

# SURVEY OF NEW IMMIGRANTS TO ESTONIA

**Survey conducted among the Estonian population and immigrants**

**Turu-uuringute AS**

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Pärnu mnt 102, 11312

Tallinn

Tel 585 29 700

[post@turu-uuringute.ee](mailto:post@turu-uuringute.ee)

[www.turu-uuringute.eu](http://www.turu-uuringute.eu)

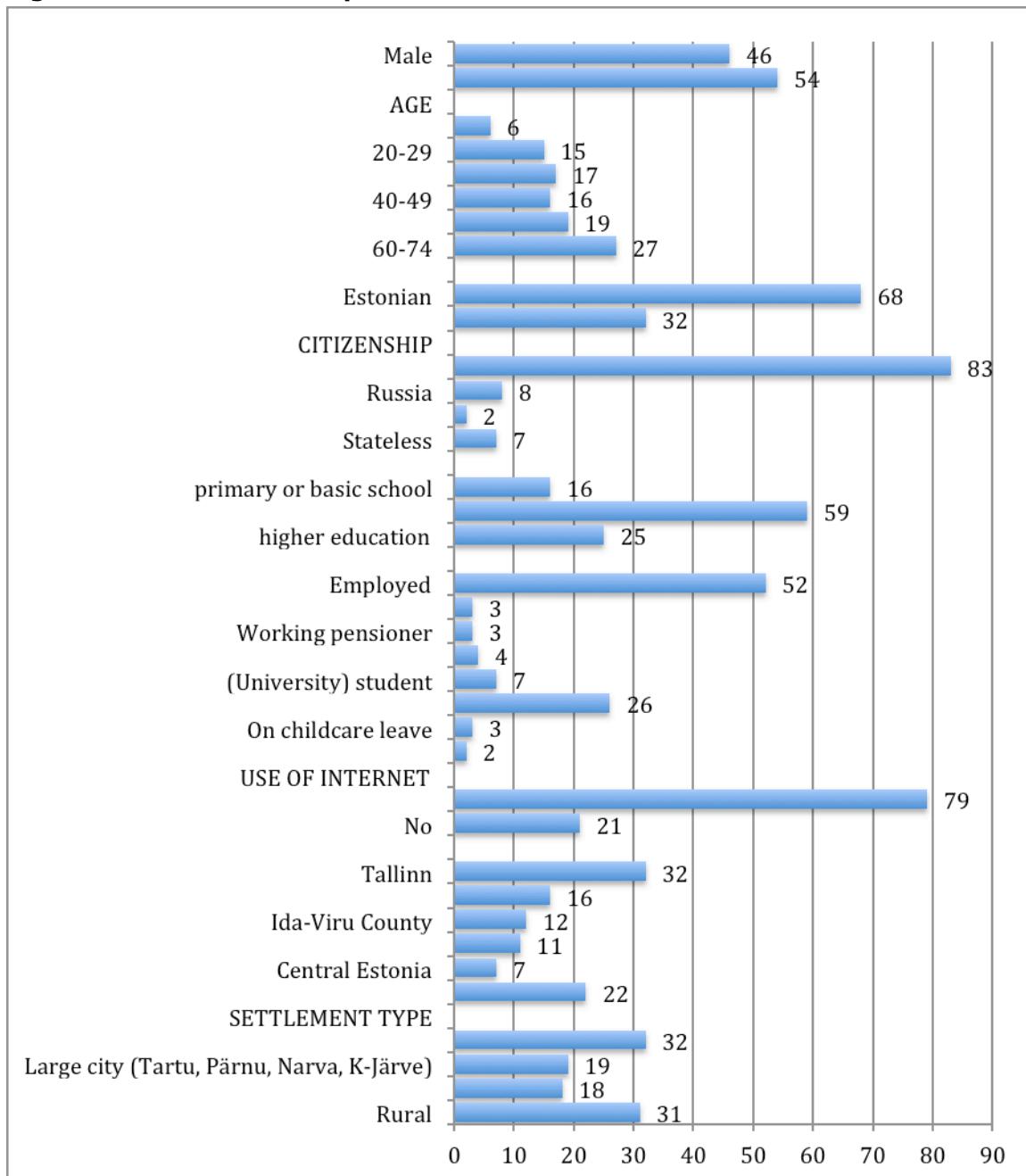
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## RESULTS FOR THE ESTONIAN POPULATION

