

## **ESTONIA: Progress report on the ISTP 2024 commitments**

- 1. Partnership agreement with the Teacher Union, Ministry of Education and Research, school leaders and school owners. This agreement includes teachers career model, working conditions, professional development and qualifications, resources and government financing plan and commitment.**

**The Education Agreement** was signed in December 2024 for the years 2026–2028. It is a goodwill agreement with a goal to ensure career opportunities, salaries, and workload for general education teachers while maintaining the flexibility of the Estonian education system and the autonomy of schools. The Education Agreement has been joined by teachers, school leaders, private schools, and some local governments.

The Education Agreement can be accessed here: [Hariduslepe .pdf](#).

- 2. AI guidelines and implementation plan in education, lead by an AI implementation council.**

In February 2025, Estonia announced a nationwide artificial intelligence education programme – **AI-Leap**. The programme, initiated by the Estonian President Alar Karis in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Research and the private sector, will **provide students and teachers with free access to the world's leading AI learning applications and equips them with the necessary skills for smart AI usage in education.**

In the first phase of the project, starting on 1st of September 2025, 20 000 upper secondary school students from 10th and 11th grades, along with their 3000 teachers, will gain access to top-tier AI powered learning applications. The programme will then expand to vocational schools and newly enrolled 10th grade students, reaching an additional 38 000 students and 2000 teachers in 2026. By 2027, AI-Leap will have directly impacted approximately 58 000 students and 5000 teachers, offering them access to future-oriented education. The goal of AI-Leap is to maintain the quality and high standards in Estonian education by providing students and teachers with modern learning tools that foster smarter learning.

To implement the programme, a foundation will be established in spring 2025, co-founded by the government and the private sector. This foundation will be responsible for the strategic management of AI integration into the education system.

More information on the AI-Leap programme can be found here: [Home – TI-Hüpe](#).

- 3. Reducing dropout rates after lower secondary school with the systemic introduction of diverse and flexible possibilities to continue studying and learning in different upper-secondary education and vocational education institutions.**

Estonia has taken several steps to reduce dropout rates after lower secondary school by introducing diverse and flexible pathways for students to continue their education.

Two reforms directly contributing to this aim are **the obligation to learn reform** and **the vocational education reform**.

**The obligation to learn reform** extends the compulsory education age from the current age of 17 to the age of 18 aiming to ensure that every young person in Estonia remains engaged in education or training until they reach the age of 18 or until they have acquired vocational or

secondary-level qualifications. The reform aims to ensure that 90% of Estonians aged 20–24 complete upper secondary education and that the share of 18–24-year-olds with a low level of education, who are not in education or training would be less than 5%.

**The vocational education reform** aims to modernize and strengthen Estonia’s vocational education and training (VET) system, making secondary vocational education a competitive and attractive choice for further education alongside upper secondary school education, which will allow graduates to successfully find an occupation in the labour market or continue their studies in higher education institutions. The reform aims to ensure that by 2035, 40–50% of young people will be enrolled in a vocational upper secondary school or vocational school.

More information on the above reforms can be accessed here: [Key activities in the academic year 2024\\_25.pdf](#).

More information on the obligation to learn reform can be found here: [Õppimiskohustus | Haridus- ja Teadusministeerium](#).

More information on the vocational education reform can be found here: [Kutsehariduse reform | Haridus- ja Teadusministeerium](#).