

Innovation Fund and Innovation Programme projects

Downloaded on 01.09.2026

Last updated on 17.08.2026

Table of contents

2. Projects launched through the Innovation Programme	3
2.1. Education and Research (Innovation Programme)	3
2.1.1. Needs-Based Estonian Language Training and Counselling for Adults of Other Nationalities	3
2.2. Justice Sector (Innovation Programme)	4
2.2.1. Improving the Efficiency of Legislative Drafting	5
2.3. Defence Sector (Innovation Programme)	5
2.3.1. I Want to Join the Estonian Defence Forces	6
2.4. Climate and Environment (Innovation Programme)	8
2.4.1. Less Single-Use Plastic	8
2.4.2. Reducing Food Waste	9
2.4.3. Waste Sorting	11
2.5. Economy (Innovation Programme)	12
2.5.1. The Estonian Diaspora in Business Diplomacy	12
2.5.2. Single Point of Contact for Entrepreneurs	14
2.5.3. Electronic Accommodation Registration Card	15
2.6. Agriculture (Innovation Programme)	15
2.6.1. Climate-Neutral Food Production	16
2.6.2. Misuse of Special-Purpose Diesel Fuel	17
2.7. Regional Development (Innovation Programme)	18
2.7.1. Local Governments in the Green Transition	18
2.7.2. Demand- Responsive Transport	21
2.8. Internal Security and Crisis Resilience (Innovation Programme)	22
2.8.1. My First Time Getting Caught	22
2.8.2. Reducing Speeding	24
2.8.3. Halving the Number of Fire-Related Deaths	25
2.9. Health and Social Affairs (Innovation Programme)	27
2.9.1. Safer Nightlife	27
2.9.2. The Well-Being of Single Parents	31
2.9.3. Follow-Up Support for Young People Engaging in High-Risk Behaviour	33
2.9.4. Disability Assessment	35
2.9.5. Diagnostic Tests Close to Home	37
2.9.6. Patient's Advance Directive for End-of-Life Care	38
2.9.7. Good Mental Health Among Young People	40
2.9.8. Psychosocial Crisis Support	42
2.9.9. Development of a Personal Health Management Toolkit	44
2.9.10. Cancer Patient Care Pathway	46

2. Projects launched through the Innovation Programme

In this section, you will find projects by policy area that have been funded through the Public Sector Innovation Programme.

Last updated on 12.02.2026

2.1. Education and Research (Innovation Programme)

Last updated on 29.09.2025

2.1.1. Needs-Based Estonian Language Training and Counselling for Adults of Other Nationalities



The Estonian language learning project for adults focused on the needs of different learners and their language learning journeys. One of the solutions developed was a prototype of a digital gateway bringing together Estonian language learning services.

The project also introduced an innovative short-conversation format called Keelerulett, which enables participants to practise Estonian for one hour in randomly formed groups using predetermined discussion topics.

The project involved the Ministry of Culture, the Integration Foundation, the Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund, and the Ministry of the Interior.

Project took place in 2020

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme

Read more (in Estonian):

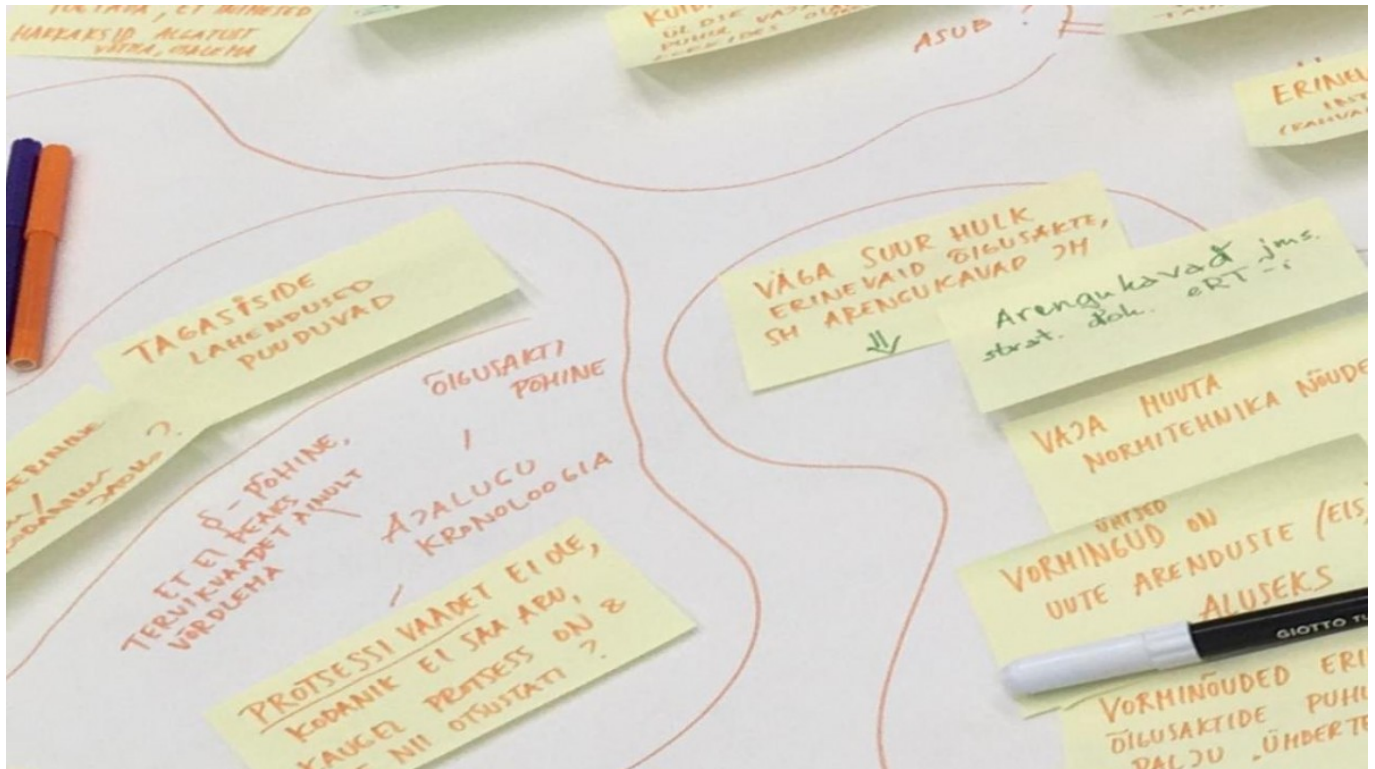
[Vajaduspõhine eesti keele õpe - lõpuesitlus.pdf | 3.94 MB | pdf](#)

Last updated on 29.09.2025

2.2. Justice Sector (Innovation Programme)

Uuendatud 29.09.2025

2.2.1. Improving the Efficiency of Legislative Drafting



The aim was to develop a prototype of a user-friendly IT platform that would support the entire legislative and policymaking process and enable a transparent co-creation process involving legislative drafters and other stakeholders interested in Estonia's development.

Project took place in 2019

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme

Read more (in Estonian):

[Õigusloome tõhustamine - lõpuesitlus.pdf | 2 MB | pdf](#)

Last updated on 29.09.2025

2.3. Defence Sector (Innovation Programme)

Last updated on 12.02.2026

2.3.1. I Want to Join the Estonian Defence Forces



One in four young men currently fails to attend the medical examination required before compulsory military service, while avoiding military service is often met with a relatively understanding attitude among their peers.

The project focused specifically on the perspective of young people and explored how compulsory military service could be made more meaningful and valued in their eyes.

The team developed solutions to reduce barriers and concerns both before compulsory military service and upon arrival at a military unit:

- ✓ Inspired by the success of the earlier “Compulsory Military Service with Your Class” project, we introduced the concept of joining with a group of friends. Young people can now begin their military

- ✓ service together with their closest friends. We also tested whether attending the medical examination together with classmates would make the process more reassuring and encourage young people to complete their military service earlier rather than later. It is clear that the older a person is when beginning military service, the more practical obstacles they are likely to face.
- ✓ Recognising that young people need support in preparing for military service and in identifying and overcoming various barriers, we also reviewed the activities of the Defence Resources Agency. Its advisers help young people understand the practical preparations required before entering military service and, where necessary, provide guidance on matters such as loan obligations, legal issues and financial arrangements.
- ✓ We redesigned the process of arrival and induction at military units to reduce uncertainty and anxiety among new conscripts. As part of the pilot, professional military personnel and drill sergeants at two units received training focused on psychology and team-building exercises. The aim was to help them better support the rapid adjustment of young soldiers, the development of more cohesive units, improved learning outcomes and stronger, more sustained motivation.
- ✓ We also developed a prototype certificate of completion for compulsory military service. The certificate has two purposes: to help young people recall, reflect on and describe their experience to prospective employers, and to help employers understand the practical knowledge and skills acquired during military service.

Team Members

Defence Resources Agency: Astrid-Helena Teär, Marke Teppor, Merle Ulst

Estonian Defence Forces: Keith Tarakanov

Ministry of Defence: Laura Toodu

Ministry of Education and Research: Karl Andreas Sprenk

Team mentor from the Innovation Team: Helelyn Tammsaar

Contributors to the development of the solutions: Grete Arro, Margus Tarmo Pihlakas and Hannes Praks

The project took place in 2021.

