidates and election coalitions were allowed to run in the elections. In addition to members of political parties, also other persons were allowed to be on the lists of candidates.

As information about the national belonging of persons constitutes sensitive personal data, it is not possible to present the results of local government elections by ethnic groups. In an Appendix to the report (Appendix 4), the lists of members of councils in larger cities in north-eastern Estonia, where the majority of non-Estonians live, have been given. As the lists include a relatively large number of non-Estonian names, it can be assumed that many of the candidates who were elected originate from among national minorities.

In conclusion, it can be said that language requirements for candidates, which several international organisations and experts considered to be discriminatory, have now been abolished. Thus, all citizens, and, on the local government level also all permanent residents, regardless of their knowledge of the Estonian language, can participate in political life. An indication of positive developments is also the decision of persons belonging to national minorities to make their choice of candidates not on the basis of national belonging. This is a sign of integration of non-Estonians to Estonian political life.

Question No. 4. *Please provide information on the way in which the specific needs of persons with disabilities belonging to national minorities are reflected in the public services and programmes regarding HIV/AIDS and drug prevention.*

The Constitution guarantees equal rights to protection for all persons with disabilities. Article 28 of the Constitution stipulates that people with disabilities are under the special care of the state and local governments. Article 15 of the amended and revised European Social Charter provides the right of disabled people to independent life, social integration and participation in the life of society. The state has the obligation to take an active role in ensuring the training, consultation and vocational training of people with disabilities to promote their employment and thus guaranteeing full participation of disabled people in the life of society. In the report on the implementation of the provisions of the Social Charter, the issue of people with disabilities is dealt with in more detail.

All people with disabilities and all risk groups are treated equally, regardless of their ethnic origin, both as regards the provision of training, allocation of support as well as other activities. Societies of different national minorities, who cooperated in drawing up this report, were of the opinion that the situation of people with disabilities and other people in need of social welfare is the same in the case of indigenous people of Estonia as well as representatives of national minorities.

The Social Welfare Benefits for Persons with Disabilities Act entered into effect on 1 January 2000 and the law is aimed at supporting independent coping, social integration and equal opportunities through partial compensation of additional expenses arising from a disability. Organisations of people with disabilities that stand for the interests of disabled people unite also people of other nationalities in addition to Estonians.

On 11 March 2003, the Ministry of Education and Research, the non-profit association Estonian Chamber of Disabled People and the Fund of People with Disabilities in Estonia signed a cooperation agreement for ensuring the protection and equal opportunities for people with disabilities. The issues of education of disabled people came under special attention also due to the fact that 2003 was the European Year of People with Disabilities. In the countries of the European Union, there are more than 37 million people with disabilities. The European Commission and the European Agency for Development in Special Needs Education, together with the organisations of disabled people, draw attention to obstacles and discrimination that people with disabilities face daily, in order to do something practical in this field and improve the quality of life of these people. In March 2002, at the European Congress of People with Disabilities in Madrid, the Madrid Declaration was passed which described the goals for 2003.

In Estonia, there are approximately 70 000 working age people who do not work due to a disability or long-term illness. About 10% are looking for work and a thousand people are registered in employment offices.

On the level of local government, municipal authorities have also begun to pay more attention to the special needs of people with disabilities. In Tallinn, for example, various projects have been carried out to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities. Tallinn development plan for 2001-2005 included a provision on the welfare of people with disabilities. The activities under it are aimed at ensuring maximum opportunities for disabled people for participation in the life of society and guaranteeing access to general public services. To this end, in cooperation with the public and private sector institutions, activities are undertaken to make the physical environment in Tallinn better accessible for people with disabilities. Various supporting services are also implemented (temporary and daily care, self-help groups). A specific plan is to create jobs in city establishments for people with disabilities.

What is also worth mentioning, is the cooperation agreement concluded between the Tallinn City Enterprise Board and the Centre for Rehabilitation Technologies of the Tallinn Technical University in February 2003, according to which support will be given to further training of people with disabilities and improving their employment in Tallinn. The cooperation agreement supports the implementation of the European Union THINK project in Estonia that is financed through the Tallinn Technical University. In the framework of the THINK project, a new e-learning course for disabled people will be launched in February. At the course, people will learn how to use computers and receive guidance about other relating issues with the aim that after acquiring professional skills people with disabilities would be able to find employment at the local labour market.

The Tallinn Training Centre for Youth with Disabilities "Juks" was given to its disposal a building with more than 500 m² of useable space in June 2003, and the technical facilities in the building have been adjusted to people with special needs. The activities of "Juks" are aimed at supporting young people with special needs through work therapy. In the Centre, young people with mental disorders produce industrial art products made by using silk and porcelain painting technique and

ceramic dishes that are marketed through the sales point to be opened on the first floor of the building. The Centre organises music therapy sessions and, if necessary, assistance of the social worker is available.

On 9 October 2002, Tallinn Activity Centre of People with Disabilities was opened where disabled people can find activities to spend their free time and receive assistance in solving different problems.

To improve the situation of people with disabilities in Ida-Virumaa county, separate steps need to be taken, as disabled people living in that region are less informed about their rights and possibilities, as access to information is hindered by the language barrier.

Problems relating to drug addiction and HIV are mostly concentrated to areas like Ida-Virumaa county and Tallinn. Approximately 80% of all HIV positive people are Russian speakers, mostly at the age of 15-25. The spreading of HIV is closely connected with the problems of drug abuse; the virus is most widespread among intravenous drug users.

As HIV/AIDS are most widespread among young people and first and foremost among Russian speakers, the activities for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and drug addiction are also targeted to the relevant age group. Publications and information materials for prevention are available both in Estonian and Russian. Public services for drug and HIV/AIDS treatment and rehabilitation and for the reduction of costs are organised on uniform bases and are accessible for all people who need them, the decisive factor is the health condition of the person and the specific needs arising from this.

Due to the large proportion of drug addicts and HIV positive people in regions where the population consists mostly of persons belonging to national minorities (Ida-Virumaa region), the development and implementation of services for the treatment and rehabilitation and for the reduction of costs are promoted intensively there.

In Narva, where 1175 HIV positive persons are registered, the rehabilitation centre for alcoholics and drug addicts is operating where HIV/AIDS carriers can get help anonymously. The centre distributes free needles and condoms, and also offers methadone treatment. For example, in April 2004, 5790 new needles were distributed and 2400 used needles were collected in Narva, 1689 condoms were also distributed. In May 2004, the Government approved the decision to establish a drug rehabilitation centre in Sillamäe, which would offer drug rehabilitation to addicted persons. The tasks of the centre also include promoting healthy lifestyle and carrying out drug prevention activities. The centre will be the first drug rehabilitation establishment based on modern principles of operation.

In April 2004, the national drug prevention strategy until 2012 was adopted. The strategy is aimed at strengthening the rehabilitation system and treatment for drug addicts, and improving the quality and accessibility of services. The strategy emphasises regional differences in creating a drug-free environment. The following principles will be implemented within the strategy:

- In planning the prevention activities and implementing the methods, the specific characteristics of target groups need to be taken into account (age distribution, sex, ethnic origin, social, cultural and economic background, experience and expectations, availability of drugs, etc.);
- All information materials, study aids and handbooks are developed depending on needs of the target group (including national minorities) and are tested on the relevant target groups;
- Information for drug prevention is available for all population groups in Estonian and Russian;
- Services must be oriented to the age, sex, ethnic origin and socio-cultural background of persons coming for treatment and/or rehabilitation.

Considering the epidemiological situation that has developed in recent years and that is characterised by a large proportion of non-Estonians among drug addicts and HIV positive persons, increasing attention in the action plans of the national programme for alcoholism and drug prevention for 1997-2007 and the national HIV/AIDS prevention programme for 2002-2006 is paid to national peculiarities in planning preventive actions and organising public services.

On 23 September 2003, the Riigikogu decided to form a parliamentary committee for improving the efficiency of HIV, AIDS and drug prevention activities. The tasks of the committee include:

- examination of the current situation with regard to national programmes for the prevention of HIV, AIDS and drug abuse and making proposals for improving the situation;
- analysis of the planning and use of financial resources of national programmes, projects and foreign aid for the prevention of HIV, AIDS and drug abuse and making of relevant proposals;
- analysis of laws relating to the prevention of HIV, AIDS and drug abuse and making proposals for amendments, and, if necessary, also drafting of new laws, including the drafting of the bill for the prohibition of promotion of drugs;
- assessment of the sustainability of national programmes for the prevention of HIV, AIDS and drug abuse after the completion of the programmes;

In the state budget for 2003, there were approximately 12 million kroons for the fight against HIV/AIDS. Five million were spent on purchasing of medicines and the remaining sum was spent on prevention activities. In the budget for 2004, the amount of funds is the same, but in addition to the state budget funds also other resources are used for the fight against HIV/AIDS. The world Global Fund gives 52 million kroons to Estonia for fighting HIV/AIDS. According to the agreement, this sum should last until October 2005. In total, the Fund will provide approximately ten million USD (or 136 million Estonian kroons) for AIDS prevention to Estonia in the period of four years. 34 public tenders are announced for using the money. There is strict supervision over the use of the money and reports will have to be submitted on the use of the funds. The main attention will be given to young people aged 10-24, intravenous drug users, prostitutes, prisoners, men who have sexual intercourse with other men, and people who are already infected. In April 2004, there were 3690 HIV positive persons and 16 persons with AIDS in Estonia.

