



KULTUURIMINISTEERIUM

# CHALLENGES FACING THE ESTONIAN INTEGRATION POLICY

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# Agenda

1. Coordination of the integration policy in Estonia
2. Where we are
3. Challenges
4. Possible solutions, ongoing projects
5. Integrating Estonia 2030



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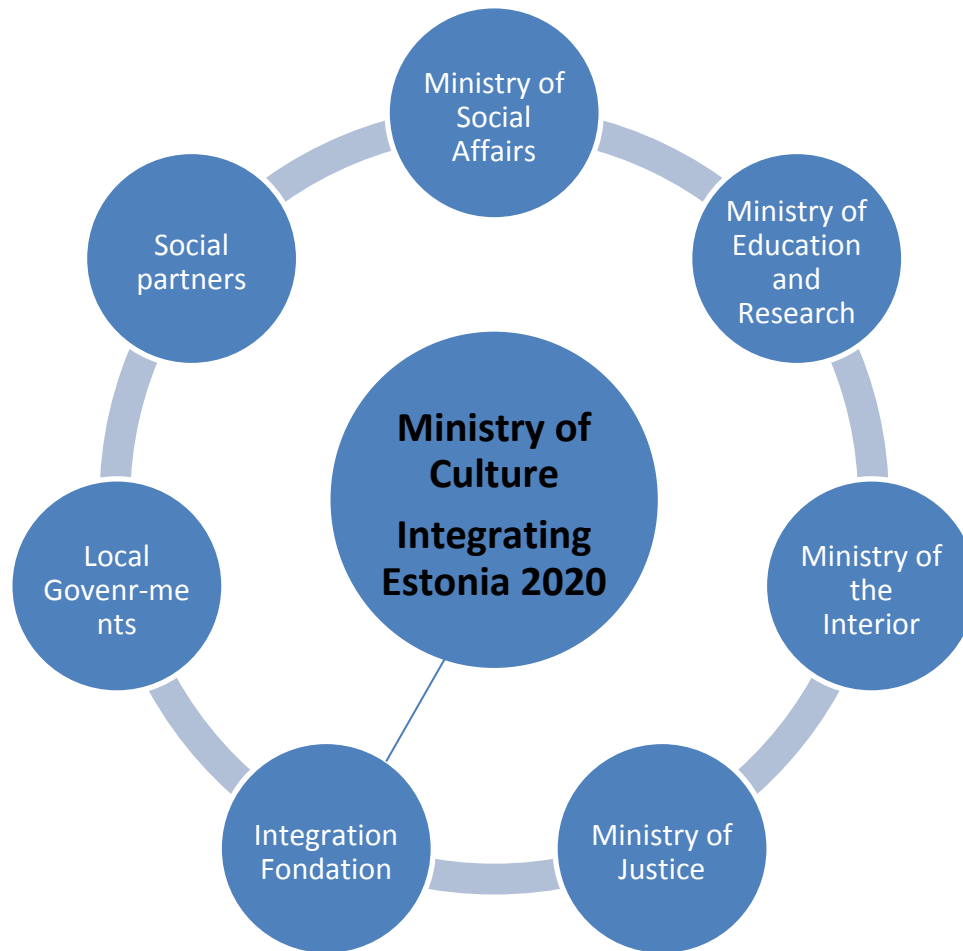
# 1. Coordination of the integration policy in Estonia

