

# ROLE OF EDUCATION IN INTEGRATION

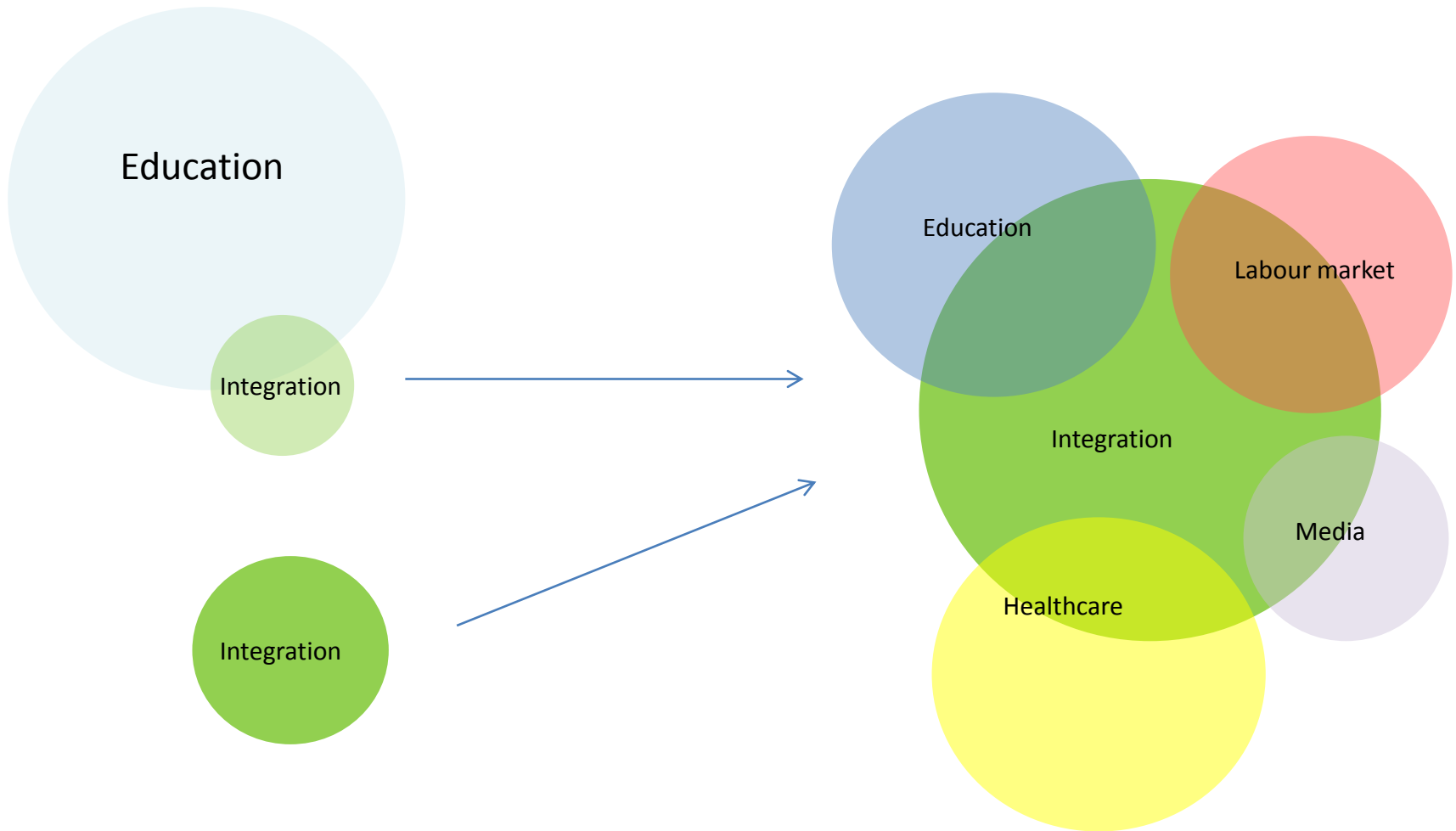
**Piret Hartman**

Undersecretary for Cultural Diversity

Estonian Ministry of Culture

The role of education in integration  
is invaluable

# The role of various fields in integration



1. The role of integration in education vs the role of education in integration
2. Cultural diversity as challenge vs opportunity
3. Estonian language and culture diminishing vs development

