



promoting youth involvement and
social engagement

PROMISE: Promoting Youth Involvement and Social Engagement: Opportunities and challenges for ‘conflicted’ young people across Europe.

Collection of short comparative country reports – ESTONIA

Summary: The full report presents a collection of standardised country reports from the ten partner countries involved in PROMISE. Using the most recent data available from macro-indicators and surveys, each country report provides a national baseline of the attitudes, activities and social involvement of young people. The macro-indicators used to describe the national context are used consistently throughout to allow comparison.

In particular, each country report provides an overview of the general ‘state of the country’s health’; the situation that young people face; how young people feel about their situation; and what, if anything, they are doing to change it.

We employ a concept of social and political engagement developed for PROMISE that includes four dimensions of engagement: civic activism, formal political participation, activism, and everyday engagement.

This report (Estonia) should be read in conjunction with the Introduction and Appendices document. It was submitted to the EC as part of deliverable D9 (D4.3)..

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Estonia



Population	1,316,481
Population aged 15-29 years old	17.9%
Population aged 65 years old and above	19.2%
Birth Rate	10.6
International migrant stock as a percentage of the total population	15.4%

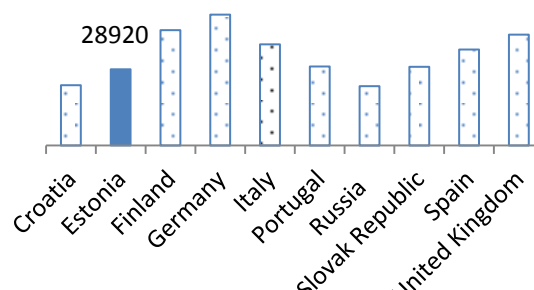
1. Standards of living in Estonia¹

Estonia's economic situation is still suffering from the 2008 crisis juxtaposed to a long period of political instability.

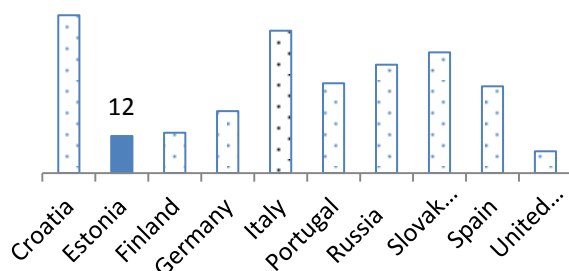
The gross national income (GNI) is 28920 but 7,3% of the labor force is currently unemployed.

Estonia is a business-friendly country, although it has a perceived high corruption index.

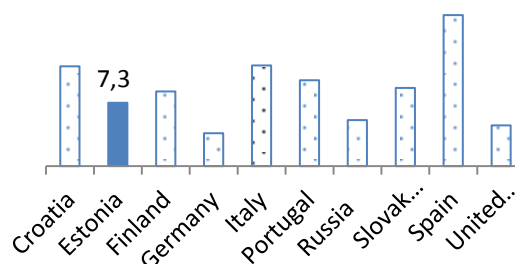
**Fig. 1.1 GNI per capita, PPP
(current international \$), 2016**



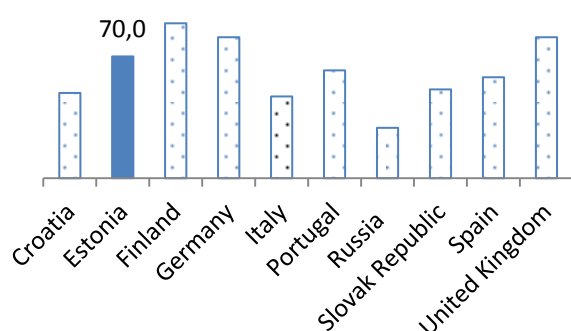
**Fig. 1.2 Ease of doing business index
(1=most business-friendly regulations),
2017**



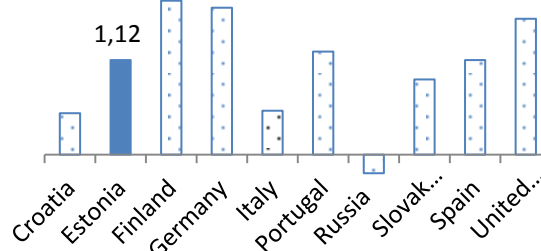
**Fig. 1.3 Unemployment, total (% of
total labor force) (modeled ILO
estimate), 2017**



**Fig. 1.4 Corruption Perception Index -
Transparency International (1 to 100;
1= high corruption perceived), 2016**



**Fig. 1.5 Government Effectiveness:
Estimate, 2014 (-2,5 to 2,5 -2,5=very
low effectiveness perceived)**



¹ Last available data. Sources: World Bank; Transparency International; Freedom House; Global Gender Gap Report (World Economic Forum); Eurostat; OECDStats. See Appendix for detailed references.

Fig. 1.6 Freedom of the press (0=best, 100=worst), 2017

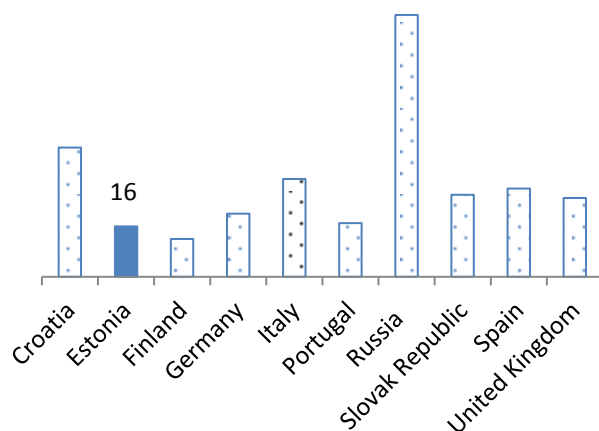
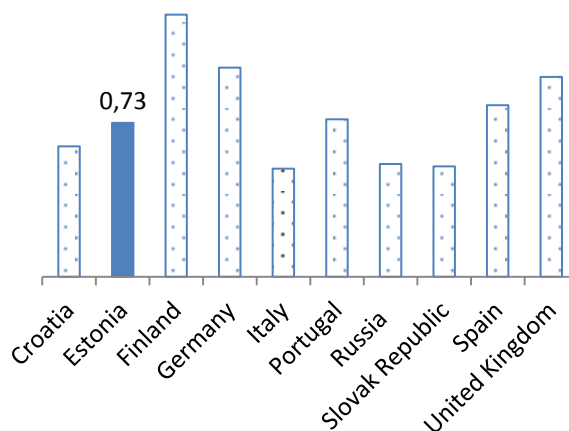


Fig 1.7 Global Gender Gap Index (0 to 1, 1= gender equality), 2017



The Freedom House defines freedom of the press as “a media environment where coverage of political news is robust, the safety of journalists is guaranteed, state intrusion in media affairs is minimal, and the press is not subject to onerous legal or economic pressures.” According to these criteria, Estonia’s press is relatively free (16). Estonia’s Gender Gap Index is 0,73 with 1 meaning highest possible gender equality.

Estonia has a high share of population with tertiary education (38,9%) and internet users (87,2%).

Fig. 1.8 Percentage of people with tertiary education (25-64 years old), (in 2016)

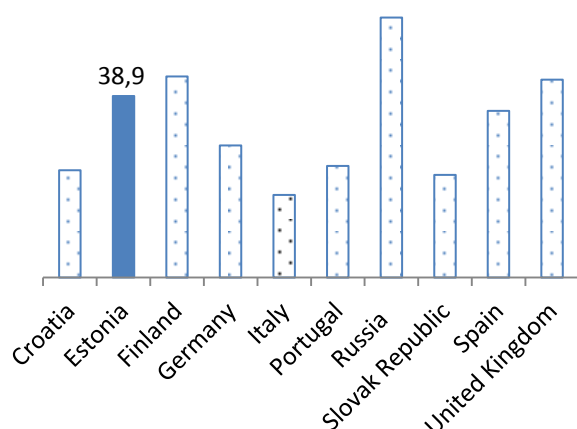
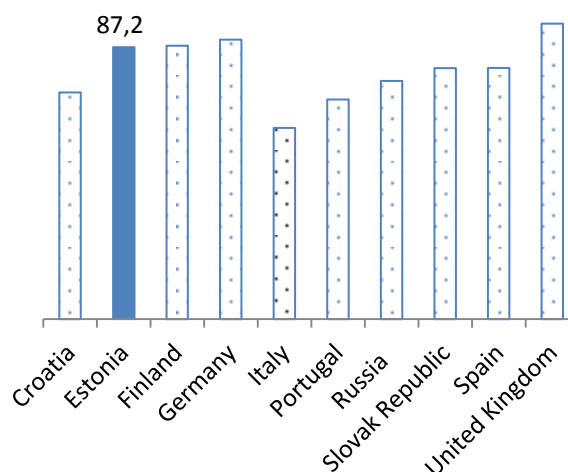


Fig. 1.9 Internet users (per 100 people), (in 2016)

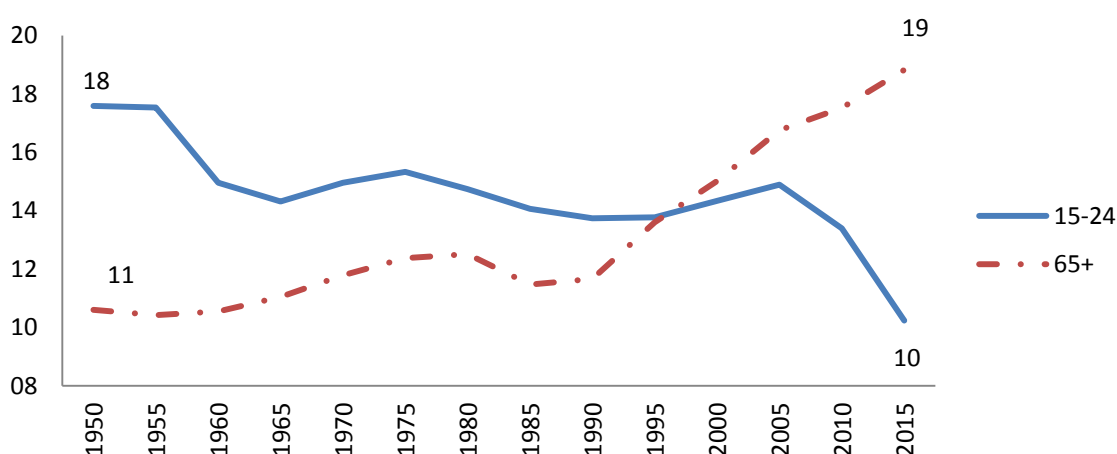


2. Being young in Estonia

2.1 Demographic situation

In the second half of the 20th century there were more people aged 15-24 than aged 65 or over living in Estonia. As in many European countries, this pattern was overturned in about 1995, due to both a fall in the number of young people and also an increase in the number of older people.