# “Integrating Estonia 2020”

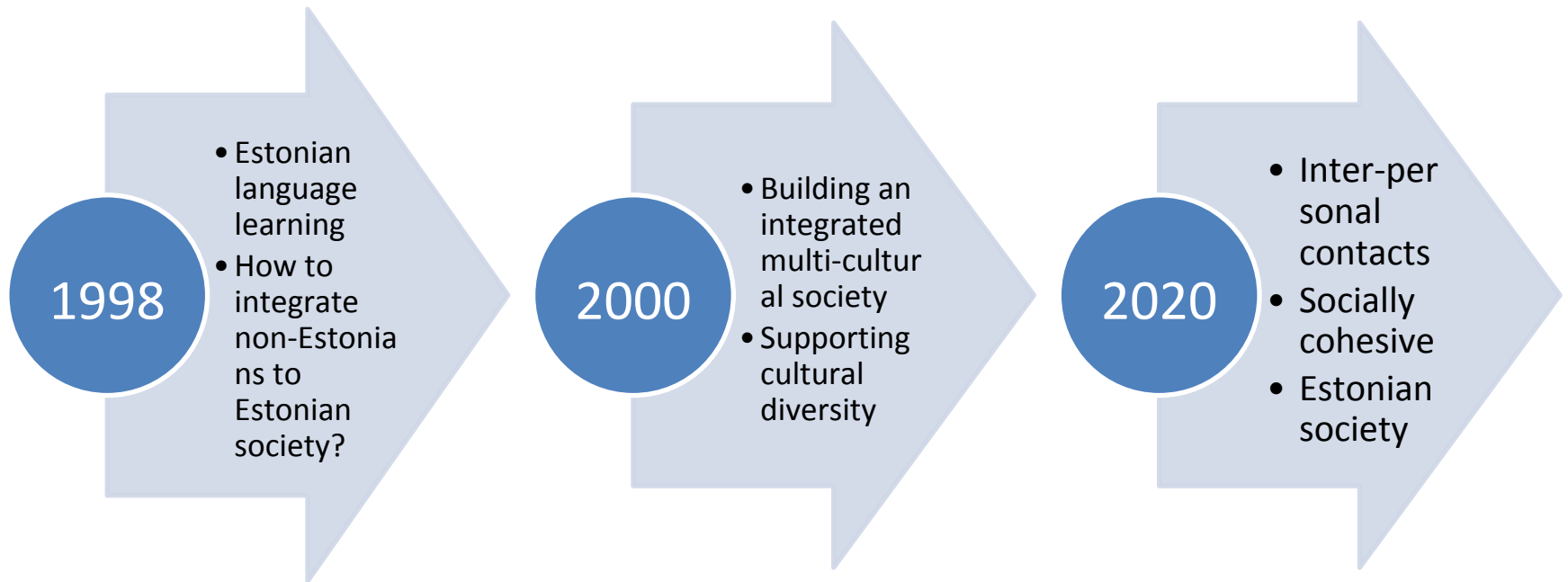
Socially cohesive Estonian society, in which individuals with different linguistic and cultural backgrounds actively participate in society and share common democratic values.

- Increasing the openness of society, including **Estonian-speaking** permanent residents and shaping their attitudes towards integration to be more supportive.
- Support for **permanent residents with cultures and native languages different from Estonian** in society.
- Supporting the adaptation and integration of **new migrants** as a growing target group.