# Learning together

- Contacts
- Understanding one another
- Language skills
- Reducing isolation, prevention of future segregation
- Promotes shared information space
- Promotes shared values

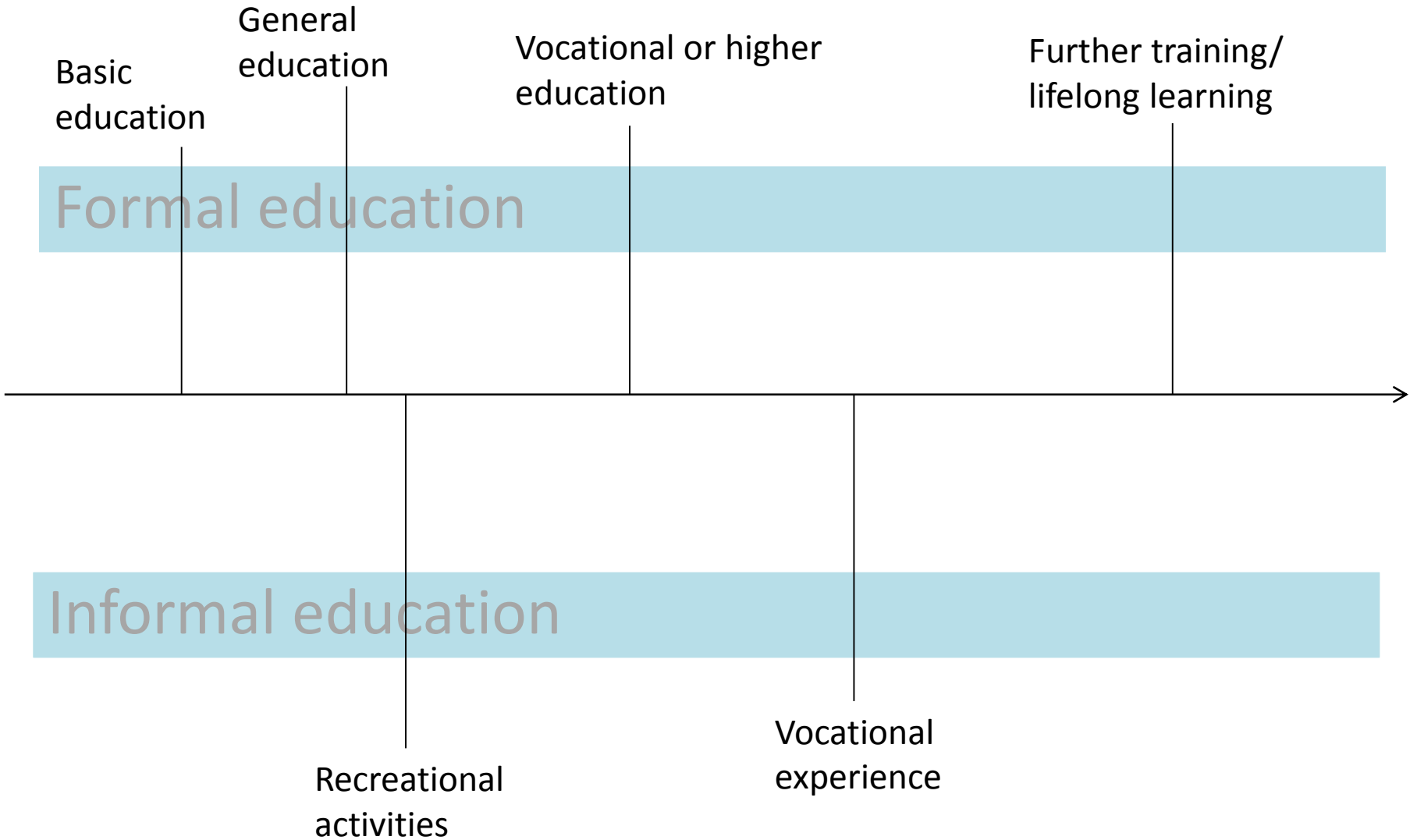
# Readyness is there, fears too

Perceptions of residents of other ethnicities in relation to Estonian-language instruction at Russian-speaking upper secondary schools, as a proportion of respondents based on ethnic group, who responded „Rather agree“ and „Fully agree“.