HIV/AIDS related activities in penal institutions are described separately under question No. 6.

Question No. 5. *Have there been any particular challenges in ensuring that Roma can establish and maintain free and peaceful contacts across frontiers?*

In replying to the question, first and foremost information provided by non-profit associations was used. According to this, the relatively small Roma community has had no problems with communicating with their partners living abroad. They have participated in several international projects in Estonia and abroad. Roma have had positive experience with establishing contacts abroad and with cross-border cooperation.

In 1992, under the initiative of the Association of Estonian Roma Culture, a three-day conference was held in Tallinn. Attending the conference were also Roma invited from Poland, Finland and Sweden. The aim of the event was to bridge the barrier for cross-border communication of Roma in Estonia that had been caused by the Soviet regime. Thanks to the conference, it was possible in the following three years to send young Roma to participate in summer schools and other events held in Finland, Sweden and Poland.

In 1995, a three-day cooperation seminar of Finnish and Estonian Roma was held in the Tallinn Finnish Cultural Institute. The aim of the seminar was to establish a body that would coordinate cross-border cooperation of Roma. A relevant declaration was adopted and 42 supporting members from Finland joined the 34 members of the Association of Estonian Roma Culture.

In 1998, the joint seminar of the Association of Estonian Roma Culture and representatives of Roma organisations from Finland was held in Tallinn. The seminar discussed the results of the religious training project in Estonia that had been led by the Finnish Free Church activists Urpo and Miranda Vuolasranta in 1997. The seminar also discussed issues related to the reorganisation of the Association of Estonian Roma Culture.

Presently, Roma participate in the training project for contact persons of their nationality. The partners in the project are working groups from Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Lithuania, France and England.

The Presidential Roundtable on National Minorities has not dealt with this issue more specifically, but the chamber of representatives of the Roundtable includes representatives of two Roma organisations.

Question No. 6. *Please comment on the reportedly high incarceration rate of persons belonging to national minorities.*

According to the Code of Criminal Procedure that was in effect until now, the ethnic nationality of the defendant had to be ascertained in the criminal proceedings. Accordingly, the earlier statistics included the nationality of the detainees. According to the new Code of Criminal Procedure, which enters into effect on 1 July 2004, it is no longer allowed to ask the nationality of the participant in the criminal proceedings. Data

about the person's nationality are classified as sensitive data and, therefore, in the future, no such data will be collected. In 2003, 1557 inmates were Estonian citizens, 1332 were with undetermined citizenship and 170 were citizens of foreign countries.

A large number of detainees are from Ida-Viru county (1016 detainees) and Harju county (813), followed by Tartu county (303), Pärnu county (205) and Lääne-Viru county (139). In Ida-Viru county, large industrial companies were established during the Soviet period. By now, many of the companies have been closed down and people have become unemployed. In 2002, the rate of unemployment in Ida-Viru county was 18%. A large number of non-Estonians live in that region and it is difficult for persons who do not speak Estonian to succeed at the labour market, and also the salaries of many people are small. At the same time, consumption oriented lifestyle and property differentiation are considered a motivation to crime. Drug use is also spreading and has become a problem in society. In prisons, there are many people who have been punished for drug trafficking and even the majority of intravenous drug users are Russian speaking people. Due to social causes, drug use is more widespread among non-Estonians.

Re-socialisation of prisoners back to society takes place mainly through providing possibilities for studying and employment, as well as through social work, psychological counselling, religious activities and medical assistance. The prison system has become increasingly aware that the prison is not only an establishment of incarceration, but that it also has an important role in re-socialising inmates. Inmates need to be assisted in preparing for return to free society whose rules they should be able to follow.

According to the Imprisonment Act, prisoners are required to work. In order to raise the employment of prisoners and better manage the production resources of prisons, the joint stock company Estonian Prison Industry under private law, owned 100% by the state, was established to deal with the organisation of production work of inmates. The aim of the reorganisation was to increase employment among inmates, raise the competitiveness of production and reduce the costs of prisons. In 2002, an important development took place in the operation of the company Estonian Prison Industry. In 2002, on average 183 inmates had work, which is 35.6% more than in the previous year of operation.

In 2002, new projects were launched in Rummu sawmill and limestone industry, where inmates from Ämari Prison work outside the prison. In November 2002, work was started in Tartu Prison. In Harku Prison, the number of jobs reached maximum in 2003.

The aim of providing education is to prepare the inmates for freedom, supporting the healthy development of personalities and increasing the ability for coping independently. Developing of the organisation of education is also based on the Council of Europe recommendations No. R (89) and 12 on education in prisons.

In the academic year 2001/2002, in addition to acquiring of general education in prisons, it was also possible to study the following specialities: electric and gas welding, metal work, maintenance electrician, painter-plasterer, lathe operator-miller, finishing work of buildings, mason, gardener, small business organisation, sales

representative, sewer, real estate maintenance, soft furniture repairing. In the framework of the integration programme for non-Estonians, state language training and preparatory courses for the citizenship examination were organised. Language study can also be undertaken independently with the materials available in the prison libraries.

Religious activities in prisons are organised by the prison chaplain. The mission of the chaplain's service in the prison is to cater to the religious needs of inmates, organise religious consultations and participate in the re-socialisation process of inmates. In addition to the chaplain in each prison, there are also voluntary workers who have been sent by different churches and congregations. As a rule, inmates have a possibility for regular meetings with the chaplain and to attend religious services and events. Chaplains have provided assistance in the re-socialisation process of a number of inmates, by doing conciliation work with the close ones of the inmates, and by organising possibilities for released inmates to live in rehabilitation centres and consulting inmates individually in connection with their release from prison. Chaplains and volunteers, in cooperation with churches and other non-profit associations, have also provided material assistance to families of prison workers, inmates and their families. Inmates have an unrestricted right to meet the religious minister in prison.

All religions are taken into account – prison chaplains have repeatedly cooperated with an Islamic minister, Buddhists and persons who worship the earth and nature (*maausulised*). The mullah has mostly visited Murru Prison. The participation of Buddhists in the prison work is somewhat more active, while believers of the earth and nature have been most passive.

In 2002, several social welfare related activities were carried out in prisons. In Harku Prison, lectures were started on the topics "How to compete at the labour market" and "Possibilities of social assistance in freedom". In Tallinn Prison, the pilot project "Resocialisation attempts" was launched. In Ämari Prison, the "Labour education" programme on coping benefits was continued. The programme had started in 2001 and had been highly regarded by inmates. The aim of the programme is to develop working habits. In Pärnu Prison, social training in the framework of the vocational training programme was carried out. Highly popular among inmates have also been the information hours, which are used to provide an overview of the week's newspapers and to debate on more interesting news and articles, also guests are invited and information is provided about what is happening in society.

The HIV epidemic that started in autumn 2000 in Estonia also has a significant impact on prisons. Since July 2002, HIV prevention in prisons is based on "HIV/AIDS prevention action plan for the establishments in the area of administration of the Ministry of Justice for 2002-2006". In 2002, 1874 HIV tests were made in the prison system, 328 of them (i.e. 17%) were positive. The majority of the infected persons are intravenous drug users. It is considered important to inform inmates about the existing problems and possibilities for AIDS prevention. In cooperation with the AIDS prevention centre, HIV/AIDS lectures were carried out in Maardu Prison. The programme was aimed at raising the awareness of inmates: altogether 93 inmates participated in the programme. In Murru Prison, discussion groups were held for HIV positive people, covering also the topics of health education.

Drug use and drugs trafficking has become a large problem. In Viljandi Prison, the programme “How to feel good without addictive substances” was carried out. In the course of the programme, inmates learned self-determination, self-evaluation, taking responsibility, setting future goals, positive thinking and attitudes to life. Inmates were also helped in understanding the role of peer pressure in drug behaviour.

In addition to the above, also social rehabilitation programmes carried out in prisons are worth mentioning. The aim of such programmes is to teach inmates social skills that would help them cope in society in a law-abiding manner.

Continuing such programmes, offering possibilities for learning and providing work to a possibly large number of inmates will help to create preconditions for fulfilling the resocialising function of prisons. It will be easier for inmates to start an independent life and hopefully they will not return to criminal ways.

