

Language issue in educating immigrant children

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Language challenge in Estonia

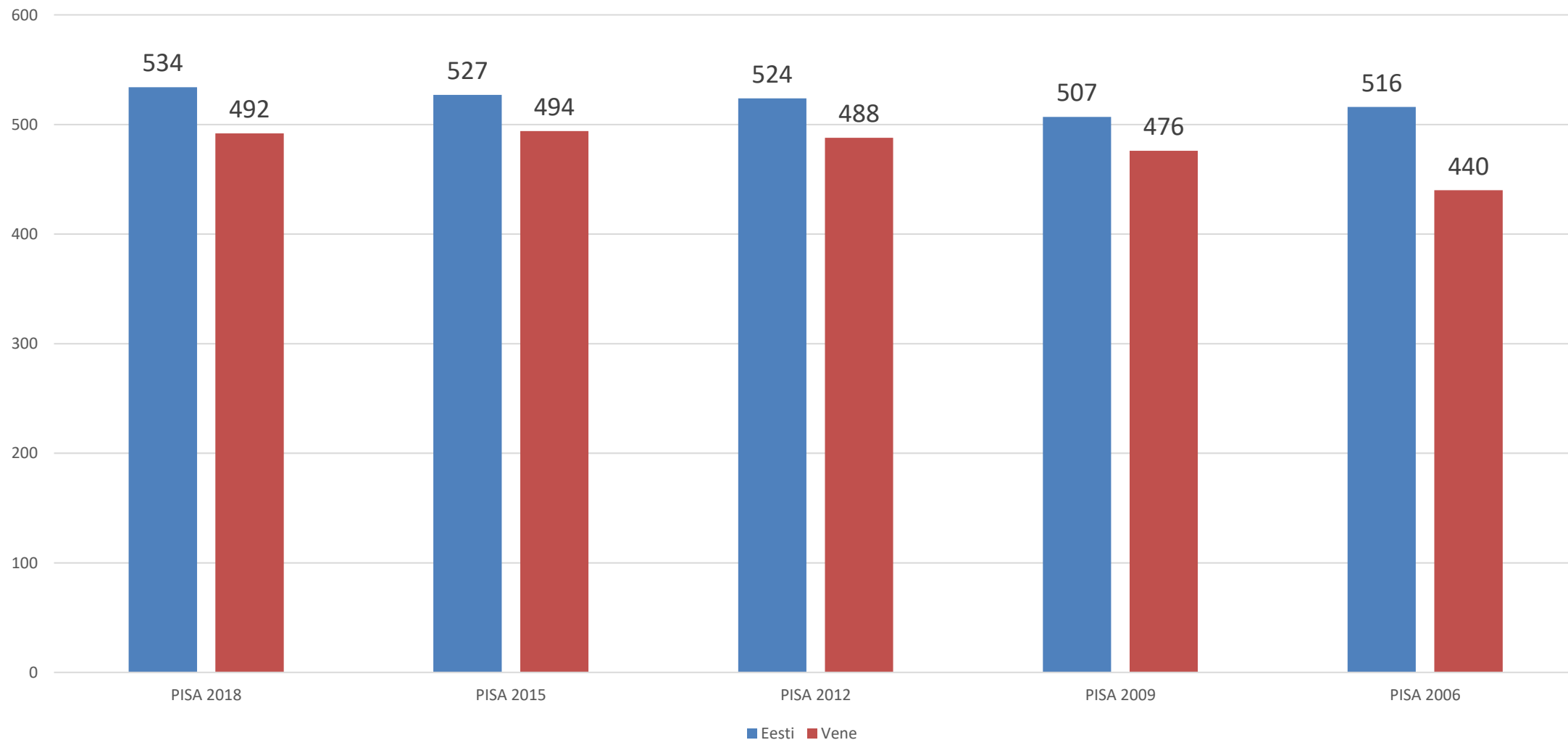
- 17% of children with Russian as main language spoken at home
- 5% of children with Ukrainian/Russian spoken at home, arrived within past 2 years



