

VIABILITY OF ESTONIAN IDENTITY

Election programme of Isamaa 2023

The Constitution says that the Republic of Estonia should ensure the preservation of the Estonian nation, language and culture throughout the ages. Isamaa's worldview rests on the preamble of the Constitution. Keeping the nation, language and culture as well as the fundamental values that have proven themselves over the centuries, is a task that requires constant awareness and reconsidering. Maintaining the viability of Estonia is a natural and main task for the state and municipalities - the entire public sector. It should become equally natural for every civic association, company and person. To a large extent the viability of Estonian identity results from little everyday matters, starting even just from personal use of language.

Nationality is a cognitive concept, the definition of which is neither reasonable nor necessary. Nationality involves, among other things, speaking a language, carrying a culture, self-determination and acceptance by other carriers of the same nationality.

In order to preserve the Estonian nation throughout the ages, we need people who speak Estonian, carry Estonian culture and define themselves as Estonians.

Isamaa's programme for the Riigikogu elections in 2023 focuses on fulfilling this goal. Isamaa approaches governance through seven thematic areas, which unite social and political life in all its aspects.

NATION, ESTONIAN IDENTITY and STATEHOOD are the main areas dealing with families, education, culture, security and national attitudes. These three areas lay the foundation for the growth of the number of Estonians, national culture and the Estonian language, as well as national security, ensuring the preservation of our nation throughout the ages.

ECONOMY, WELFARE, ENVIRONMENT and STATE OF CITIZENS are supporting areas on which the social organization rests. As a right-wing political party, Isamaa prioritizes people's free self-fulfilment, personal responsibility and economic and property freedom.

The balanced development of the seven thematic areas ensures the survival of the Estonian nation and turns Estonia into a country of happy and prosperous people.

There is only one homeland!

This document is a shortened version of the programme. The full text of the programme can be downloaded from the website of Isamaa party.

NATION

family, birth rate, demographic policy

The ultimate task of the Estonian state is to ensure the preservation of the Estonian nation, language and culture.

An independent democratic parliamentary Estonian nation state is our only choice.

A strong family is the foundation of a society based on respect for ancestors and integration between generations. Marriage should be between a man and a woman under the protection of the Constitution.

Isamaa:

- **establishes an income tax-free minimum of 5,000 euros per year for each minor child,**
- **gives spouses the right to submit a joint income tax return,**
- **improves the availability of programs for creating and maintaining a happy couple relationship and parent education by increasing their funding to 2,000,000 euros per year,**
- **equalizes child allowances by increasing the allowance for the first and second child to 100 euros,**
- **improves the availability of housing for families with four or more children; supports the family's investment in housing in amount of up to 75,000 euros per family upon the birth of the fourth or more children,**
- **guarantees care allowance to the parent who has returned to work from parental leave in case of a child's illness in the value of his/her average salary,**
- **exempts the conclusion of marriage from the state fee,**
- **increases the upper limit of the maintenance allowance, which the state pays to the child whose parent does not fulfil the maintenance obligation, to 200 euros per month.**

ESTONIAN IDENTITY

Estonian language, education, science, sport, culture

Nationalism means the right to preserve and protect Estonian identity, Estonian independence, Estonian language, culture and customs. Nationalism is based on respecting the rights and culture of all peoples.

In order to preserve the Estonian language as a cultural language, it is important to promote Estonian-language higher education and science. The language of instruction in kindergartens and general education schools should be Estonian. We attach importance to the development of diverse cultural opportunities and international cooperation.

Isamaa:

- **completes the transition to the Estonian language of instruction in all kindergartens and schools,**
- **raises the minimum salary for teachers to 125% of the average salary in Estonia,**
- **allocates funds for salary increases for teachers of early childhood education and hobby schools,**

- **in order to maintain the viability of Estonian culture and create added value for the economy, it ensures the funding of research and development and innovation in cooperation with the private sector at 3% of GDP,**
- **enables to increase the salary rate of a university professor to 4 times the Estonian average, for an associate professor to 3 times and for a lecturer with a doctoral degree to 2 times,**
- **stipulates additional requirements for the Estonian language in the Language Act in providing services, in public spaces and in local government councils,**
- **improves opportunities to experience culture across Estonia, supports the viability of Estonian top culture and ensures opportunities for professional authors for creating,**
- **continues to develop the system of social guarantees for artists,**
- **carries out an audit of the Estonian cultural infrastructure with the aim of modernizing the existing one,**
- **organizes the adoption of the Song and Dance Festival Act.**

STATEHOOD

foreign policy, security, alliances

The basis of Estonia's security is the independent defence capability based on citizens' will to defend and mandatory military service, alliance with NATO and membership in international organizations. Estonia's membership in the European Union as a union of nation states and good relations with neighbouring countries based on respect for each other's sovereignty and interests are important for us.