Support given to cultural associations and societies of national minorities from the state budget in 2004

1.1. International Union of National Cultural Associations "Lüüra" (umbrella organisation), <i>including to member organisations of the umbrella organisation:</i>	481 000 kroons <i>196 000 kroons</i>
1.1.1. Folklore group Zhurba	10 000 kroons
1.1.2. Ersä Cultural Society Sjatko	10 000 kroons
1.1.3. Georgian Society in Estonia	10 000 kroons
1.1.4. Georgian national music group Mamuli	8 000 kroons
1.1.5. Non-profit association Moldavian Cultural Society Luchaferul	10 000 kroons
1.1.6. Estonian-Uzbek Cultural Association Nargiza	5 000 kroons
1.1.7. Estonian-Turkmen Cultural Society AK Maija	5 000 kroons
1.1.8. Belarussian Cultural Association Ljos	10 000 kroons
1.1.9. Seto Singing Society Sõsarõ	10 000 kroons
1.1.10. Folklore group Norok	9 000 kroons
1.1.11. Udmurt Society Oshmes	4 000 kroons
1.1.12. Women's club Lüüra Naised	5 000 kroons
1.1.13. Non-profit association Bõliina	10 000 kroons
1.1.14. Artistic society of national minorities Art Master	6 000 kroons
1.1.15. Kabardini Cultural Association Elbrus	7 000 kroons
1.1.16. Non-profit association Põlvkond	10 000 kroons
1.1.17. Southern Estonian Armenian National Society	10 000 kroons
1.1.18. Narva city Uzbek Cultural Society Sogdiana	7 000 kroons
1.1.19. Non-profit association dance club Uus Põlvkond	5 000 kroons
1.1.20. Estonian Tartar Cultural Association Idel	10 000 kroons
1.1.21. Folklore dance group "Ariran"	10 000 kroons
1.1.22. Estonian Korean Cultural Society	10 000 kroons
1.1.23. Ossetian National Cultural Society IR	9 000 kroons
1.1.24. Tallinn Georgian National Society Iveria	2 000 kroons
1.1.25. Non-profit association Chirisan – Estonia	2 000 kroons
1.1.26. Adzarian Cultural Society in Estonia	2 000 kroons
1.2. Association of Nationalities in Estonia (umbrella organisation) <i>including to member organisations of the umbrella organisation</i>	412 000 kroons <i>127 000 kroons</i>
1.2.1. Estonian Society of Latvians	11 000 kroons
1.2.2. Estonian Society of Lithuanians	15 000 kroons
1.2.3. Munkacsy M. Estonian Society of Hungarians	10 000 kroons
1.2.4. Estonian Society of Poles POLONIA	15 000 kroons
1.2.5. Non-profit association Estonian Jewish Community	11 000 kroons
1.2.6. Society of East Estonians	10 000 kroons
1.2.7. Chuvashi Cultural Society	10 000 kroons
1.2.8. Uzbek Cultural Centre Safar	10 000 kroons
1.2.9. Estonian Moldavian Society	5 000 kroons
1.2.10. Estonian-Mordovian Society	5 000 kroons
1.2.11. Mari Community in Estonia	5 000 kroons

1.2.12. Russian Club	20 000 kroons
1.3. Ida-Virumaa Integration Centre (umbrella organisation)	200 000 kroons
including to member organisations of the umbrella organisation	149 000 kroons
1.3.1. Ukrainian Cultural Society	5 000 kroons
1.3.2. Ida-Virumaa Belarussian Cultural Society BEZ	25 000 kroons
1.3.3. Ida-Virumaa Tartar Cultural Society	10 000 kroons
1.3.4 Ida-Virumaa Jewish Community	17 000 kroons
1.3.5. Kohtla-Järve city Russian Cultural Society	10 000 kroons
1.3.6. Ukrainian Compatriots Sillamäe Vodograi	25 000 kroons
1.3.7. Narva Swedish Society	2 000 kroons
1.3.8. Narva-Jõesuu city Russian Cultural Society Allikas	5 000 kroons
1.3.9. Narva Chuvashi Society Narspi	2 000 kroons
1.3.10. Narva Tartar Cultural Society	10 000 kroons
1.3.11. Non-profit association Russian Community Rusitš	5 000 kroons
1.3.12. Narva Polish Society	10 000 kroons
1.3.13. Narva Jewish Community	7 000 kroons
1.3.14. Narva Belarussian Society Sjabrõ	14 000 kroons
1.3.15. Narva Jewish Community Gineini	2 000 kroons
1.4. Association of Slavic Educational and Charitable Societies in Estonia (umbrella organisation), including to member organisations of the umbrella organisation	590 000 kroons 305 000 kroons
1.4.1. Organising committee of the song and dance festival Slavic Wreath	30 000 kroons
1.4.2. Russian Philharmonic Society	10 000 kroons
1.4.3. Association of Russian Artists	10 000 kroons
1.4.4. Russian Literary Society	10 000 kroons
1.4.5. A.S. Pushkin Society	10 000 kroons
1.4.6. Non-profit association Russian Research Centre in Estonia	11 000 kroons
1.4.7. Educational society "Popular university of Russian culture"	2 000 kroons
1.4.8. Estonian Association of Russian Writers	5 000 kroons
1.4.9. Association of Russian Amateur Theatre Studios in Estonia	2 000 kroons
1.4.10. Association of Slavic Cultures	2 000 kroons
1.4.11. Non-profit association Estonian-Slavic Cultural Bridge	10 000 kroons
1.4.12. Viljandi County Association of Slavic Culture	2 000 kroons
1.4.13. Estonian-Russian Cultural Society	2 000 kroons
1.4.14. Association of Estonian-Russian Cultures	2 000 kroons
1.4.15. Russian Cultural Society Pärnu Aplaus Plus	10 000 kroons
1.4.16. Slavic Cultural Society Jaroslavna	5 000 kroons
1.4.17. Pärnu and Pärnu County Cultural Society	10 000 kroons
1.4.18 Sindi town Slavic Cultural Society "Slavjanotska"	8 000 kroons
1.4.19. Paide City Slavic Cultural Society Slavjanotska	2 000 kroons
1.4.20. Artistic collective Culture Bridges	2 000 kroons
1.4.21. Women's Association Rodnik	2 000 kroons
1.4.22. Boys' Choir Studio Cantilena	2 000 kroons
1.4.23. Children's Choir Studio Cantus	10 000 kroons
1.4.24. Non-profit association women's choir Slavjanka	10 000 kroons

1.4.25. Russian national choir Sudarushki	2 000 kroons
1.4.26. Non-profit association folklore group Bõlitsa	3 000 kroons
1.4.27. Mixed choir Russ	2 000 kroons
1.4.28. Popular music group Zlatõje Gorõ	10 000 kroons
1.4.29. Choir association Allikas	2 000 kroons
1.4.30. Society of Amateur Popular Musicians Slavutitsh	10 000 kroons
1.4.31. Non-profit association Studio JOY	10 000 kroons
1.4.32. Society Baroque World	2 000 kroons
1.4.33. Olga Lund Vocal Studio	6 000 kroons
1.4.34. Chamber-minitheatre Solo	8 000 kroons
1.4.35. Artistic collective Dusha i Lira	2 000 kroons
1.4.36. Non-profit association Artistic Centre Aplaus	10 000 kroons
1.4.37. Children's music studio Gamma	2 000 kroons
1.4.38. Vocal group Lukomorje	5 000 kroons
1.4.39. Song and folklore society Russian Song	2 000 kroons
1.4.40. Non-profit association Dance Society Terpsichore	10 000 kroons
1.4.41. Children's group Neposedõ	10 000 kroons
1.4.42. Children's dance group Solnõsko	2 000 kroons
1.4.43. Society of Psychological Dance	2 000 kroons
1.4.44. Non-profit association Theatre ABC	2 000 kroons
1.4.45. Non-profit association Theatre-Studio Grotesk	10 000 kroons
1.4.46. Non-profit association The Small English Theatre	2 000 kroons
1.4.47. Theatre society Junost	10 000 kroons
1.4.48. Art studio Valeris	2 000 kroons
1.4.49. Non-profit association Art World	2 000 kroons
1.4.50. Non-profit association Literary-poetic club Nadezhda	2 000 kroons
1.4.51. Literary club Sonnet	2 000 kroons
1.4.52. Cinema-video society Rakurss	2 000 kroons
1.4.53. Studio Meksvideo	2 000 kroons
1.5. Estonian Association of Turkish and Caucasian Peoples (umbrella organisation), including to member organisations of the umbrella organisation	50 000 kroons 32 000 kroons
1.5.1. Kazakh Cultural Society ABAI	4 000 kroons
1.5.2. Kirghiz Cultural Society	4 000 kroons
1.5.3. Circassian Cultural Society Nart	4 000 kroons
1.5.4. Dagestan Cultural Society in Estonia	4 000 kroons
1.5.5. XXI Century Estonian Azerbaijan Community	4 000 kroons
1.5.6. Estonian Azerbaijan Friendship Society	4 000 kroons
1.5.7. Non-profit association Cultural Centre Kavkaz	4 000 kroons
1.5.8. Non-profit association Cultural Centre Atatürk	4 000 kroons
1.6. Non-profit association Russkii Dom (umbrella organisation)	10 000 kroons
1.7. Association of Russian Cultural Societies Ruthenia (umbrella organisation) including to member organisations of the umbrella organisation	15 000 kroons 5 000 kroons
Russian Academic Society	5 000 kroons
1.8. Congress of Ukrainians in Estonia (umbrella organisation) including to member organisations of the umbrella organisation	97 000 kroons 80 000 kroons
1.8.1. Ukrainian Compatriots in Estonia	30 000 kroons