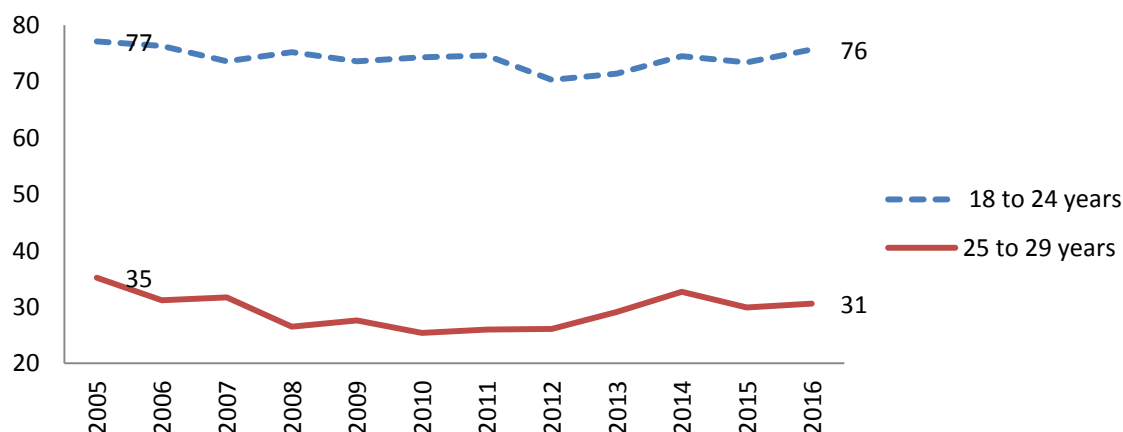
Fig. 2.1 Demographic trends in Estonia 1950-2015: proportion of people aged 15-24 years old vs 65 years old and more



Source: UNDP - World Population Prospects, the 2017 Revision

The percentage of young people living with their parents has remained fairly steady since 2005, with a slight fall in the number of those aged 25-29 living with their parents.

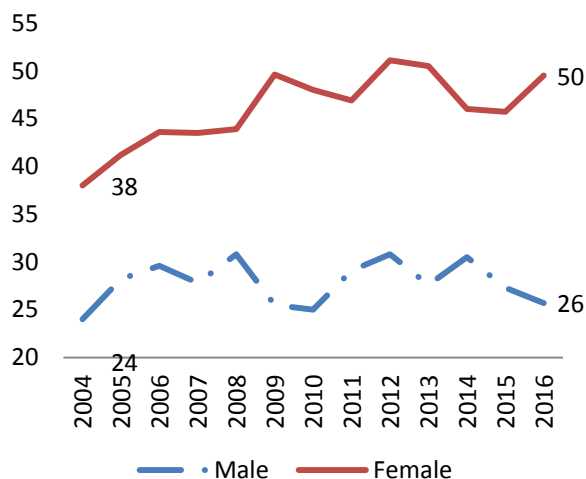
Fig. 2.2 Percent of young people (18-29 years old) living with parents 2005-2016



Source: Eurostat 2018

2.2 Education & Labour market

Fig. 2.3 Percentage of young people aged 25-29 with tertiary education (2004-2016) by gender



In Estonia, tertiary education amongst women (aged 25-29) has been higher than men for many years (Fig. 2.3). By 2016, the number of women with tertiary education was double that of men: 26% of men and 50% of women had achieved that level of education. Whilst young men drop out of education more frequently in general, (Fig. 2.4), the share of those with NEET status is higher amongst girls (Fig. 2.5). This may be related to women giving up work as well as education when having children. There are about 4-5% of young men with NEET status, 3% in 2016, whilst the proportion of women with the same status reached 16%, but levels have remained relatively steady, with minor

fluctuations, over the years since 2004.

Fig. 2.4 Early leavers from education and training by gender (1999-2016)

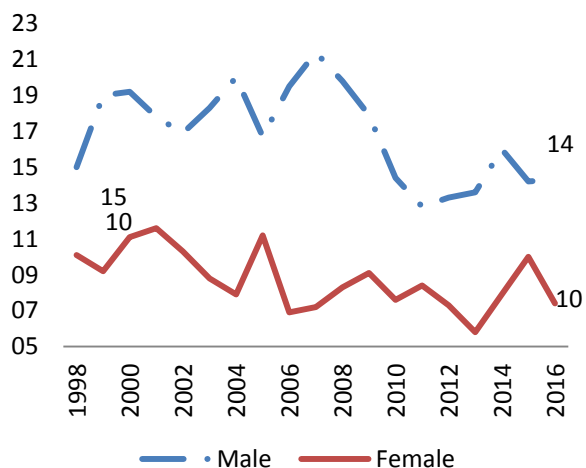
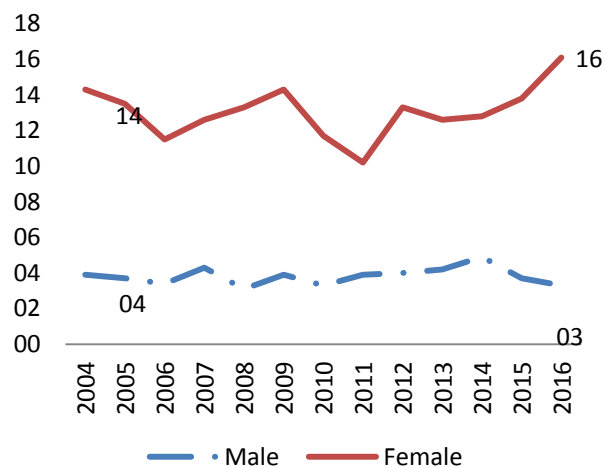
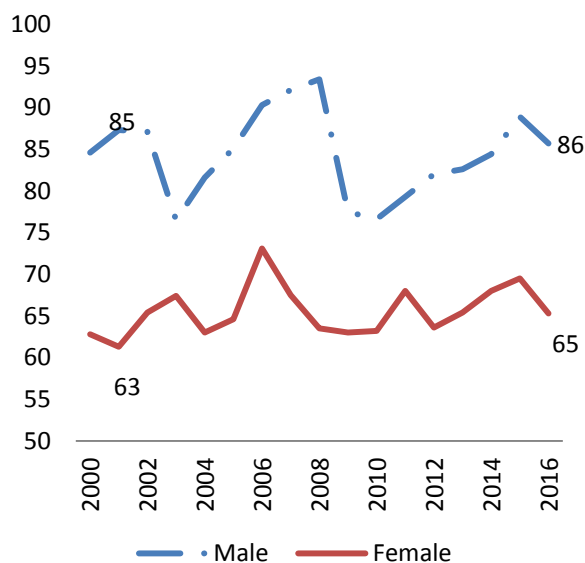


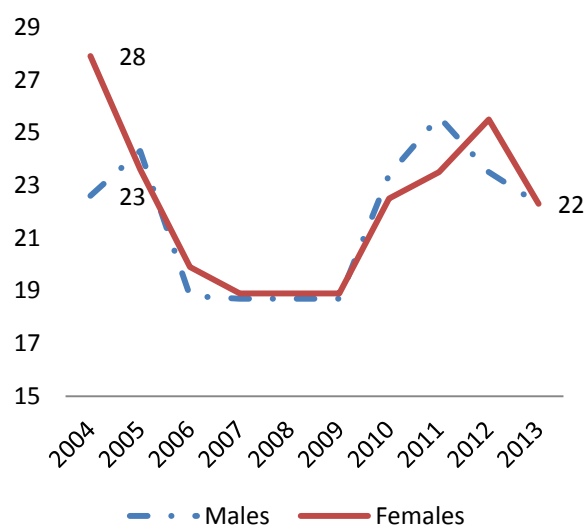
Fig. 2.5 Estonia - Percentage of NEET aged 15-29 (2004-2016)



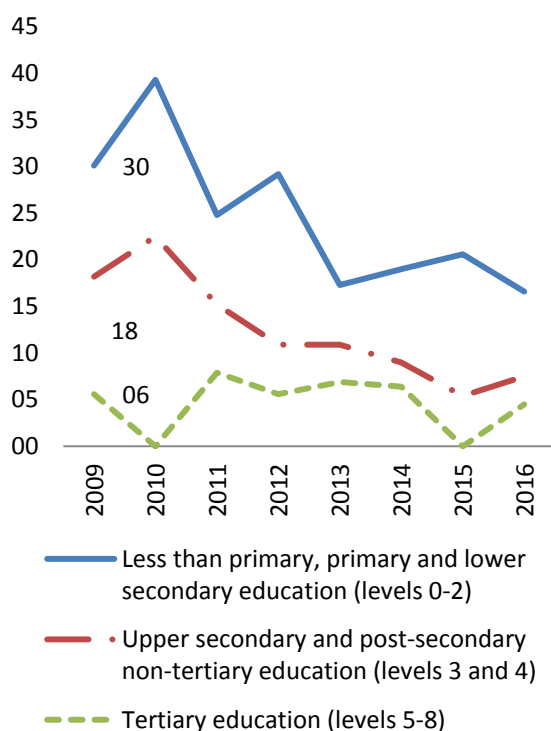
**Fig. 2.6 Youth (25-29 years old)
employment by gender (2000-2016)**



**Fig. 2.7 Young people's at-risk-of-
poverty or exclusion rate by gender
(2004-2013)**



**Fig. 2.8 Youth unemployment rate
(25-29 years old) by educational
attainment (2002-2016)**



The majority of young people aged 25-29 have started work: 86% of men and 65% of women. Women's lower participation rate may again be related to having children (the average age of women giving birth to the first child is 28,0 years).