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme

Read more (in Estonian):

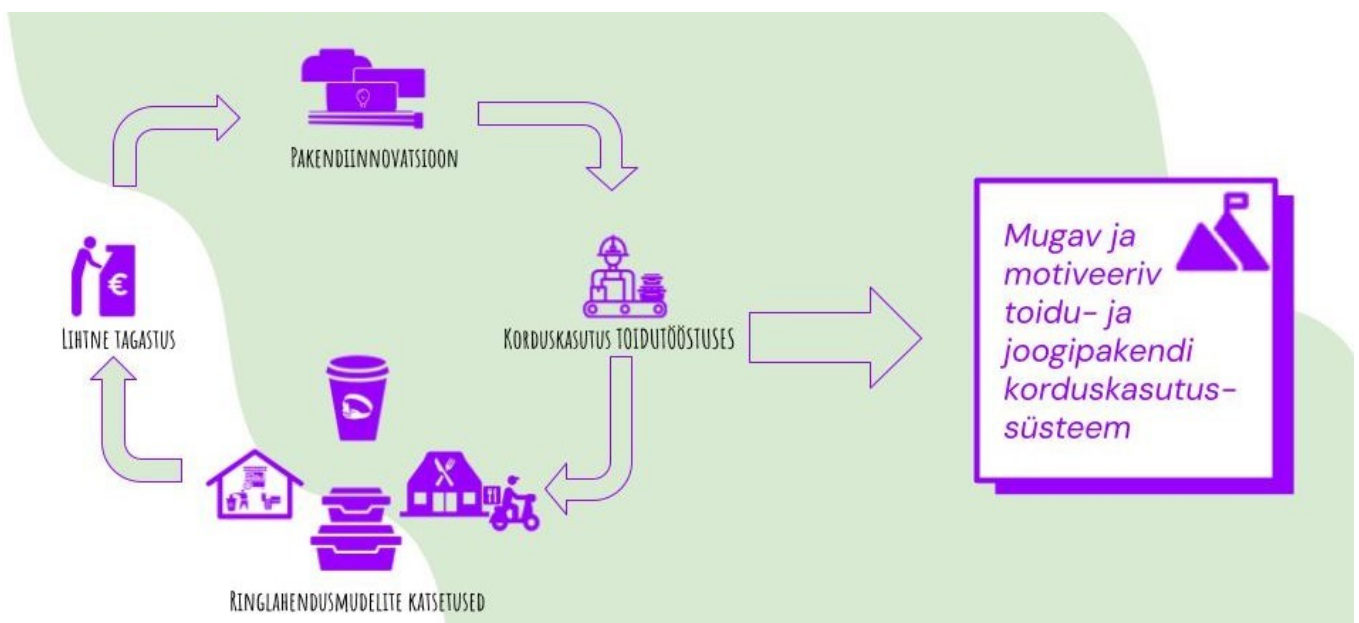
[Tahan ajateenistusse - lõpuesitlus.pdf | 10.31 MB | pdf](#)

Last updated on 29.09.2025

2.4. Climate and Environment (Innovation Programme)

Last updated on 12.02.2026

2.4.1. Less Single-Use Plastic



How can we make reusable packaging everyone's first choice by 2026?

On average, Estonia generates 200,000 tonnes of packaging waste each year.

According to a waste composition study conducted in 2020, packaging waste accounts for approximately 30% of mixed municipal waste, with plastic packaging making up the largest share. Over the past ten years, the proportion of packaging waste in mixed municipal waste has not decreased.

The problem is highly complex, as packaging manufacturers, food producers, retailers, restaurants, circular solution providers and end consumers all have a role to play in reducing packaging waste.

DURING THE PROJECT, WE SOUGHT TO ACCELERATE THE ADOPTION OF REUSABLE PACKAGING SYSTEMS FROM SEVERAL DIFFERENT ANGLES.

- ✓ We supported Ringo Eco OÜ in submitting an application to Enterprise Estonia for a feasibility study. Unfortunately, the application was not approved.
- ✓ We sought to establish a local reusable packaging system involving multiple stakeholders in Elva Municipality. Unfortunately, we were unable to engage enough local restaurants and cafés for the system to operate effectively.
- ✓ We also sought to establish an interoperable reuse system that would allow consumers to return reusable packaging to the collection point of any reuse-system provider. The first pilot was planned with service stations along the Tallinn–Tartu highway and would have tested the interoperable system using reusable coffee cups. However, when preparations began, it became clear that not all service station chains were ready to participate in a joint pilot. The project is therefore currently on hold.

The project involved the Ministry of Climate, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, the City of Tallinn, the Responsible Business Forum, Teeme Ära Foundation, the Estonian Food Industry Association and Selver.

The project took place in 2022

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme

Read more (in Estonian):

[Vähem ühekordset plastikut - lõpuesitlus.pdf | 5.49 MB | pdf](#)

Last updated on 11.09.2025

2.4.2. Reducing Food Waste



How can we reduce food waste in households?

In Estonia, 167 tonnes of food are discarded each year, 41% of it by households.

Thanks to Estonia's high food production standards, many food products remain safe to consume even after their "use by" date. As a potentially high-impact solution, the team therefore initiated a transition from "use by" to "best before" labelling for products made by Estonian dairy producers.

As a second solution, a "smart fridge" approach was tested in families with children. Food that needed to be eaten first was placed in a specially marked area of the refrigerator to prevent it from being thrown away.

The project involved the Ministry of Rural Affairs, the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Saaremaa Rural Municipality and the Estonian Union of Co-operative Housing Associations. The project mentor was Maarja Mõtus.

Project duration: 2021

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme.

Read more (in Estonian):

[Toidu raiskamise vähendamine - lõpuesitlus.pdf | 3.92 MB | pdf](#)

Last updated on 30.09.2025

2.4.3. Waste Sorting



How can people be encouraged to sort their waste?

Interviews with 26 people across Estonia showed that the current waste-sorting system is fragmented and inconvenient.

We tested new ways to encourage people to sort their waste. A waste-sorting experiment in Kuressaare showed that nearly one quarter of people who had not previously sorted their waste were willing to start if the process was made easy for them.

All three packaging recovery organisations operating in Estonia have since adopted standardised waste labels and sorting guidelines.

Project duration: 2019

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme.

Read more (in Estonian):

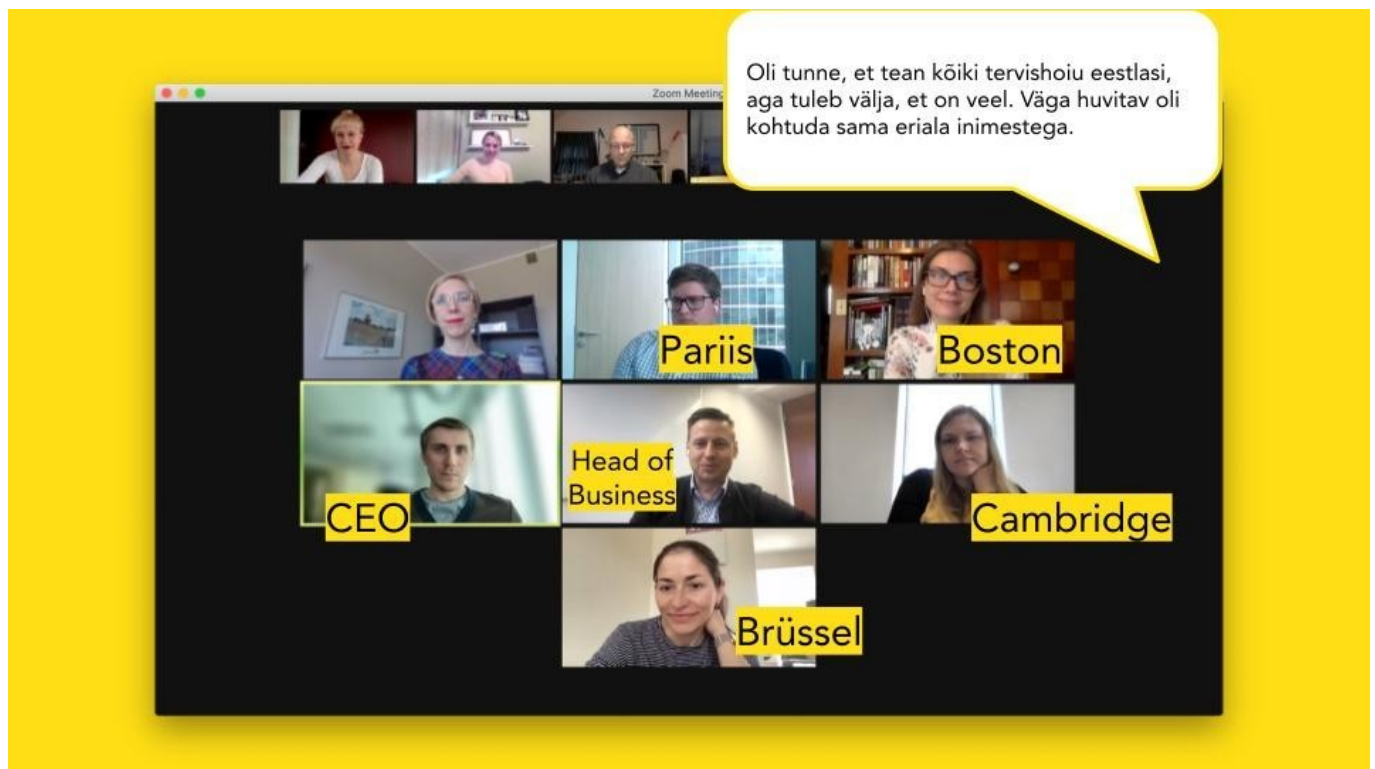
[Prügi_sorteerimine - lõpuesitlus.pdf | 6.82 MB | pdf](#)

Last updated on 30.09.2025

2.5. Economy (Innovation Programme)

Last updated on 29.09.2025

2.5.1. The Estonian Diaspora in Business Diplomacy



How can we make Estonians living around the world part of Estonia's business networks?

