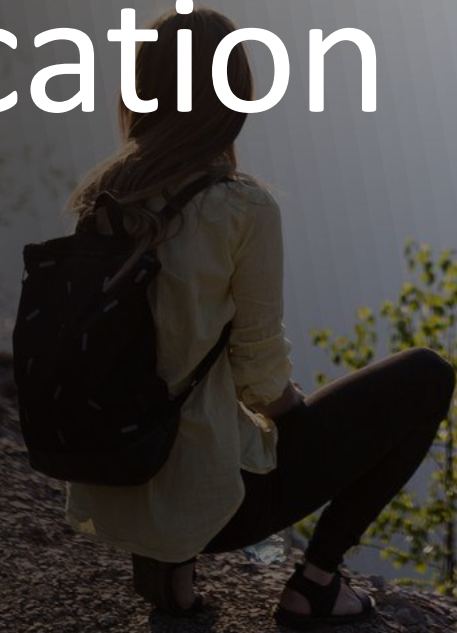


Estonia. Facts and Tales and Education





Estonia

- + population: 1.36 million
- + area: 45,335 km²
- + currency: Euro
- + member of EU, NATO from 2004





Estonia

18h

Daylight in summer



The first country in the world to vote online



Among top countries for press freedom

#6

Cleanest air in the world ranking

Estonians

You never know if we are happy or sad.
Or angry. Or excited. Most Estonians, including
customer servants,
hide their emotions extremely well.



öö
töööö
jääär

Ulata õlu üle Ülo õe õla

99% public
services available online
24/7

3 min to fill taxes




An aerial photograph of a dense forest. The trees are mostly green, with some showing yellow and orange hues, suggesting autumn. A small, dark, irregularly shaped pond is visible in the center of the image. The text is overlaid on the top left of the image.

51% of Estonia is covered by forests

There is plenty of space.

Population density is 30.3 people per km² - 4 times less than EU's average.



4th cleanest
urban air quality
in the world. WHO



The Baltic Way

2 million people. 3 states. 690 kilometres



Song and dance festival

100,000 singers and dancers participate — almost every 10th Estonian.

A serene landscape photograph of a calm body of water, possibly a lake or a wide river, surrounded by a dense forest. The water is still, reflecting the surrounding trees and the overcast sky. In the center of the image, a person is seated in a green canoe, paddling away from the viewer. The trees are tall and mature, with some showing early autumn colors of yellow and orange. The overall atmosphere is misty and tranquil. The text "5th season" is overlaid in the bottom left corner in a white, sans-serif font.

5th season

when You can paddle a canoe through the forest

The longest ice road in Europe

An aerial photograph showing a dark-colored sedan driving on a wide, flat expanse of ice. The ice surface is marked with numerous parallel tracks from vehicles. To the left of the road, there are several small, irregular pools of water. The overall scene is desolate and cold, with a light blue-grey color palette.