1.8.2. Ukrainian Compatriots Veselka	2 000 kroons
1.8.3. Association of Ukrainian Women in Estonia	10 000 kroons
1.8.4. Ukrainian Cultural Society	9 000 kroons
1.8.5. Ukrainian Cultural and Educational Society Stozharõ	13 000 kroons
1.8.6. Non-profit association Smeritshka	2 000 kroons
1.8.7. Non-profit association Ukrainian Compatriots Barvinok	2 000 kroons
1.8.8. Youth Society Plast	2 000 kroons
1.8.9. Narva City Ukrainian Compatriots	10 000 kroons
1.9. Association of Ukrainian Organisations in Estonia (<i>umbrella organisation</i>)	94 000 kroons
<i>including to member organisations of the umbrella organisation</i>	57 000 kroons
1.9.1. Artistic society Koit	8 000 kroons
1.9.2. Ukrainian Cultural Educational Society Prosvita	10 000 kroons
1.9.3. Choreography group Kolor	10 000 kroons
1.9.4. Association of Ukrainian Youth in Estonia	9 000 kroons
1.9.5. Ukrainian Society Vitshisna	10 000 kroons
1.9.6. Non-profit association Orpheus	10 000 kroons
1.10. Non-profit association Estonian-Ukrainian Cultural Centre Kolos (<i>umbrella organisation</i>)	6 000 kroons
<i>including to member organisations of the umbrella organisation</i>	4 000 kroons
1.10.1. Non-profit association Tsharõ	2 000 kroons
1.10.2. Artistic Society Cultural Heritage	2 000 kroons
1.11. Association of Belarussians in Estonia (<i>umbrella organisation</i>)	77 000 kroons
<i>including to member organisations of the umbrella organisation</i>	47 000 kroons
1.11.1. Estonian-Belarussian Cultural Society Spadtsõna	10 000 kroons
1.11.2. Belarussian Cultural Educational Non-profit Association Lad	5 000 kroons
1.11.3. Belarussian Cultural Centre Batkavshtshina	20 000 kroons
1.11.4. Non-profit association musical theatre studio Alesja	2 000 kroons
1.11.5. Belarussian Cultural Society Jalinka	10 000 kroons
1.12. Association of Ingrian Finns in Estonia (<i>umbrella organisation</i>)	100 000 kroons
1.13. Estonian Armenian National Society (<i>umbrella organisation</i>)	40 000 kroons
1.14. Estonian Society of Folk Dance and Folk Music (<i>umbrella organisation</i>)	12 000 kroons
<i>including to member organisation of the umbrella organisation, children's choreography studio Lootos</i>	10 000 kroons
1.15. Sillamäe Slavic Cultural Society	30 000 kroons
1.16. Slavic Society Läte	9 000 kroons
1.17. Non-profit association Russian Romance Club	25 000 kroons
1.18. Rāpina Russian Society	2 000 kroons
1.19. Non-profit association Vanaema Veimevakk	5 000 kroons
1.20. Cultural society "Pritshudie"	5 000 kroons
1.21. Non-profit association Viivo Music	20 000 kroons
1.22. Non-profit association Estonian Severjanin Cultural Society	5 000 kroons
1.23. Estonian Cultural Centre Russian Encyclopaedia	2 000 kroons
1.24. Non-profit association Song Theatre "Perekristok"	10 000 kroons

1.25. Saaremaa Russian Society	10 000 kroons
1.26. Natalja Zentshenko vocal and dance centre Diapasoon	10 000 kroons
1.27. Tartu Russian Cultural Society	2 000 kroons
1.28. Tartu Jewish Community	2 000 kroons
1.29. Tartar cultural centre "Yoldõz"	15 000 kroons
1.30. Tallinn Bashkirian Cultural Association Agizel	10 000 kroons
1.31. Non-profit association Estonian Azerbaijan Cultural Centre Ajdan	30 000 kroons
1.32. Non-profit association Baltic-Caucasian	2 000 kroons
1.33. Oriental Women's International Association ANA	2 000 kroons
1.34. Non-profit association "WALK"	2 000 kroons
1.35. Narva-Jõesuu Finno-Ugric Cultural Society	5 000 kroons
1.36. Narva City Slavic Cultural Society Svätogor	25 000 kroons
1.37. Integration Artistic Centre Almari	2 000 kroons

Support and grants provided by the council of the Integration Foundation to national cultural societies through project competitions in 2000-2003.

30 September 2003:

Name of person submitting the project	Establishment submitting the project	Name of project	Sum, kroons
Raissa Dudartshuk	Estonian-Uzbek Cultural Society Nargiza	Abu Ali Sina heritage of national epic poem	2 000
Marina Mitrofanova	Slavic Society Läte	Art exhibition Kunda – town of masters 2003	11 000
Emma Gofman	Ida-Virumaa Jewish Community	Revival	8 000
Liidia Kõlvart	International Union of National Cultural Associations Lüüra	We preserve what we have	24 000
Margarita Ostroumova	Ida-Virumaa Belarussian Cultural Society BEZ	Belarussian cultural days in Jõhvi and Kohtla-Järve	10 000
Niina Petruhhina	Ida-Virumaa Society of Ingrian Finns	Autumn 15 years ago	10 000
Hillar Talvik	Pärnu Cultural Society of Ingrian Finns	Celebration of 15 years of the Pärnu Cultural Society of Ingrian Finns	5 000
Olga Bunder	Non-profit association Russian Romance Club	Activities of the Russian Romance Club and children's theatre „Little Opera“	24 000
Artjom Davidjants	Tallinn Armenian National Society	Aram Hatshaturjan's jubilee concert-exhibition in Tallinn	10 000
Cecilija Rasa Unt	Estonian Association of Lithuanians	Celebration of 15 years of the Estonian Association of Lithuanians	8 000
Maria Smolina	Sillamäe Slavic Cultural Society	Differences and similarities of national cultures	14 000
Anatoli Ljutjuk	Ukrainian Cultural Society	Bread of forefathers	5 000
Marina Tee	Youth Association Colours of the Earth	Most-Tallinn	10 000
Vira Konõk	Congress of Ukrainians in Estonia	Estonia – our common home	3 000
Larissa Zhitnik	Ukrainian Compatriots in Sillamäe Vodograi	Mosaic of popular art	10 000

16 May 2003

Name of person submitting the project	Establishment submitting the project	Name of project	Sum, kroons
Liidia Kõlvart	International Union of National Cultural Associations Lüüra	Step by step	40 000
Anatoli Ljutjuk	Ukrainian Cultural Centre	Creative laboratory (Ukrainian Sunday school)	30 000
Fljuza Hairullina	Tallinn Bashkirian Cultural Association „Agižel“	Bashkirian and Tartar national festival Sabantui	25 000
Artjom Davidjants	Tallinn Armenian National Society	Days of Armenian culture in Tallinn	30 000
Vitali Rõbakov	Mari Community in Estonia	Celebration of the day of Mari Hero	7 533
Yagub Yagubov	Estonian Azerbaijan Friendship Society	Children building the cultural bridge Tallinn-Baku	20 000
Vira Konõk	Congress of Ukrainians in Estonia	Estonia – our common home	8 000
Jana Tolmats	Studio „Joy“	Different peoples, different cultures	30 000
Margarita Ostroumova	Ida-Virumaa Belarussian Society „BEZ“	Festival of Belarussian humour „Smile the Belarussian way“	15 000
Niina Petruhhina	Ida-Virumaa Society of Ingrian Finns	Vanemuise songs in Elva	10 000
Nikolai Solovei	Association of Slavic Educational and Charitable Societies in Estonia	Common Estonian-Russian song festivals	30 000
Maria Smolina	Sillamäe City Slavic Cultural Society	Youth along cultural and historical paths in Estonia	23 000
Natalia Jampolskaja	Slavic Society “Bõlina“	Ivan Kupala day	8 000
Irina Bogdanets	Belarussian Cultural Society „Ljos“	National festival „Kupalle“	8 000
Oksana Sõmotjuk	Non-profit association „Stozharõ“	Maardu Ukrainian Sunday school	10 000
Marianna Drozdova	Society of Russian Students „Ros“	Culture group 2003	25 000
Juri Jurkevits	Association of Belarussians in Estonia	Festival-fair of Belarussian culture „Belaruski padvorak“	15 000
Larisa Zhitnik	Ukrainian Compatriots Sillamäe Vodograi	Step by step 2003/2004	15 000