An estimated 200,000 people of Estonian origin live around the world.

Until now, the state has primarily sought to engage Estonians living around the world through their national identity by providing resources, opportunities and support for preserving the Estonian language and culture. However, less systematic attention has been paid to the diverse professional expertise of Estonians living abroad and their potential to contribute to strengthening Estonia's economy.

The team tested solutions for identifying, connecting and activating a network of global Estonians interested in contributing to life in Estonia through their professional knowledge and skills.

The project involved the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Education and Youth Board, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of the Interior.

The project mentor was Ave Habakuk.

Project duration: 2021

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme.

Hajala eestlased äridiplomaatias - lõpuesitlus.pdf | 6.02 MB | pdf



The project was implemented

Last updated on 30.09.2025

2.5.3. Electronic Accommodation Registration Card



The aim of the project was to make the registration of guests at accommodation establishments faster and more convenient, while also contributing to better protection of national security.

Project duration: 2019

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme.

Read more (in Estonian):

[Elektroonne majutuskaart - lõpuesitlus.pdf | 2.91 MB | pdf](#)

Last updated on 30.09.2025

2.6. Agriculture (Innovation Programme)

Last updated on 12.02.2026

2.6.1. Climate-Neutral Food Production

Problem



This led to the question of how climate-neutral food production could be achieved. The Ministry of Rural Affairs, the Centre of Estonian Rural Research and Knowledge, the Ministry of the Environment and the Rural Development Foundation worked together to explore possible answers.

The project found that, for many agricultural producers, remaining economically viable takes precedence over environmental and climate objectives. This is especially the case when producers feel that those who do not operate sustainably are placed at an advantage. Instead of punitive measures, producers expect support and guidance from the state, as well as clear communication on how climate objectives are to be achieved.

One of the proposed solutions was a sustainability traffic-light e-service that would enable agricultural producers to assess the current sustainability of their production and identify changes that could help them move towards more sustainable food production.

The Ministry of Regional Affairs and Agriculture has received funding from the Public Sector Innovation Fund to develop the methodology and create a prototype of the sustainability traffic-light system. More

information on the project's current status is available here (in Estonian): [Sustainable Food System Sustainability Dashboard](#)

Project duration: 2022

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme.

Read more (in Estonian):

[Kliimaneutraalne toidutootmine - lõpuesitlus.pdf | 3.03 MB | pdf](#)

Last updated on 30.09.2025

2.6.2. Misuse of Special-Purpose Diesel Fuel



The agricultural and fisheries sectors are permitted to use special-purpose diesel fuel subject to a reduced excise duty rate. Due to significant misuse, the state currently loses approximately €4.7 million in excise duty revenue each year.

The aim of the project is to gain a deeper understanding of the mechanisms and underlying causes of misuse, as well as to determine the criteria that should be used to define legitimate use.

The team tested several different solutions:

- the feasibility of establishing a register of authorised users was analysed;
- a tax refund scheme was considered as an alternative to the register;
- a simple checklist was developed for fuel retailers to help reduce misuse;
- an email experiment was conducted to discourage misuse.

Representatives of the Ministry of Rural Affairs, the Agricultural Registers and Information Board, the Ministry of Finance, the Estonian Tax and Customs Board, and the Estonian Farmers' Federation worked together to develop solutions to the widespread misuse of special-purpose diesel fuel.

Project duration: 2020

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme.

Read more (in Estonian):

[Eriotstarbelise diislikütuse väärkasutamine - lõpuesitlus.pdf | 1.81 MB | pdf](#)

Last updated on 30.09.2025

2.7. Regional Development (Innovation Programme)

Last updated on 29.09.2025

2.7.1. Local Governments in the Green Transition



How can we ensure that local governments have the knowledge, motivation and skills needed to implement the green transition?

The organisations involved in the discussions were the Environmental Investment Centre, the Ministry of Finance, the Environmental Board, the Environment Agency, Tallinn University of Technology, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, the Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities, Elva Rural Municipality and the City of Tartu.

THE PROJECT REVEALED THAT:

- ✓ The substance of the green transition and the role of local governments in it remain unclear, including their roles as role models and leaders, supervisors and facilitators.
- ✓ There is a lack of understanding about where to begin, how to set priorities, how to measure the results of activities and how to secure funding. The many levels of municipal governance and the broad range of services provided also make the transition difficult to interpret and implement. Cooperation with universities and support organisations could create greater value.
- ✓ Even today, the work of municipal environmental specialists covers a very broad range of topics and is filled with everyday responsibilities, from snow removal and stray dogs to procurement, permits and supervision.

THE PROGRAMME RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING SOLUTION IDEAS:

- ✓ **R-Club:** A network of municipal decision-makers and key stakeholders that would provide inspiration, a sense of solidarity and a platform for developing joint projects.
- ✓ **Green Monitor:** Based on the principle that “what gets measured gets managed”, funding could be allocated through a positive element of competition to encourage progress towards environmental and climate objectives. The broader aim is to support planning documents, projects and decisions based on data.
- ✓ **Green Support Team:** Municipalities that are less advanced need support and a personalised approach. Experts from research institutions and central government, together with mentors from more advanced municipalities, could help them understand the issues, establish an appropriate governance model and take the first steps towards systemic change.
- ✓ The design sprint also generated ideas that could be transferred to other fields, such as green public procurement, adapting university micro-credentials and curricula to the needs of municipal environmental specialists, and addressing waste management as a pressing and relatively achievable area for improvement. These ideas are being pursued through separate initiatives.

AS OF JUNE 2024, THE DEVELOPMENTS ARE AT THE FOLLOWING STATE:

- ✓ The R-Club has met five times, and 17 local governments have formally joined. Cooperation has also taken place with the Smart Cities Network of Southern Estonia. The club’s steering group includes the Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities, the Environmental Investment Centre, the Ministry of Climate and the local government holding the rotating chairmanship. Tallinn chaired the club in 2023, followed by Tartu in 2024–2025. The club mainly relies on in-kind contributions, including the provision of meeting spaces and the involvement of opinion leaders. Valuable synergies have also resulted from adding a local government coordinator to the Ministry of Climate’s Green Reform Department and, more broadly, from the horizontal coordination of the green transition following the establishment of the Ministry of Climate.
- ✓ The development of the Green Monitor has been integrated into workstreams related to the Climate-Resilient Economy Act, the green transition, and the refinement of indicators used in climate and energy plans. This is helping to establish clearer directions and outputs for improving environmental indicators and making broader use of data. When designing new support measures, the Environmental Investment Centre can open the topic for discussion once the key indicators and policy areas have been more clearly aligned.

- ✓ The Green Support Team was not launched in its originally planned form. However, the Ministry of Climate has appointed a dedicated local government coordinator who has begun providing systematic support. A team-based support model may still be introduced in the future. Advisory arrangements have also emerged organically with several small and proactive local governments, helping them apply for direct EU funding aimed specifically at less advanced municipalities.
- ✓ The design sprint also generated ideas that could be transferred to other areas, including green public procurement, adapting university micro-credentials and curricula to better reflect the needs of local government environmental specialists, and addressing waste management as a pressing area where relatively quick progress could be achieved. These ideas are being pursued through separate initiatives.

Project duration: 2022

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme.

Read more (in Estonian):

KOVid rohepöördes - lõpuesitlus.pdf | 5.64 MB | pdf

Last updated on 09.09.2025

2.7.2. Demand- Responsive Transport



The aim is to increase spontaneous mobility for people living in rural areas, improve access to public services, support their return to the labour market, and thereby help reduce regional inequalities.

Project duration: 2021–2022

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme.