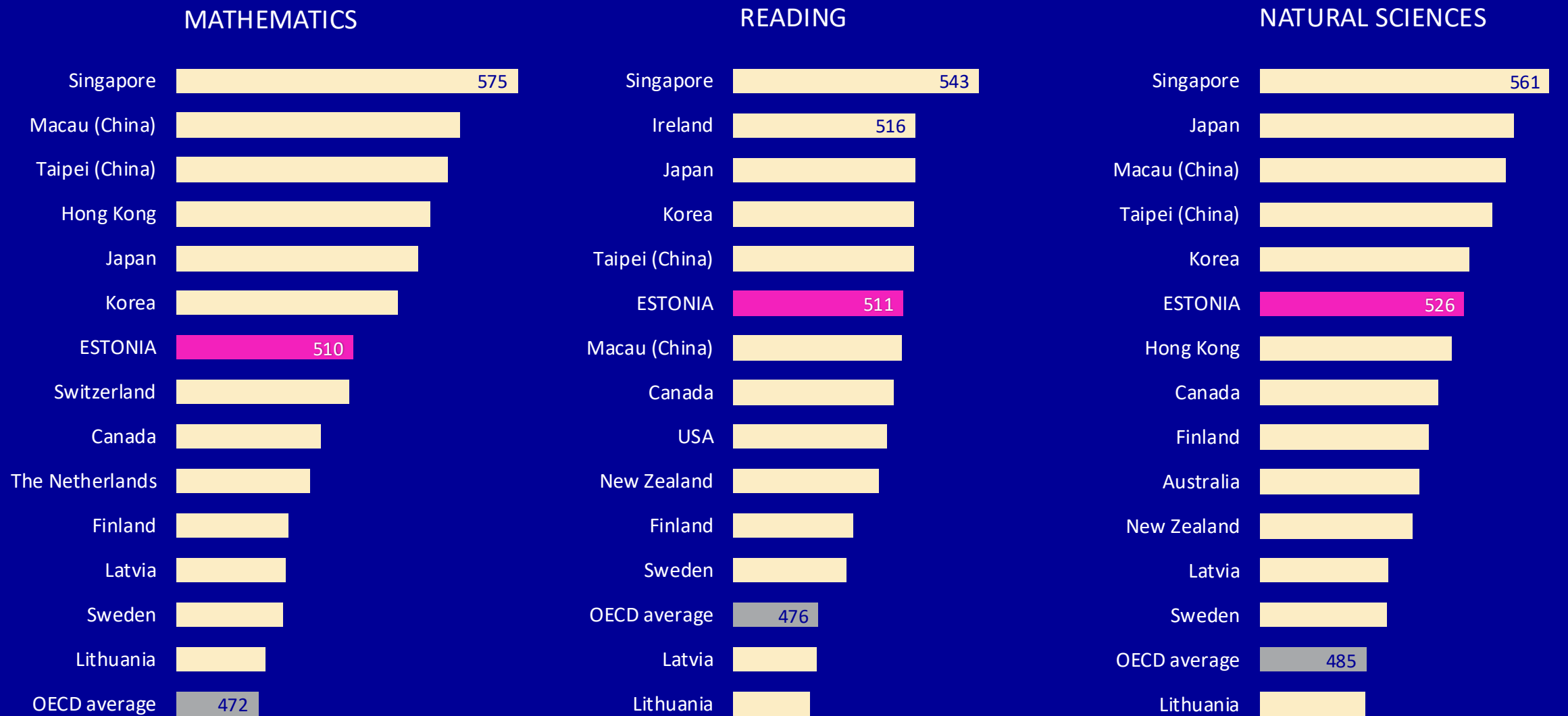
Hiumaa - Rohuküla, 27 km

Estonia values education

PISA 2022: Estonian students lead in Europe and worldwide

- + 1st in science
- + 1-2 in reading with Ireland
- + 1-2 in mathematics with Switzerland

	MATHEMATICS		READING		SCIENCE	
1	Estonia	510	Ireland	516	Estonia	526
2	Switzerland	508	Estonia	511	Finland	511
3	Netherlands	493	UK	494	Ireland	504
4	Ireland	492	Finland	490	Switzerland	503
5	Belgium	489	Denmark	489	Slovenia	500
6	Denmark	489	Poland	489	UK	500
7	UK	489	Czech Republic	489	Poland	499
8	Poland	489	Sweden	487	Czech Republic	498
9	Austria	487	Switzerland	483	Latvia	494
10	Czech Republic	487	Italy	482	Denmark	494



Estonian student

according to PISA 2022

1st

globally
in growth mindset

1st

in Europe
in creative thinking

- + Students are self-directed in their learning,
- + feel secure in their school environment,
- + are taught by teachers with the most freedom to shape learning.



Key qualities of Estonian education system

HIGHLY EDUCATED TEACHERS

Master's degree in school,
Bachelor's in kindergarten

STRATEGY & DATA

Data-driven governance and joint
strategic goals

AUTONOMY

Autonomy of schools
and teachers

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Special support for those
requiring it and programmes for
the gifted

EARLY EDUCATION

Most 4-6-year-olds attend kindergarten,
even though
it's not mandatory

HOBBY EDUCATION

offers wide opportunities for
additional education and
self-development

EDUCATION IS FREE-OF-CHARGE

from basic to higher education,
including school meals,
textbooks

QUALITY OF EDUCATION

is endorsed by internal evaluation
surveys, and external assessment of
learning outcomes.

Education has been highly valued through generations

Before 1918

Under Danish, Swedish, German, Russian rule

13th c.	First monastic schools
17th c.	Schools for peasant children
1860-70s	Compulsory school
1881	Literacy rate 94%

1918-1940
Estonian Republic

Start of the Estonian national education system. From 1920 compulsory and free education for 6 grades.

