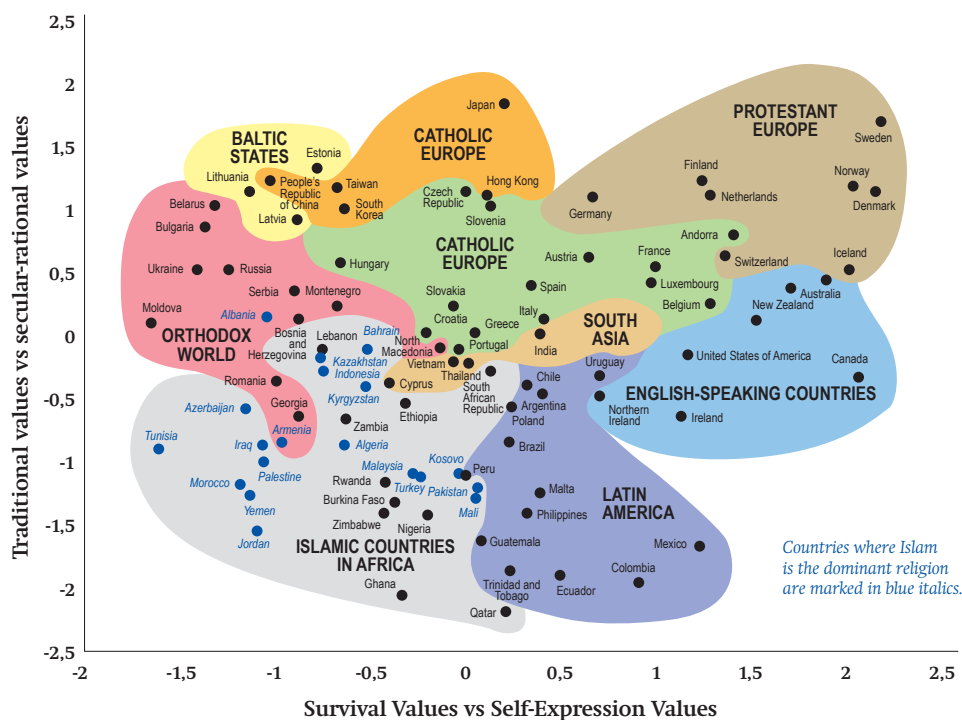


Estonia is gradually moving towards post-materialist values characteristic of welfare societies, where people care for their health, feel responsible for their actions, are politically active, tolerant towards differences, and environmentally conscious. The overall feeling of happiness and satisfaction with life among the people of Estonia has grown, but the gap between Estonia and the Nordic Countries has either increased or remains the same. Compared to the Scandinavians, the people of Estonia are significantly less trustful, tolerant, and happy.

Values are shaped at an early age through socialization and from that point on remain relatively unchanged. Values are also influenced by social aspects, such as economic welfare, social involvement, succession of generations, and path dependence.

World Map of Values 2017



Source: www.worldvaluessurvey.org

According to values researchers R. Inglehart and C. Welzel, there are two main values dimensions, namely traditional values vs secular-rational values and survival vs self-expression values. In the course of development, societies move upwards along the vertical scale and from left to right along the horizontal scale. In other words, they shift from favouring economic and physical security to valuing self-expression, subjective welfare, and quality of life.

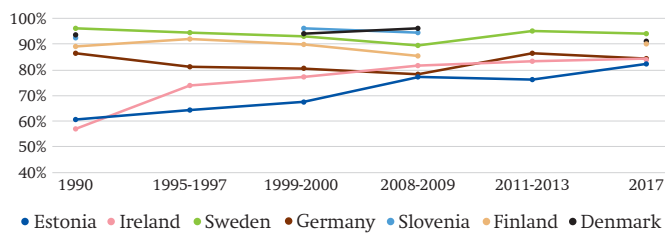
Source: WVS/EVS

The University of Tartu carried out the study "Values as Human Resource, and Their Connection to Social Development" on the commission of the Foresight Centre. The study uses mainly the country data on Estonia in three databases: The European Social Survey (ESS), and the European Values Study, World Values Survey (EVS/WVS). The samples of the studies are representative of Estonian residents aged 18 years and over. Data representative of the country (weighted data) are used to compare countries and to describe the situation. The study is available on the webpage of the research "The Situation of the Estonian Human Resources" of the Foresight Centre: www.riigikogu.ee/arenguseire/eesti-inimvara-olukord.