Read more (in Estonian):

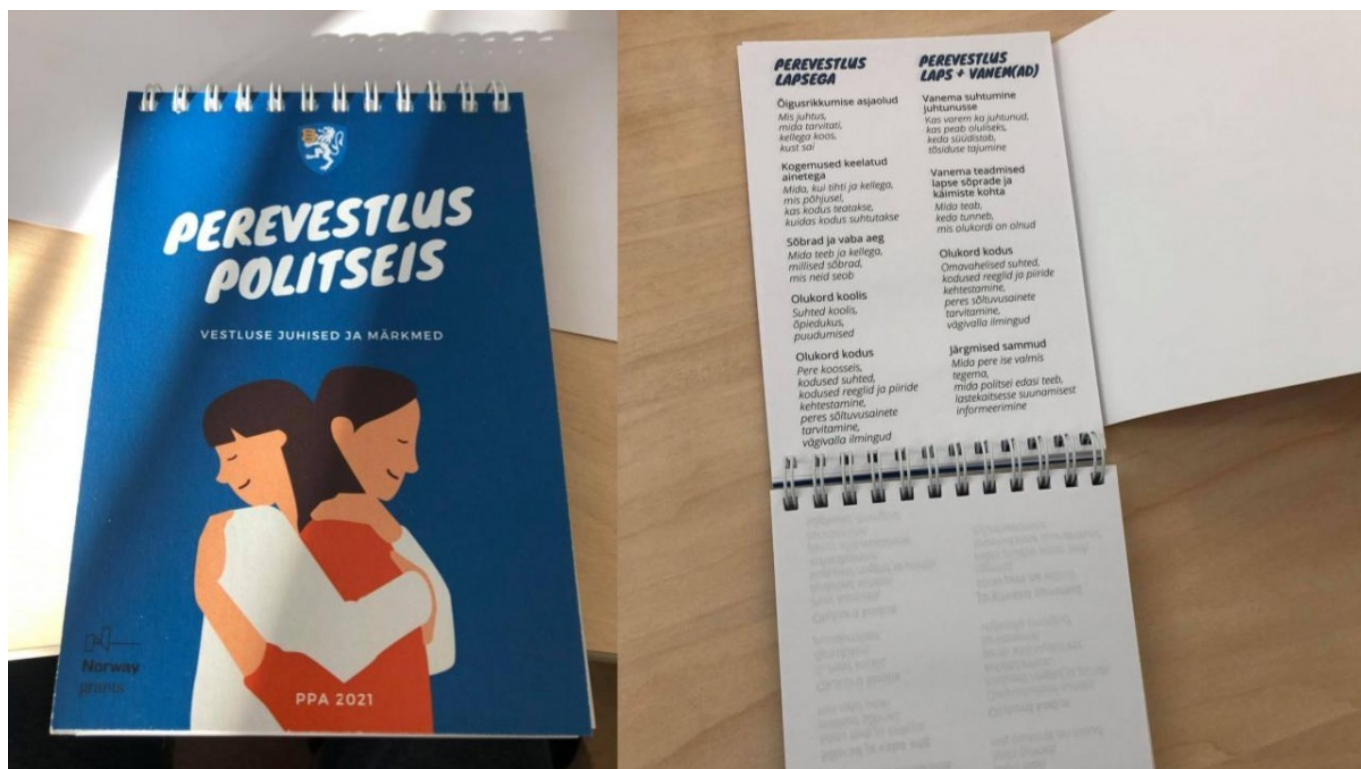
[Nõudetransport - lõpuesitlus.pdf | 34.43 MB | pdf](#)

Last updated on 30.09.2025

2.8. Internal Security and Crisis Resilience (Innovation Programme)

Last updated on 12.02.2026

2.8.1. My First Time Getting Caught



Over the past twenty years, the proportion of 15- and 16-year-old students who have used an illicit drug at least once in their lives has steadily increased. Studies show that young people who use drugs more frequently are also more likely to commit offences or engage in risky sexual behaviour.

As part of the programme, the police sought to develop a brief intervention for minors caught with illegal substances for the first time. A family discussion format was developed to assess the young person's need for support and empower their parents. A discussion guide, including a list of warning signs, has since been completed and introduced into use.

The project team included representatives of the Police and Border Guard Board, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the National Institute for Health Development, the Ministry of Education and Research, child protection specialists from Nõmme and Saku, and the Estonian Youth Work Centre.

Project duration: 2020

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme.

Read more (in Estonian):

Last updated on 30.09.2025

2.8.2. Reducing Speeding



The number of road traffic accidents involving injuries has not decreased in Estonia over the past decade. Following interviews with members of the public, the project team from the Government Office, the Ministry of the Interior, the Police and Border Guard Board, and the Road Administration concluded that speeding is a widely accepted social norm. Fines are often treated like routine bills that simply need to be paid, without influencing drivers' behaviour or attitudes. However, drivers clearly remembered their conversations with police officers and the time lost while being issued a fine at the roadside.

These insights led to trials of the "calming stop", which explored whether the loss of time could influence driving behaviour and serve as an alternative to a financial penalty. The project also gave rise to the

Trust Zone pilot in Viimsi and the idea of redesigning penalty notices to make them more effective in changing behaviour. The trials sparked public debate about speeding and the effectiveness of existing measures. They also encouraged the Police and Border Guard Board to test new, bold and user-centred approaches in its work, setting a positive example for the public sector.

The “calming stop” was featured in *The Economist*.: [Estonia has a new way to stop speeding motorists](#) and it was also selected for the Observatory of Public Sector Innovation’s collection of public sector innovation best practices.: [Win a Minute, Lose an Hour: Time-Out Station for Speeding Drivers](#)

Project duration: 2019

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme.

Last updated on 30.09.2025

2.8.3. Halving the Number of Fire-Related Deaths



How can we reduce the number of fire-related deaths in Estonia by at least half?

In the 1990s, three to four people died in fires in Estonia every week. Although the situation has improved considerably since then, the number of fire-related deaths remains too high: in 2020, fires claimed 36 lives.

The team explored new approaches to increase the likelihood of people escaping safely from a burning building. A package of solutions called **“A Life-Saving Home”** was developed to help save lives in high-fire-risk homes where changing residents’ lifestyles and fire-risk behaviours does not appear realistic.

The project involved the Estonian Rescue Board, the Consumer Protection and Technical Regulatory Authority, the Social Insurance Board, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Tori Rural Municipality and Märjamaa Rural Municipality.

The project mentor was Laura Aaben.

Project duration: 2021

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme.

Read more (in Estonian):

[Poole vähem tuleshukkunuid - lõpuesitlus.pdf | 1.76 MB | pdf](#)

Last updated on 30.09.2025

2.9. Health and Social Affairs (Innovation Programme)

Last updated on 12.02.2026

2.9.1. Safer Nightlife



Could the state design a service related to illegal activity?

Yes—when it is a matter of life and death. Drugs have become a significant part of partying and entertainment, and their use is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to prevent. If we cannot stop it, we must work to reduce the harm associated with it.

With this starting point, the project—working under the title “**Safer Nightlife**”—participated in the 2022 Public Sector Innovation Programme. The core team included representatives of the National Institute for Health Development, the Police and Border Guard Board, and the HALL techno club. The team also collaborated with numerous event organisers and nightclubs. The project mentor from the Innovation Team was Helelyn Tammsaar.

As part of the project’s background research, a wide range of interviews were conducted with event organisers, police officers, club and bar staff, as well as people participating in nightlife. The team also carried out participant observations in Tallinn’s nightlife scene and at festivals with very different profiles.

KEY INSIGHTS:

- ✓ Society expects people to exercise self-control, yet the interviews clearly showed that nightlife is

- ✓ precisely where people want to do the opposite. They seek opportunities to relax and speak on "recharging" "getting away" "freedom" and "re-setting". Recent crises have played a role in this, as have growing mental health challenges. Nightlife is therefore a setting in which people don't want to restrain themselves.
- ✓ It is not that people are entirely unaware of how to avoid harm. However, when intoxicated, their perception of risk decreases and they are more likely to engage in risky behaviour.
- ✓ A person who has consumed too much alcohol and/or drugs may feel ashamed about losing self-control. People who begin to feel unwell often withdraw from others and isolate themselves, making it much harder for their need for help to be noticed—even by their friends. It is alarming how common it is for venues simply to put people who are severely intoxicated and unable to care for themselves out onto the street.
- ✓ A major problem is that people do not seek help themselves. In the case of drugs, this is often driven by fear: because the substance is illegal and the possession and use of drugs are punishable in Estonia, people face a difficult dilemma about whom they can safely turn to for help. What should I tell them? What if I get into trouble?

In summary, a paradox emerges: people are not afraid to use dangerous and impure substances, yet they are afraid to ask for help or call for assistance.

SOLUTION: NIGHT FAIRIES

Nightlife involves a range of roles and positions, such as door staff, security personnel and bartenders. However, people in these roles often lack the knowledge needed to recognise signs of different types of drug use and the skills to respond appropriately. They may also not always see it as their responsibility to help partygoers who, as a result of substance use, have placed themselves or others in danger

Night Fairies are a new role in nightlife designed to fill this gap. They provide discreet support and assistance to people taking part in nightlife and build trust so that people feel more comfortable speaking openly about these issues and asking for help when needed. Night Fairies can be recognised by T-shirts bearing the words "All good?". At festivals, they operate from a dedicated tent and use a highly visible "periodic table" style information matrix showing how different substances interact and which combinations should be avoided altogether.