### 1 Structure of respondents

**Figure 1. Structure of respondents**





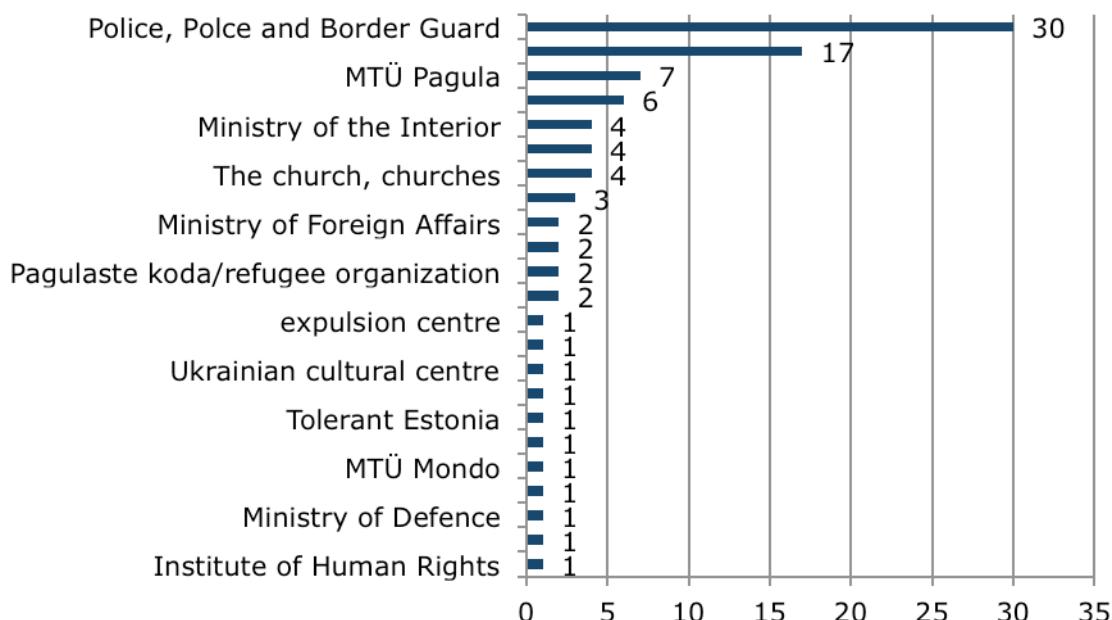
## 2 Renown of organizations

We will first look at the topic of whether permanent residents are able to name organizations dealing with immigrants. The respondents were asked: *Each year, immigrants/foreigners from other countries, from the European Union as well as other countries, settle in Estonia. Estonia has several organizations engaged in assisting immigrants and people granted international protection (such as refugees). Can you name any of these organizations in Estonia?*

Only 10% of permanent residents could name any of these organizations. The figure below shows the results as **absolute figures**. The police or Police and Border Guard Board were mentioned the most often – by 30 respondents. They were followed by the MTÜ Eesti Pagulasabi, a refugee aid non-profit, with 7 mentions. MTÜ Pagula was mentioned on 7 occasions and the Red Cross on 6 occasions. The rest of the organizations and institutions were mentioned even less frequently.

Thus it can be said that the organizations dealing with migration issues are not all that well-known among the Estonian population. Only MTÜ Eesti Pagulasabi has some renown. In connection with immigrants, respondents most often think of the Citizenship and Migration Board or some ministry, with different ministries mentioned.

**Figure 2. Awareness of organizations engaged with immigrants, absolute figures n=95, those who could name at least one organization**



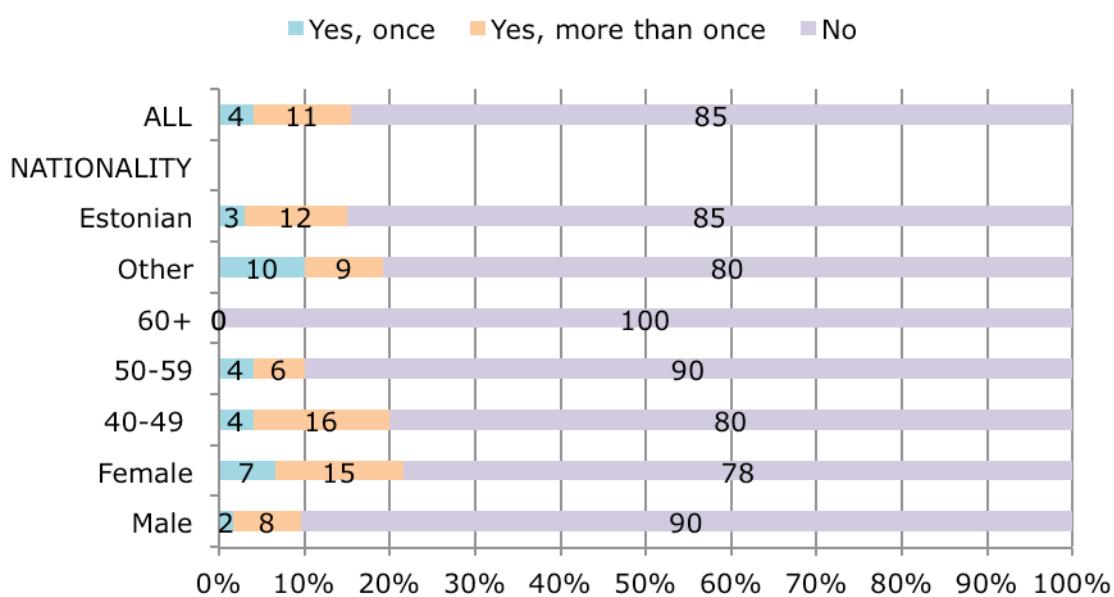
## 2.1 Experience and satisfaction with organizations