Between 2006-2009 less than 20% of young people were on the borderline of poverty/exclusion, this increased to 25% after the global economic crisis, and decreased to 22% in 2013; the gap between two genders is minimal.

Fig. 2.8 demonstrates that unemployment threatens youngsters with lower level of education more than those with upper- or post-secondary and tertiary education. It is encouraging to see that the unemployment rates for the the two groups with non-tertiary education have reduced steadily since 2010.

2.3 Health and Well-being

Half of Estonian young people consider their health to be good/very good, with men judging their health more highly (Fig. 2.9).

Females, and younger females in particular, experience symptoms of depression more than males (Fig. 2.10). After their 25th birthday, men overtake women in such complaints.

Crude death rate is much higher amongst men (Fig. 2.11).

Fig. 2.10 Percentage of youth with current depressive symptoms by gender and age group (2014)

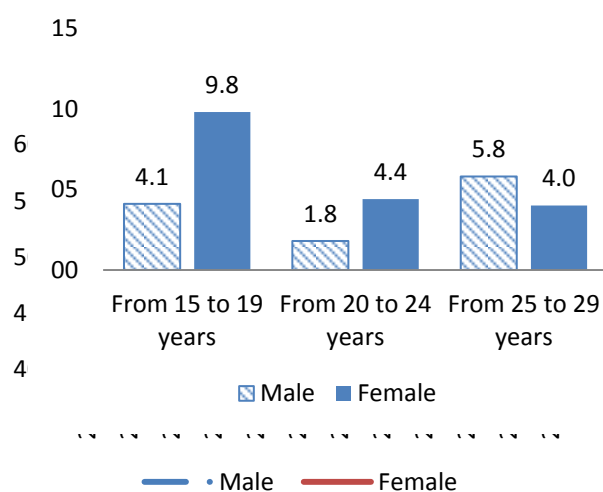
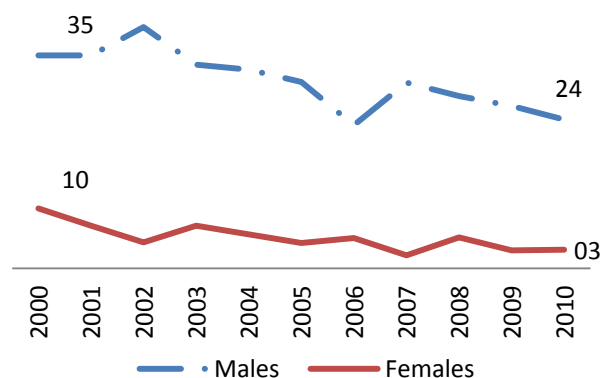
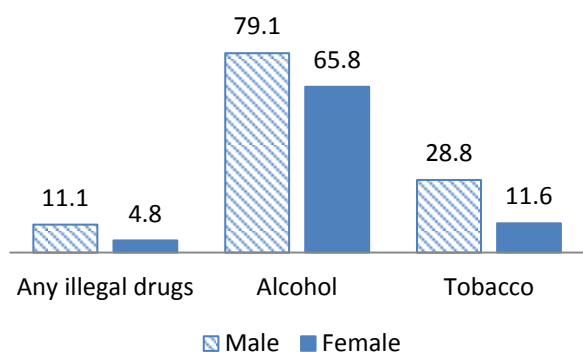


Fig. 2.11 Crude death rate per hundred thousand inhabitants by suicide of young people (2000-2010)



2.4 Use of Substances and Crime

Fig. 2.12 - Percentage of aged 15-29 who in the last month used... (2015)



The most common substance used by young people is alcohol. Men between 15-29 years of age consume all substances (in the survey) more than women (Fig. 2.12).

Young men make up the majority of juvenile prisoners (Fig. 2.13).

In 2010, police, the border guard and migration services merged resulting in a considerable increase in the number of police personnel (Fig. 2.14).

Fig. 2.13 - Juvenile Prisoners Per hundred thousand inhabitants (2008-2015) by gender

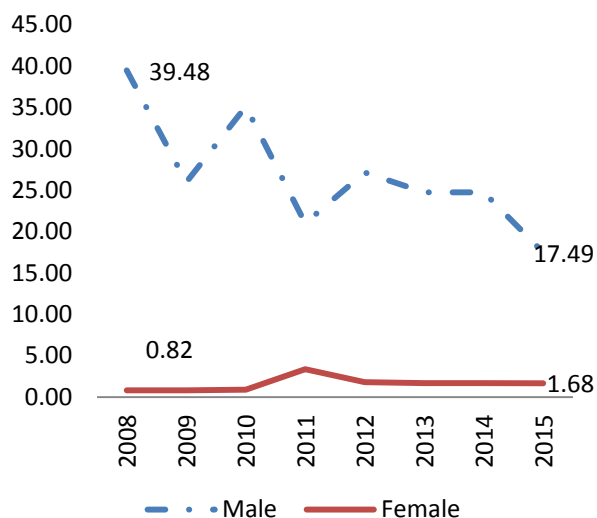
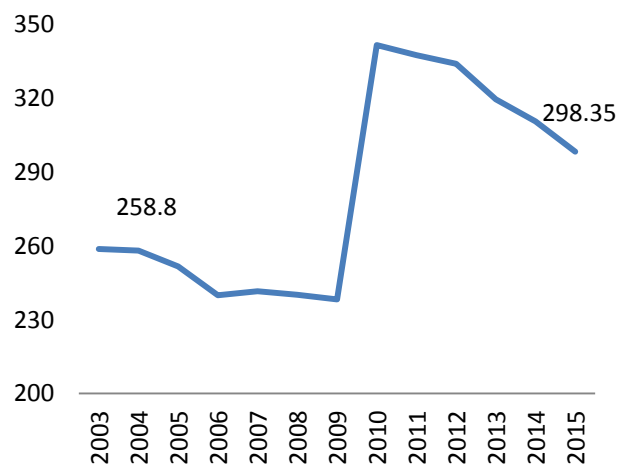


Fig. 2.14 - Total Police Personnel at the National Level , Rate per 100.000 inhabitants



3. What do young people think in Estonia?

The following part of the overview is based on the data from the European Social Survey. 20% of the respondents from the Estonian sample (364 in total) have a migratory background, 51% were employed and 37% in education, whilst 5% were unemployed. 23% of the young live in the countryside, 35% in larger towns and 41% in suburban areas or small towns. 93% of the respondents do not consider themselves to belong to any group discriminated against in the country.

The level of education of the youth is as follows: the majority of the young people have upper secondary education (58%), 31.3% have lower secondary or advanced vocational education, 5.5% have tertiary education and 5.2% have less than lower secondary education. Most of the Estonian young people consider their economic situation to fit the description „coping“ (55,8%). 29.2% consider themselves to live „comfortably“, and 15% find their lives to be „difficult“ in these terms.

3.1 Perception of opportunity/constraints

3.1.1 Estonia's situation

Young people's satisfaction with the situation they are living in can be gleaned from their judgement on the economy, government and democracy, although their satisfaction is the lowest regarding the work of the government. Their replies indicate that they are mostly satisfied with the practice of democracy in the state.

Fig. 3.1 Economy

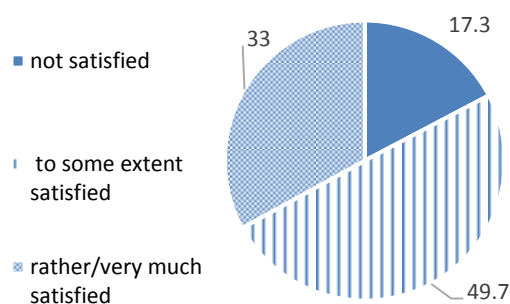


Fig. 3.2 Government

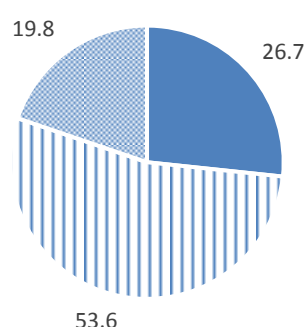
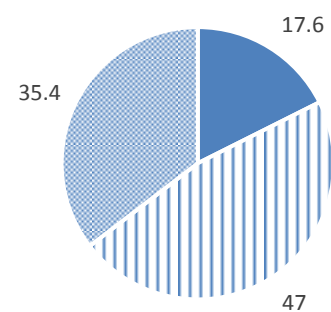


Fig. 3.3 Democracy



Those finding themselves in a difficult economic situation are the least satisfied; but also, twice the number of men (23%) than women (12%) are dissatisfied. Those whose level of education is either lower secondary/advanced vocational or upper secondary are more dissatisfied, whilst those with tertiary education are rarely dissatisfied. Those whose economic situation is difficult are also more negative about the social climate, safety and personal wellbeing.