# Coordination of the integration policy in Estonia



# The shift of policy paradigm





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## 2. Where we are

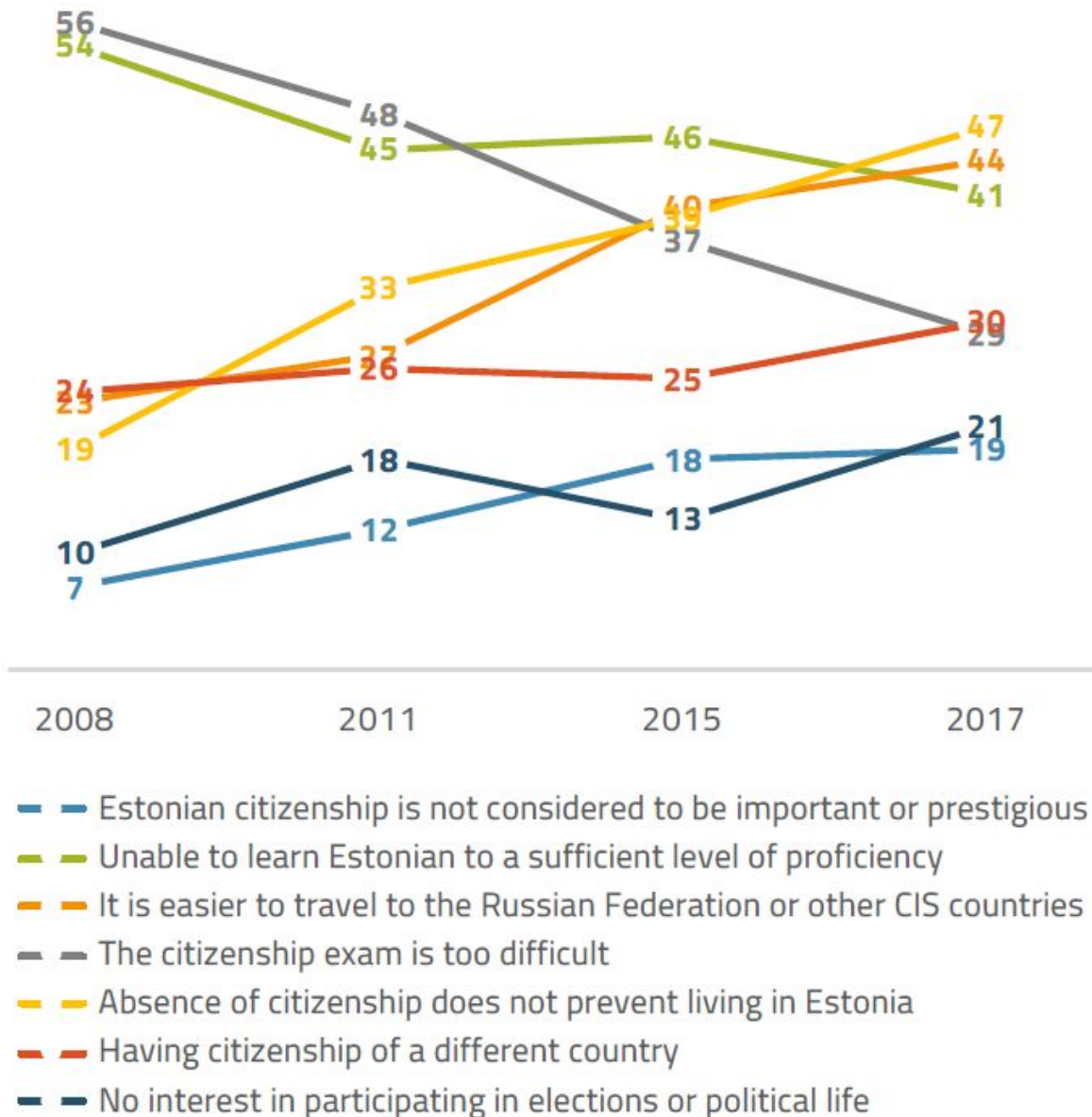




# General statistics

- 200 different nationalities
- One third of our population is made up of people of other ethnic origin.
- 85% of people in Estonia have Estonian citizenship, the proportion of people with undetermined citizenship has decreased from 32% to 6%.
- Most people with undetermined citizenship (55%) wish to obtain citizenship of the Republic of Estonia, approximately every fifth person (18%) is satisfied with their present status and 8% wish to obtain citizenship of the Russian Federation.

Reasons why people do not obtain Estonian citizenship, all respondents, % (Integration Monitoring 2008, 2011, 2015, 2017).



# General statistics

- Over 300 cultural associations of ethnic minorities.
- Estonian and Russian language schools.
- Most of the Estonian population clearly prefers that Estonian-language learning should start at kindergarten level.
- There is an increasing support for common Estonian-speaking kindergartens for mixed groups of children and support for language-based segregation in education is in decline.



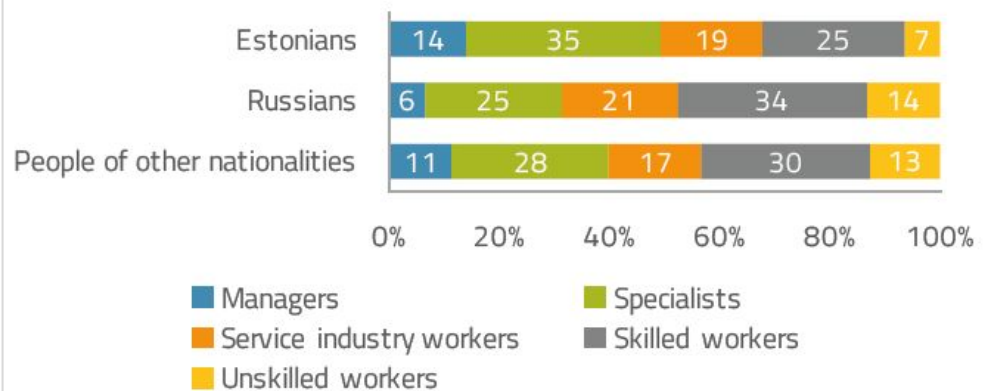
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## 3. Challenges

# Social inequality

- Social-economic inequality among Estonians and other nationalities
- Integration of new migrants