349 533

25 September 2002:

Name of person submitting the project	Organisation	Name of and the project	Support (kroons)
Maria Smolina	Sillamäe Society of Slavic Culture	„Multicultural ties: Viljandi – Sillamäe“	20 000
Jelena Vassiljeva	Society Germans in Narva "Harmonie"	Information day "Activities and development of German cultural diaspora in Estonia"	10 000
Pavel Varunin	Peipsiveere Development Foundation	„200 years of Old Believers in Estonia“	20 000
Tatjana Sosnovskaja	Varnja Family Society	„The culture of regions along Lake Peipsi is expanding its borders“	6 000
Cecilija-Rasa Unt	Estonian Society of Lithuanians	„Traditional autumn festival of Estonian Society of Lithuanians "Autumn	4 800
Vitali Rõbakov	Mari Community in Estonia, non-profit association	„Celebration of tribal days“	5 600
Timur Seifullen	Association of Nationalities in Estonia	„Narva Tartar Community – 75“	23 700
Rabiga Zholshibekova	Kazakh Cultural Society "Aigul" non-profit association	„East-West (Kazakhs in Estonia)“	6 500
Albina Heider	Ukrainian group Zhurba	„Ukraine in Estonia and Estonia in Ukraine“	5 000
Aleksandr Portjanko	Narva Belarussian Society Sjabrõ	„Belarussian folk poets - Janka Kupala and Jakub Kolas – 120th anniversary“	5 600
Olga Bunder	Russian Romance Club	„Activities of the Russian Romance Club and children's theatre "Little opera" Sept 02	10 000
Lola Sahhibnazarova	Uzbek Cultural Society "Safar"	„Exhibition of Uzbek national culture and handicraft“	6 700
Lidia Kõlvart	International Union of National Cultural Associations Lüüra	„Sunday schools in "Lüüra" house“	25 000
Lidia Kõlvart	International Union of National Cultural Associations Lüüra	„Festival "Little Lüüra"“	50 000

Vira Konõk	Congress of Ukrainians in Estonia	„Estonia – our common home“	7000
Ilzija Ahmet	Cultural Society of Tartars in Estonia “Idel”	„450 years since the conquest of Kazan – day of commemoration“	2 500
Marina Mitrofanova	Slavic Society LÄTE	„Similarities and differences of elements in Estonian and Slavic national cultural peculiarities“	6 000
Rauf Avsharov	Dream Fabrik Puppet Theatre, non-profit association	„Azerbaijan culture – modernity and traditions“	6 000
Anna Võlu	Ukrainian Compatriots Sillamäe Vodograi	„Popular cultural school“	3 500
Gülnara Vals	Turkish School, non-profit association	„Estonian-Turkish school“	15 000
Alla Matvejeva	Narva City Cultural Society "Svätogor"	„Days of Slavic culture“	2 000
Joanna Kititš	Moldavian Cultural Society Luchaferul	„Moldavian national holiday "Jarba verde" (Thanksgiving)“	2 000
Ksenia Mamutova	Ukrainian Cultural Educational Society "Prosvita"	„Ukrainian Sunday School“	15 000
Emma Gofman	Ida-Virumaa Jewish Community	„Aspects of activity“	3 000
Raissa Dudartsuk	Estonian-Uzbek Society Nargiza	„Tyubiteika as a detail of national clothing“	2 000
Raissa Klinova	Estonian-Erza Cultural Society „Sjatko“	„Cultural society "Sjatko" - 5 years“	4 500
Alla Matvejeva	Narva City Cultural Society "Svätogor"	„Choirs singing in Estonia“	3 500

270900

15 April 2002:

Name of person submitting the project	Organisation	Name of and the project	Support (kroons)
Prozes, Jaak	Association of Nationalities in Estonia	XIV Forum of Peoples of Estonia	15 700
Konsen, Tiina	Tartu City Government	Day of culture of national minorities of Tartu southern Estonia	10 000
Jurkevitsh, Juri	Estonian Association of Belarussians	National cultural festival of Belarussians in Estonia "Belaruskaje padvorje"	15 800
Kõlvart, Lidia	Estonian Korean Cultural Society	We are known and loved in Estonia	12 000
Zhigurs, Juris	Estonian Society of Latvians	Joint event of Latvian and Lithuanian societies: Latvian national holiday "Ligo" and Lithuanian Midsummer holiday "Jonines"	3 000
Zhitnik, Larissa	Ukrainian Compatriots in Sillamäe "Vodograi"	Together we learn different traditions and folklore customs	10 000
Solovei, Nikolai	Association of Slavic Educational and Charitable Societies in Estonia	Common Estonian-Russian song festivals	40 000
Petruhhina, Niina	Ida-Virumaa Society of Ingrian Finns	Own house – new life	10 000
Belotserkovskaja, Natalja	Polish Society "Stos"	Days of Polish culture in Estonia	6 400
Mamutova, Ksenia	Association of Ukrainian Organisations in Estonia	International festival of Ukrainian culture "Trembita"	35 000
Jampolskaja, Natalia	"Bõliina"	National cultural festival "We are all so different"	13 100
Bogdanets, Irina	Society of Belarussian Culture "Ljos"	Festival "Kupalle"	7 600
Kurshubadze, Jasa	Georgian Society in Estonia	Celebration of the Georgian independence day in Estonia	4 900
Kõlvart, Lidia	International Union of National Cultural Associations "Lüüra"	Multicultural Tallinn	80 000

Hairullina, Fljuza	Tallinn Bashkirian Cultural Society "Agizel"	Literary night with Estonian and Bashkirian writers in Tallinn	6 000
Bunder, Olga	Russian Romance Club	Activities of the Russian Romance Club and children's theatre "Little Opera"	24 000
Varunin, Pavel	Peipsiveere Development Foundation	Old Believers in Estonia	16 200
Lolajev, Leri	Ossetian National Cultural Society "Ir"	Days of Ossetian language and culture in Estonia	7 100
Unt, Cecilija-Rasa	Estonian Society of Lithuanians	Joint event of Latvian and Lithuanian societies: Midsummer Day-Jonines-Ligo	3 000
Tshirkova, Svetlana	Narva-Jõesuu Finno-Ugric Cultural Society	Integration of Finno-Ugric minorities in Estonian society	10 000
Kuhlberg, Peeter	Slavic Society "Läte"	Preservation and development of Slavic national traditions in Kunda town	10 000

339 800

23 May 2001:

Name of person submitting the project	Organisation	Name of the project	Support (kroons)
Tatjana Prokatsova	Narva Choir School	Folklore festival, dedicated to Kirilli ja Mefod	5 000
Annely Pekkonen	Baltic-Caucasian, non-profit association	Estonia through the eyes of Caucasians	11 000
Niina Petruhhina	Ida-Virumaa Society of Ingrian Finns	Vanemuise songs	13 000
Jagub Jagubov	Estonian-Azerbaijan Friendship Society	Celebration of the independence day of the Azerbaijan Republic	5 000
Kerttu Lavonen	Tallinn Society of Ingrian Finns	XI song and dance festival of Ingrian Finns in Estonia, in Haapsalu	5 000
Oksana Sõmotjuk	Ukrainian Educational Cultural Society "Stozarõ"	Ukrainian Sunday school in Maardu	10 000

Artjom Davidjants	Tallinn Armenian National Society, Tallinn Armenian Sunday school	Curriculum of Tallinn Armenian Sunday school	10 000
Tiiu Toom	Narva-Jõesuu Society of Estonians "Kalju"	Integration at cultural days of national cultural societies in Narva-Jõesuu	15 000
Jaak Prozes	Association of Nationalities in Estonia	Information of member organisations of the Association of Nationalities in Estonia in the Internet	15 000
Hiie Taal	Räpina Russian Society	Preserving the cultural uniqueness of national minorities in Põlva county	15 000
Alla Matvejeva	Narva City Slavic Cultural Society "Svjatogor"	Folklore festival "Pokrovskie posidelki"	8 000
Ljudmila Sivolobova	Pärnu and Pärnu County Slavic Cultural Society	Preserving the heritage of Russian national culture in Estonia	15 000
Natalia Kurzeva	Circassian Cultural Society "Nart"	135 years Circassians have lived outside their homeland	8 000
Lidia Kõlvart	International Union of National Cultural Associations "LÜÜRA"	Estonian Citizen's Day	11 000
Lidia Kõlvart	Estonian-Korean Society	East-West	7 000
Lidia Kõlvart	International Union of National Cultural Associations "LÜÜRA"	Sunday school in "LÜÜRA" house	20 000
Jasa Kursubadze	Estonian-Georgian Cultural Society	Georgian songs in Estonia	9 000
Olga Bunder	Russian Romance Club	Russian romance – unique feature of Russian culture	13 000
Timur Seifullen	Association of Nationalities in Estonia	"Tartars in Estonia" I	5 000
Dõlkanbai Mederbekov	Non-profit association Kirghiz Cultural Society	10th anniversary of Kirghiz Cultural Society	5 000
Oktaij Zeynalov	Azerbaijan Community in Estonia	Azerbaijan national clothes	8 000
Leri Lolajev	Ossetian Cultural Society "Ir"	Prominent figures among Ossetian people	5 000
Jaan Mitrauskis	Estonian Roma Youth Cultural Centre, non-profit association	Concert tour 2001	25 000
Maria Smolina	Sillamäe Slavic Cultural Society	Meeting of friends	17 000