Fig. 3.4 'Rather / Very much satisfied'

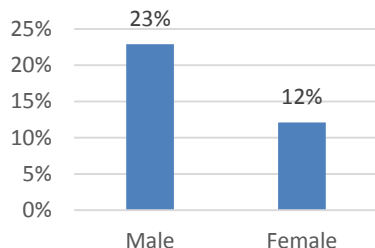


Fig. 3.5 'Not satisfied' - by education

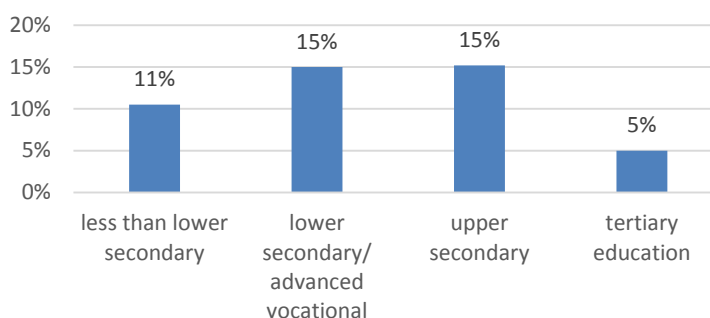


Fig. 3.6 'Not satisfied' - by background

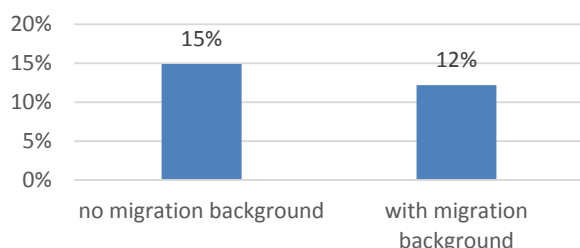
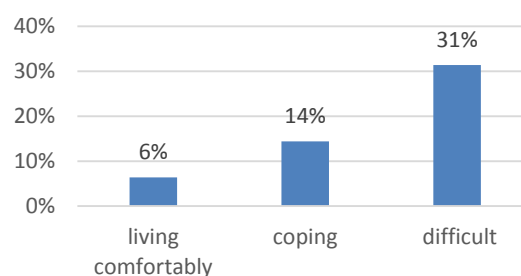


Fig. 3.7 'Not satisfied' - by income



3.1.1.1 Social climate

Young people were asked to assess the social climate in their country by choosing (i) whether they felt that most people can be trusted, or needed to be careful; (ii) that most people try to take advantage of you, or try to be fair; (iii) that people mostly look out for themselves, or try to be helpful. Based on those responses, a score was calculated on whether the social climate was seen as positive or negative. The majority - 78% - of respondents came out as neutral; 16% tended to judge the social climate as more positive than negative. Those with migration background had more negative views (13.5%), whilst those with no such background veered towards more positive views (17.2%). Other characteristics (economic status, place of living, education or belonging to a discriminated group) had no effect on those assessments.

Fig. 3.8 Social climate

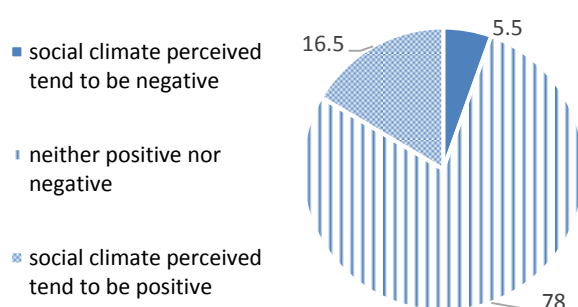
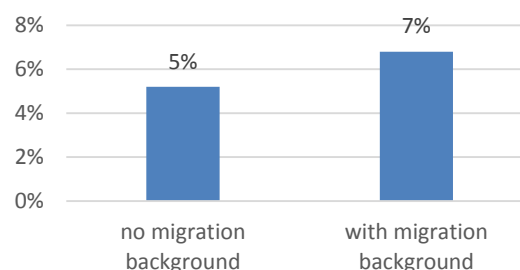


Fig. 3.9 Social climate perceived as tending to be negative



3.1.1.2 Feeling of safety of walking alone in local area after dark

Estonian youth judge safety to be high in their community; 81% of the young feel safe. The main feature that increased the feelings of lack of safety was the economic status of the young person: 46% of those in a difficult financial situation did not feel safe. Also, living in a larger town lessens feelings of safety, and 25% of the inhabitants of such places did not feel safe. 70% of the members of discriminated groups

Fig. 3.10 Feeling 'safe' - by migration background

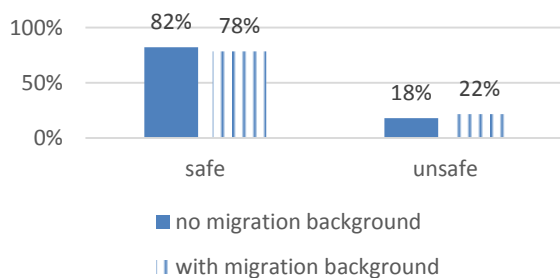
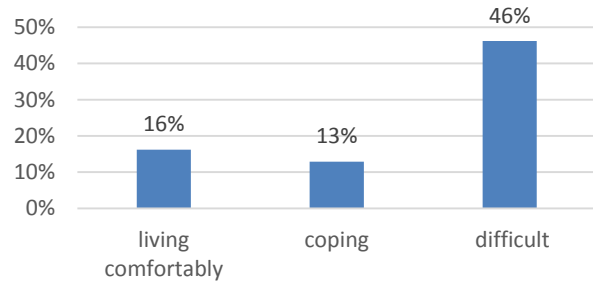


Fig. 3.11 Feeling 'unsafe' - by financial circumstances



felt safe.

3.1.3 Personal situation

Most Estonian youth are satisfied with their lives, with no major difference between genders, migration background or place of living. The most satisfied young people being those with a tertiary education, and the least satisfied being the unemployed and those living in difficult financial situations.

Fig. 3.12 Unhappy - by gender

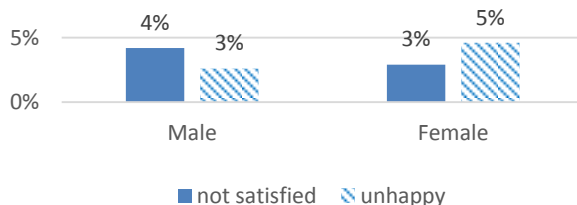


Fig. 3.13 Unhappy - by background

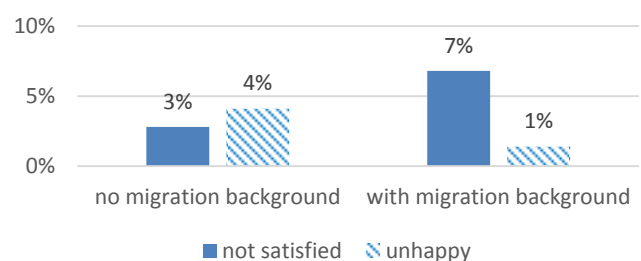


Fig. 3.14 Unhappy - by education

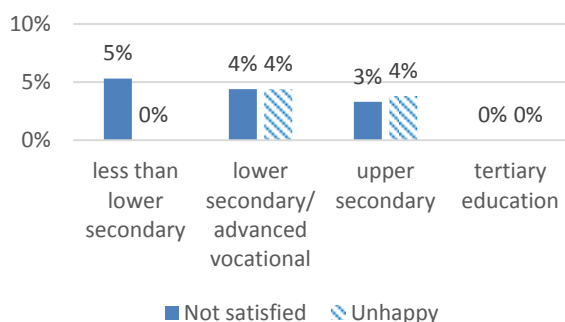


Fig. 3.15 Unhappy - by employment status

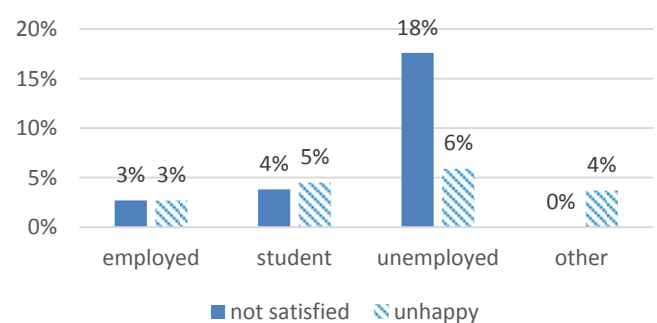


Fig. 3.16 Unhappy - by income

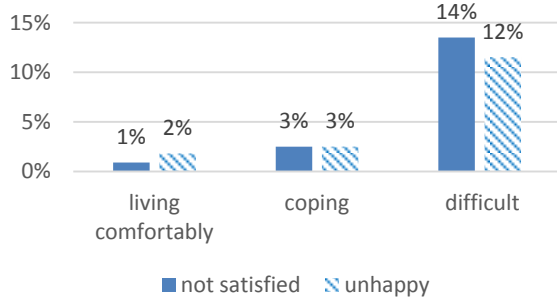
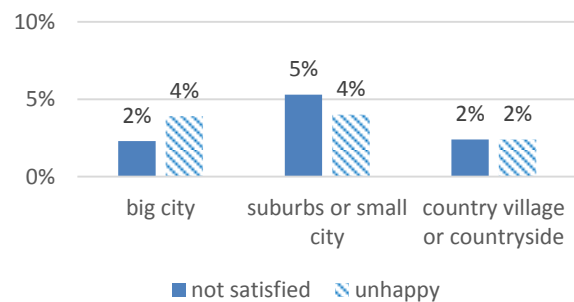


Fig. 3.17 Unhappy - by place of living



3.2 Relation with Authority

Only 11-13% of Estonian young people trust the politicians and political parties. European Parliament is the most trusted political institution. Although the young have considerable trust in police (65%), the legal system deserves somewhat less (52%) trust. Men, and those not from a discriminated group, report higher trust.

Fig. 3.18 High Trust in Institutions

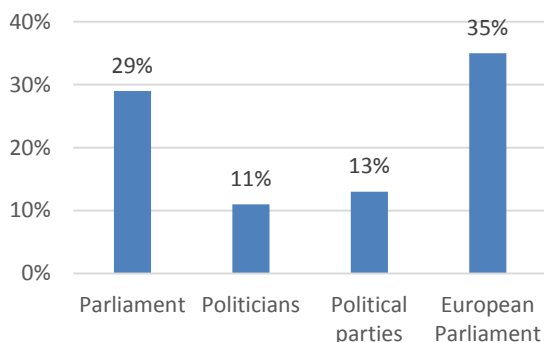
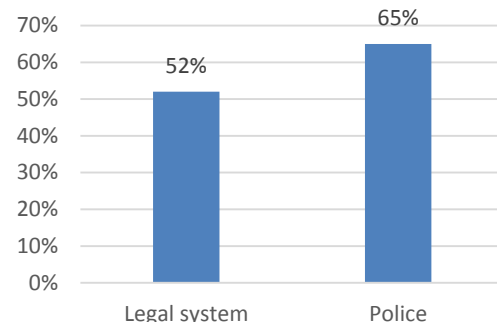


Fig. 3.19 High Trust in Law&Order



3.2.3 Trust in Institutions

Young people with lower education and better economic status have greater trust in politicians, although those with lower education, on the other hand, do not believe that the existing political system allows people to have influence on politics. The reason for such views may combine lack of knowledge on how to influence politics with an adequate assessment of earlier experiences, as well as the lack of political, economic and social capital for participating in politics in a meaningful and impactful way.