1944-1991
Soviet Occupation

Estonia managed to maintain high-quality teaching and learning in Estonian.

1991
Republic of Estonia

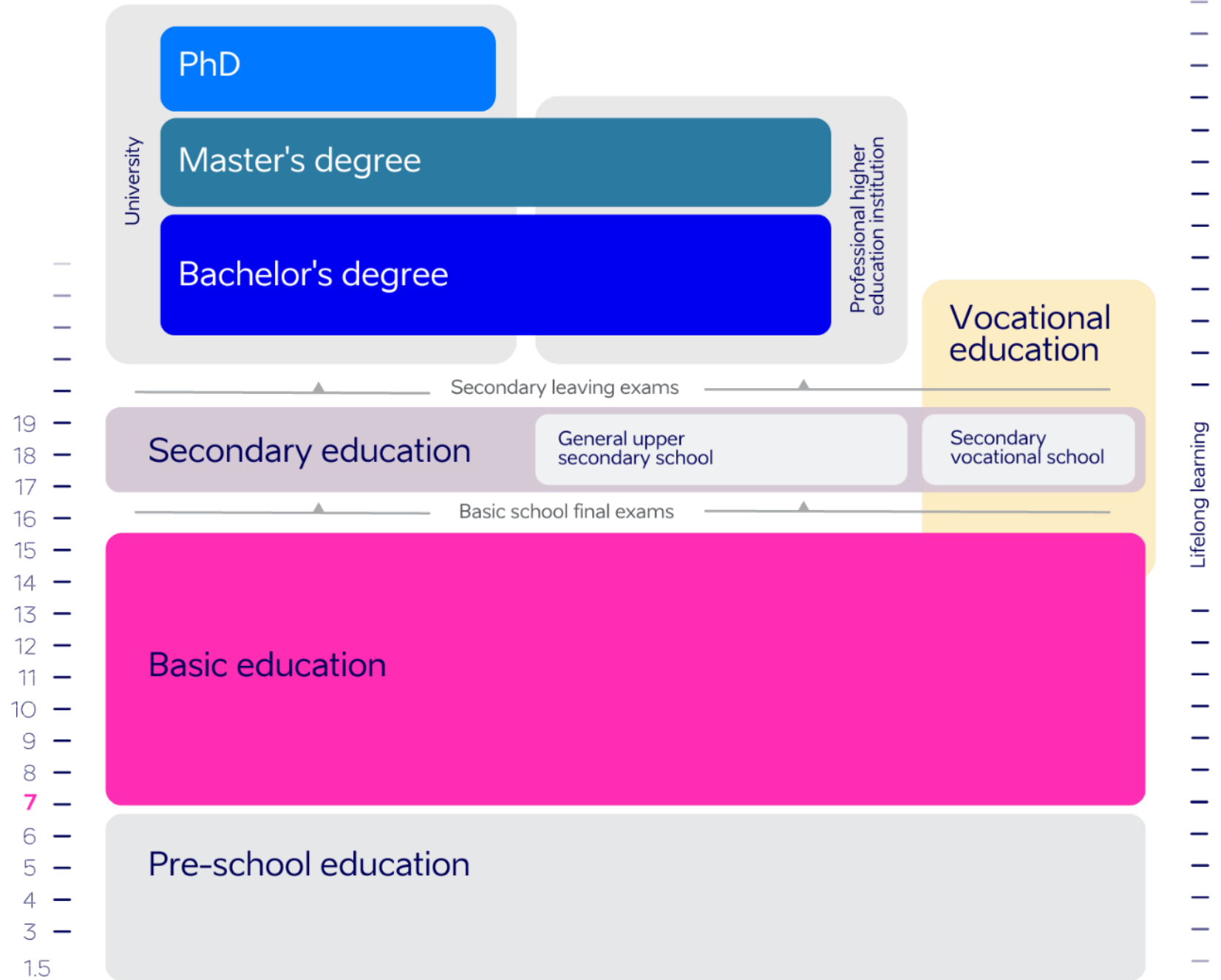
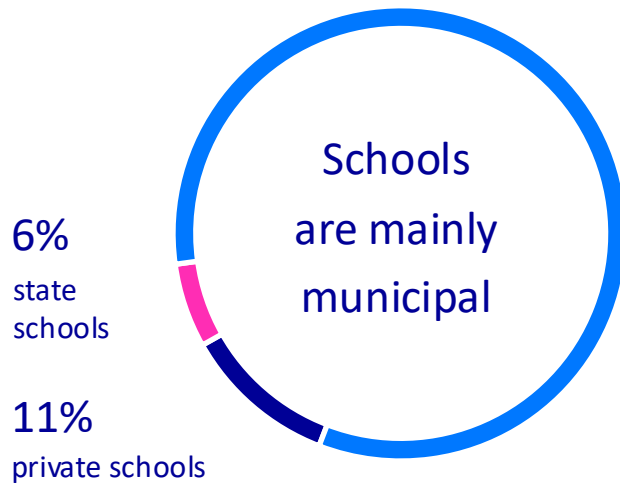
The modernisation of Estonian education begins.