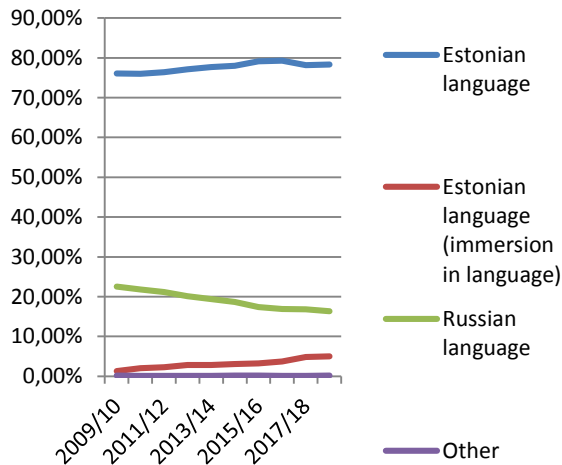
68% of Estonians and 64% of other nationalities approve of mixed groups and integrated school classes, only 9% of Estonians and 10% of other nationalities consider it negative (Estonian Integration Monitoring 2017).

# Various stages in education



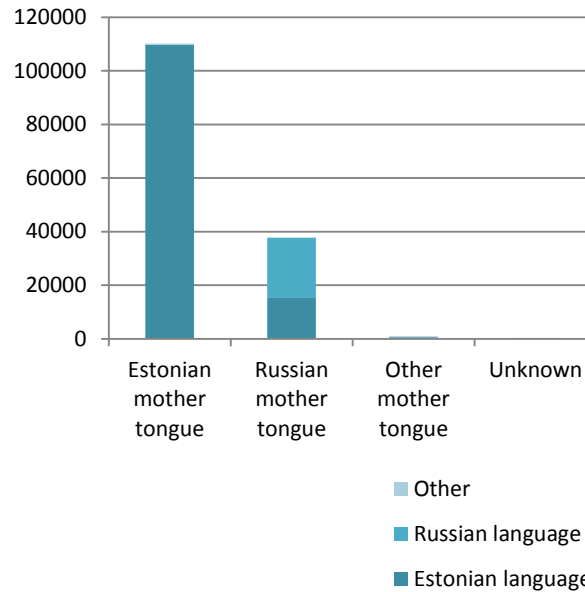
# Future educational choices

Basic education

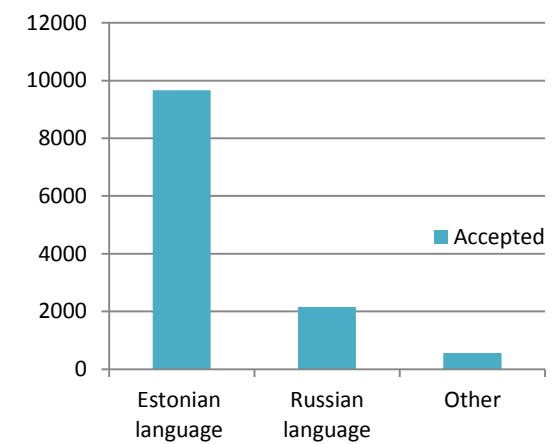


EHIS

General education 25%



Higher education 17%



Statistics Estonia 2019

Formal education

Informal education

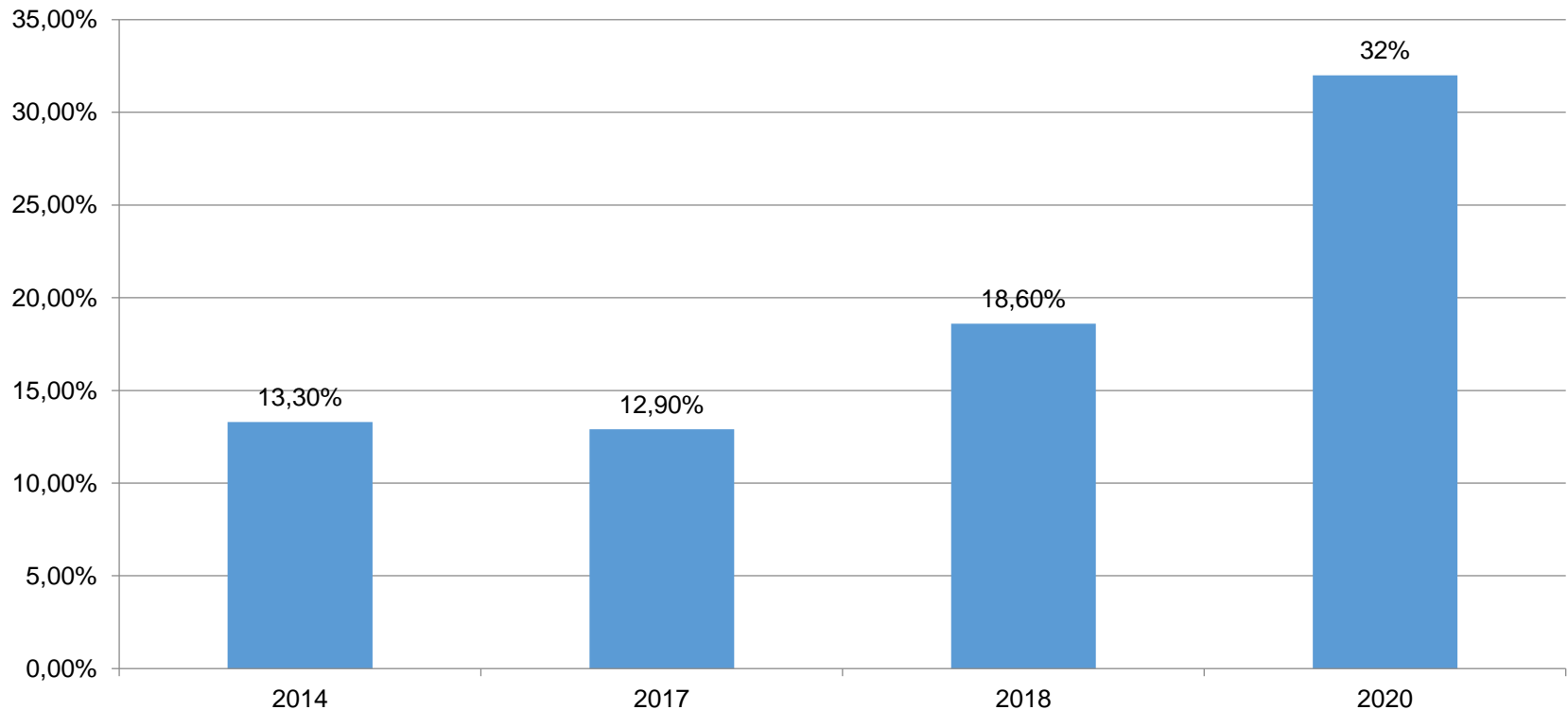


# Estonian language training in general education

- By the end of lower secondary school , **69,2% of non-Estonian speaking students speak Estonian at least on B1 level.** Among the graduates of only Russian language lower secondary schools there are 61.4% speakers of Estonian on B1 level (if counting language immersion, then 63,5%).
- Following the switch to instruction in Estonian language in higher secondary school level, the language skills among the higher secondary school graduates has slightly improved. The first youths who passed at least 60% of all subjects in curriculum in Estonian language graduated in 2014. **When back then 22% of all graduates did not reach B2 level, then in 2018 this figure was 19% among youths.**

# Estonian language training in vocational education

The share of vocational students who passed Estonian B2 examination from the total number of the students who took the examination