Fig. 3.20 High Trust in Legal System Institutions - by socio-demographics

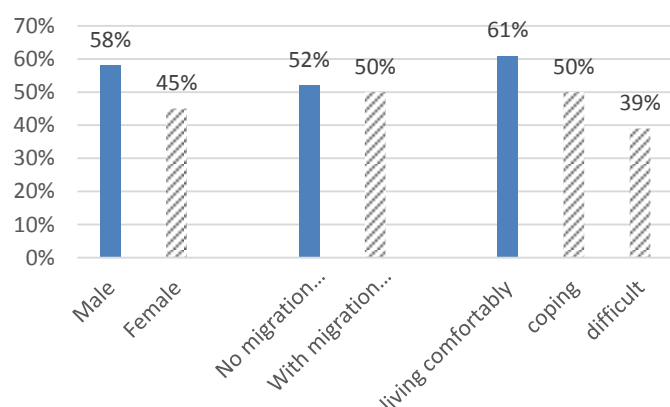


Fig. 3.21 High Trust in the Police

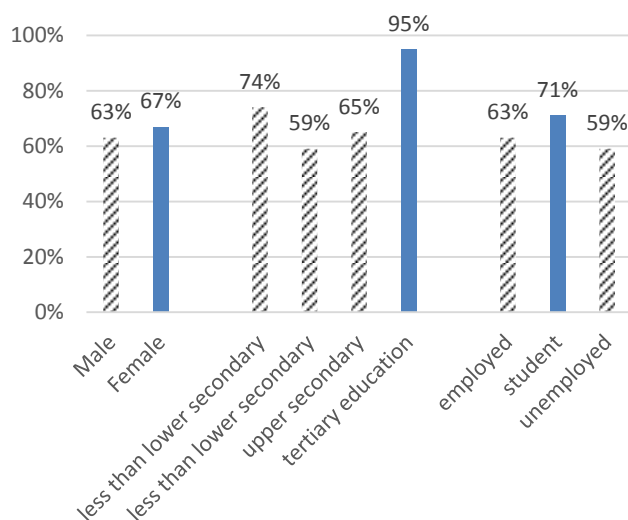


Fig. 3.22 High Trust in the Police

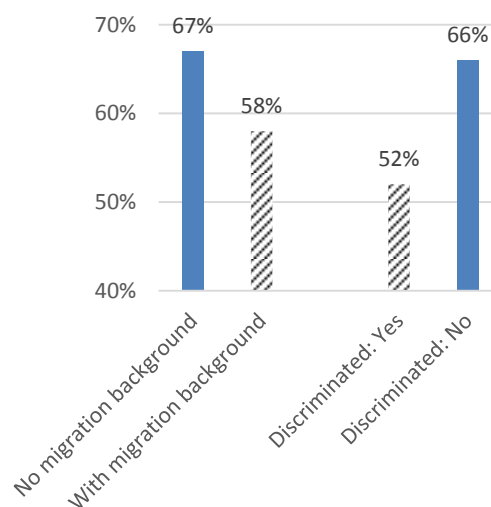


Fig. 3.23 High Trust in Parliament

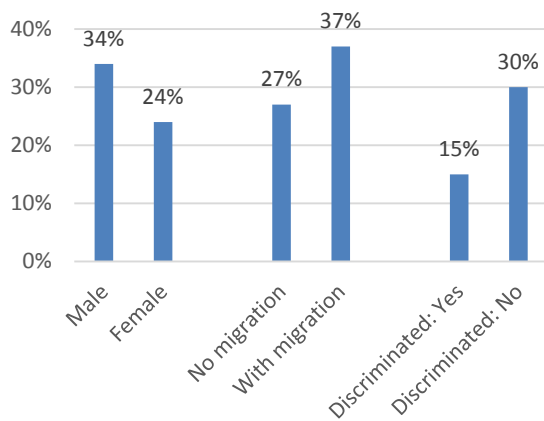


Fig. 3.24 High Trust in Politicians

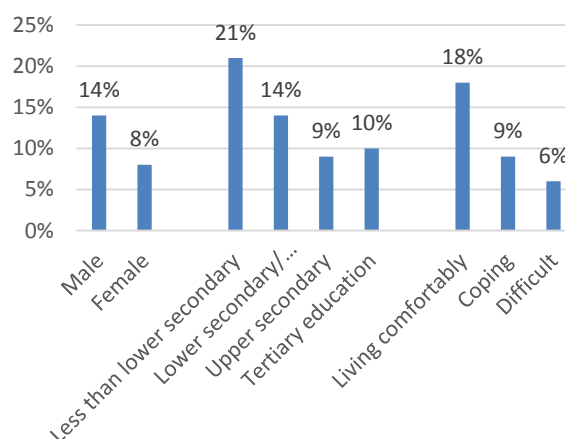
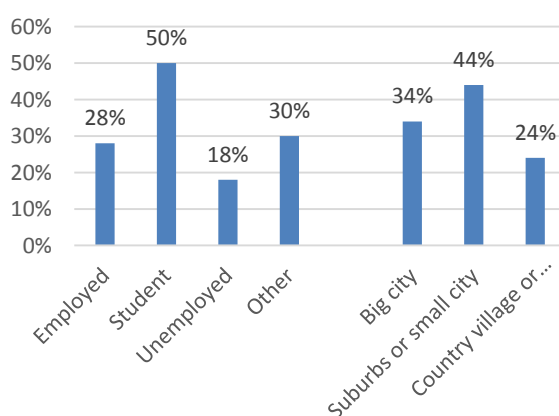


Fig. 3.25 High Trust in the European Parliament



3.2.4 Perceived agency

Fig. 3.26 Political systems perceived as allowing people to have influence

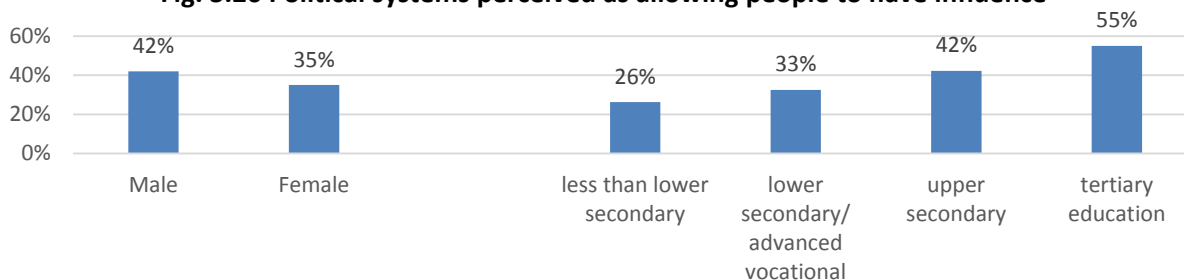


Fig. 3.27 Political system perceived as allowing very little or no influence

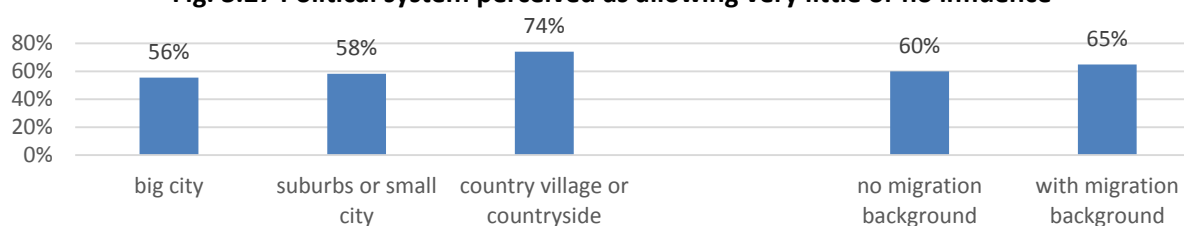


Fig. 3.28 Young people's opinion about political system...

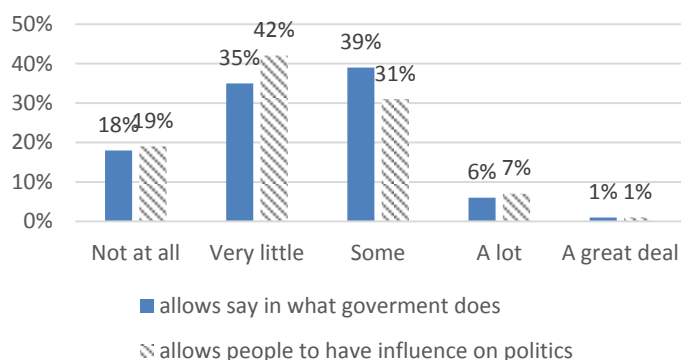


Fig. 3.29 Political system that allow people to have a say in what government does

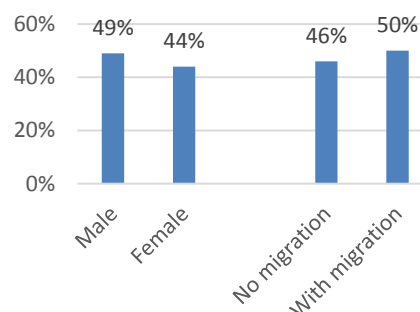


Fig. 3.30 Political systems that allow people to have a say in what government does

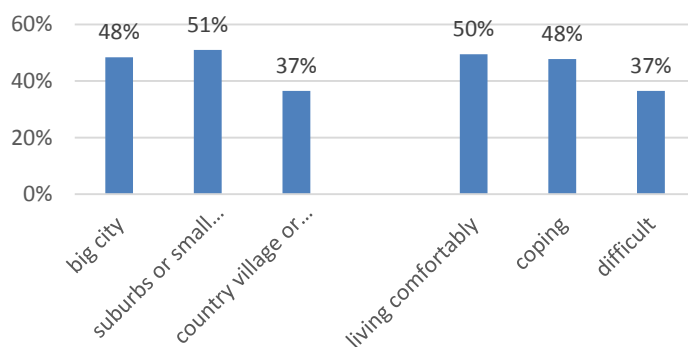
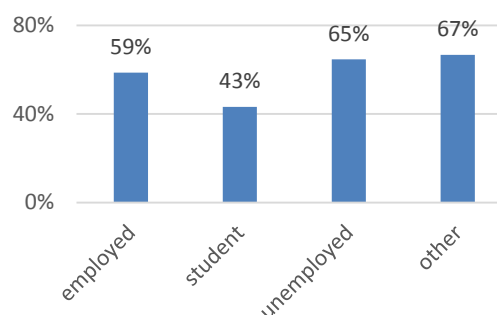


Fig. 3.31 Political systems that allow very little / no say ...