General education:

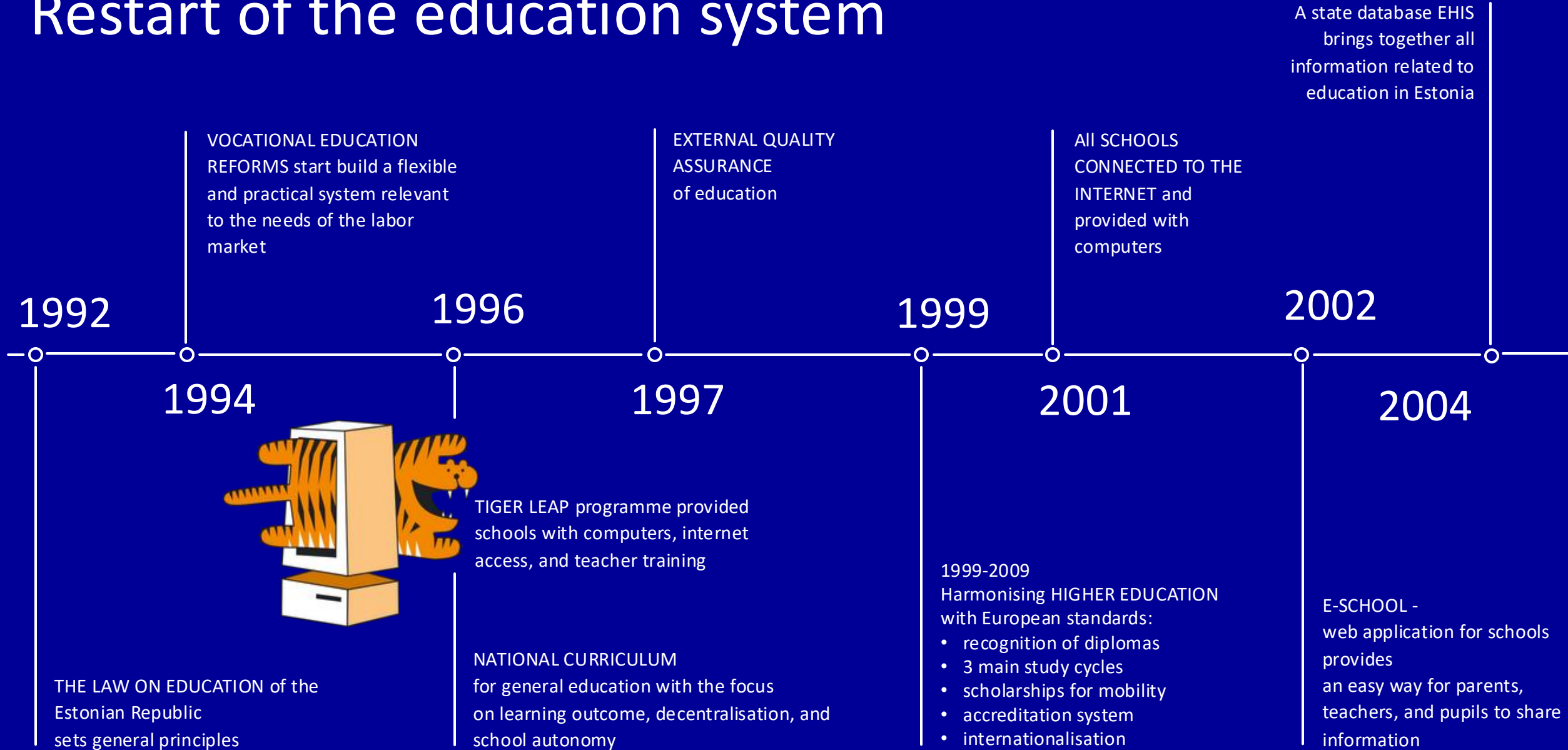
171,000
students

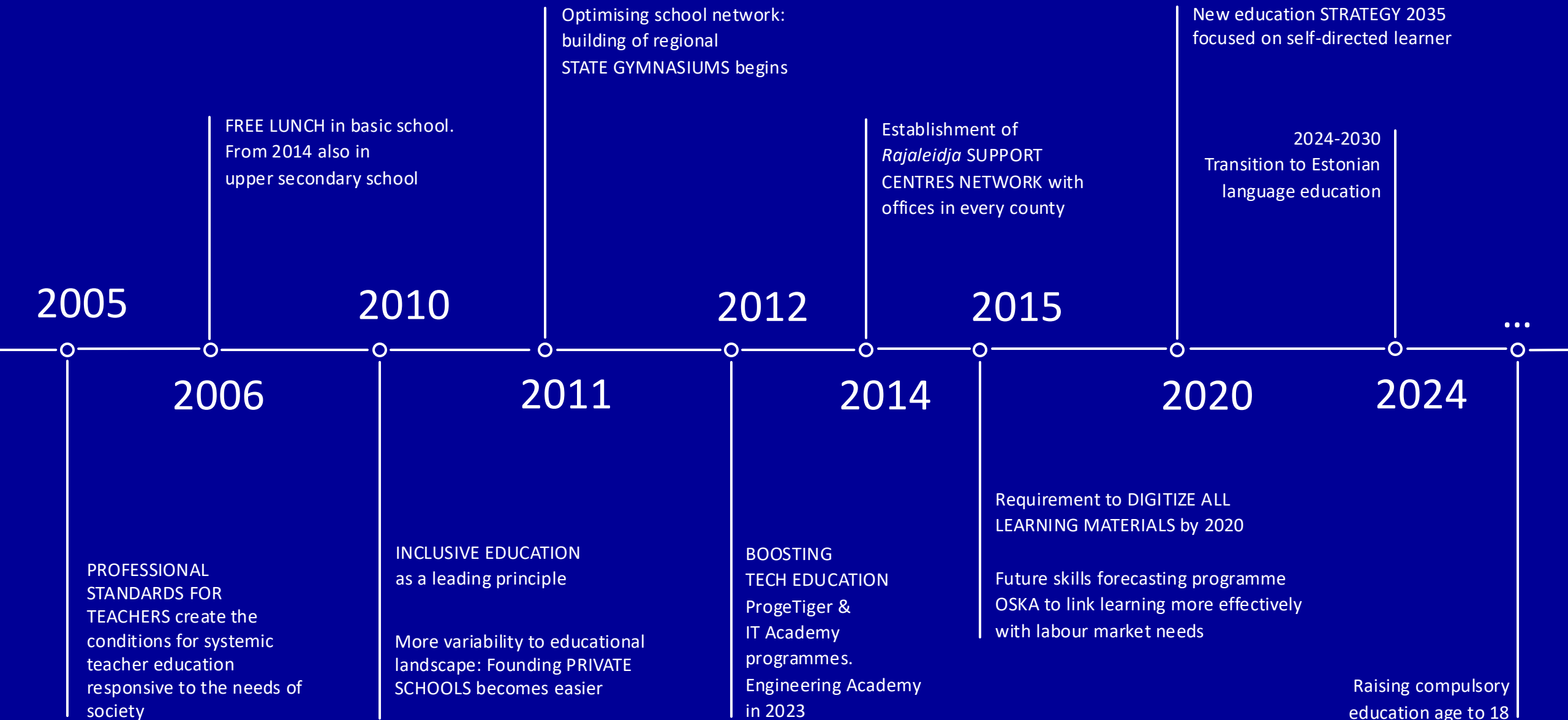
17,500
teachers

510
schools



Restart of the education system





Digital solutions are in everyday use

- + E-diaries for schools and kindergartens: Eliis, eKool, Stuudium
- + Digital learning materials and platforms: e-Schoolbag, OPIQ
- + Student admission systems: DreamApply, SAIS
- + Examination Infosystem EIS for digital tests
- + Estonian Education Infosystem EHIS

80% of the
7-19 year olds
participate
in hobby education
or hobby activities



We truly think
that the best thing we can
give to our children is not
land, house or a bank account,
but good education.