Night Fairies are volunteers who have completed a training programme developed by the National Institute for Health Development. They also take part in follow-up training, which continues to be developed jointly. As of 2024, Night Fairies operate as a non-profit organisation. The service is available year-round in Tallinn and Tartu, and the network includes around 40 trained volunteers. Long-term partners include HALL nightclub and the Stiilipidu event series. The initiative also takes part in summer

festivals, including I Land Sound, Solstitium, KÕU, Valga Glow, Bling and Beach Grind. Cooperation has also begun with the City of Tallinn

SOLUTION: PROVIDING DRINKING WATER

As part of the project, event organisers and larger local authorities were engaged to promote the provision of free drinking water at parties and festivals across Estonia. To support this, a behavioural science-based toolkit was developed, offering a range of options for making drinking water easier and more appealing.

Read more (in Estonian):

[Ööhaldjad turvalisema ööelu loojad.pdf | 1.16 MB | pdf](#)

[Ööhaldjad - lahendussuund VESI.pdf | 3.95 MB | pdf](#)

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- ✓ In a public vote organised by ERGO insurance ja Postimees Night Fairies was named the most impactful prevention initiative of 2023.
- ✓ At the 2024 Estonian Student Awards, the initiative received the **Social Impact Initiative of the Year** award.

NIGHT FAIRIES IN THE MEDIA

[Kes on ööhaldjad ja kuidas nad kirevas ööelus inimesi päästavad? | Kanal2, Õhtu](#)

[Pidudel narko- ja alkoholijoobes inimesi abistav ööhaldjas Marit: levib ohtlik väärarusaam, et MDMA-st pole võimalik üledoosi saada | Õhtuleht](#)

[Ööhaldjad turvalise ööelu jaoks | ERR](#)

[Noore mehe narkosurm Beach Grindil vapustas sel suvel kogu Eestit | TV3, Laser](#)

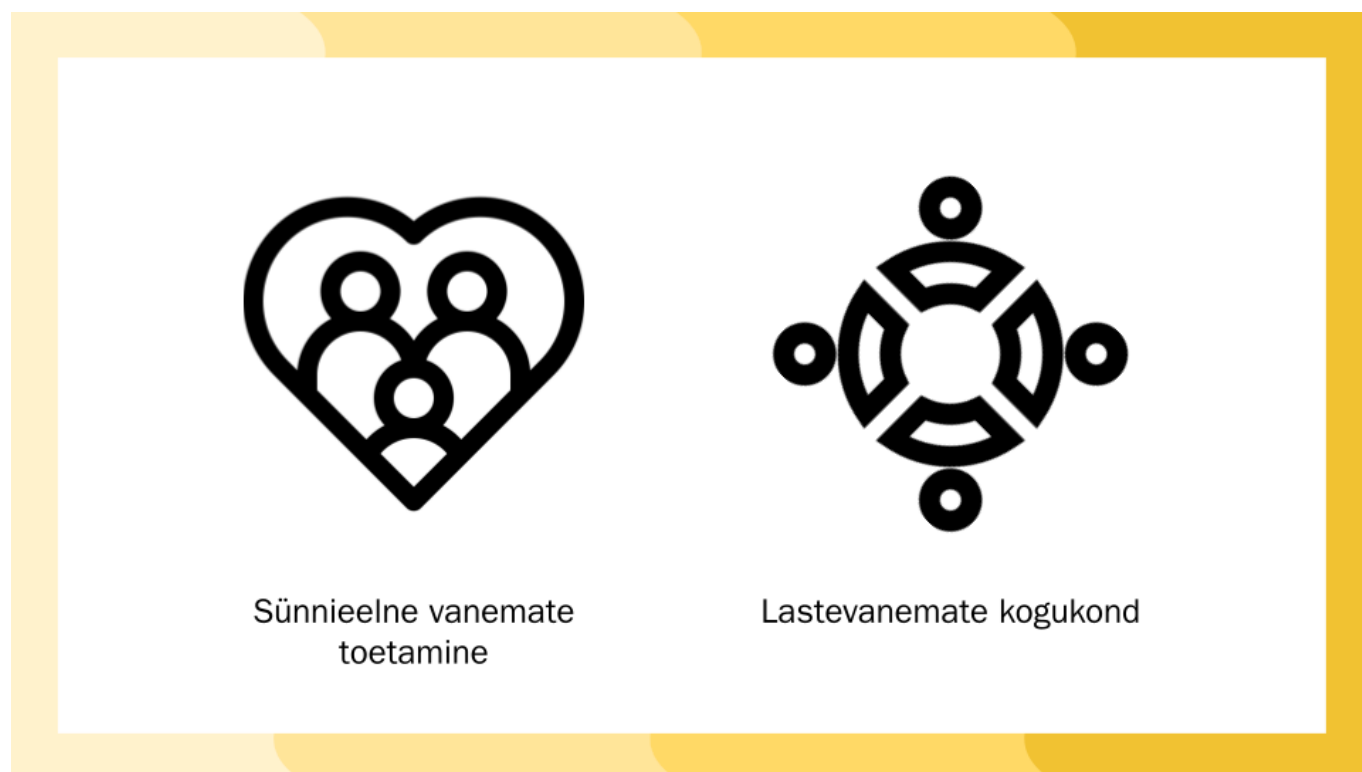
[Kas sul on kõik hästi? Ööhaldjad hakkasid suvel festivalihaldjateks, et hoida ära naokksurmasid | EPL](#)

[Ööhaldjad - turvalisema ööelu kindlustajad | teeviit.ee](#)

Project duration: 2022

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme.

2.9.2. The Well-Being of Single Parents



In 2022, as part of the Innovation Programme, a team was formed to support single parents. The initiative was led by the Ministry of Social Affairs in cooperation with representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Social Insurance Board and local governments.

The project developed solution ideas for supporting parents both before and after the birth of a child.

One of the team's key insights was that parents are often neither aware of nor adequately supported in preparing for the challenges of raising a child alone. Unless they have deliberately built a support network, the burden they must carry on their own can become overwhelming.

Parents are also often unaware of the legal consequences of not establishing paternity, and how this may affect the child, the mother and the father.

A SOLUTION IS PLANNED TO RAISE BIOLOGICAL PARENTS' AWARENESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF FORMALLY ESTABLISHING PATERNITY AND TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE ON COPING WITH THE CHALLENGES OF RAISING A CHILD ALONE.

In practice, during a routine appointment, the midwife provides the expectant mother with guidance and relevant information about single parenthood and the formal establishment of paternity. If the consultation reveals that the mother or the family as a whole needs additional support from another specialist, the midwife can direct them to the appropriate source of further assistance or information. The solution involves a more deliberate approach by midwives to addressing these issues and sharing relevant information. Although it relates to parenting education more broadly, the project focused specifically on the period of pregnancy.

THE SECOND SOLUTION FOCUSED ON BUILDING A SUPPORT NETWORK

The aim was to make it easier for parents to come together and support one another by drawing on their individual strengths. To facilitate community-building, we used the Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) approach. This work was carried out in cooperation with the Viljandi Perepesa family centre, operated by the Foundation for the Development of Child Well-Being. The support community now meets regularly and is planning new community initiatives. Following the pilot, the Foundation for the Development of Child Well-Being has also begun developing community-based approaches as a core area of activity across all of its Perepesa family centres in Estonia.

[Read more \(in Estonian\):](#)

[Üksinda last kasvatavate vanemate heaolu - lõpuesitlus.pdf | 3.11 MB | pdf](#)

ADDITIONAL READING (IN ESTONIAN):

[Daniel Kotsjuba, Ulvi Tüllinen: "Igal lapsel on õigus kahele vanemale. Eestis on ligi 9200 isakandeta last" | Postimees](#)

[Iga lapse õigusest tunda mõlemat vanemat ja suhelda mõlemaga | Ministry of Social Affairs](#)