According to the data on Estonia in 2018, post-materialist values are less accepted by the elderly (aged 64 and up, 12%) compared to the younger generations (30 and 30–63 y.o., 15%). However, the difference is not significant. Among Estonian-speaking and Russian-speaking respondents, respectively 16% and 7% viewed post-materialist values as important. Support for post-materialist values declines in accordance with the level of education of the respondent (higher education 19%, secondary education 12%, and lower 9%). No substantial differences can be established when examining responses according to gender of the respondent. The percentage of men supporting post-materialist values is slightly higher than that of women.

FEELING OF HAPPINESS

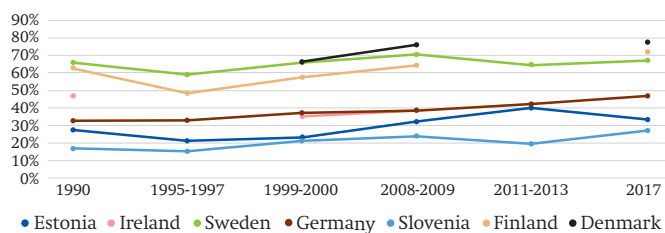
In the past thirty years, the overall feeling of happiness and satisfaction with life satisfaction among the people of Estonia has rapidly increased. In 2018, circa 83% of respondents described themselves as happy.



Percentage of respondents in 1990–2017 who, taking all things into account, believe that they are very happy or mostly happy. Data: WVS / EVS.

TRUST

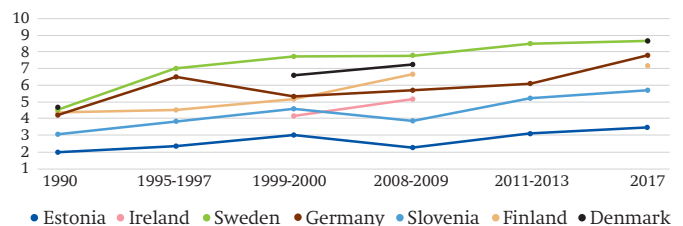
Shared interests and mutual trust create the foundation for cooperation between people and groups. This way, collective and economic benefit contributes to the growth of social capital. In Estonia, the level of trust has decreased to the same level as ten years ago, that is, to around 33–34%; most people in Estonia (66%) still believe that they must be very careful when interacting with others.



Percentage of respondents in 1990–2017 who agree with the statement “most people can be trusted” (as opposed to the statement “one must be careful [when interacting] with people”). Data: WVS/EVS.

ATTITUDE TOWARDS MINORITIES

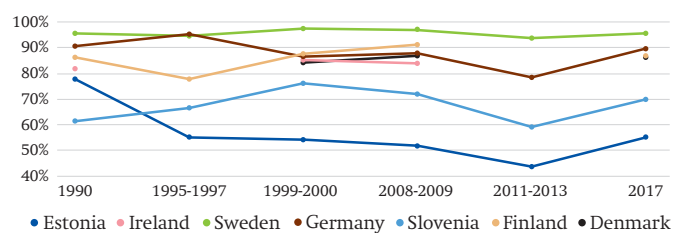
One of the key topics for self-expression values is tolerance towards minorities, for example, homosexuals or people of different nationality or religious background. Attitude towards homosexuality in Estonia has somewhat improved in the past years, but compared to other European countries participating in the current analysis, the attitude is still decisively condemning.



Question: “Please respond to each following statement [homosexuality]: do you believe it is always true, never true, or is the choice somewhere in-between?”, average score on a scale where 1 = not justified... 10 = justified. Data: WVS/EVS.

CIVIC ACTIVITY

In the past six to seven years, active citizenship in Estonia has substantially grown. In spite of that, according to data polled in 2018, Estonia still ranks last among the six countries (55%).



Percentage of respondents in 1990–2018 who have signed a petition (as a form of political protest that people can participate in) or who could do so in the future. Data: WVS/EVS.