The respondents who were able to name at least one organization dealing with immigrants were asked the question, *Have you had any contact with the abovementioned organizations in Estonia, for example asking for information from there?* The question was asked of a total 95 respondents.

The study did not distinguish what organization the respondent had mentioned previously. Thus both organizations and government institutions were encompassed by the follow-up question.

It turns out that contacts with these organizations were very few – only 15% of the already low number of those who were aware of the sector had had contact with the organizations, 4% on one occasion and 11% more than once (figure 3). Among non-Estonians, 19% of the target group had relevant contacts. Women were more likely to have had contact with the organizations or institutions, and those aged 40-49 were most likely to have had experiences with them.

**Figure 3. Have you had contact with these organizations? n=95, those who knew the organizations (%)**



*How satisfied were you with the information obtained through these organizations?*

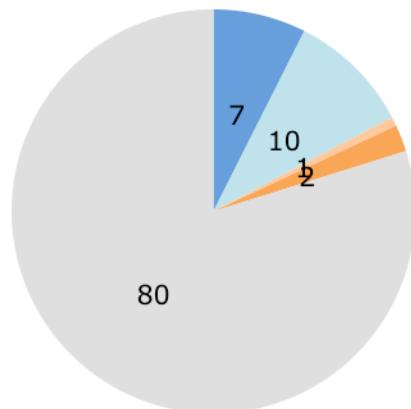
Eighty percent of the respondents were unable to respond to the questions, as they had not probably asked for information from them. Seventeen percent were satisfied and 3% were not satisfied (figure 4).



Leaving aside the responses such as "can't say", we see that satisfaction with the organizations or institutions is very high and there are no significant problems regarding to receiving information related to new immigrants in Estonia.

**Figure 4. Satisfaction with information received, n=95, those who knew organizations (%)**

■ Very satisfied      ■ Somewhat satisfied      ■ Somewhat dissatisfied  
 ■ Completely dissatisfied      ■ Can't say



### **3 Contacts with people who have received international protection**

Question: *Have you personally assisted immigrants or people who have received international protection (such as refugees)?*

To sum up, a total of 6% of permanent residents have been engaged in assisting immigrants. Two percent have donated clothing and things to them and another 2% have assisted immigrants in some other manner. One percent have donated money and 1% have contributed volunteer work (figure 5).

Eighty-two percent of permanent residents have not assisted people granted international protection because they have not had contact with the topic and 20% do not consider it necessary to render personal assistance to immigrants.

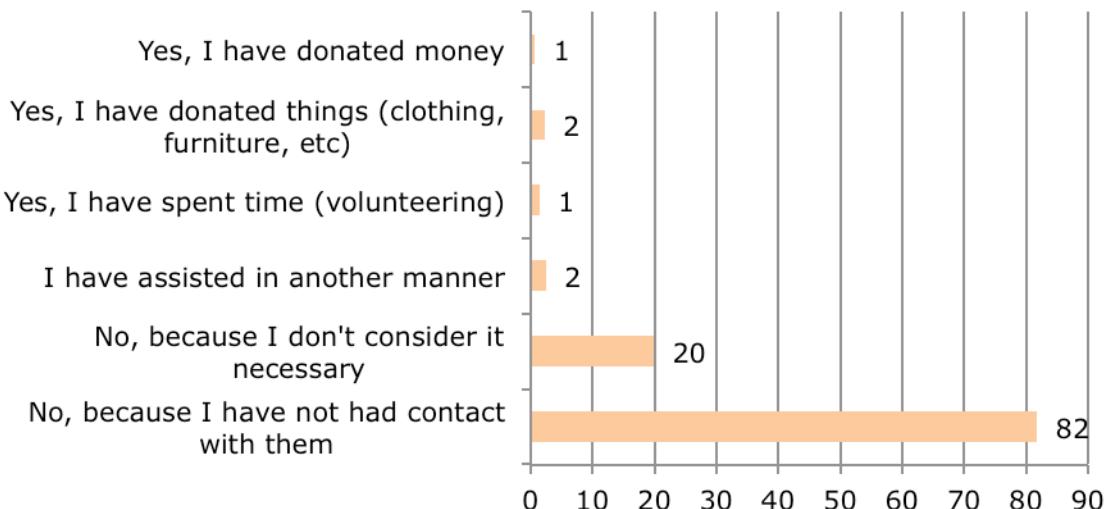
Men are more likely than women to feel that it is not necessary to assist immigrants. There are also more than an average number of people with undetermined citizenship among them (32%) and people with vocational, secondary or secondary specialized education (24%). In various ways, immigrants have been assisted more by people working in more senior



positions (top-level specialists and specialists) while skilled workers on the other hand are more likely than average not to consider it necessary to assist immigrants in the first place.