# Future professional choices

**2,4 % other nationalities  
in public sector**

Estonian Ministry of Finance 2018

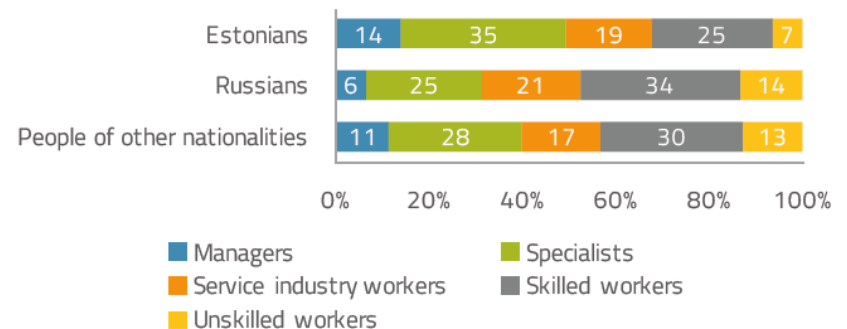
**Unemployment rate**

**4,6%**

**Other nationalities 7,1%**

Statistics Estonia 2019

*Proportion of employees in key occupational groups by nationality, %  
(Source: Statistics Estonia, TT245)*



Integration Monitoring of  
the Estonian Society 2017

# Media consumption

Ranking order of media channels by importance for Estonians and representatives of other nationalities, %

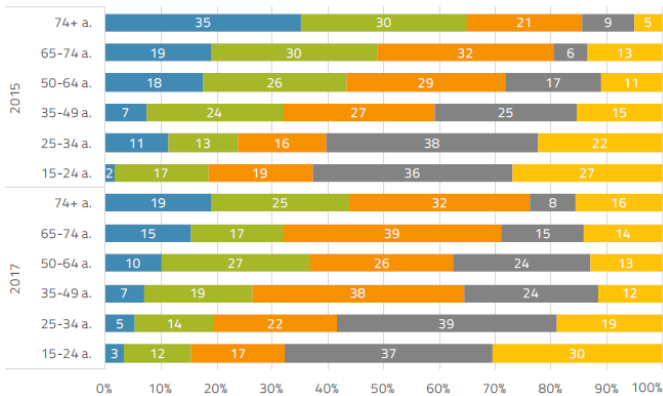
	ESTONIANS		OTHER ETHNICITIES		
	Very important + quite important	Not important at all	Very important + quite important	Not important at all	
ETV Estonian-language TV channels	84	5	Communicating with friends, family or acquaintances	81	10
Communicating with friends, family or acquaintances	82	6	Russian TV channels	71	15
Other Estonian-language TV channels	74	8	PBK Estonian news	70	18
Estonian-language radio channels	73	12	Communicating with colleagues at work or peers at school	68	21
Estonian-language newspapers	72	12	"Aktuaalne kaamera" in Russian language	62	22
Communicating with colleagues at work or peers at school	65	22	PBK's other shows produced in Estonia	58	20
Estonian-language news portals or websites	61	26	Estonian Russian-language newspapers	57	25
Social media	43	38	Estonian Russian-language news portals, websites	54	33
Global news channels	23	53	Social media	48	35
ETV+	12	60	ETV+	43	30
Newspapers in English, German and other languages	11	70	Other Estonian Russian-language radio channels	43	34
Russian TV channels	7	69	Russian news portals and websites	39	37
Estonian Russian-language news portals, websites	7	79	Radio 4	38	36
"Aktuaalne kaamera" in Russian language	6	74	Russian newspapers	34	45
PBK Estonian news	5	78	ETV Estonian-language TV channels	27	42
Estonian Russian-language newspapers	5	80	Estonian-language news portals or websites	24	54
PBK's other shows produced in Estonia	5	78	Estonian-language newspapers	23	54
Radio 4	4	80	Other Estonian-language TV channels	21	41
Other Estonian Russian-language radio channels	4	82	Estonian-language radio channels	20	54
Russian news portals and websites	3	83	Global news channels	19	52
Russian newspapers	2	84	Newspapers in English, German and other languages		

# Readiness to integrate

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### Estonian language skills

Self-assessed Estonian language skills among other nationalities based on age in 2015 and 2017., % (EIM 2015 and 2017)