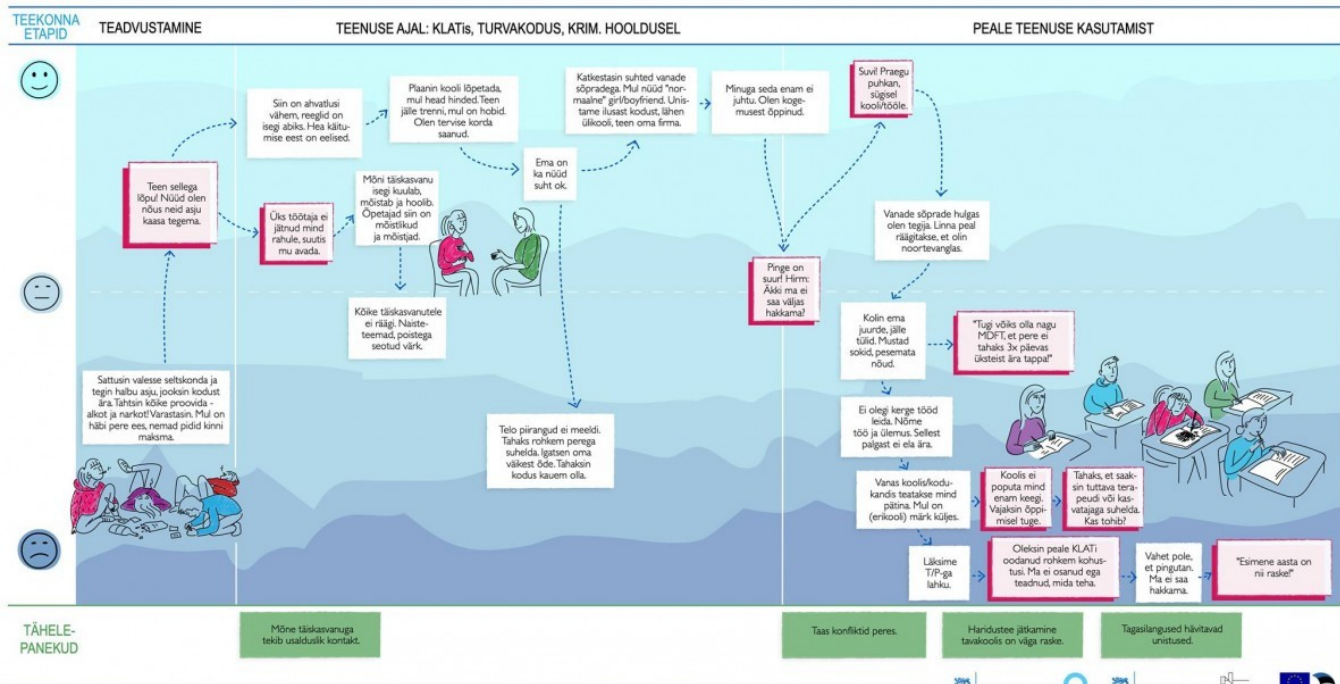
Project duration: 2022

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme.

2.9.3. Follow-Up Support for Young People Engaging in High-Risk Behaviour

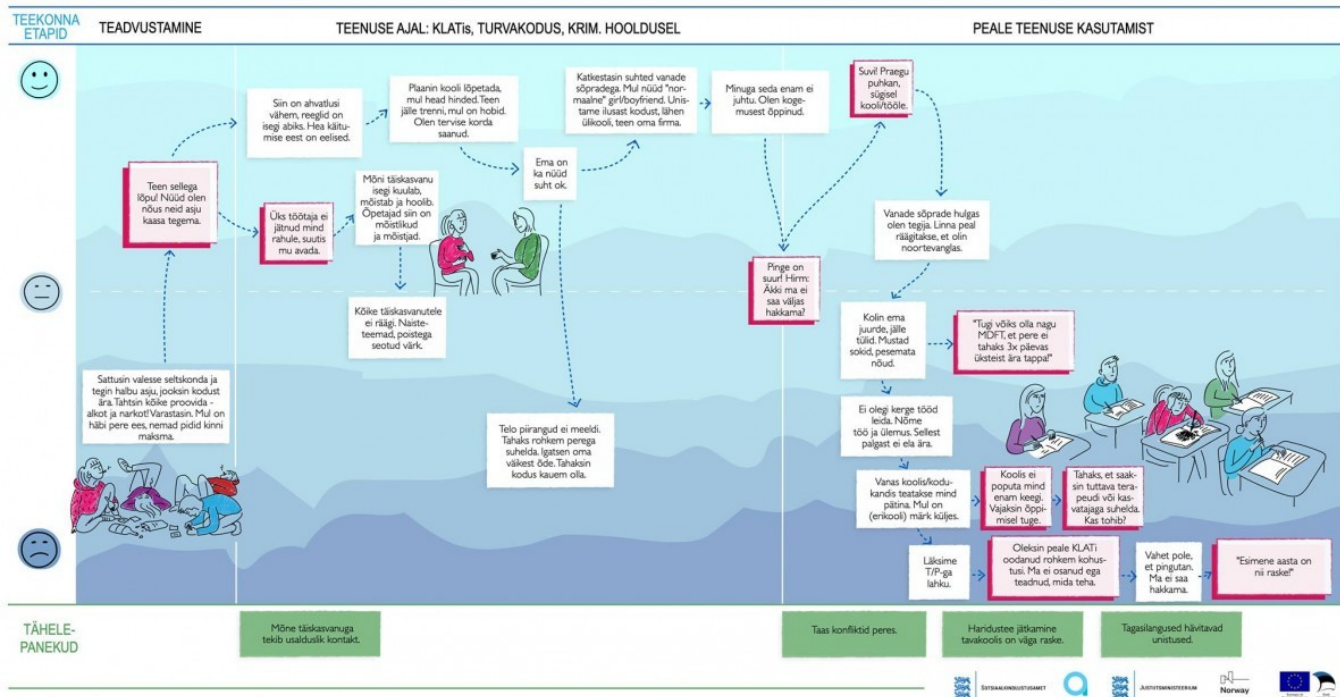
KASUTAJATEKOND: KLAT KOGEMUSEGA NOOR (15-17). "TAHAN KOJU JA RAHU. MUL ON UNISTUSED. VAJAN ABI."

INNO
TIIM



KASUTAJATEKOND: KLAT KOGEMUSEGA NOOR (15-17). "TAHAN KOJU JA RAHU. MUL ON UNISTUSED. VAJAN ABI."

INNO
TIIM

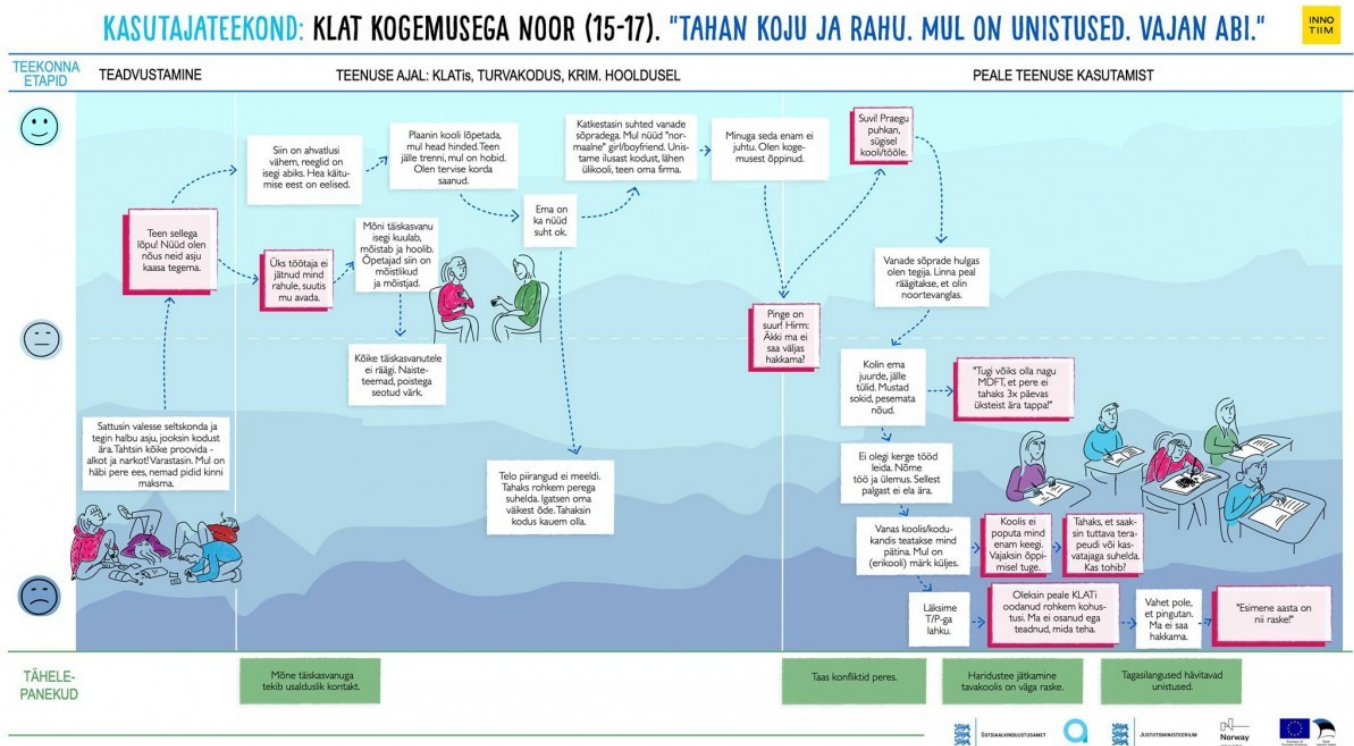


Download

Next

1 | 1

Previous



The project focuses on children and young people aged 11–26 who engage in high-risk behaviour and are leaving prison, a secure care institution or multidimensional family therapy. The aim is to support their safe reintegration into the community and help them achieve age-appropriate independence.

The inclusion of young people's families and close support networks in the project's target group reflects the recognition that children and young people do not receive sufficient support when returning to the community.

The project tested the **"Breaking the Cycle"** approach—an intensive network-based cooperation model for young people leaving secure care institutions.

The project team included representatives of the Social Insurance Board, the Ministry of Justice, Viru Prison, Maarjamaa Education College, Tallinn Children's Shelter and Rapla child protection services.