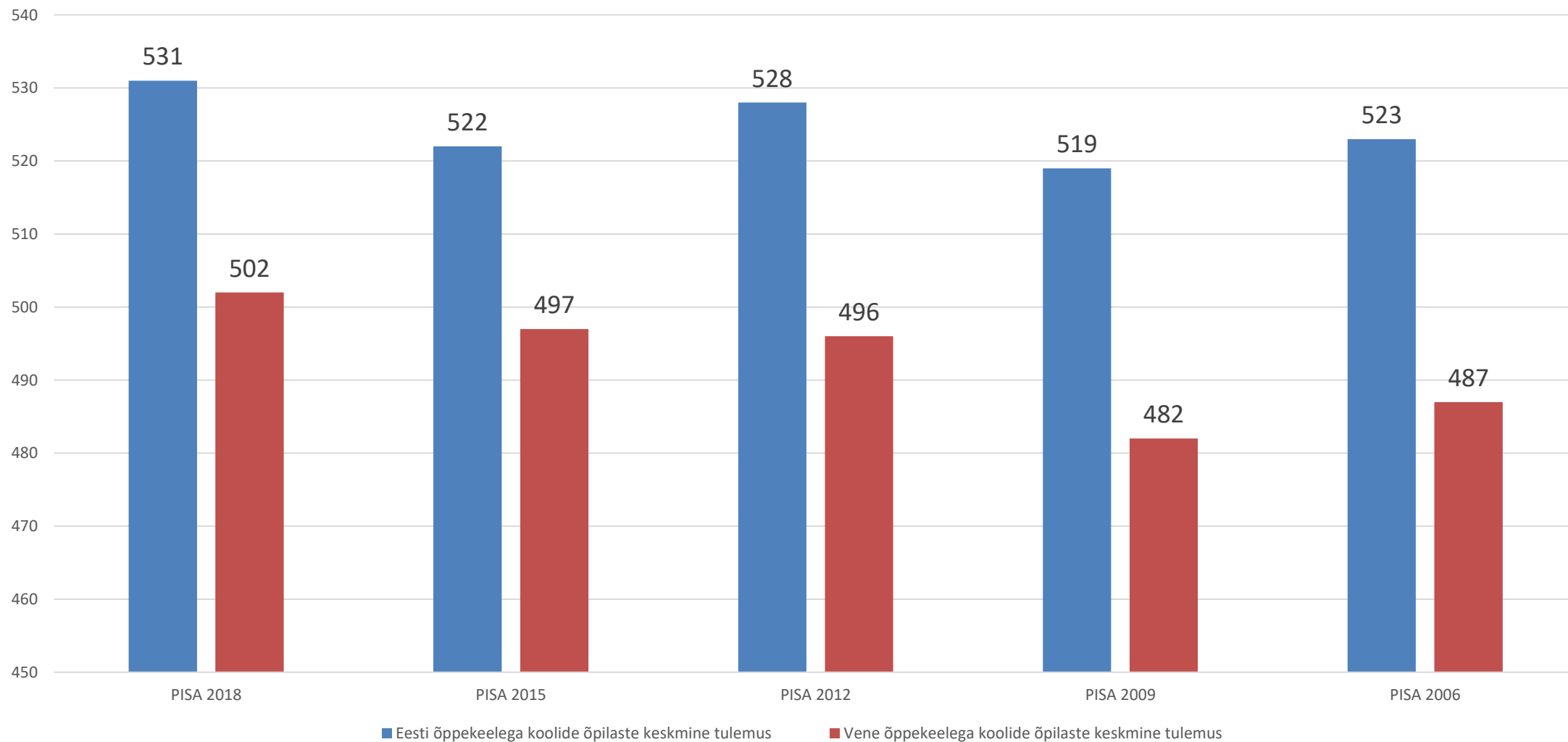
Linguistically segregated school system

- Russian-medium schools were built during Soviet occupation time 1945-1991. By 1991 30% of pupils studied in Russian schools.
- In 1991 Russian schools were transferred into Estonian education system and Estonian curricula was introduced, teaching remained in Russian language.
- Significant decrease in the number of pupils in Russian schools since 1991.
- In 2000 programme of language immersion was introduced to Russian schools. By 2022 around 1/3 of Russian schools operate under language immersion programme.
- In 2011 upper-secondary level (gymnasium) were transferred to 60/40 bilingual programmes.