Permanent residents were not asked whether they had had more contact with immigrants in public or have assisted them in everyday situations. We touch on this topic later on in the report, in the part on results of the immigrant survey.

**Figure 5. Whether the respondent has assisted immigrants, n=1003, (%)**



## 4 Interest in cultural events and participating in them

Question: *To what extent are you interested in familiarizing yourself with the cultures of other national groups living in Estonia? Have you taken part in events of other national groups living in Estonia, including cultural events?*

A total of 5% were “very interested” in other national groups’ cultures and 40% of permanent residents said they were rather or somewhat interested (figure 6). Forty-eight percent of permanent residents said they were not that interested in it; thus it can be said that by and large, the population splits into two major groups in terms of its attitudes on this question.

Among Estonians, we see a greater than average number of people who are either interested or not interested in the topic. Among the Russian-speaking population there are more people who take a neutral position with regard to the issue. It also turns out that women are more likely than men to be interested in other national cultures. The same is true of younger people compared to older age groups.



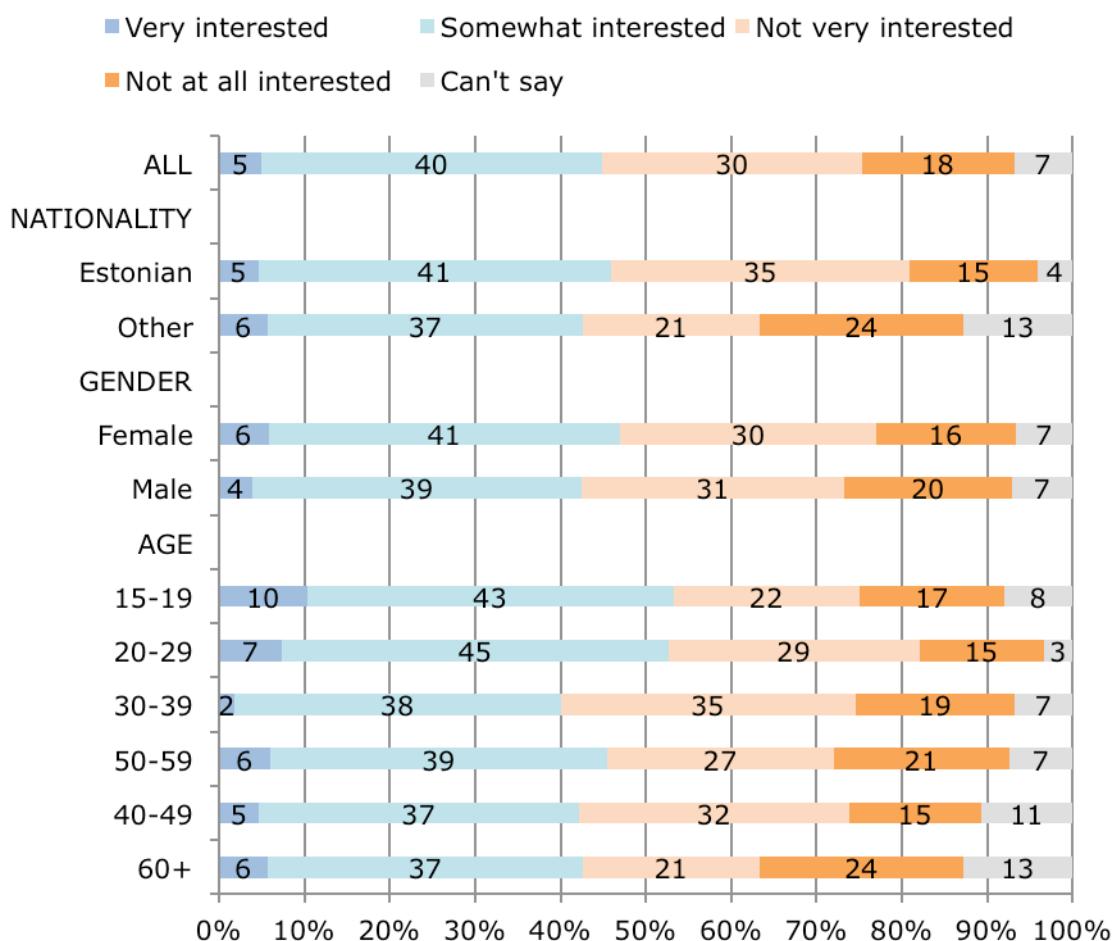
The greatest interest in the cultural events of other national groups could be seen among people with higher education, of whom 9% reported they are very interested and 56%, somewhat interested.

