**Estonians abroad are part of the Estonian society**

Estonia is one of the smallest countries in Europe, but it has a large and scattered diaspora, mainly as a result of three waves of emigration. It is estimated that there are up to 200,000 people with Estonian roots living abroad. It is important to understand that these communities are not homogeneous and differ in terms of size, opportunities and background. In addition, they all have different needs and expectations for the state.

Some Estonians abroad live there permanently; some transnationally in two or more countries, and some are planning to return to Estonia or have already done so. One uniting factor is that they are all part of the Estonian society, despite their geographical location.