

## Final seminar

### Group work on selected texts on Estonian language and culture

#### GUIDELINES

Results to be presented in the seminar on 11 December 2025

**Choose** one group work and **register** to the group. The limit of one group is **5 students**.

You can see the group work descriptions when you click on "**Show descriptions**" (or in the file "**Guidelines for the group work**"). The articles for reading for each group work are below in Moodle. Connect your task with the scholarly articles you have read.

You will see your group members, when you click "Show members"

Display the results of the group work in a PowerPoint presentation and present the results in the seminar on **11 December 2025**. Choose one or two students among the group who are going to present the work, or you can present it all together. The time limit for one presentation is **10 minutes**. The instructors will give short comments about your presentations. After the presentation upload the PowerPoint slides to Moodle. The final slide should give the information what were the tasks of different group members.

The group work and presentation will form **30% of your final grade**.

#### Group Work 1. Languages in Estonia.

Read the following language-related articles (files available in Moodle):

*Anna Verschik, Migration, Identity and Language Change. Estonian Human Development Report 2016/2017. <https://www.2017.inimareng.ee/en/migration-identity-and-language-change/>*

*Martin Ehala, The Role of Language in Estonian National Identity. Estonian Human Development Report 2016/2017. <https://www.2017.inimareng.ee/en/migration-identity-and-language-change/the-role-of-language-in-estonian-national-identity/>*

*Marleen Kedars and Anna Verschik (2021), Comparing linguistic landscapes of the old towns of Tallinn and Vilnius. - Anna Verschik (ed.), Multilingual Practices in the Baltic Countries. Tallinn: Tallinn University Press, 144-175.*

Photograph 15--20 multilingual signs, advertisements (choose a particular area of Tallinn or compare two different area), information boards and try to analyze them. What languages are used? Are there hybrid forms? What does the order of languages tell us? Is there bilingual language play? Connect your task with the scholarly articles you have read.

## **Group Work 2. Language and Identity**

Read the following language-related articles (files available in Moodle):

*Anna Verschik, Migration, Identity and Language Change. Estonian Human Development Report 2016/2017. <https://www.2017.inimareng.ee/en/migration-identity-and-language-change/>*

*Martin Ehala, The Role of Language in Estonian National Identity. Estonian Human Development Report 2016/2017. <https://www.2017.inimareng.ee/en/migration-identity-and-language-change/the-role-of-language-in-estonian-national-identity/>*

*Martin Ehala & Kadri Koreinik (2021) Patterns of individual multilingualism in Estonia, Journal of Baltic Studies, 52:1, 85-102,*

Interview 3-4 Estonian-speaking students or friends: ask them about their mother tongue and identity, the role of other languages in their life. Connect your task with the scholarly articles you have read.

## **Group Work 3. The Future of Estonian language.**

Read the following language-related articles (files available in Moodle):

*Anna Verschik, Migration, Identity and Language Change. Estonian Human Development Report 2016/2017. <https://www.2017.inimareng.ee/en/migration-identity-and-language-change/>*

*Martin Ehala, The Role of Language in Estonian National Identity. Estonian Human Development Report 2016/2017. <https://www.2017.inimareng.ee/en/migration-identity-and-language-change/the-role-of-language-in-estonian-national-identity/>*

*Kristiina Praakli, Changes in Estonian Communities Abroad and Estonian Language Proficiency. Estonian Human Development Report 2016/2017. <https://www.2017.inimareng.ee/en/migration-identity-and-language-change/changes-in-estonian-communities-abroad-and-estonian-language-proficiency/>*

*Review the lecture "Language and identity in Estonia" (Slides of the lecture available in Moodle).*

Ask 3-4 Estonian-speakers whether, in their opinion, Estonian is endangered or not and why. Compare popular perception with scholarly perspective and analyze the differences/similarities. Connect your task with the scholarly articles you have read.

#### **Group Work 4. Symbols of Estonian Culture.**

Read the following culture-related articles (files available in Moodle):

*Marek Tamm, Estonia's Cultural Changes in an Open World. Estonian Human Development Report 2016/2017. <https://www.2017.inimareng.ee/en/estonias-cultural-changes-in-an-open-world/>*

*Tõnu Viik, Evolving Self. Descriptions of Estonian Culture. Estonian Human Development Report 2016/2017. <https://www.2017.inimareng.ee/en/estonias-cultural-changes-in-an-open-world/evolving-self-descriptions-of-estonian-culture/>*

*Eneken Laanes, Transnationalisation of the Estonian Memory Culture. Estonian Human Development Report 2016/2017. <https://www.2017.inimareng.ee/en/estonias-cultural-changes-in-an-open-world/transnationalisation-of-the-estonian-memory-culture/>*

Photograph at least 5 symbolically relevant (for Estonians) sites in Tallinn (monuments, streets, buildings etc) and try to analyse these sites: What makes them symbolically important? What is their historical background? How do explain their role in Estonian culture? Connect your task with the scholarly articles you have read.

#### **Group Work 5. The Cornerstones of Estonian Cultural Identity.**

Read the following culture-related articles (files available in Moodle):

*Tõnu Viik, Evolving Self. Descriptions of Estonian Culture. Estonian Human Development Report 2016/2017. <https://www.2017.inimareng.ee/en/estonias-cultural-changes-in-an-open-world/evolving-self-descriptions-of-estonian-culture/>*

*Jüri Talvet, Kalevipoeg, a great European epic. – Estonian Literary Magazine, 2003, nr 17*

*Piret Õunapuu. On Estonian folk culture: Pro et contra. Folklore 2014, vol. 58*

Interview your Estonian friends, or use Internet resources or course materials available in Moodle. Find 5 works of art (e. g. literary texts, films, musical compositions, visual art, artefacts of traditional culture) or cultural events that could be defined as cornerstones of Estonian cultural identity. Analyse, relying on the scholarly texts, why these works of art / artefacts of traditional culture have achieved such a prominent position in Estonian culture. What is the message of these works of art / artefacts of traditional culture and what does it say about Estonian culture?