T. H. Ilves

Inclusive education

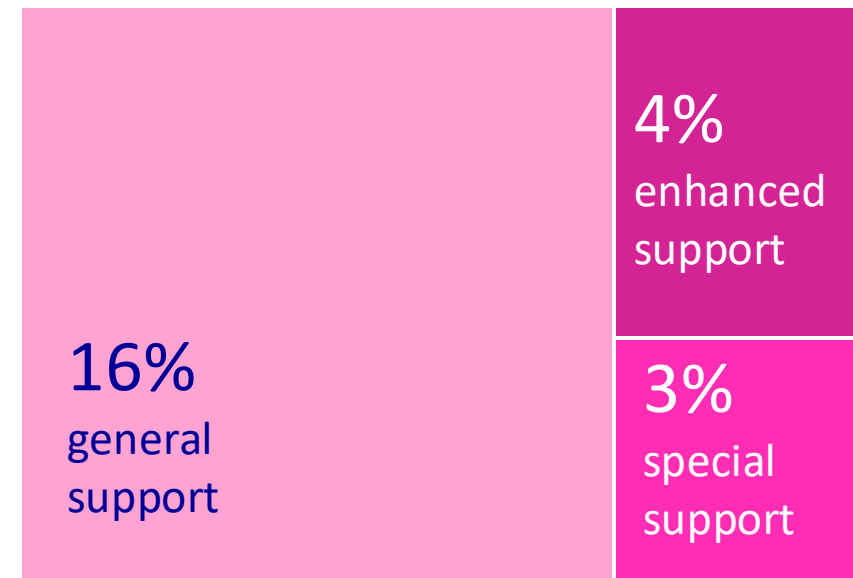
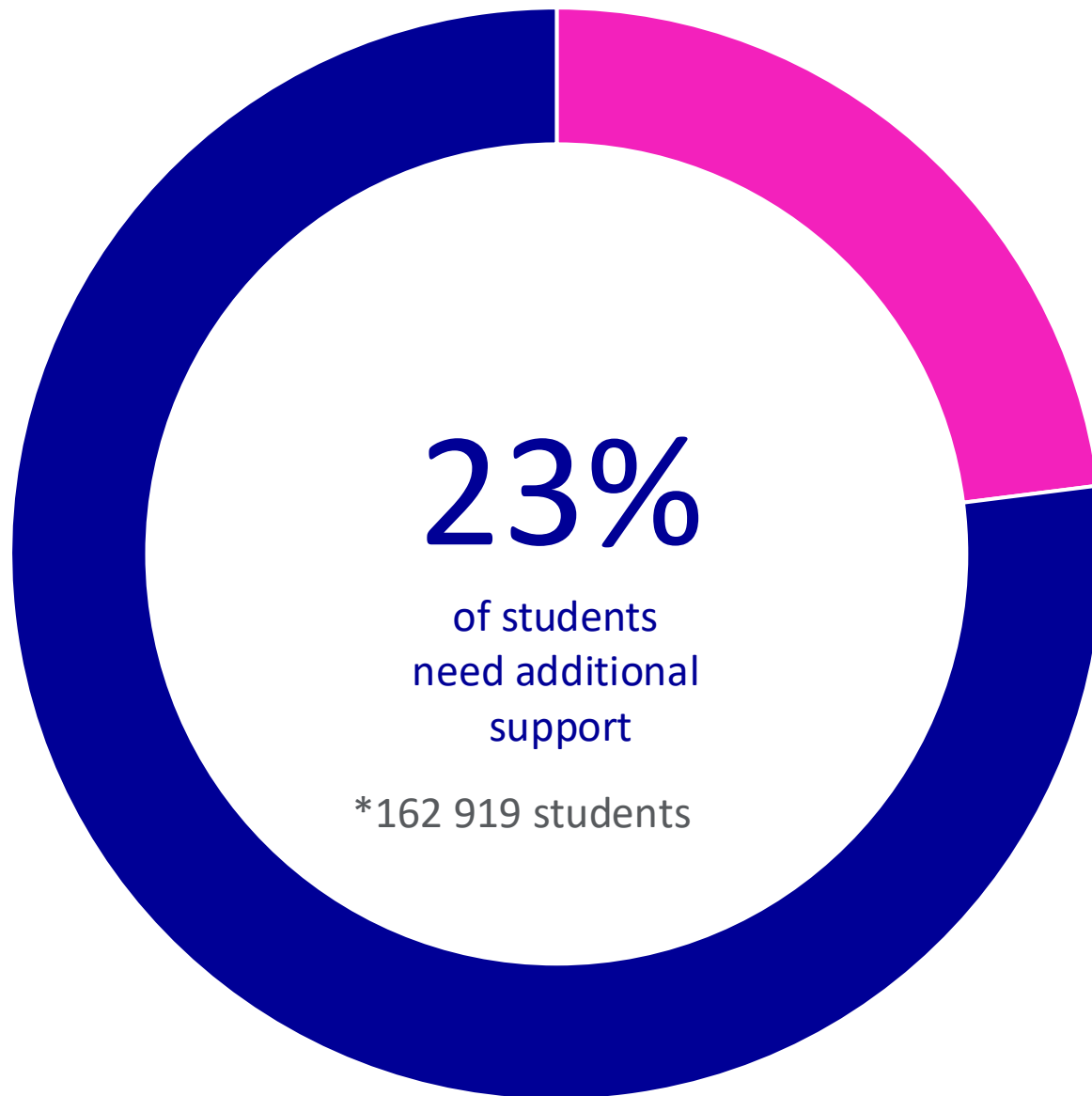
- Free study support services if needed
- Right to study close to home - students with different abilities study together
- Wide variation of educational services, measures, and high autonomy of teachers
- External evaluation if needed
- Free textbooks and school lunch for everyone
- Children's socio-economic status has the lowest impact on performance in the OECD