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



# Two school networks: Estonian and Russian

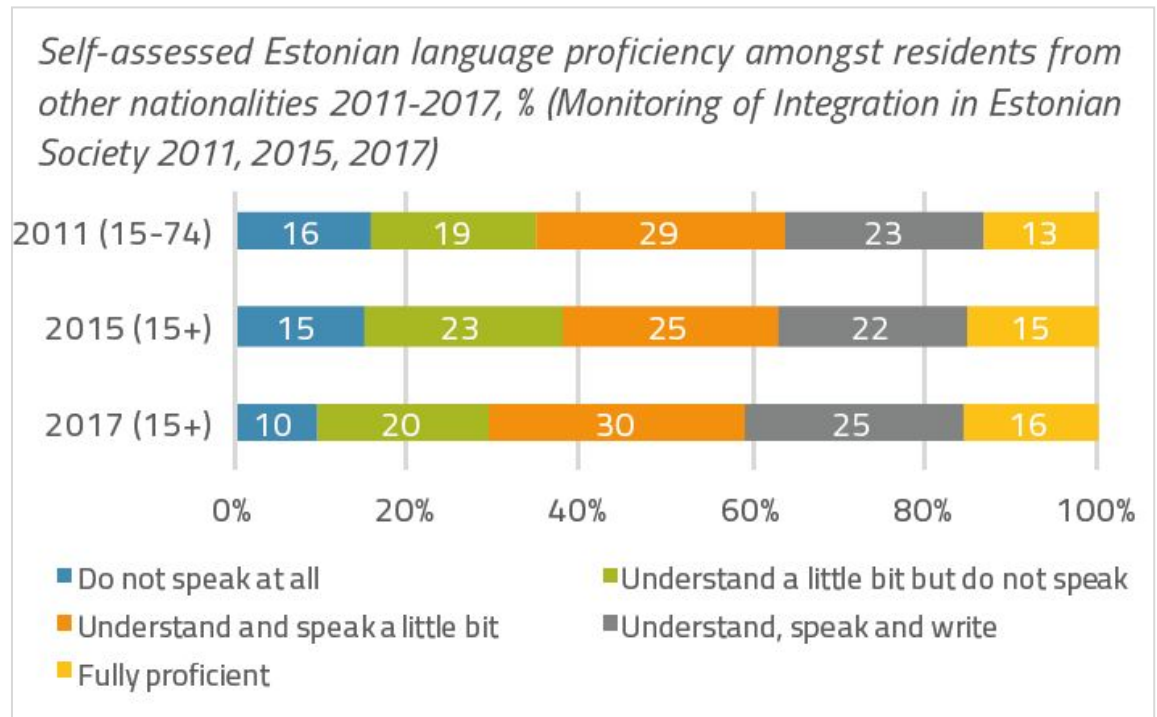
- Consensus on language learning
- Openness to create more diverse school environment
- Lack of teachers with good language skills
- Segregation

# Segregated communities – lack of interpersonal contacts

Frequent interpersonal contacts and personal communication foster understanding and tolerance as well as prevent segregation and alienation in society.

# Availability of Estonian language courses

- Self-assessed Estonian language proficiency is increasing
- Other nationalities are noticeably more willing to speak Estonian.







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## 4. Possible solutions, ongoing projects

# Diversity in the workplace

Dmitri Jegorov.

**Dmitri Jegorov.**  
**Vene koolist**  
**asekantsleriks.**  
**Из русской школы**  
**в вице-канцлеры.**



# Launching of the language houses





# Civic initiatives





# Searching for the new approaches - integration hackathon



# Speakly language app – using IT solutions

VÕÕRKEEL SELGEKS 100 TUNNIGA.  
GARANTEERITULT.

Õpitavad keeled:



Itaalia keel



Hispaania keel



Prantsuse keel



Inglise keel



Eesti keel



Saksa keel

PROOVI TASUTA  
14 PÄEVA

OSTA KOHE





# Showcasing ethnic minorities





# Intersectoral cooperation





# Reinforcement of integration coalition





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## 5. Integrating Estonia 2030