Emma Gofman	Ida-Virumaa Jewish Community	Development of Ida-Virumaa Jewish Community through use of computer technology	8 000
Natalia Jampolskaja	Lääne County Slavic Cultural Educational Charitable Society "Bõlina"	International festival "We are all so different"	20 000
Zinaida Klõga	Ida-Virumaa Byelorussian Cultural Society "Bez"	BEZ visiting...	14 000
Ksenia Mamutova	Association of Ukrainian Organisations in Estonia	Jubilee concert	30 000
Güzjalja Aissatulina	Estonian Azerbaijan Cultural Centre "Ajadan"	Independence Day	5 000
Fljuza Hairullina	Tallinn Bashkirian Cultural Society "Agizel"	Theatre performance in the Bashkirian language	10 000
Marina Jerjomina	Studio "Joy"	Find your own roots! (II stage)	25 000

372 000

16 May 2000:

Name of person submitting the project	Organisation	Name of the project	Support (kroons)
Petrov, Valeri	Non-profit association Viivo Music	"Knowing, preserving and introducing your national culture is a key to the success of integration"	55000
Jampolskaja, Natalja	Lääne County Slavic Cultural Educational Charitable Society "Bõlina"	"National cultural festival "We are all so different"	6000
Boikov, Viktor	Russian Research Centre in Estonia	"Russians in Estonia at the start of the XXI century: past, present, future (collection of articles)"	45000 (kahes etapis - 10000 + 35000)
Bodnar, Orest	Ukrainian Compatriots in Estonia	"Organisation of Ukrainian cultural days in Tartu"	7800
Bunder, Olga	Russian Romance Club	"Children's creation as inseparable part of the integration process"	40000
Solovei, Nikolai	Association of Slavic Educational and Charitable Societies in Estonia	"VII international song and dance festival "Slavic Wreath -2000"	55000

Peutsova, Elena	Moldavian Cultural Society "Lucha ferul"	"Moldavian days in Estonia"	10000
Kõlvart, Liidia	International Union of National Cultural Associations "Lüüra"	"Elupuu"	40000
Savinova, Niina	Belarussian Cultural Society "Batkavstshina"	"Our multinational family"	30000
Smolina, Maria	Slavic Cultural Society	"Culture unites us"	25000
Mamedov, Vidadi	Non-profit association Baltic-Caucasian	"Book "Baltic Caucasians""	45000 (kahes etapis - 10000 + 35000)
Prozes, Jaak	Association of Nationalities in Estonia	"Information of member organisations of the Association of Nationalities in Estonia in the Internet"	40000
Kuršubadze, Jasha	Estonian Georgian Cultural Society	"Georgian songs in Estonia"	17000
Mederbekov, Dõikanbai	Kirghiz Cultural Society	"Exhibition of Kirghiz national art"	20000
Zhitnik, Larissa	Ukrainian Compatriots, Sillamäe "Vodograi"	"Together we learn various traditions, folklore and customs of Ukrainians"	20000
Konõk, Vira and Bodnar, Orest	Ukrainian Compatriots in Estonia	"Publication of the newspaper "Strunõ" (in Ukrainian, black and white)" and "Designing the Internet page of Ukrainian Compatriots in Estonia"	30000 (ühendada projektid)
Lavonen, Kerttu	Tallinn Society of Ingrian Finns	"X song and dance festival of Ingrian Finns in Estonia, in Viljandi"	10500
Mänty, Riina	Tartu Society of Living Culture	"City festival "Tarsan""	30000
			526300

In addition to this, cultural societies have other possibilities to apply for support from the Integration Foundation. Competitions are organised, for example, on the topics of journalism, television programmes, non-Estonian speaking children in Estonian schools. Some cultural societies have also received assistance in the framework of open competitions as well as specific competitions for national cultural societies.

In 2002, the competition "Sunday schools of national culture" was held, through which several cultural societies received assistance for their activities.

4 June 2002:

Name of person submitting the project	Name of organisation submitting the project	Name of project	Support (kroons)
Natalia Jampolskaja	Lääne County Slavic Cultural Educational Charitable Society "Bõlina"	"Children – our future"	10 000
Fljuza Hairullina	Tallinn Society of Bashkirian Culture	"Open lesson of pupils of the Bashkirian Sunday school"	7 000
Emma Gofman	Ida-Virumaa Jewish Community	"Sunday school of Jewish children – key to developing the Ida-Virumaa Jewish Community"	11 000
Tatjana Sosnovskaja	Varnja Family Society	Varnja Sunday School	8 000
Larissa Zitnik	Ukrainian Compatriots Sillamäe Vodograi	"Step by step"	15 000
Anatoli Ljutjuk	Ukrainian Compatriots in Estonia	"Ancestors' land"	10 000
Svetlana Ragrina	Estonian Institute of Slavonic Studies	"Slavonic scholars – for teachers and pupils of Sunday schools"	16 000
Oksana Sõmotjuk	Educational Society of Ukrainian Culture "Stožarõ"	"Ukrainian Sunday school in Maardu"	20 000
Gülnara Vals	Estonian Turkish School	"Estonian-Turkish School"	10 000
Juri Jurkevits	Association of Belarussians in Estonia	"Sunday school of Estonian Belarussians"	15 000
Juris Zigurs	Estonian Society of Latvians	"Latvian Sunday school"	16 000
Lola Sahhibnazarova	Uzbek Cultural Society "Safar"	"Uzbek Sunday school"	16 000
Iraida Zahharova	Chuvashi Cultural Society	"Chuvashi Sunday school"	16 000
Ryszard Sondovicz	Estonian Society of Poles "Polonia"	"Polish Sunday school"	10 000
Sirje Nakkurt	Non-profit association, cultural society "Ariadne"	"Ariadne, pilot programme for Russian as the mother tongue and Russian literature and culture ..."	10 000
Natalja Belotserkovskaja	Polish Society STOS	"Sunday school"	10 000
Galina Maljarova	Narva City Ukrainian Compatriots	"Sunday school"	10 000

210 000

Number of students studying under higher education curricula where the language of instruction is Russian

As at 1 November 2003

Extract from the register made on 29 April 2004

Explanation: The extract shows the number of students whose date of beginning of studies is earlier than 1 November 2003 and who on 1 November 2003 were on the list of students of these educational institutions (i.e. the list does not contain students whose dismissal from university or the date of graduation was earlier than 1 November 2003)

Educational establishment	Name of educational level	Name of curriculum	Students
Computer College	vocational higher education	Computer graphics (vocational higher education)	1
Computer College	applied higher education	Computer graphics	81
Computer College	vocational higher education	Programming	8
Computer College	applied higher education	Programming	195
Audentes University	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Psychology	11
Audentes University	Bachelor's studies	International relations, curriculum of 120 credit points	15
Audentes University	Bachelor's studies	Business administration	197
Audentes University	Bachelor's studies	Economic law, curriculum of 140 credit points	2
Audentes University	Bachelor's studies	Information technology	73
Car Transport Institute "Raiment"	applied higher education	Maintenance and repair of cars	43
Car Transport Institute "Raiment"	applied higher education	Maintenance and repair of cars (vocational higher education)	1
Car Transport Institute "Raiment"	applied higher education	Transport and logistics	60
Higher School of Design	applied higher education	Indoor decorator	58
Estonian Art Academy	Bachelor's studies	Graphic design	1
Theological Seminary of the Estonian Methodist Church	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Theology	25
Theological Seminary of the Estonian Methodist Church	applied higher education	Theology	28
Estonian-American Business College	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Business administration	224
Estonian-American Business College	applied higher education	Business administration	133
Estonian-American Business College	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Business law	1
Private Commercial College	vocational higher education	Translator/interpreter for business (English) (vocational higher education)	20
Private Commercial College	applied higher education	Applied languages	19
Private Commercial College	vocational higher education	Accounting and financial analysis (vocational higher education)	6
Private Commercial College	applied higher education	Management	21
Private Commercial College	vocational higher education	Law (vocational higher education)	9
Private Commercial College	applied higher education	Law	12

