

ADAPTATION OF NEW IMMIGRANTS

FACTSHEET

In the survey **Monitoring the Integration of Estonian Society 2020 (EIM 2020)**, new immigrants means the foreign nationals who have come to live or work in Estonia in the last five years.

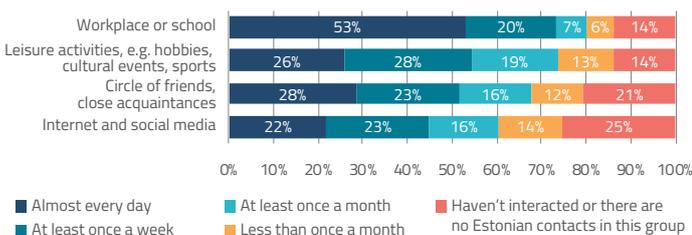
They rated their adaptation here on a scale of one to ten: 0 – adaptation has been very difficult ... 10 – I have adapted extremely well. The survey revealed that approximately two thirds (70%) of new immigrants rate their adaptation in Estonia as very good or close to excellent (7–10 points on the scale). Eighty-two percent of new immigrants rate their adaptation as better than average, i.e. good to excellent (6–10 points on the scale).

The perception of adaptation also improves over time. The rating given by new immigrants who have lived in Estonia for five years to their adaptation is 6–7 percentage points higher than that of new immigrants who have lived here for only a year.

Contacts, language skills and language learning opportunities create the basis for the better adaptation and long-term integration of new immigrants in Estonia.

Thirty-two percent of new immigrants interact with Estonians actively (almost every day) and 24% do so at least once a week. The share of new immigrants who were not interacting actively with Estonians was 51% in EIM 2017, but it had decreased to 44% in 2020. The main places where they have contact and interact actively with Estonians is the workplace or school.

Figure 1. Interaction between new immigrants and Estonians in the last six months cased on area and frequency of interaction.



Source: EIM 2020

The Estonian language proficiency of approximately 40% of new immigrants living in Estonia is so good that they can cope well here without outside help both in their everyday activities as well as in the creation of contacts and networking. These people are divided into three groups in terms of language proficiency: they are fluent in Estonian; they understand and speak; they understand and speak a little.

Nine percent of new immigrants don't intend to learn any Estonian at all. The share of new immigrants who have postponed their plans to learn Estonian for a long time is the same.

New immigrants are generally satisfied with access to the state's services. Ninety-four percent of them rates access to official activities and proceedings as good (87% of returnees [Estonian citizens or people with an alien's passports who have lived outside Estonia for over 10 years], 80% of the Estonian population on average) and 90% rates access to law enforcement and security as good (94% of returnees, 86% of Estonian population on average).

New immigrants are satisfied more than average with access to social assistance and care services (81%) and labour market services (76%). Eighty-six percent of the new immigrants who have had contact with the services that support the adaptation and settling of new immigrants in Estonia are satisfied with them.

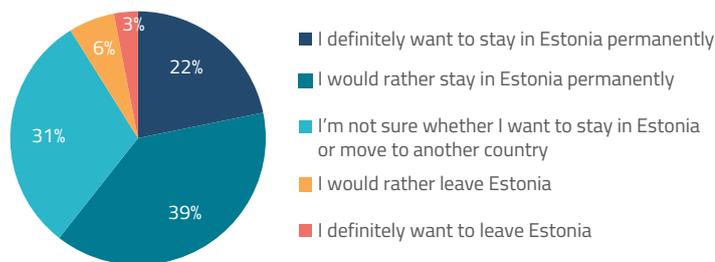
The main reasons why access to some services has been worse than average named by new immigrants are lack of information (around 54% of the respondents rated the access as bad) and provision of the service in a language not suitable to them (31%).

Friends and relatives who are Estonians or of other nationalities, colleagues and fellow students, and the organisations to which they are linked (employer, school or university) have helped new immigrants adapt the most.

Approximately 70% of new immigrants working in Estonia consider their place on the labour market good and secure. This group includes the people who believe that their position

corresponds to their level of education (69%), who are very or rather satisfied with their income (71%) and who find that they would find a suitable (new) job in Estonia in three months if they wanted to do so (68%). These indicators are very similar to the results of EIM 2017.

Figure 3. Division of new immigrants based on the desire to remain in Estonia, %.



Source: EIM 2020

The survey results indicate that 22% of the new immigrants who have come here would definitely like to stay in Estonia and 39% would rather stay, which means that 61% of the new immigrants would certainly or rather certainly stay in Estonia. This result is similar to the one of EIM 2017 (58%).

As EIM 2017 indicated, new immigrants from third countries (68%) are mainly those who want to stay in Estonia and the share of European Union citizens who want this is smaller (52%) in 2020 as well.