

National Statement of Commitment of Estonia to Transform Education

Estonia is committed to undertaking transformation in education through the implementation of its [Education Strategy 2021-2035](#). The guiding document for education policy has been prepared together with stakeholders, involving by way of public consultations and follow-up meetings over 60 organizations, and has been extensively discussed by the Parliament of Estonia up until September 2021, followed by the adoption of the Strategy in October 2021.

The implementation of the Strategy will be reported on within the framework of performance reporting and through needs-based evaluations. The achievement of the goals of the Strategy is evaluated at least twice during the period of implementation of the Strategy, including a final mid-term evaluation not later than three years before the end of the Strategy.

The implementation of the Education Strategy is monitored by a Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee advising the Minister of Education and Research in its implementation and supporting reporting mechanisms, composed of representatives of the Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Rural Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Justice, the Government Office, the Estonian National Youth Council, the Estonian Language Council, the Estonian Chamber of People with Disabilities, the Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities, the Estonian Employers' Confederation, the Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund, the Estonian Trade Union Confederation and seven subject matter experts in the field. To involve youth organizations' leaders in the monitoring of the Education Strategy and the Youth Sector Development Plan, a permanent youth policy working group has been created, whose task is to support the work of the steering committee with sectoral know-how.

General objective and strategic goals

In line with key challenges highlighted by President of the Republic Alar Karis, Estonia is committed to equipping the population of Estonia with the knowledge, skills and attitudes that prepare people to fulfil their potential in personal, occupational, and social life and contribute to promoting the quality of life in Estonia as well as global sustainable development.

To achieve this goal by 2035, Estonia aims to support three strategic goals:

- Ensure access to diverse learning opportunities, with the education system enabling smooth transitions between different levels and types of education.
- Ensure enough competent and motivated teachers and heads of schools, and access to a diverse learning environment and a learner-centered approach to learning and teaching.

- Ensure learning options are responsive to the development needs of society and the labor market.

In the achievement of the goals, key transformations to the current education system by 2035 include:

- Adoption of a learner-centered approach to learning and teaching.
- The integration of general and vocational upper secondary education.
- Introduction of a microqualifications system.
- Adoption of a skills based professional qualification system.

The achievement of long-term goals for 2035 is closely tied to development of shorter-term priorities and action plans. No less importance is the response to ongoing challenges and crises, such as the response to the COVID-19 crisis and consequently mitigation of learning loss and welcoming of war refugees from Ukraine to the Estonian education system, requiring urgent response and action on a national level.

To allow for the achievement of the Education Strategy in 2035, Estonia is committed to the following short-term vision for action:

- Ensuring a sufficient growth and continuity of the education and youth field professions.
- Evidence-based resolving of challenges of the education field, ensuring flexibility of education system.
- Increasing harmony between the education and research sector with the needs of society.
- Ensuring all learners' access to high quality education in Estonian language.

These four commitments for upcoming years allow ensuring the crucial basis in Estonia's response to long-term challenges, and remain on track for the strategic goals of 2035, allowing educational transformation.

Budgetary commitments and implementation

The Estonian Education Strategy as basis for national commitments for transforming education is implemented in accordance with the Estonian State Budget Act.

To achieve the overall objective and strategic goals of the Strategy, a specific, yearly revised program, consistent with the state budget, is drawn up and amended as part of the budgetary strategy and the preparation of the state budget. At the program level, ministries, local authorities, organizations representing employers and employees, professional and trade associations, school and university teachers, learners, education NGOs and interest groups, etc. will contribute to the implementation of the Strategy in accordance with the Strategy and its program.