

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

FACTSHEET

The survey **Monitoring the Integration of Estonian Society (EIM)** has been measuring people's perceptions of equal opportunities since 2008. Opinions about the equality of access to public services were surveyed for the first time in 2020.

The results indicate some stagnation and also some setbacks in several important indicators. There are more people of ethnic minorities who feel that they are not equal members of the Estonian society. Perceptions about equality regarding material well-being, education and culture have remained largely the same.

SENSE OF BELONGING

In 2020, the majority of people of other nationalities felt that they are a part of Estonian society (76%) and welcome here (62%).

However, there is still a considerable number of people of other nationalities who feel that they are not a part of society (19%) or welcome in Estonia (29%). There are even more people who feel that they are second rate persons (38%), and 40% find that they can not defend their interests.

Also, there are many people of other nationalities (70%) who see no opportunities to influence the Estonian society. A quarter of residents of other nationalities feel subject to intolerance because of their nationality.

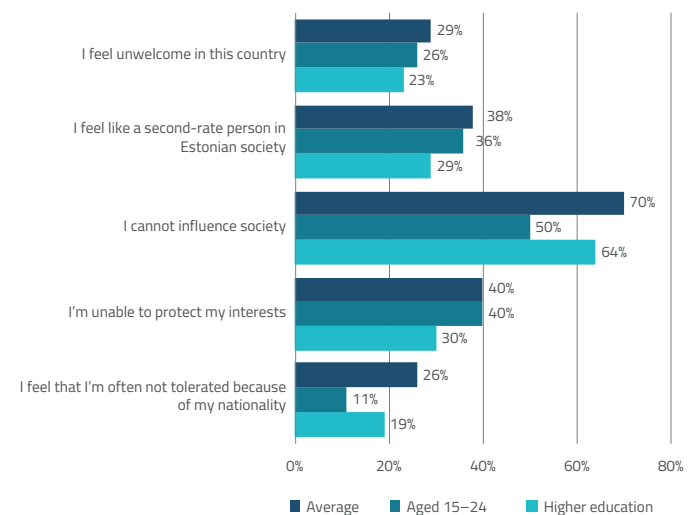
Fourteen percent of Estonians feel second rate, 28% feel unable to protect their interests and 52% find that they don't have the opportunity to influence society.

Whilst the opinions of people of other nationalities had improved significantly by 2017 in response to the question of whether they have equal opportunities in Estonian society, these indicators deteriorated again considerably by 2020.

A person who has an equal opportunity to have a say in social life if they wish to do so feels like a full-fledged member of society. Residents of other nationalities see their opportunities to participate in civic associations, decision-making at the local level and political activities as poorer than Estonians.

Representatives of other nationalities with higher education feel more frequently than average that they have equal opportunities to participate in civic and non-governmental associations and be involved in decision-making at the local level. The people of other nationalities living in Ida-Viru County feel considerably less frequently than average that they have equal opportunities to engage in politics (11%).

Figure 1. Responses of residents of other nationalities to the question "How much do you agree with the following statements?" (responses "Strongly agree" and "Agree somewhat").



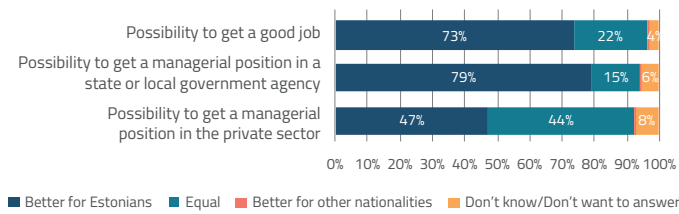
Source: EIM 2020

EQUALITY IN MATERIAL WELL-BEING AND WORKING LIFE

Only one fifth of residents of other nationalities consider their own material well-being and opportunities equal, whilst 73% consider the situation of Estonians to be better.

The difference in material well-being is particularly acutely perceived by people of other nationalities living in Ida-Viru County, of whom only 14% consider the opportunities equal and 83% find that the situation of Estonians is much or somewhat better. Representatives of other nationalities also find that the opportunities of Estonians to get a good job are considerably better (73%). These opinions have not changed significantly in comparison with 2017.

Figure 2. Responses of residents of other nationalities to the question “How do you rate the opportunities of Estonians and people of other nationalities in the following areas?”



Source: EIM 2020

ESTONIAN-LANGUAGE EDUCATION

Thirty-eight percent of people of other nationalities consider their education and self-improvement opportunities equal to those of Estonians and 57% believe their opportunities are worse.

Although a lot of good is seen in Estonian-language schools (in particular, the increase in the competitiveness of students whose native language is different from Estonian), quite a bit of bad is seen too.

People fear that learning different subjects will be more difficult for students whose native language is different from Estonian in Estonian-language schools (49%) and that they will suffer stress (50%). One third of residents of different nationalities also see Estonian-language education as a threat to the cultural and national identity of their children.

SATISFACTION WITH SERVICES

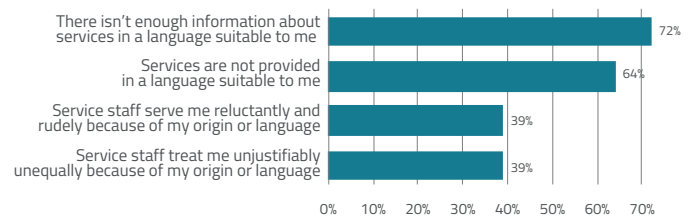
Over a half of residents of other nationalities (59%) find that services are equally accessible in Estonia irrespective of nationality, but a third (32%) find that the opportunities of Estonians are a little or much better.

The majority of the representatives of other nationalities are satisfied with the accessibility of pre-school and other childcare services (92%), public transport (91%), law enforcement and security (83%), hobby education (83%), basic, secondary and vocational education (81%) and official activities (78%).

Residents of other nationalities are considerably less satisfied than Estonians with the accessibility of labour market services (52%), medical care (57%) and adult education and retraining (69%). Half of people of other nationalities (52%) are satisfied with the accessibility of Estonian language training.

Residents of other nationalities are dissatisfied with the accessibility of services mainly because of the language barrier.

Figure 3. Reasons why residents of other nationalities are not satisfied with the accessibility of services.



Source: EIM 2020