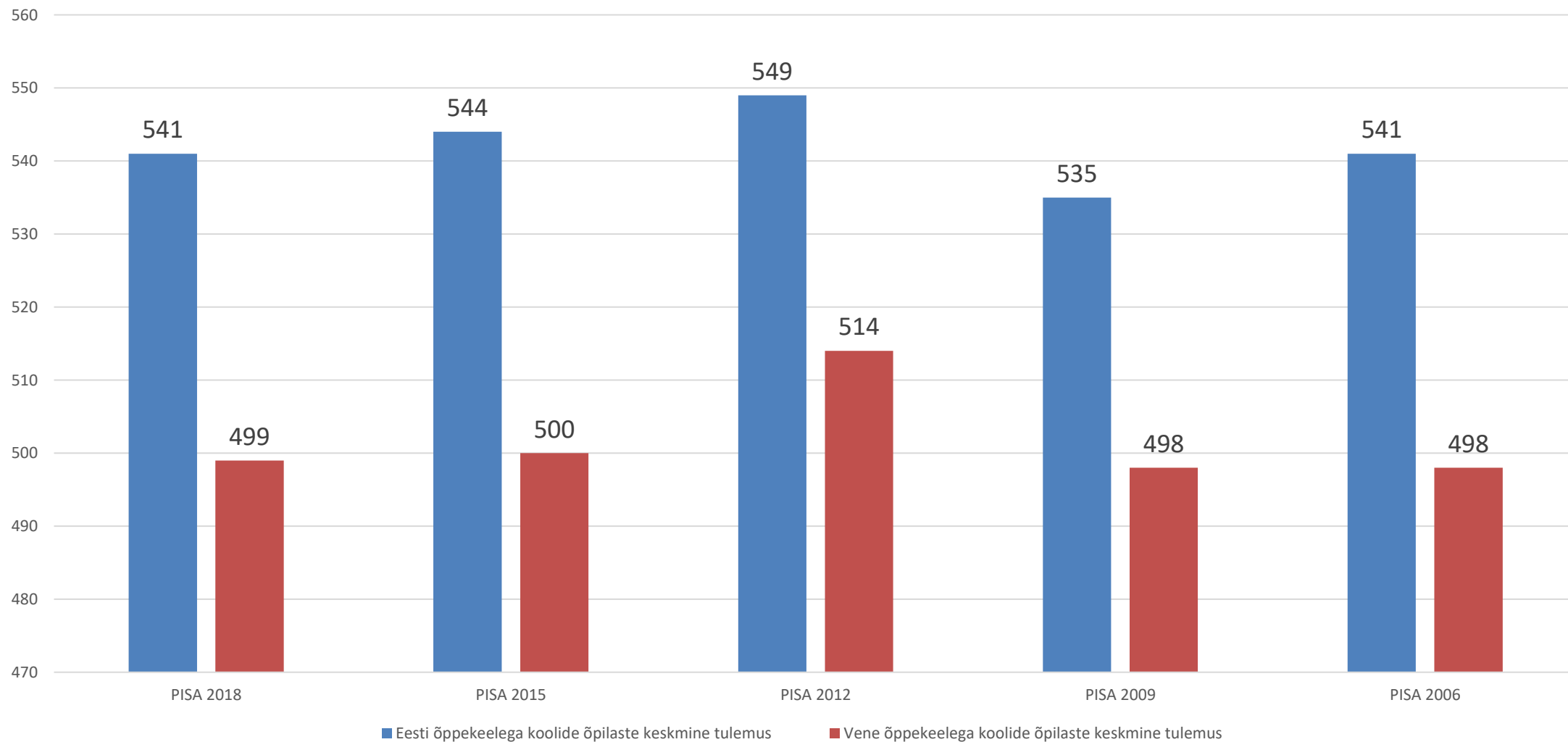
Reading skills (PISA) Estonian and Russian language schools 2006-2018 (Gap is 1 year, more than 39 points)