32% of permanent residents have taken part in the events of other national groups, of whom 18% have taken part repeatedly (figure 7). Thus we can see that people interested in the topics often take part more than once in such events.

Here, too, women are more active than men. Of the various age groups, we see the greatest level of activity among two groups – 40-49 and 50-59. Comparing Estonians and non-Estonians, we see native speakers of Russian as more active – 36% had visited national events, including 23% more than once. Although native Russian speakers have a lower interest in such events, they attend events more often. The reason may be cultural events where fellow members of their own ethnic group participate, and events where representatives of several national groups appear together.

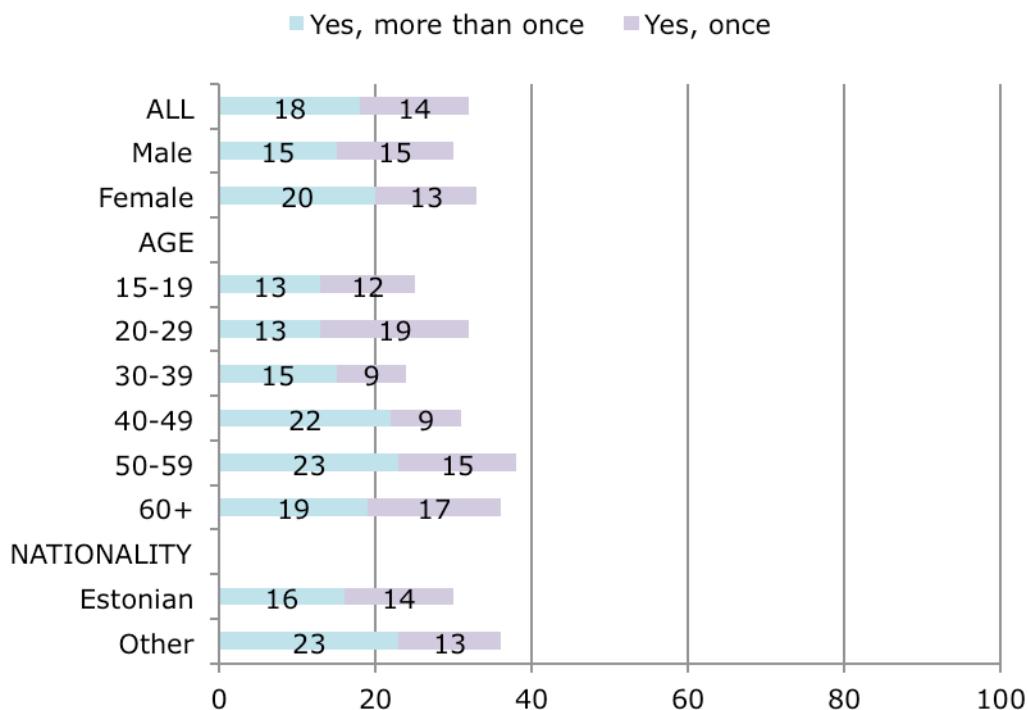
People with higher education are much more active than average – 46% of them have visited events held by national groups, including 28% who have done so more than once.

**Figure 6. Interested in the cultures of other national groups, n=1003, (%)**





**Figure 7. Attending events of other national groups, n=1003, (%)**



## 5 Importance of Estonian-language instruction for children of immigrants

Question: *How important do you feel it is for children of immigrants to attend the same schools as your children?*