The right to home and its integrity includes the right to homeland, preservation of nation, language and culture. Conservative migration policy ensures the rights, values, cultural environment, security and well-being of the natives, and immigration should not threaten our identity and survival. Everyone who comes to Estonia should respect and understand the way of life here.

Isamaa:

- **increases defence spending with the aim of aligning the national defence capabilities with the security environment,**
- **increases spending on civil protection and broad-based national defence,**
- **imposes the obligation of the declaration of loyalty on citizens of the aggressor country Russia living in Estonia or moving to live here, by which the person confirms his/her condemnation of Russia's war of aggression; the residence permits of the persons who have not joined the declaration of loyalty are subject to cancellation,**
- **restricts the ownership of real estate in Estonia by the citizens and companies of terrorist countries, including Russia,**
- **cancels the right of citizens of countries hostile to Estonia to vote in the elections of the Estonian local government councils.**

ECONOMY

economy, taxes, energy, transport, infrastructure

The cornerstone of our economic policy is a free-market economy based on entrepreneurship, private property, fair competition, stable money, low taxes and minimal national regulation. Successful economy relies on innovative (and science-based) technological solutions.

Isamaa:

- **aims for real economic growth exceeding 3%,**
- **supports research and analysis of nuclear energy development,**
- **updates the limits of income tax exemption fixed by legislation, including daily allowance for assignment abroad, compensation for the use of a personal car, reception expenses,**
- **is looking for ways to extend crisis time energy subsidies to all household consumers,**
- **transfers Estonia's electricity supply completely to domestic electricity by 2030 at the latest,**
- **creates the positive credit register at the initiative of the state to promote responsible lending and improve competition,**
- **opposes new taxes and increases in tax rates.**

WELFARE

social protection, healthcare, pensions

Social policy should establish conditions for coping so that a person can contribute according to his/her abilities and participate in the life of society throughout his/her lifecycle.

Isamaa:

- **carries out family-based pension reform, by increasing the 3.5 annual coefficient pension supplement provided for a child to 7 annual coefficients,**
- **implements a patient contract in the provision of primary care, which motivates the preparation of the patient health monitoring guide and personal health plan,**
- **improves access to home care by increasing opportunities for financing it and diversifying home care services,**
- **increases and diversifies the opportunities for employees and employers to compensate for health expenses and to reduce the burden of own contribution, including increasing the tax exemption for health promotion expenses to 200 euros per quarter.**

ENVIRONMENT

environment, forestry, agriculture, fishery

We consider it important to pass on sustainable natural environment to future generations and to use natural resources sparingly. It is important to develop people's environmental awareness and prefer nature-friendly consumption habits and technologies.

Isamaa:

- **completes the preparation and approval of the forestry development plan based on the opinions of natural scientists, forest scientists and the parties related to the field and sustainable management principles,**
- **initiates the adoption of the Act on the Protection of Valuable Agricultural Land,**
- **ensures fair compensation for the owners of the lands subject to nature conservation restrictions,**
- **transfers kindergartens, schools and military institutions to organic catering, giving preference to local raw materials.**

STATE OF CITIZENS

civil society, local government, regional development, public administration, e-state

Being a citizen starts with responsibility. We value personal initiative, entrepreneurship and the responsibility that comes with it. Entrepreneurship, modern infrastructure, strong local governments and the availability of public services are important for balanced regional development.

Isamaa:

- **increases people's freedom of movement and ensures that homes and businesses across Estonia are connected to good transport and fast internet in all weathers,**
- **limits bureaucracy, over-regulation and the increase in the number of officials, supports saving and contributes to people's free self-fulfilment, market economy, freedom of ownership and fair competition,**
- **ensures the availability of annual base funding for the operation, development and prevention of security risks of the digital state,**
- **reforms the principles of establishing the revenue base of local governments in order to increase the financial freedom and capacity of local governments,**
- **guarantees the compensation of land tax exemption to local governments in case of environmental protection restrictions.**