# Our focuses 2030

Tackling segregation, starting in education

Common information/media environment

Reducing socio-economic inequality

Communication

Civil society - inclusion

# Political agreement

Expectations

Shared vision and cooperation  
between experts

Results

Co-operation

Science based policy making

Enlarge the coalition with opinion leaders

Understanding

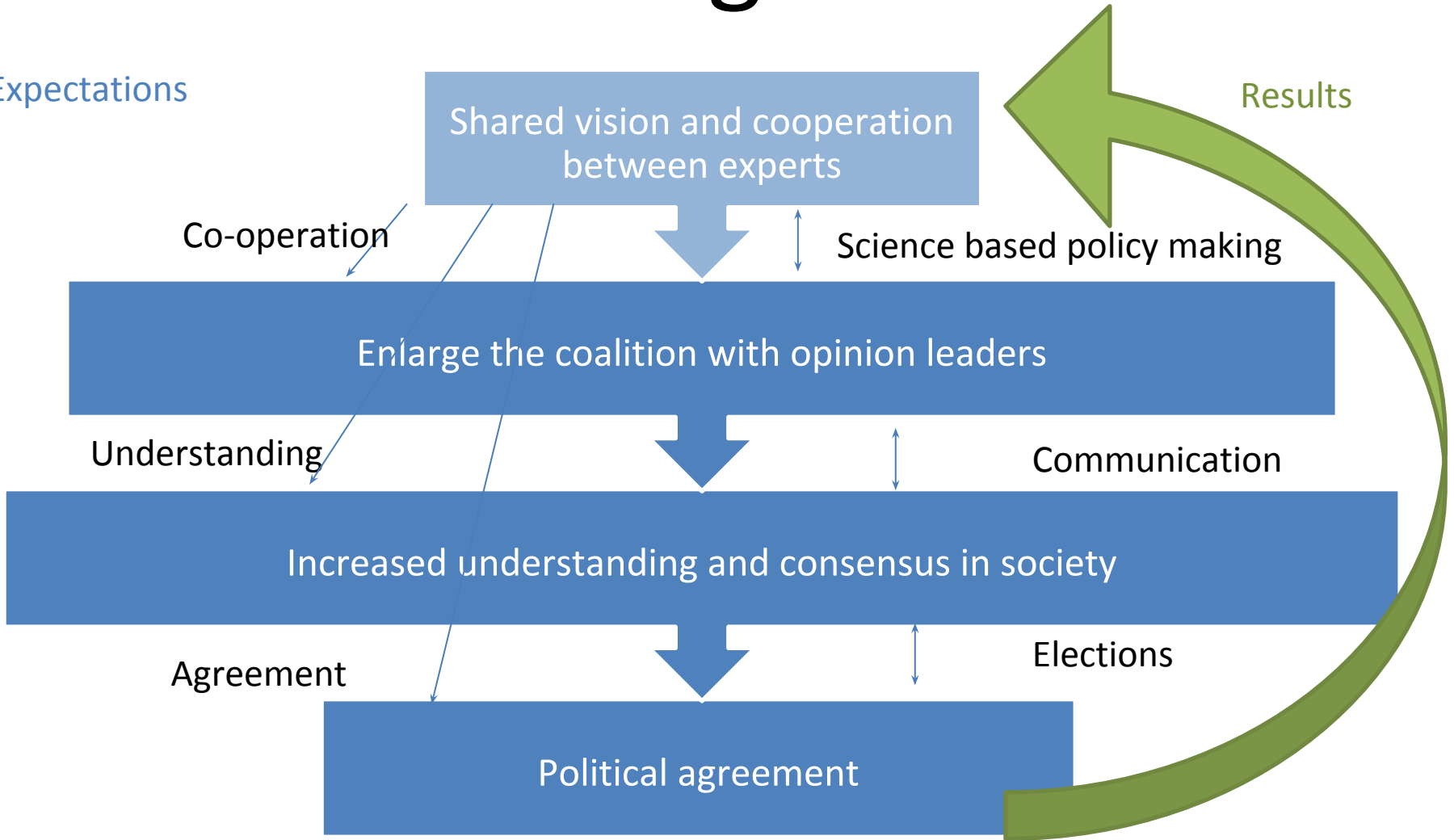
Communication

Increased understanding and consensus in society

Agreement

Elections

Political agreement



# Co-operation between the ministries

Ministry of  
Education and  
Research

Tackling segregation, starting in education

Media environment

Ministry of  
Social Affairs

Reducing socio-economic inequality

Communication and co-operation

Civil society - inclusion

# Integration Policy

- Estland – *klein aber fein*
- Trough one ministry or trough many different ministries



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**Thank You!**