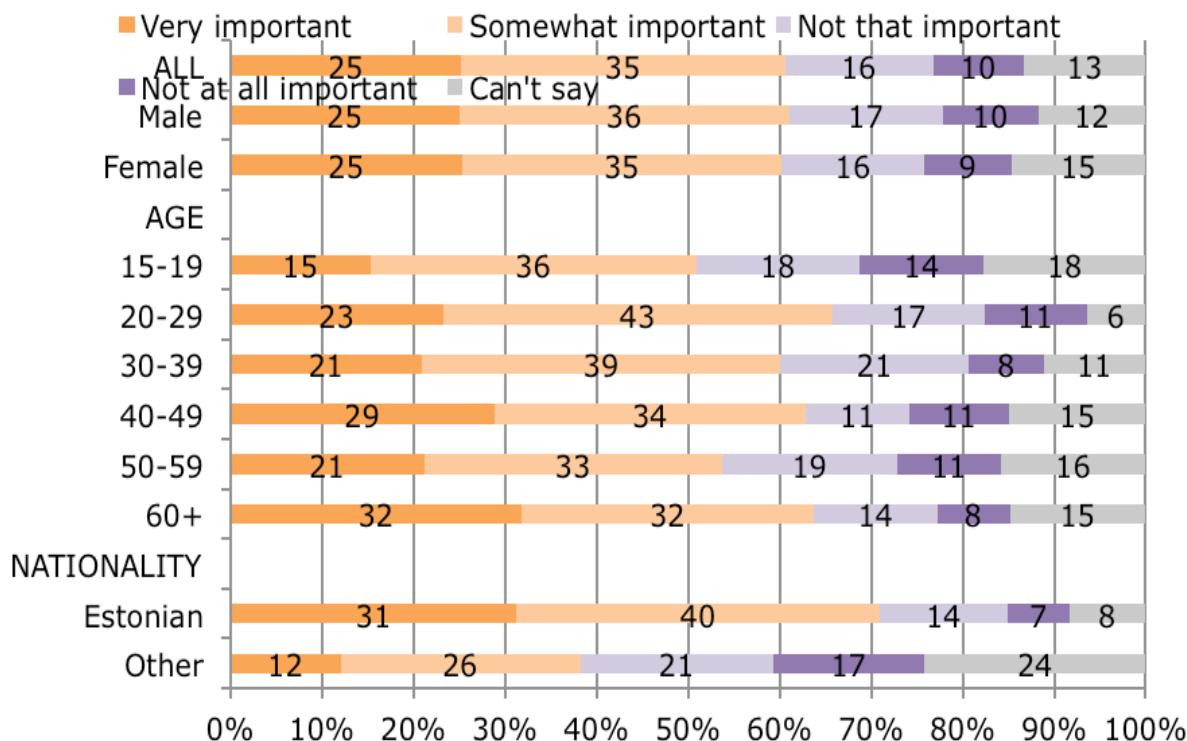
As studying in the same school as locals is a key aspect for integrating immigrants into society, it was important to study permanent residents' view of it. It turned out that 60% of permanent residents believe it is important to teach the children of immigrants together with Estonian children. On the other hand, 26% do not consider it important and 13% do not have a position on the matter (figure 8). The general attitude is thus supportive in all respects.

There was practically no difference in the opinions of men and women and we see proponents of the idea most frequently among the 20-29 age group. The opponents of the idea are, on the other hand, quite equally distributed among the age groups.

Estonians consider it more important (71%) than non-Estonians that their children attend the same schools. The Russian-speaking community's lower support for co-education may be due to the concern over the future of Russian-language schools. People with higher education consider this topic more important – 77%.



**Figure 8. How important do you feel it is for children of immigrants to attend the same school as your children? N=1003, (%)**



## 6 Future plans in connection to living in Estonia, introducing others to the Estonian language and culture

Respondents were given four statements and asked to what degree they agreed with them.

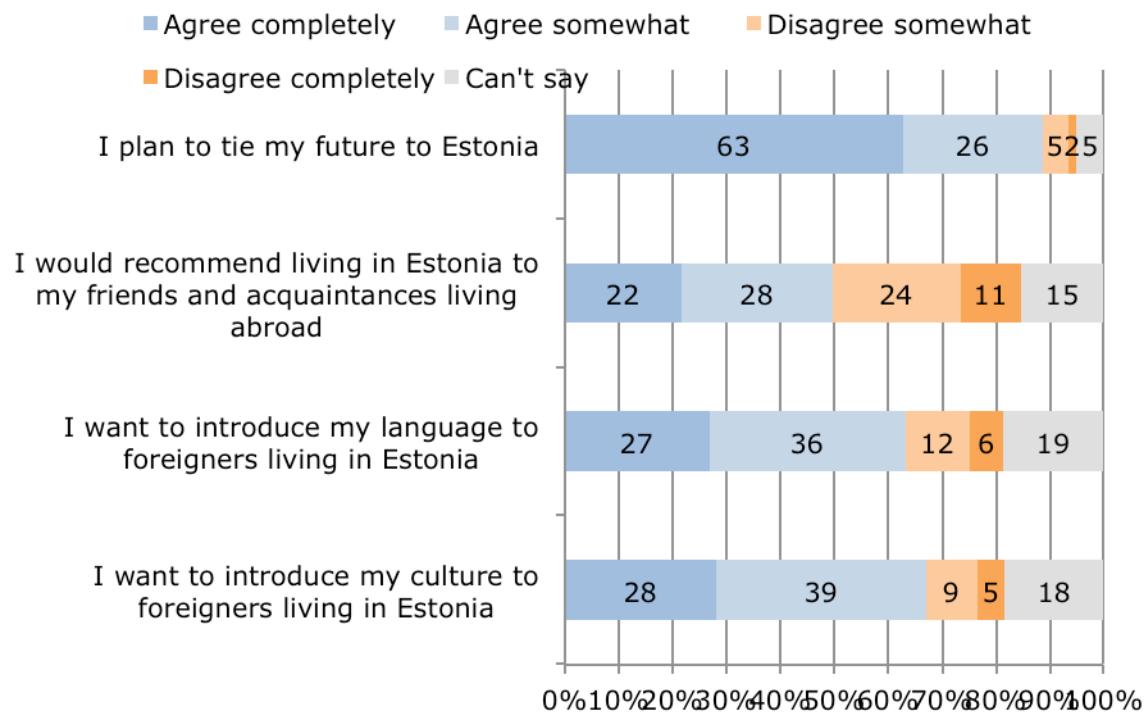
Only 7% of permanent residents do not want to tie their future to Estonia – 89% wish to continue living in Estonia (figure 9). Fifty percent of permanent residents would recommend their foreign acquaintances to come live in Estonia, but 35% would not do so. A predominant share of permanent residents wishes to introduce Estonia's language (63%) and culture (67%) to local foreigners.