Project duration: 2019

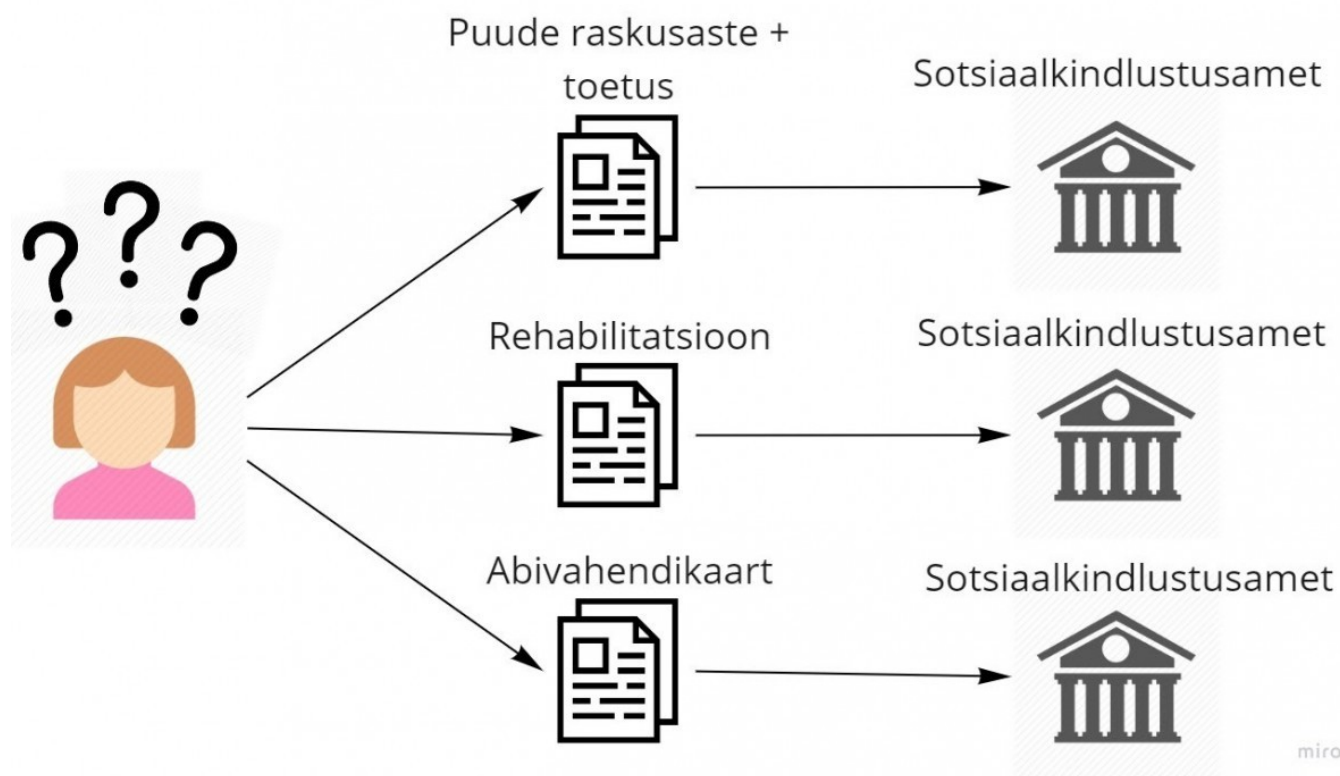
The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme.

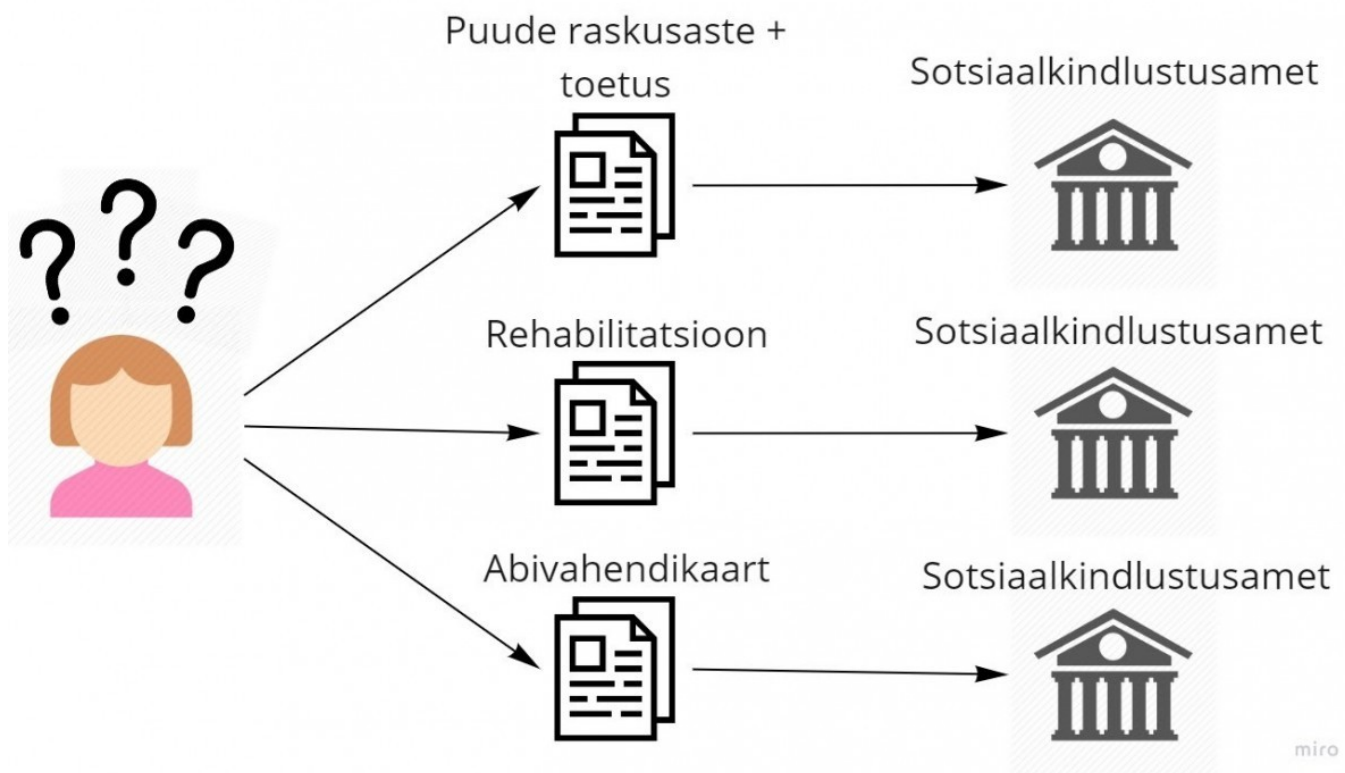
Read more (in Estonian):

[Jätkutugi kõrge riskikäitumisega noortele - lõpuesitlus.pdf | 5.77 MB | pdf](#)

Last updated on 30.09.2025

2.9.4. Disability Assessment



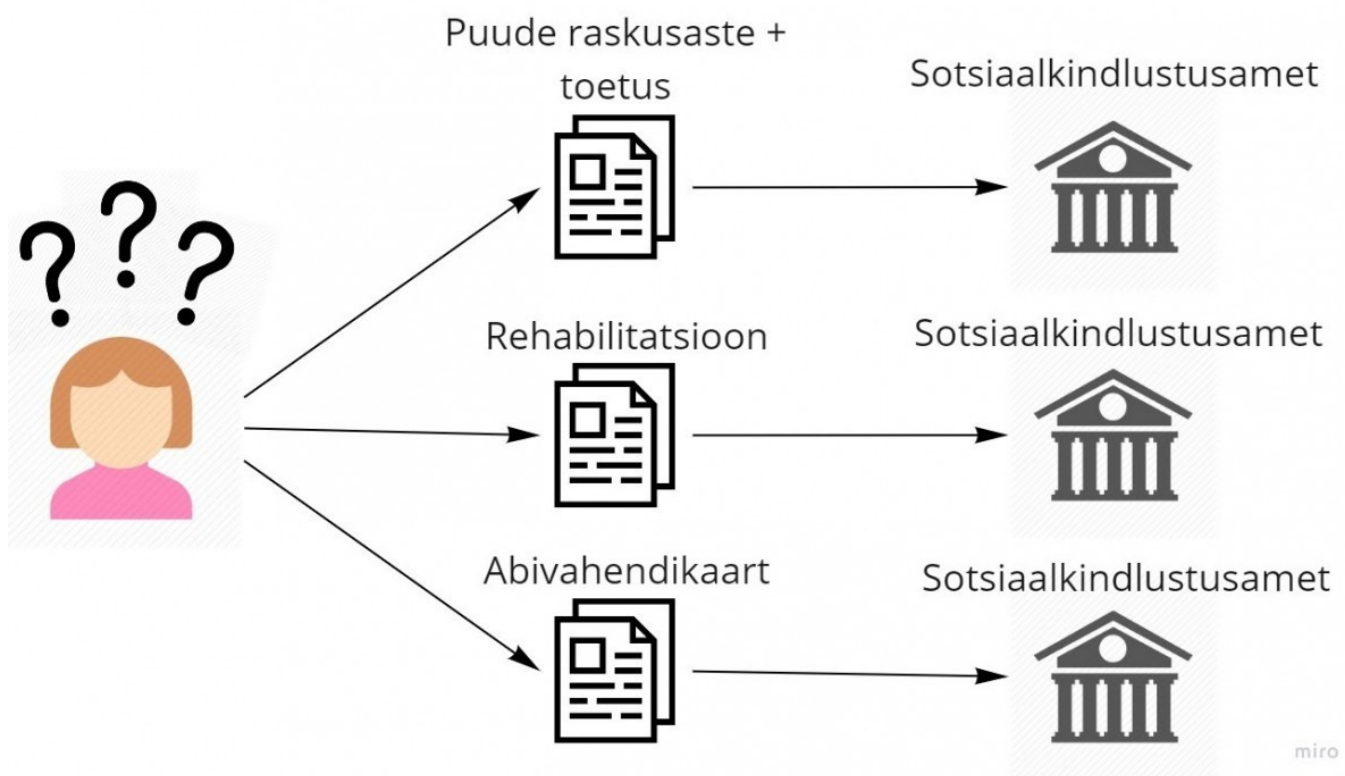


[Download](#)