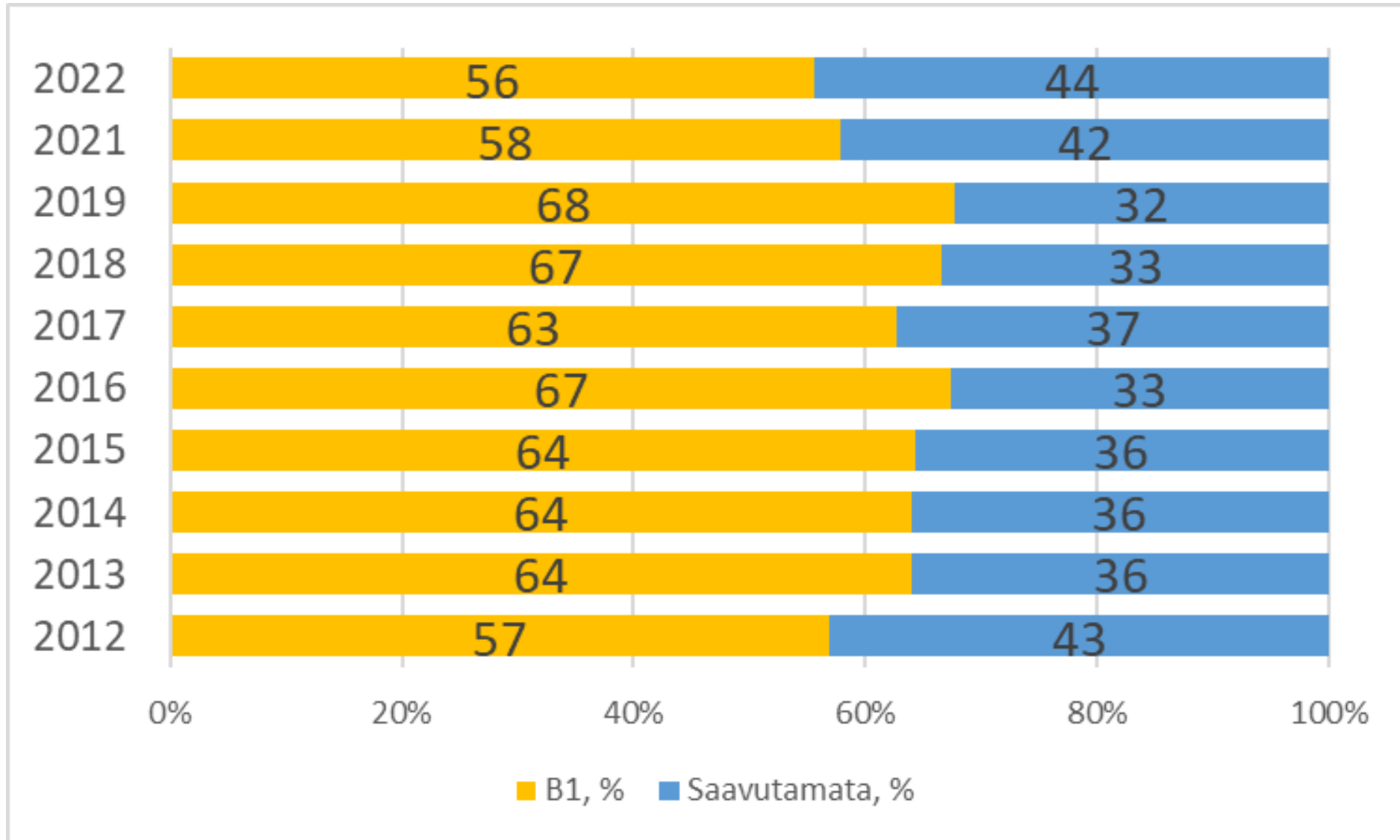
Mathematics skills (PISA) Estonian and Russian language schools 2006-2018 (Gap is 2/3 of a year, 29 points)



Sciences skills (PISA) Estonian and Russian language schools 2006-2018 (Gap is 1 year, more than 39 points)



Graduates of general primary education (9 year school) passing B1 Estonian language levels 2012-2022.



Transferring to Estonian language instruction 2024-2030 (in total approx 23 500 students)

	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						

Important elements

- Appropriate methodology for those who do not speak L2 (CLIL methodology)
- Regular monitoring of academic achievement in: mathematics, reading (in L1 and L2), science
- Mother tongue instruction (L1)

Cost of the reform: above 300 mil EUR for period 2023-2027 (67 mil per year)

Have to retrain/replace approx 2500 teachers (15% of teachers)

Important resources: Teachers

1. Increasing the number of admissions to universities in teacher training programmes (8,6 mil per year)
2. Study grants to students studying in teacher training programmes 400EUR per month (12 mil per year)
3. Salary coefficient 1,3 for pre-school (525 EUR) and 1,5 for school teachers and support personnel (874 EUR) (17 mil per year).
4. Language training courses & didactical and methodological CLIL courses (2 mil per year)