3.3 Opinions on Social Issues

3.3.3 Thoughts about climate change

Only a very small number of the young do not think climate change is happening (7%). 47% consider this to be mostly or only caused by human activity and 43% think that changes are caused by both human activities and natural alterations.

Fig. 3.32 Do you think world's climate is changing

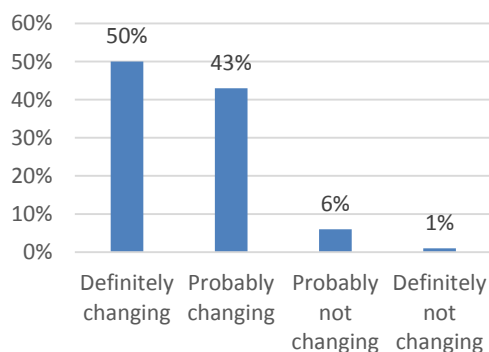


Fig. 3.33 The "world's climate is definitely changing", by gender, migration background, place of living

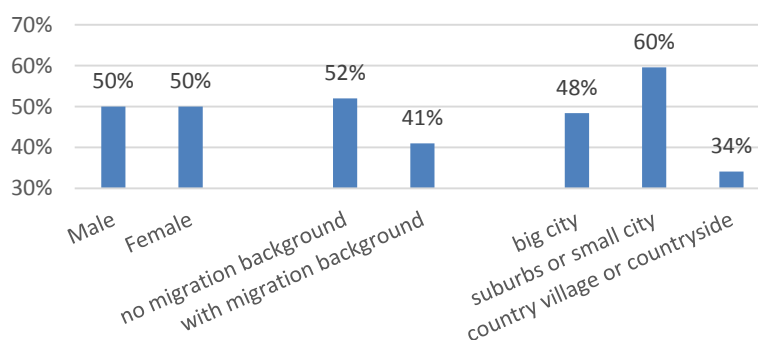


Fig. 3.34 Climate change caused by natural processes, human activity, or both (%)

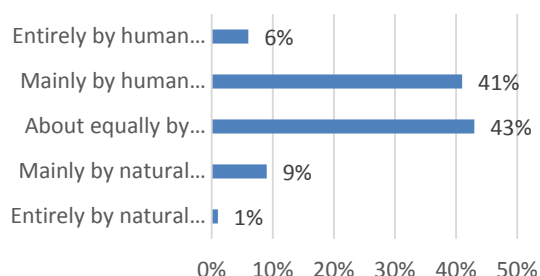
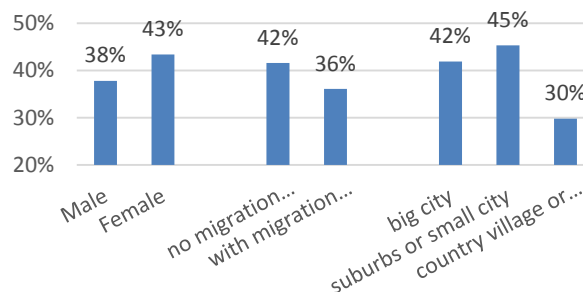


Fig. 3.35 "Climate change caused mainly by human activity", by gender, migration background, place of living



3.3.4 Thoughts about equality

Whilst overall, there is a general agreement that men and women should be treated fairly on the job market, 10% of the young agree or agree strongly that “Men should have more right to job than women when jobs are scarce”. Many more women (86%) disagree with this statement than men (69%).

Fig. 3.36 Men should have more right to job than women when jobs are scarce

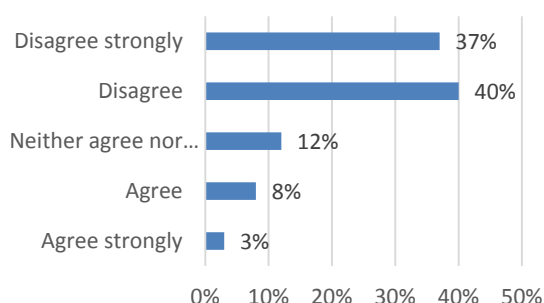
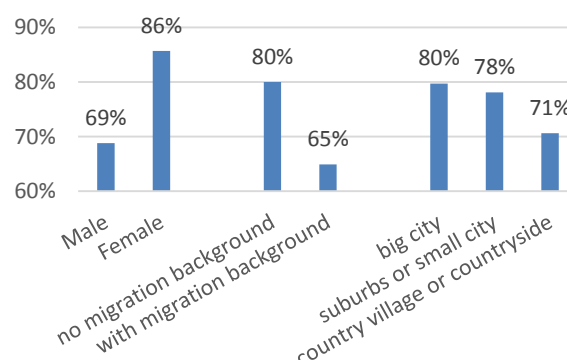


Fig. 3.37 Tend to disagree with "men should have more right to job than women when jobs are scarce"



One third of the respondents could not decide whether they agreed or not with the statement “for a fair society, differences in standard of living should be small”. However, 44% of the young agreed or agreed strongly, and 26% disagreed or disagreed strongly.

Fig. 3.38 For fair society, differences in standard of living should be small

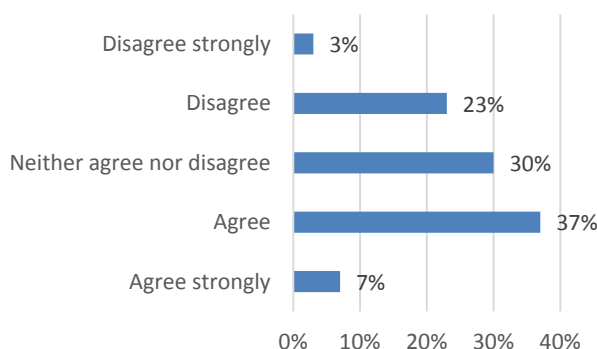
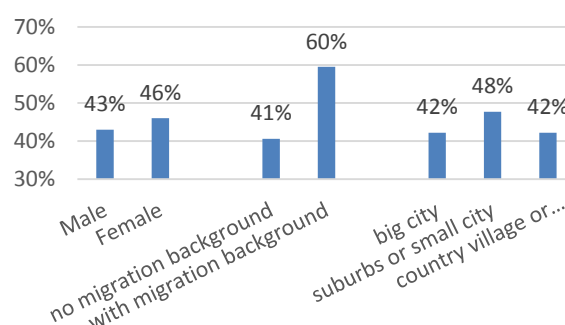


Fig. 3.39 Tend to agree with "for fair society, differences in standard of living should be smaller"



Tolerance towards gays and lesbians is notably higher amongst women and in towns/suburban areas. Only 12% of the youth disagree that gay/lesbian people should be able to live as they wish.

Fig. 3.40 Gays and lesbians free to live life as they wish

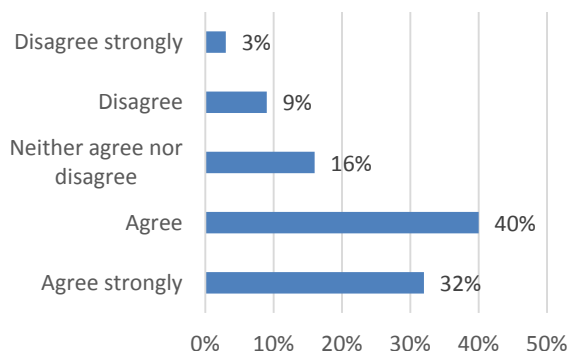
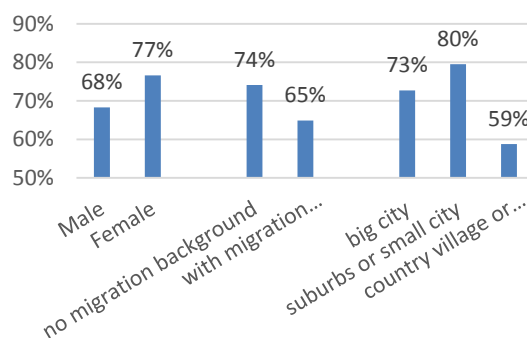


Fig. 3.41 Agree with "gays and lesbians free to live life as they wish"



3.3.5 Thoughts about immigration

The topic of immigration has also left many young people unclear about its effects on the country – 47% have no opinion on whether immigration is bad or good for the country. The rest are divided almost equally between the view that immigration is good for the country's economy (27%) or bad (26%).

Fig. 3.42 Position towards immigration: country's economy (%)

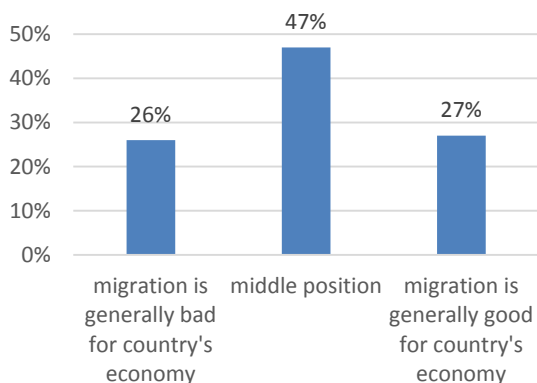


Fig. 3.43 Migration is generally bad for country's economy

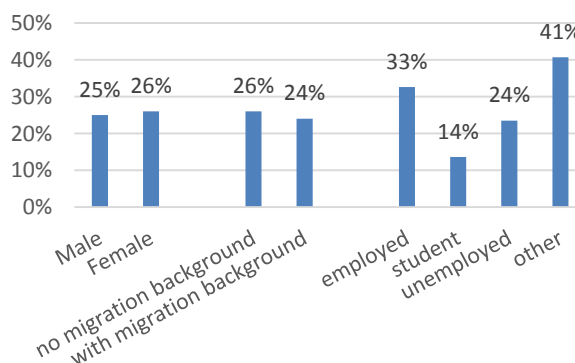
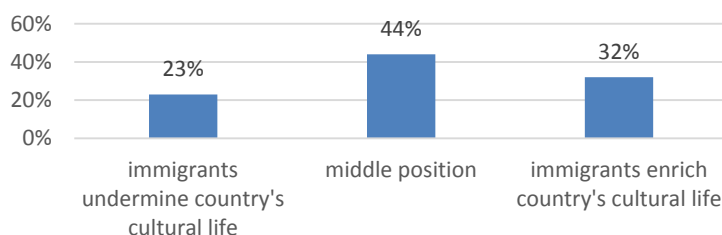


Fig. 3.44 Position towards immigration: country's cultural life (%)



The majority (44%) are also unsure whether the immigrants enrich or undermine the country's cultural life; however, 32% do have a more positive take on this effect, whilst 23% are fearful of the undermining of cultural life.