[Next](#)

[1 | 1](#)

[Previous](#)



The Social Insurance Board joined the Public Sector Innovation Programme with the aim of automating disability assessment. However, user interviews led the team to realise that determining a disability

alone does not help a person; they also need support in managing everyday activities. Based on this insight, the team redesigned the process. Instead of requiring three separate applications, parents of children with disabilities were offered proactive support, reducing a significant amount of complex bureaucracy. As a result, children gained faster access to the services they needed, while the Social Insurance Board's administrative costs decreased because fewer applications had to be processed.

Project duration: 2019

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme.

Read more (in Estonian):

[Puude määramine - lõpuesitlus.pdf | 2.04 MB | pdf](#)

Last updated on 30.09.2025

2.9.5. Diagnostic Tests Close to Home



How can we ensure that patients do not have to travel to their treating physician's location solely to provide samples for diagnostic testing?

The Health Insurance Fund, the Health and Welfare Information Systems Centre, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Estonian Society for Laboratory Medicine and the Estonian Hospitals Association worked together to find solutions to the problem.

As part of the project, 25 interviews were conducted, along with observations in laboratories and hospitals and interviews with patients and doctors.

The key insight was that people are willing to provide samples at locations closer to their homes. However, enabling this requires overcoming several information technology barriers while continuing to meet all quality requirements for sample collection and handling.

Project duration: 2022

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme.

Read more (in Estonian):

[Kodulähedased analüüsid - lõpuesitlus.pdf | 2.85 MB | pdf](#)

Last updated on 10.09.2025

2.9.6. Patient's Advance Directive for End-of-Life Care



How can we ensure that people can approach the end of their lives with dignity, in accordance with their own beliefs and values?

Although the Estonian Law of Obligations Act requires a patient's wishes to be established before treatment is provided, the autonomy of patients who have lost decision-making capacity is not currently protected to a sufficient extent in Estonia. As a result, people may receive treatment that they would clearly have refused while still capable of making decisions.

The problem has several dimensions. Families often postpone discussions about end-of-life wishes, even though such conversations would help relatives represent the preferences of a patient who can no longer make decisions. Many doctors lack the skills needed to talk about death, awareness of palliative care options is limited, and the resources available for providing palliative care are also very restricted.

In the Innovation Programme, we focused on developing the advance directive form for end-of-life care, as well as the processes for preparing and implementing it.

By the end of the programme, thanks to the extensive preparatory work carried out, the advance directive had risen unexpectedly high on the list of developments awaiting implementation in the next-generation health information system.

In February 2024, Minister of Social Affairs Riina Sikkut established a committee tasked with preparing proposals for the Government of the Republic on the organisation of palliative care, geriatrics and

advance directives in Estonia.

The legal analysis conducted by the working group, the service processes developed jointly with stakeholders, the mapped counselling model and the draft guidelines have given the Ministry of Social Affairs the confidence to accelerate the development of the regulatory framework for advance directives alongside the palliative care framework—bringing the planned date forward by as much as two years, to 1 January 2026.

The project involved the Ministry of Social Affairs, the University of Tartu, the Office of the Chancellor of Justice, Tartu University Hospital, the Estonian Society of Family Doctors and the Estonian Patients' Union.

The project mentors were Ave Habakuk and Kersten Kõrge.

[Read more \(in Estonian\):](#)

[Patsiendi elulõpu tahteavaldus - lõpuesitlus.pdf | 1.33 MB | pdf](#)

FURTHER READING

[Meie ühiskond on elulõpu tahteavalduseks valmis | ERR](#)

[Patsiendi elulõpu tahteavaldus muudab kriisihetked kergemaks | Saarte Hääl](#)

[Valgus tunneli lõpus: vaata milline hakkab välja nägema patsiendi elulõpu tahteavaldus | Õhtuleht](#)

[Plaanitava elulõpu tahteavaldusega ei saa soovida eutaneerimist | Delfi](#)

Project duration: 2022

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme.

Last updated on 11.09.2025

2.9.7. Good Mental Health Among Young People



The mental health of children and young people is a cause for concern.

How can we ensure that every child in Estonia has a positive relationship with themselves and with others?

The team explored solutions for preventing the development of mental health risks among children by supporting and empowering the different people who are in direct contact with them.

The solutions were designed to support and strengthen positive social and emotional skills among children, parents and teachers:

“School Joy Break” – In cooperation with the Estonian Association of Youth Workers, Schools in Motion, the Education and Youth Board, Peaasi.ee and the National Institute for Health Development, class-based activities are being developed for schools to support children’s mental well-being during breaks.

“Parents’ Community” – This initiative helps create a caring, friendly and cohesive class community and strengthens cooperation between parents and the school.

The project involved the Education and Youth Board, the Ministry of Education and Research, the

Association of Local Authorities of Harju County, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the National Institute for Health Development and the Estonian Parents' Association.

The project mentor was Daniel Kotsjuba.

Project duration: 2021

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme.

Read more (in Estonian):

[Noorte hea vaimne tervis - lõpuesitlus.pdf | 1.11 MB | pdf](#)

Last updated on 30.09.2025

2.9.8. Psychosocial Crisis Support



How can we ensure that support reaches everyone affected by traumatic events?

Estonia lacks a systematic approach to providing people with psychological, emotional and social support following traumatic events.

The team developed a cooperation model and practical tools for local government employees, which are being piloted in two regions of Estonia. These solutions are intended to help local authorities respond quickly and act appropriately following traumatic events.

The project involved the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Social Insurance Board, the Police and Border Guard Board, the Association of Local Authorities of Harju County and Võru City Government.

The project mentor was Krõõt Kroonmäe.

Project duration: 2021

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme.

Read more (in Estonian):

[Psühhosotsiaalne kriisiabi - lõpuesitlus.pdf | 1.26 MB | pdf](#)

Last updated on 30.09.2025

2.9.9. Development of a Personal Health Management Toolkit

Terviseportaal

Kuidas teha nii, et inimesel oleks kergem oma tervisega seoses järele pidada.



Terviseportaal

Kuidas teha nii, et inimesel oleks kergem oma tervisega seoses järke pidada.



[Download](#)

[Next](#)

[1 | 1](#)

[Previous](#)

Terviseportaal

Kuidas teha nii, et inimesel oleks kergem oma tervisega seoses järke pidada.



Interviews with people in Estonia revealed that keeping track of health-related matters is difficult and navigating the healthcare system is challenging.

The team tested solutions with different time horizons:

- The team created a future vision of a user-friendly health portal that would help people keep track of matters related to their health.
- A waiting-list solution was proposed to reduce the time and effort involved in booking medical appointments. In the future, if patients cannot find a suitable appointment, they will be able to join a waiting list and receive proactive offers when appointments become available.
- Message reminders were tested in cooperation with Pärnu Hospital to reduce missed appointments.

The team included representatives of the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Estonian Health Insurance Fund, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, the Connected Health cluster, the National Institute for Health Development, and the Health and Welfare Information Systems Centre.

Project duration: 2020

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme.

Read more (in Estonian):

[Tervisejuhtimise tööriistakast - lõpuesitlus.pdf | 2.53 MB | pdf](#)

Last updated on 30.09.2025

2.9.10. Cancer Patient Care Pathway



The aim of the project was to make the cancer patient care pathway smoother and more integrated, while identifying ways to help patients cope better with the disease.

Solutions were developed that are now being piloted in several Estonian hospitals. These include the role of a nurse coordinator to reduce the burden on patients and their families, as well as digital solutions to improve patients' understanding of and adherence to treatment and to reduce hospital admissions and visits to emergency departments.

As a result of the patient-centred care pathway design project, patient experience mapping has gained wider recognition in Estonian healthcare as a key tool for designing services.

The project was led by the Government Office and initiated by the North Estonia Medical Centre, with the participation of the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Estonian Health Insurance Fund.

Project duration: 2019

The project was implemented as part of the Innovation Programme.

Read more (in Estonian):

[Vähipatsiendi raviteekond - lõpuesitlus.pdf | 4 MB | pdf](#)

Last updated on 30.09.2025