EuroUniversity	Bachelor's studies	Fashion designer	28
EuroUniversity	Bachelor's studies	Indoor designer	91
EuroUniversity	Master's Studies, academic MA	Art	3
Kohtla-Järve Medical School	applied higher education	General nurse	37
Kohtla-Järve Polytechnic School	vocational higher education	Information technology (vocational higher education)	21
Kohtla-Järve Polytechnic School	applied higher education	Information technology	79
Kohtla-Järve Polytechnic School	vocational higher education	Automatic systems (vocational higher education)	24
Kohtla-Järve Polytechnic School	applied higher education	Automatic systems	68
Kohtla-Järve Polytechnic School	applied higher education	Industrial technology	34
Kohtla-Järve Polytechnic School	vocational higher education	Environment protection (vocational higher education)	27
Kohtla-Järve Polytechnic School	applied higher education	Environment protection	70
Institute of Culture and Humanities	applied higher education	Choir singing	1
Institute of Culture and Humanities	applied higher education	Stagecraft	3
Institute of Culture and Humanities	applied higher education	Choreography	9
Institute of Culture and Humanities	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Choreography	1
Institute of Culture and Humanities	applied higher education	Cultural management	9
Higher School "I Studium"	applied higher education	Business accounting	9
Higher School "I Studium"	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Entrepreneurship and business administration	44
Higher School "I Studium"	applied higher education	Entrepreneurship and business administration	56
Higher School "I Studium"	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Economic law	23
Higher School "I Studium"	applied higher education	Economic law	61
Mainor Higher School	applied higher education	Applied psychologist-counsellor	28
Mainor Higher School	applied higher education	Business administration	159
Mainor Higher School	applied higher education	Information technology	50
International University of Social Sciences "LEX"	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Fashion designer – art teacher	1
International University of Social Sciences "LEX"	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Design	13
International University of Social Sciences "LEX"	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Indoor decorating	18
International University of Social Sciences "LEX"	applied higher education	Indoor decorating	13
International University of Social Sciences "LEX"	applied higher education	Cultural work	8
International University of Social Sciences "LEX"	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Economics	18
International University of Social Sciences "LEX"	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution	Law	15

	and university		
International University of Social Sciences "LEX"	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Business law	17
Private Higher School of Applied Art	vocational higher education	Graphic design (vocational higher education)	4
Private Higher School of Applied Art	applied higher education	Graphic design	3
Private Higher School of Applied Art	vocational higher education	Architectural design (vocational higher education)	11
Private Higher School of Applied Art	applied higher education	Architectural design	20
Sillamäe Institute of Economics and Administration	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Company economics	115
Sillamäe Institute of Economics and Administration	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Company management	203
Sillamäe Institute of Economics and Administration	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Business administration	1
Sillamäe Institute of Economics and Administration	applied higher education	Company management	257
Sillamäe Institute of Economics and Administration	applied higher education	Company economics	109
Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Teacher of English for basic school	53
Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Estonian-Russian translator	7
Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences	applied higher education	English philology	16
Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Psychology	226
Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences	applied higher education	Psychology	106
Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Economics	63
Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences	applied higher education	Economics	105
Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Law	202
Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences	applied higher education	Law	106
Tallinn College of Economics and Social Sciences	applied higher education	Economics	16
Tallinn Schools of Economics	applied higher education	Accounting	74
Tallinn Schools of Economics	applied higher education	Business administration	44
Tallinn Medical School	applied higher education	Basic training for nurses	65
Tallinn Pedagogical University	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Class teacher	49
Tallinn Pedagogical University	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution	Teacher of Russian language and literature for basic school	12

	and university		
Tallinn Pedagogical University	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Interpreter-journalist	2
Tallinn Pedagogical University	Bachelor's studies	Teacher of Russian language and literature (with additional speciality), philologist	24
Tallinn Pedagogical University	Bachelor's studies	Teacher of Russian as a foreign language for upper secondary school	26
Tallinn Pedagogical University	Bachelor's studies	Educational sciences	6
Tallinn Pedagogical University	Bachelor's studies	Journalist-translator	31
Tallinn Pedagogical University	Bachelor's studies	Russian philology	1
Tallinn Pedagogical University	Bachelor's studies	Russian as a foreign language (with a minor)	1
Tallinn Pedagogical University	Bachelor's studies	Public administration	3
Tallinn Pedagogical University	Bachelor's studies	Journalism	2
Tallinn Pedagogical University	1-year teacher training, requiring previous higher education, intern studies	Teacher of Russian language and literature for upper secondary school	2
Tallinn Pedagogical University	Master's Studies, academic MA	Russian philology	1
Tallinn Pedagogical University	Master's Studies, academic MA	Oriental philology	1
Tallinn Pedagogical Seminary	applied higher education	Teacher of pre-school children's establishments	100
Tallinn Pedagogical Seminary	vocational higher education	Social work (vocational higher education)	3
Tallinn Pedagogical Seminary	applied higher education	Social work	90
Tallinn Technical University	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Computer science	1
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Business management	85
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Business economics	110
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Logistics	13
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Public economy	37
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Public economy	55
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Gene technology	1
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Computer science (B.)	82
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Business information technology	10
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Computer science	53
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Business information technology	42
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Technology	1
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Bio- food technology	14
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Chemical and environmental protection technology	30
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Chemical and environmental protection technology	26
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Food technology and product development	20
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Construction technology(B.)	77
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Transport construction	23
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Environmental technology	33
Tallinn Technical University	integrated (pharmacist's studies, veterinary studies, architectural studies,	Environmental technology	19

	construction engineering, teacher training for class teacher)		
Tallinn Technical University	integrated (pharmacist's studies, veterinary studies, architectural studies, construction engineering, teacher training for class teacher)	Transport construction	12
Tallinn Technical University	integrated (pharmacist's studies, veterinary studies, architectural studies, construction engineering, teacher training for class teacher)	Industrial and civil construction	68
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Computer and system technology	62
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Electronic and biomedical technology	36
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Telecommunications	45
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Computer and system technology	53
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Electronics	15
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Telecommunications	17
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Electric drives and power electronics	32
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Electrical power engineering (B.)	35
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Heat engineering (B.)	44
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Electric drives and power electronics	27
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Electrical power engineering	30
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Heat engineering	16
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Mining technology (B.)	3
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Applied geology	5
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Production technology	66
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Product development	50
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Mechatronics	18
Tallinn Technical University	Bachelor's studies	Product development and production technology	73
Tallinn Transport School	vocational higher education	Railway technology (vocational higher education)	1
Tartu University	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Class teacher (for schools with Russian as language of instruction)	17
Tartu University	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Teacher of natural sciences in basic school	32
Tartu University	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Estonian as a second language	78
Tartu University	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Teacher of English in basic school	35
Tartu University	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Teacher of Russian language and literature in basic school	20
Tartu University	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution and university	Teacher of pre-school education	115
Tartu University	diploma studies of applied higher educational institution	Business management	42

	and university		
Tartu University	integrated (pharmacist's studies, veterinary studies, architectural studies, construction engineering, teacher training for class teacher)	Class teacher for schools with Russian as language of instruction	16
Tartu University	Bachelor's studies	Teacher of English	23
Tartu University	Bachelor's studies	Estonian as a second language	58
Tartu University	Bachelor's studies	Humanities in a school with Russian as language of instruction	96
Tartu University	Bachelor's studies	Teacher of pre-school education (on the basis of Russian as language of instruction)	53
Tartu University	Bachelor's studies	Teacher of pre-school children's establishments (on the basis of Russian as language of instruction)	37
Tartu University	Bachelor's studies	Russian and Slavic philology	132
Tartu University	Bachelor's studies	Semiotics and cultural studies	14
Tartu University	Bachelor's studies	Physics	14
Tartu University	Bachelor's studies	Social work	8
Tartu University	1-year teacher training, requiring previous higher education, intern studies	Teacher of Russian language and literature	4
Tartu University	Master's Studies (3+2)	Teacher of humanities in basic school with Russian as language of instruction	55

6731

Lists of persons elected to local government councils in the elections in 2003 in some local governments

Narva city

Chairman of the Council Mihhail Stalnuhhin

Deputy-Chairman of the Council Larissa Olenina

Members of the Council:

1. Heli Adamovitš
2. Genadi Afanassjev
3. Julia Dmitrijeva
4. Tatjana Eigard
5. Aleksandr Jefimov
6. Nikolai Golubev
7. Vladimir Homjakov
8. Anna Kovalenko
9. Jelena Kruglova
10. Sergei Missenjoy
11. Vladimir Mižui
12. Aleksandr Moissejev
13. Vadim Orlov
14. Fjodor Ovsjannikov
15. Jelena Pahhomova
16. Arvet Pent
17. Vladislav Ponjatovski
18. Jan Saan
19. Alla Savtšukova
20. Olev Silland
21. Nadežda Sinjakova
22. Elsa Suikanen
23. Vladimir Tarahtin
24. Jelena Torokvei
25. Jelizaveta Tšertova
26. Tatjana Zarutskihh
27. Viktor Veevo
28. Galina Vologdina
29. Elle Välja

Sillamäe city

Chairman of the Council Valdek Murd

Deputy-Chairman of the Council Inna Nazarova

Deputy-Chairman of the Council Aleksei Voronov

Members of the Council:

1. Juri Knjazev
2. Elvi Larka
3. Igor Malõšev
4. Galina Štšerbakova
5. Viktor Baloban
6. Vladimir Kisseljov

7. Nadežda Grigorjeva
8. Valentina Zaharenko
9. Galina Burkova
10. Juri Nikitin
11. Veera Tihhonova
12. Valeri Abramovitš
13. Tatjana Oseptsova
14. Eino Pukk
15. Oleg Rõžakov
16. Aleksandr Starodubtsev
17. Jüri Ilves
18. Anatoli Polupan

Kohtla-Järve city

Chairman of the Council Valeri Korb

Members of the Council:

1. Larissa Abassova
2. Vjatšeslav Akimov
3. Viktor Andrejev
4. Arne Berendsen
5. Nikolai Derdessov
6. Vladimir Evve
7. Meelis Goldberg
8. Viktor Golub
9. Mihhail Ižnin
10. Riina Ivanova
11. Svetlana Ivantsova
12. Sirje Jõemaa
13. Boriss Klubov
14. Svetlana Korotkova
15. Erika Kruup
16. Nikolai Kutašov
17. Valentina Kutuzova
18. Voldemar Lehter
19. Jevgenia Maksimova
20. Vladimir Muratov
21. Eduard Odinets
22. Liidia Orlova
23. Vladimir Peterson
24. Kaarel Pürg
25. Jüri Reiska
26. Anna Rentik
27. Jüri Rõbakov
28. Albert Sakkart
29. Maria Semjonova
30. Svetlana Skorobogatova
31. Sergei Zahharov
32. Vladimir Zažogin
33. Irina Tokman
34. Jüri Utt

Peipsiääre rural municipality

Chairman of the Council Mart Vene

Deputy-Chairman of the Council Gennadi Grigorov

Members of the Council:

1. Anu Aidnik
2. Anna Portnova
3. Vjatšeslav Jermakov
4. Tatjana Krjohhova
5. Tatjana Sosnovskaja
6. Andrei Sergin
7. Juri Plukk

Kallaste town

Chairman of the Council Leonti Kromonov

Deputy-Chairman of the Council Aleksandr Kurnassov

Members of the Council:

1. Niina Sergejeva
2. Vjatšeslav Krivošei
3. Anna Potašenkova
4. Irina Mölder
5. Jekaterina Mihhailova
6. Andres Laasmaa
7. Jelena Lavrentjeva
8. Jakov Šlenduuhov
9. Aleksandr Širokov

Mustvee town

Chairman of the Council Andres Kivimurd

Members of the Council:

1. Anna Lagutina
2. Ignati Aganitš
3. Anatolia Lunina
4. Fjodor Maspanov
5. Pavel Kostromin
6. Kulno Pajula
7. Evdokia Abakanova
8. Valentin Tsõganov
9. Elle Palm
10. Valter Jaanus

Piirissaare rural municipality

Chairman of the Council Georgi Romanenkov

Members of the Council:

1. Foma Babin
2. Andrei Jeršov
3. Fjodor Korotkov
4. Valentin Kuzin
5. Kalju Sakk
6. Evald Truuts

List of organisations to whom the Government forwarded the questions of the Advisory Committee and whom the Government addressed for receiving information and comments

Southern Estonian Armenian National Society
Azerbaijan Community in Estonia
Association of Nationalities in Estonia
Estonian Georgian Cultural Society Mamuli
Association of Ingrian Finns in Estonia
Institute of Human Rights
Integration Foundation
Jaan Tõnisson Institute
Estonian Jewish Community
Non-profit association Baltic-Caucasian
Human Rights Information Centre
Presidential Roundtable on National Minorities
Riigikogu Constitutional Committee
Northern Estonian Society of Roma
Cultural Society of Estonian Tartars Idel
Association of Ukrainian Organisations in Estonia
Narva-Jõesuu Finno-Ugric Cultural Society
Tallinn Armenian National Society
Tallinn Georgian National Society Iveria
Mari Community in Estonia
Russian Cultural Society in Estonia
Estonian-Russian Cultural Society
Centre of Russian National Culture

List of referred legislation

1. The Constitution of the Republic of Estonia (RT 1992, 26, 349) (enclosed to the first report of Estonia)
http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/paraframe.asp?ua=1&loc=text&lk=et&sk=en&dok=X0000.htm&query=p%F5hiseadus&tyyp=SITE_X&ptyyp=I&fr=no&pg=1
2. Penal Code (RT I 2002, 86, 504)
http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/paraframe.asp?ua=1&loc=text&lk=et&sk=en&dok=X30068K3.htm&query=karistusseadustik&tyyp=SITE_X&ptyyp=I&fr=no&pg=1
3. Aliens Act (RT I 1999, 50, 548)
http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/paraframe.asp?ua=1&loc=text&lk=et&sk=en&dok=X1019K12.htm&query=v%E4lismaalaste+seadus&tyyp=SITE_X&ptyyp=I&fr=no&pg=1
4. Citizenship Act (RT I 1995, 12, 122)
http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/paraframe.asp?ua=1&loc=text&lk=et&sk=en&dok=X40001K5.htm&query=kodakondsuse+seadus&tyyp=SITE_X&ptyyp=I&fr=no&pg=1
5. Language Act (RT I 1995, 23, 334)
http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/paraframe.asp?ua=1&loc=text&lk=et&sk=en&dok=X30086K6.htm&query=keeleseadus&tyyp=SITE_X&ptyyp=I&fr=no&pg=1
6. National Minorities Cultural Autonomy Act (RT I 1993, 71, 1001) (enclosed to the first report)
<https://www.riigiteataja.ee/ert/act.jsp?id=182796>
7. Churches and Congregations Act (RT I 2002, 24, 135),
http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/paraframe.asp?ua=1&loc=text&lk=et&sk=en&dok=X60025K2.htm&query=kirikute+ja+koguduste+seadus&tyyp=SITE_X&ptyyp=I&fr=no&pg=1
8. Broadcasting Act (RT I 1994, 42, 680)
http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/paraframe.asp?ua=1&loc=text&lk=et&sk=en&dok=X30069K8.htm&query=ringh%E4%E4linguseadus&tyyp=SITE_X&ptyyp=I&fr=no&pg=1
9. Place Names Act (RT I 2003, 73, 485)
http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/paraframe.asp?ua=1&loc=text&lk=et&sk=en&dok=X70058.htm&query=kohanimeseadus&tyyp=SITE_X&ptyyp=I&fr=no&pg=1
10. Basic Schools and Upper Secondary Schools Act (RT I 1999, 42, 497)

http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/paraframe.asp?ua=1&loc=text&lk=et&sk=en&dok=X30049K8.htm&query=p%F5hikooli%2D+ja+g%FCmnaasiumiseadus&tyyp=SITE_X&ptyyp=I&fr=no&pg=1

11. Private Schools Act (RT I 1998, 57, 859)

http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/paraframe.asp?ua=1&loc=text&lk=et&sk=en&dok=X70034.htm&query=erakooliseadus&tyyp=SITE_X&ptyyp=I&fr=no&pg=1

12. Social Protection of the Unemployed Act (RT I 2000, 57, 371),

http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/paraframe.asp?ua=1&loc=text&lk=et&sk=en&dok=X40050K3.htm&query=T%F6%F6tu+sotsiaalse+kaitse+seadus&tyyp=SITE_X&ptyyp=I&fr=no&pg=1

13. Employment Service Act (RT I 2000, 57, 370),

http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/paraframe.asp?ua=1&loc=text&lk=et&sk=en&dok=X40049K2.htm&query=t%F6%F6turu&tyyp=SITE_X&ptyyp=I&fr=no&pg=1

14. Unemployment Insurance Act (RT I 2001, 59, 359),

http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/paraframe.asp?ua=1&loc=text&lk=et&sk=en&dok=X50053K4.htm&query=T%F6%F6tuskindlustuse+seadus&tyyp=SITE_X&ptyyp=I&fr=no&pg=1

15. Riigikogu Election Act (RT I 2002, 57, 355),

http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/paraframe.asp?ua=1&loc=text&lk=et&sk=en&dok=X60044K2.htm&query=Riigikogu+valimise+seadus&tyyp=SITE_X&ptyyp=I&fr=no&pg=1

16. Local Government Council Election Act (RT I 2002, 36, 220),

http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/paraframe.asp?ua=1&loc=text&lk=et&sk=en&dok=X60031K1.htm&query=Kohaliku+omavalitsuse+volikogu+valimise+seadus&tyyp=SITE_X&ptyyp=I&fr=no&pg=1

17. Social Benefits for Disabled Persons Act (RT I 2002, 39, 245),

http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/paraframe.asp?ua=1&loc=text&lk=et&sk=en&dok=X30031K6.htm&query=Puuetega+inimeste+sotsiaaltoetuste+seadus&tyyp=SITE_X&ptyyp=I&fr=no&pg=1

18. Imprisonment Act (RT I 2002, 84, 492)

http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/paraframe.asp?ua=1&loc=text&lk=et&sk=en&dok=X30079K4.htm&query=vangistusseadus&tyyp=SITE_X&ptyyp=I&fr=no&pg=1

19. Gender Equality Act (RT I 2004, 27, 181)

<https://www.riigiteataja.ee/ert/act.jsp?id=738642>

20. Draft Personal Names Act

<http://web.riigikogu.ee/ems/saros-bin/mgetdoc?itemid=041320010&login=proov&password=&system=ems&server=ragnel>

21. Government of the Republic Regulation No.137 of 6 May 2003 “Rules for the election of the cultural council of a national minority”

<https://www.riigiteataja.ee/ert/act.jsp?id=578630>

22. Government of the Republic Regulation No. 14 of 14 January 2002 “The procedure for the conducting of the examination of the Estonian constitution and the Citizenship Act for applicants for citizenship”

<https://www.riigiteataja.ee/ert/act.jsp?id=237581>

23. Government of the Republic Regulation No. 154 of 20 May 2003 “Terms and conditions for creating possibilities for the learning of the mother tongue and national culture for pupils who are acquiring basic education and whose mother tongue is not the language of instruction at school”

<https://www.riigiteataja.ee/ert/act.jsp?id=588809>