Fig. 3.45 The country is a better/worse place to live (%)

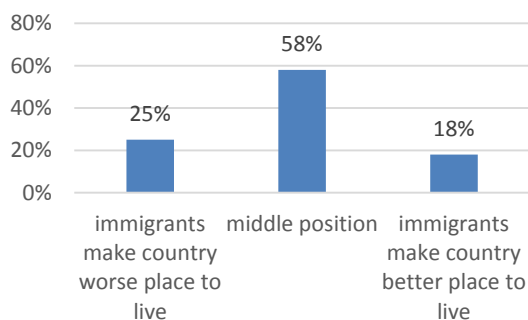
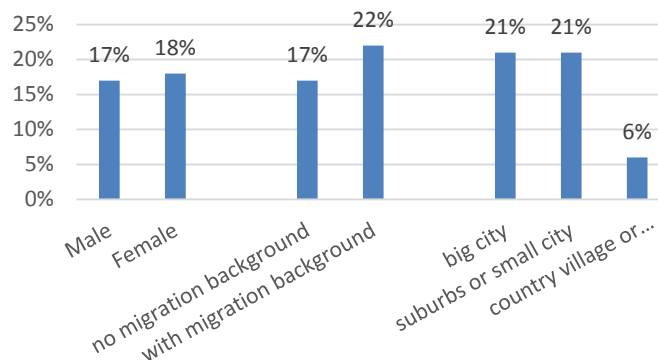
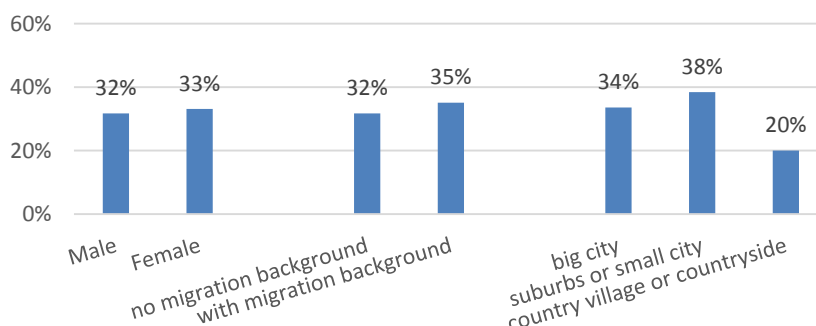


Fig. 3.46 Immigrants make country better place to live



Generally, those who think migration might make the country a better place to live (18%) are outnumbered by those with the opposite view (25%), with the majority, again, not having a view either way (58%). Whilst gender and migratory background appear to have little effect on such views,

Fig. 3.47 Immigrants enrich country's cultural life



those coming from the countryside tend to have more negative views on the cultural effects and markedly worse views on the general effects of migration, with only 6% of the young people from there believing in migration making the country a better place to live.

Young people do not believe that the current migrants are in grave danger and think that government should not be generous when judging applications for the refugee status.

Fig. 3.48 Most refugee applicants are not in real danger ...

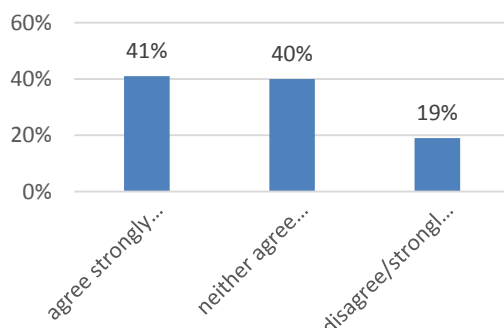


Fig. 3.49 Agree "most refugee applicants not in real danger ..."

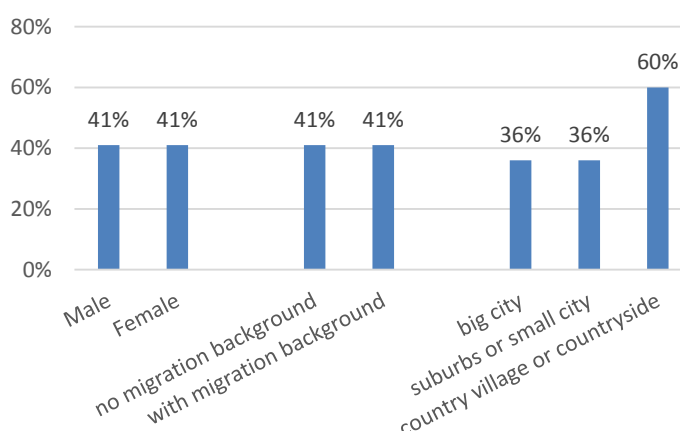


Fig. 3.50 The Government should be more generous with refugees ...

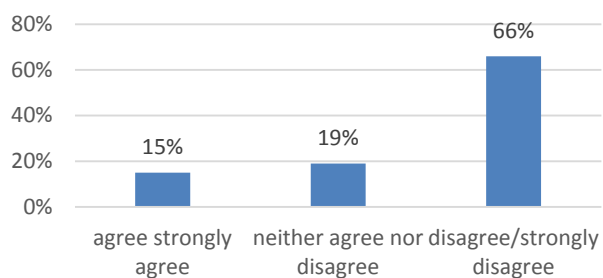


Fig. 3.49 Disagree with more generosity for refugees ...

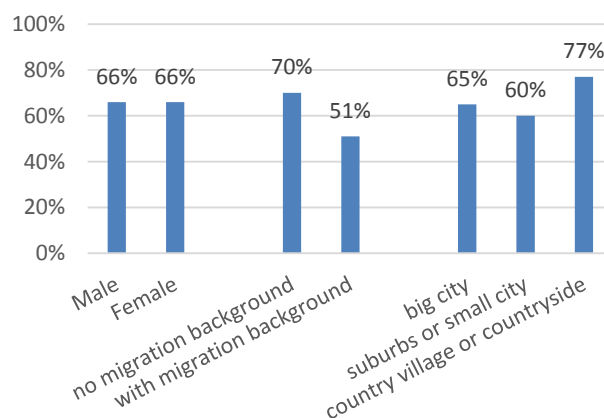
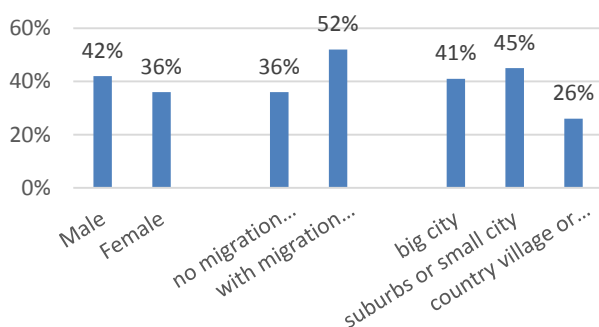


Fig. Agree "granted refugees should be entitled to bring close family members"



4 Engagement and social change (What do young people do?)

4.1 Activism

Fig. 4.1 Young people who...

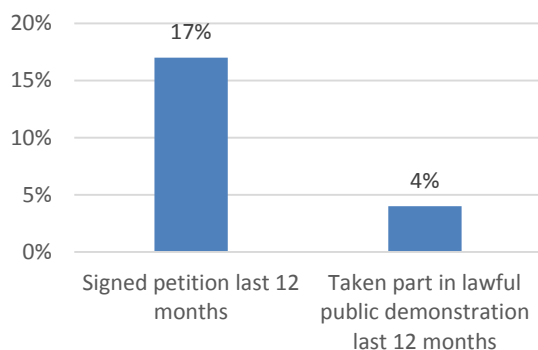
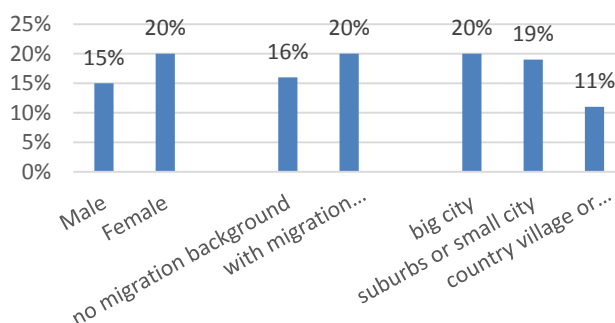


Fig. 4.2 Signed a petition in past 12 months



Only a very limited number of the young participate actively in political action, with women more involved than men. 17% of the young have signed a petition over the last 12 months and 4% have participated at a public demonstration. Considering the small number of demonstrations in Estonia, this might be the reason behind the relatively low level of activism. The young are most active in posting and sharing on politics online (28%).

Fig. 4.3 Taken part in lawful public demonstration last 12 months

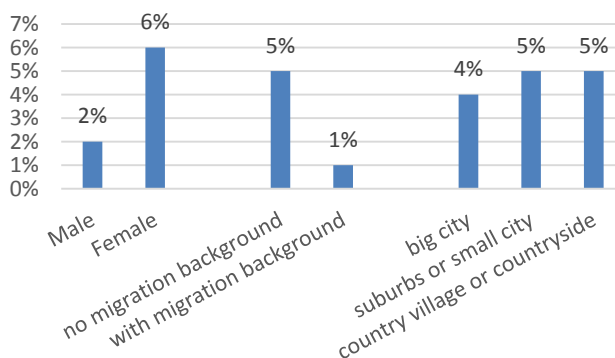


Fig. 4.4 In past 12 months...