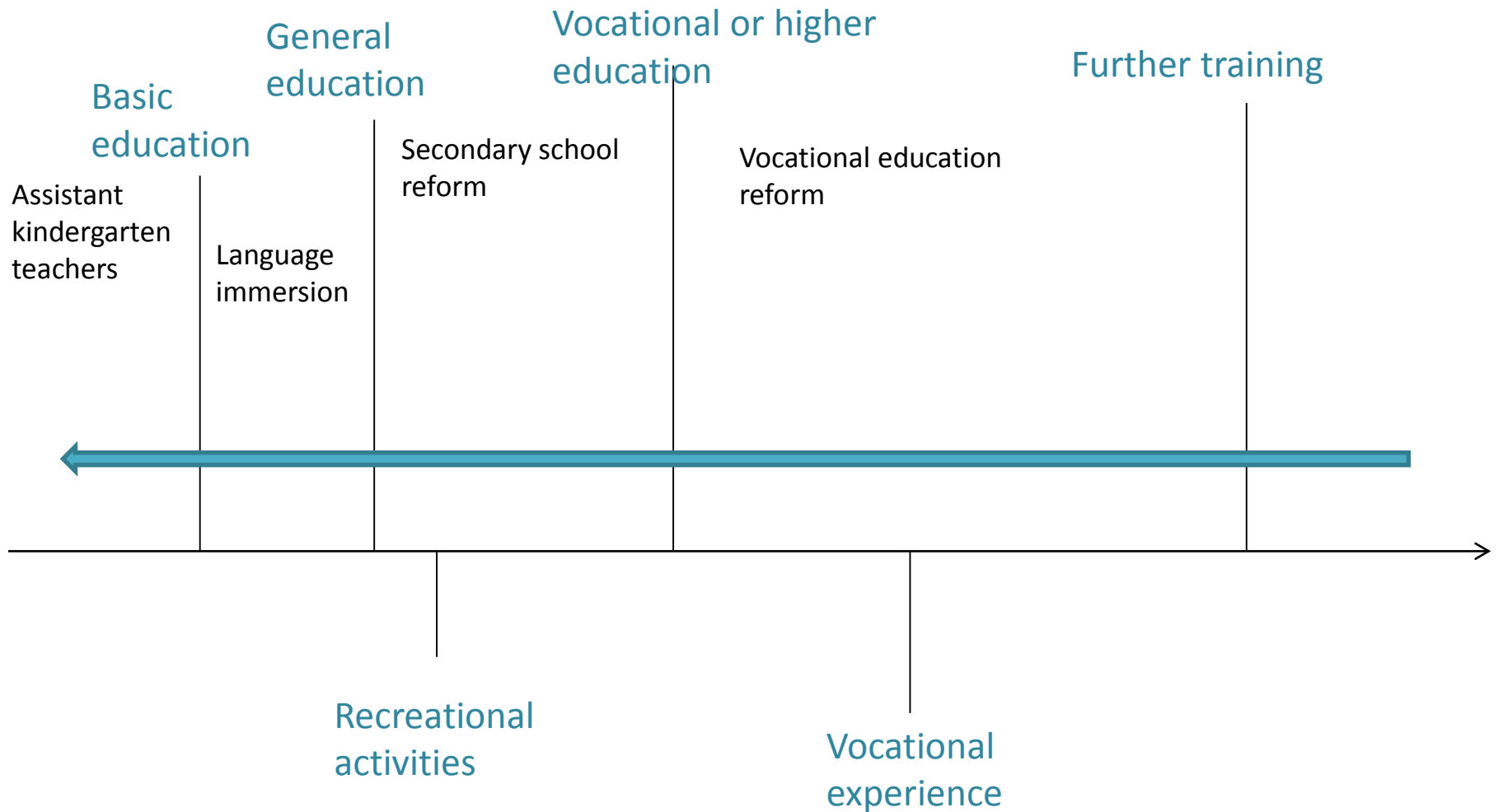
Opportunity: Russian language skills among the adult population is improving

Historical context

- Not at all
- Understand a little but do not speak
- Understand and speak a little
- Understand, can speak and write in Estonian
- Fluent