It turns out that women have a more definite desire to live in Estonia than men (69% of female respondents agree completely vs. 55% of men). Women are also more interested in introducing the Estonian language and culture than are men.

Of the youngest age group (15-19), an entire 27% said they were not sure whether they wish to live in Estonia in future. Of the Estonians, 92% want definitely to live in Estonia, and the figure was 83% for non-Estonians. The difference in the attitudes of Estonians and non-Estonians in this regard is also shown by several earlier studies.



**Figure 9. Future plans and recommendations, n=1003, (%)**



## 7 Assessment of the support network

Question: A support network has been created in Estonia to allow immigrants to manage well in Estonian society, such as an adaptation programme, language learning, availability of services in English etc.; it is explained to them how Estonian society functions. Is this support network sufficient for immigrants in your opinion?

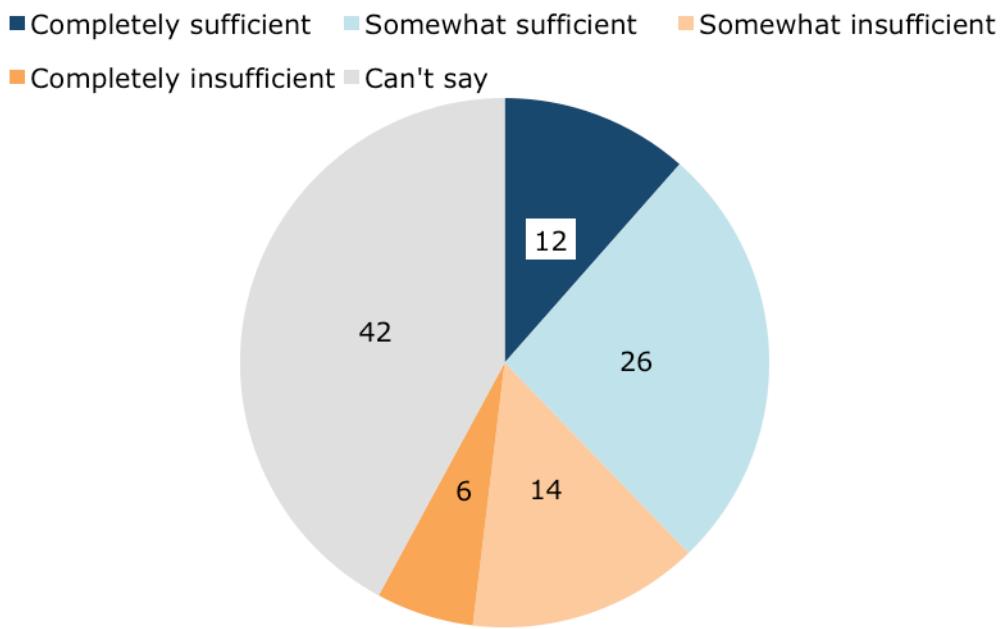
An entire 42% of the permanent residents said they couldn't answer the question as they likely lacked experience and precise information about the topic (figure 10). 38% of permanent residents felt the support network was currently sufficient and 20% did not agree that it was. Viewing the result only by those who provided an opinion, the result is even more positive – the general view of the current support system is at a quite high level among permanent residents.

It turns out that Russian-language respondents had a slightly higher opinion of the support network than Estonians do – 40% and 37%, respectively, consider it sufficient. It is possible that Russian-language respondents have more contact with the topic than Estonians do. There were no special features noted according to gender and age.

The opinion of respondents with higher education was, on the other hand, different – 30% of them consider it sufficient and just as many (30%) consider it insufficient. Forty percent of them did not answer the question.



**Figure 10. Opinion of the sufficiency of the support network, n=1003, (%)**



## 8 Reliability of information

Question: *To what extent do you trust the information obtained from different sources regarding refugees and the migrant crisis?*

For permanent residents, the most reliable source of information about the migration crisis was considered to be their friends and acquaintances, who were trusted by 64% and not trusted by 17% (figure 11).