Equality



Equity



- + GENERAL SUPPORT by school to students with difficulties, including individual instruction, support specialist services, and study assistance lessons.
- + ENHANCED or SPECIAL SUPPORT can be recommended by an external advisory team, if needed.

Two-level support system

LEVEL 1

Everyday activities at educational institution

- + Detecting, supporting, consulting and teaching the child.
- + The responsibility to organize and finance the I level lies according to law on local government.

LEVEL 2

Rajaleidja Centers (Pathfinder), providing advice relating to education,

- + out-of-school counselling.
- + Consulting first and foremost parents, teachers, specialists.
- + External advisory team recommendations

Support specialist services at school



To support children's development, training, and social competence in learning

Special teachers, speech therapists, social pedagogues, and psychologists are available at school, free of charge

Headmaster arranges the hiring of support specialists or organizes services

Private conversations with support specialists are organized within one week upon request or need

Immediate support is provided in case of accidents or threats to children's safety

Services can be provided at school or elsewhere with parental consent

The Role of Rajaleidja (Pathfinder) centers

Every child parent, teacher and school principal has access and the right to get counselling services on a local level and on a national level.

The decision that the children needs enhanced or special support, change of curricula, partial separation (from some subjects, from primary class, etc.) can only be made through the decisions of external advisory groups.



Enhanced and special support

ENHANCED SUPPORT

For students with permanent learning, speech, mental, and/or physical disabilities or health conditions requiring constant support specialist services, an individual study plan is developed for one or more subjects.

SPECIAL SUPPORT

For students with severe/combined disabilities or severe and permanent mental disorders, specialized educational organization and resource-intensive support services are provided:

- + systematic support from specialists,
- + integrated social and/or healthcare services,
- + specialized learning tools and methodologies, and a dedicated learning environment.



A misty forest landscape at sunrise or sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange glow over the scene. Several tall, dark evergreen trees are scattered throughout the landscape. A wooden boardwalk or path winds through the forest, leading towards the background. The ground is covered in low-lying vegetation and grass. The overall atmosphere is serene and quiet.

Aitäh!

Photos: Renee Altrov, Minna Sundberg, Kaupo Kalda, Priidu Saart,
Jarek Jõepera, Kaarel Mikkin, Jari Kunnap, Brand Estonia, Giulio Garbati