English language skills, general openness

# Timing of reforms



# How education influences integration

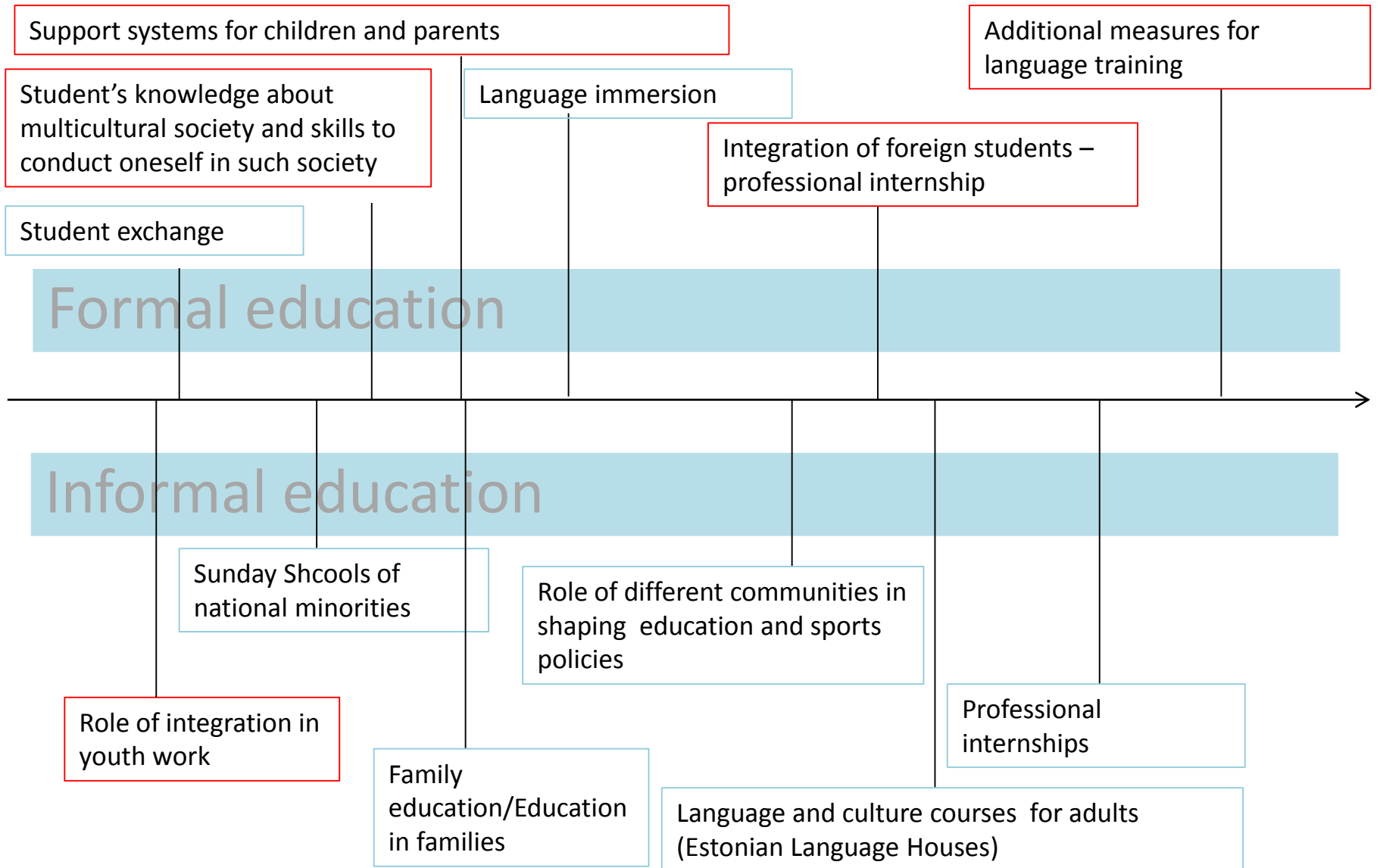
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Integration in education reduces reproduction of isolation/segregation



Integration in adult education affects attitudes of parents and grandparents and thus shapes the examples for children, behaviour on labour market and willingness to invest in civil society.

# Various opportunities





# Additional factors

Integration in education:

- Multi-directional
- Additional resources for implementation and supporting activities
- Communication and information exchange
- Awareness of teachers and instructors
- Smooth transitions between stages of education



# Thank you!

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