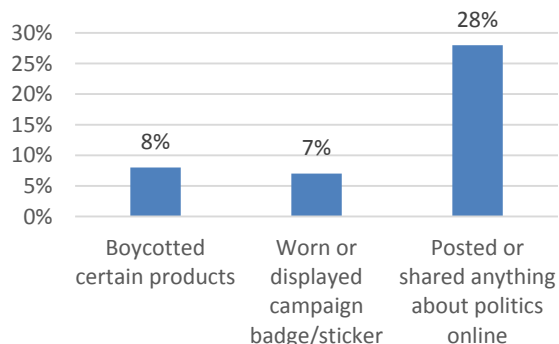
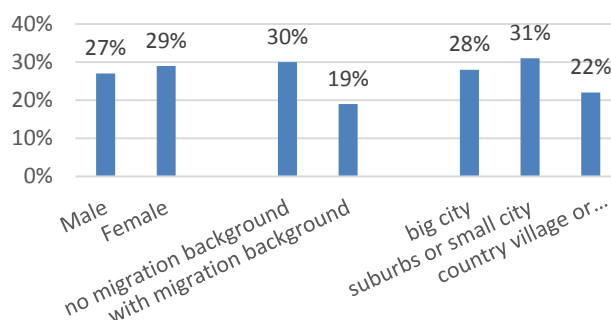


Fig. 4.5 Posted or shared anything about politics online past 12 months



4.2 Formal political participation

65% of the young admit that they are not interested in politics, and this is reflected in the voting statistics. Only 43% of the young voted at the last elections, 25% are not eligible to vote. Voting activity is highest in towns.

Fig 4.6 Worked in an organisation or association last 12 months

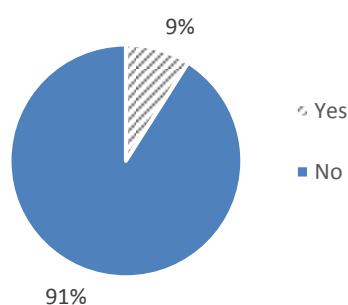


Fig. 4.7 How often would you say to take part in social activities?

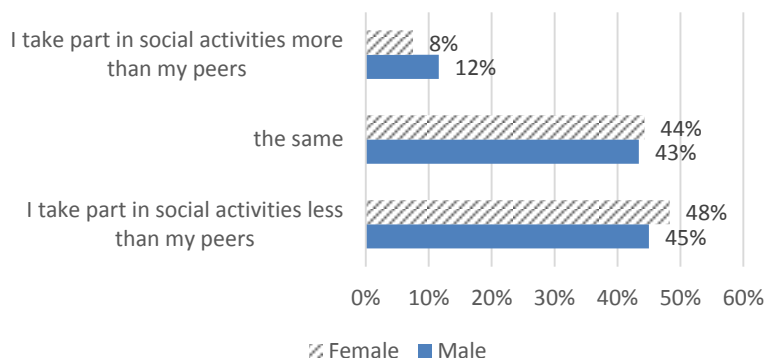


Fig. 4.8 Did you vote in the last national election?

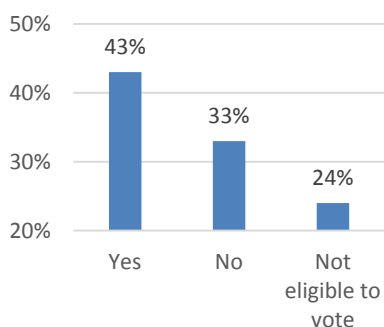


Fig. 4.9 Voted in the last national election

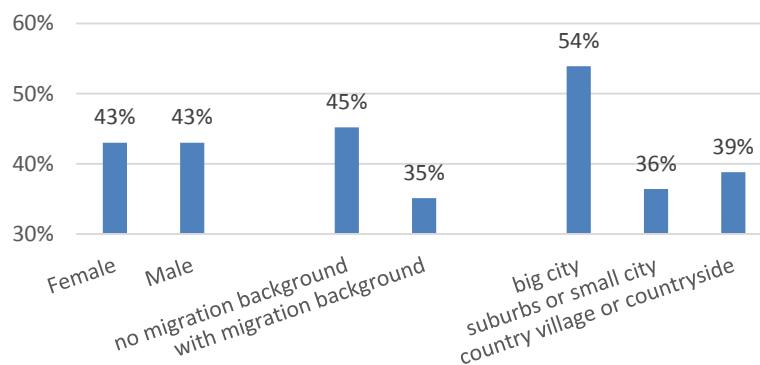


Fig. 4.10 Are you interested in politics?

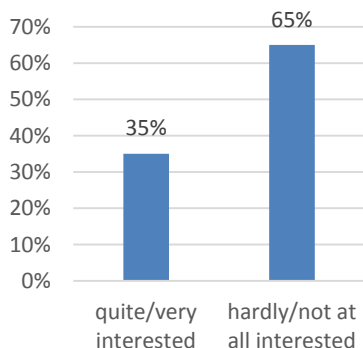
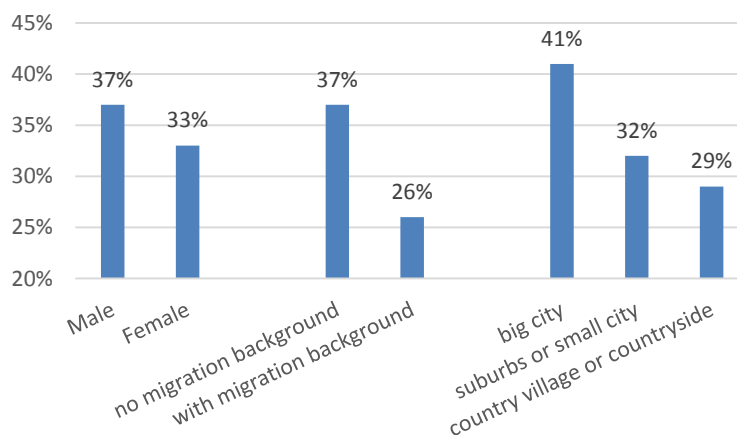


Fig. 4.11 Quite/very interested in politics



4.3 Everyday Engagement

The majority of young people in Estonia are quite or very worried about climate change; females and those living in the cities being the most worried. Most try to do things to reduce energy use, the most pro-active being females and those with no migration background. Almost two-thirds of youth feel some responsibility towards trying to reduce climate change, those feeling the most responsible living comfortably.

Fig. 4.12 Worried about climate change

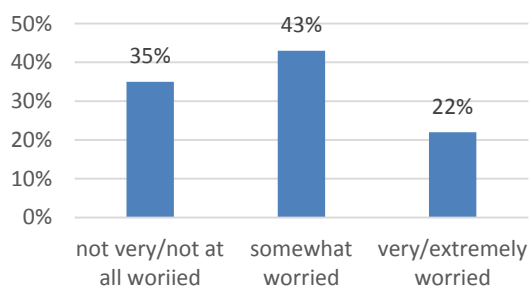


Fig. 4.13 Very/extremely worried about climate change

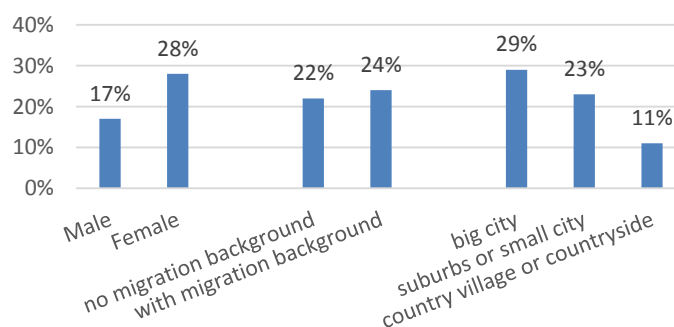


Fig. 4.15 How likely to buy most energy efficient home appliance

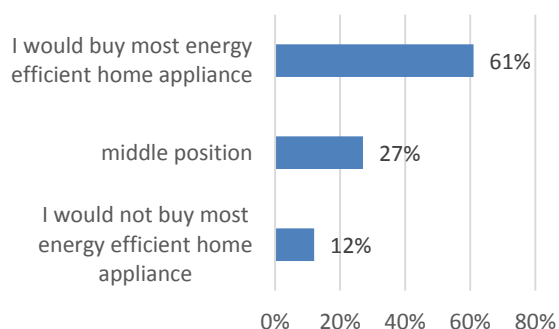


Fig. 4.14 Do things to reduce energy use

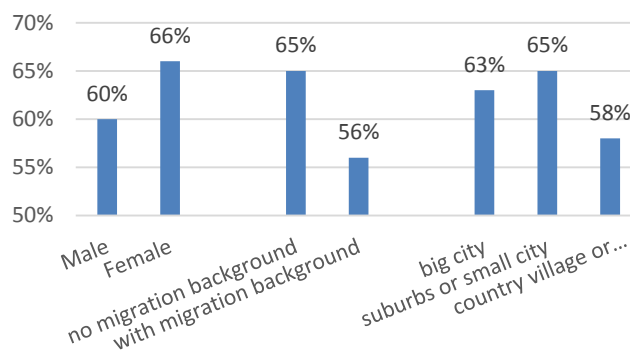


Fig. 4.16 Personal responsibility to try to reduce climate change?

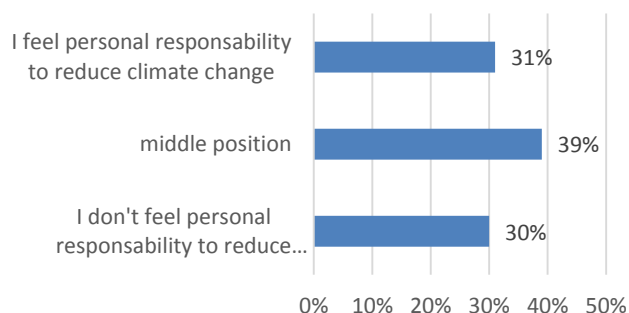
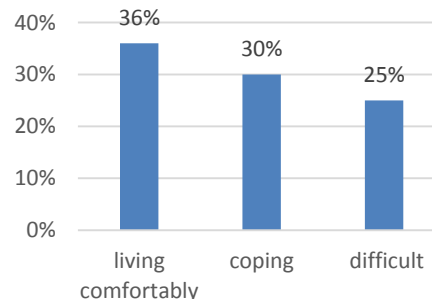


Fig. 4.17 Feel responsibility to reduce climate change



Project Identity

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