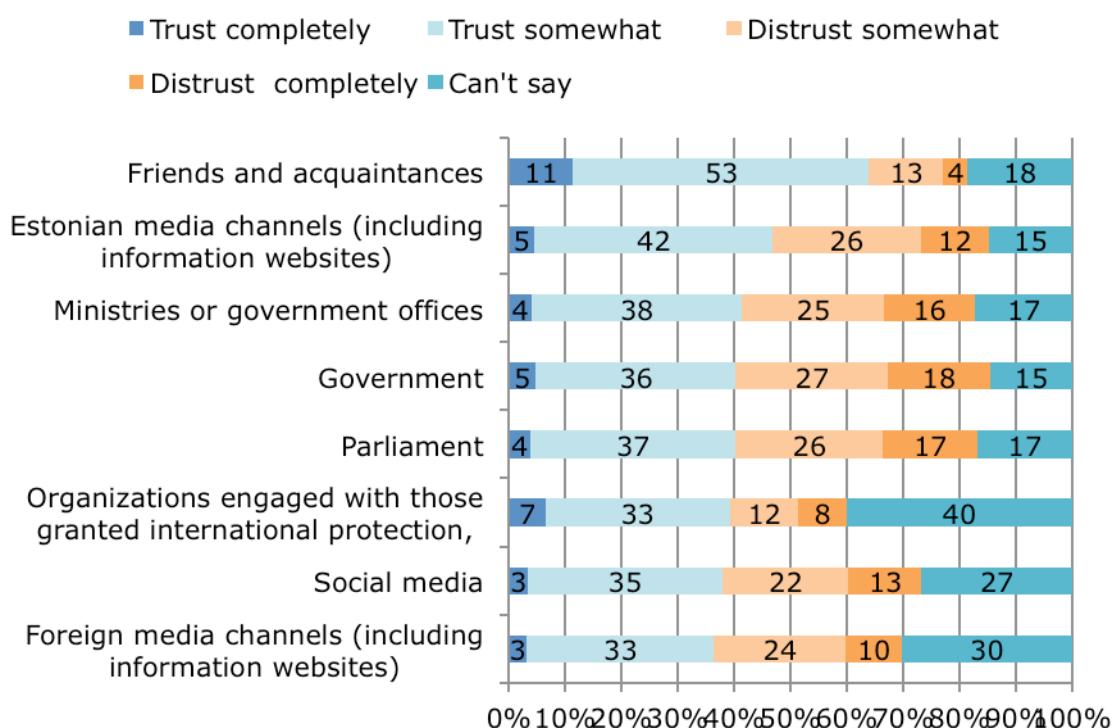
In the case of the other channels, we see much lower trust, with the opinions mostly being conflicting. For example, the percentages of those who trust Estonian media channels is 47% vs. 38%, and for ministries or government offices is 42% against 41%. Trust in the government and parliament on this matter is even lower – the percentages of non-trust are even higher than those of the people who trust them: 41% trusted in the government vs. 45% who did not have trust, and the figures for parliament were 41% and 43%, respectively.

Of the eight sources mentioned, social media (38%) and foreign media channels (36%) came in last. One third of the respondents did not take a position. In the case of the sources mentioned, there were an equal number of those who trusted and did not trust.

Compared to women, men have less trust in information about the migrant crisis from the government, parliament and ministries/government offices. Younger people (15-19) have

significantly more trust than average in foreign media channels (64% have trust), which the oldest age group has much less trust in – 26%. Forty-nine percent of the oldest group were unable to respond to the questions, as they did not probably consume foreign channels. Russian-language respondents have less trust than do Estonians in all of the information sources, except for social media, in the case of which the result is the same. People with higher education on the other hand trust practically all of the information channels more than average – the only one that stands distinct is social media, which they trust less than average (43% does not trust and 35% does).

**Figure 11. Trustworthiness of information sources, n=1003, (%)**



## 9 Consumption of news channels

Question: *How often do you consume the following news channels?*

The news channels that were most followed were ETV and ETV+ (87%), followed by radio news programme services (82%) and other Estonian-language TV channels (80%) (figure 12). International news channels are followed by a total 46% of respondents, Russian-language channels by 45% and the channel Pervyi Baltiiski Kanal (PBK) by 43%.

Men watch PBK and other Russian-language TV channels as well as international channels more often than do women. Men on the other hand read newspapers more frequently in paper form. As might be expected, the youngest age group keeps up with Internet sites and international channels more often than others. They read newspapers in paper form less than the average. The media consumption of the oldest age group was the opposite of the youngest group – they follow all channels more frequently than average but they visit Internet sites and consume international channels much less than average.

**Figure 12. Consumption of news channels, n=1003, (%)**

