



# ESTONIA IN CIVED & ICCS

Return to the Western World?

# A POSTCOMMUNIST COUNTRY

- ❖ Remarkable improvement at **achievement** scale
  - ❖ CIVED - 15 ICCS countries significantly higher than EST
  - ❖ ICCS - 5 countries signif. higher; CZ, SLOV, SLK similar
- ❖ No decline in 2009 -1999. (one of the few, esp. amongst postcom. countries)
- ❖ Explanations?
  - ❖ Stateness of CCE
  - ❖ Stability in curriculum policy
- ❖ At **attitudinal** scale postcom countries become more diverse, even divided
  - ❖ EST is similar to Czech, Slovakia, Slovenia
  - ❖ EST is different from Russia, Lithuania, (Poland)

# A NORDIC COUNTRY: SCHOOL

- Good knowledge, small portion of low achievers (EST 8, ICCS 16)
- Different approach to the aims of CCE
  - **critical thinking** more important in Scandinavia
  - **institutions** more important in Estonia
  - students' **engagement in community** (Est)
  - **fighting racism & xenophobia** (Scand, esp. SWE)
- Teacher-student relations
  - EST similar to FIN (less positive than SWE, DK)
- Students behaviour (incl. truancy, bullying)
  - EST similar to FIN (less positive than SWE, DK)

# A NORDIC COUNTRY: SOCIETY

## ◉ Similarities

- “critical citizen”
- low support to **citizenship models**
  - convent. Model -FIN 45, EST 47, DK 48
  - Social model - DK 44, FIN 46, SWE & EST 48

## ◉ Differences

- **Gender** equality (in EST lower)
- Rights of **ethnic groups** (EST higher-51, the only scale above ICCS mean)
- **Trust** (EST lower, similar to all postcom countries)
- **Current participation** in civil society (EST much higher) - **Eesti raport p. 78**, incl. teachers together with students

# AN EUROPEAN COUNTRY

- ◉ Most positive results for us
  - Knowledge in most items above the EU average
  - High support to European values
- ◉ Highest support among particip. countries
  - Freedom to live & work in EU (96%)
  - Travelling enriches cultural understanding (94%)
  - Knowing languages is important for work & leisure (93%)
- ◉ Critical attitudes to deeper unification (incl euro) and to expansion of the EU (similar to Nordic students)

# DRAWING LESSONS FOR POLICY

- Results more positive than expected
  - Achievement level high (similar to PISA)
  - Democratic attitudes; remarkable increase in community activities (due to stronger civil society)
  - Issue of school violence seems overestimated (in domestic surveys and media)
- Problems still remained
  - Teachers matter
    - Low knowledge in economics, judicial system and threats to democracy
    - Lower performance of Russian schools (dif. 42 points)
  - Remarkable disparity across ethnic/language line

# IMPACT & IMPLEMENTATION

- Major impact - broader understanding of the CCE (not just as a formal subject)
- Barriers in implementation of policy lessons
  - Fragmented governance & lack of co-operation
    - Between Ministries
    - Between Governmental & Non-governmental sector
  - “One-size-fits-all” policy in teacher education
  - New national curriculum already enacted in 2010
    - impossible to influence WHAT will be learned
    - Possible to influence HOW this will be done
  - Studies become more advanced, thus
- Communicating results becomes more demanding

# COMMUNICATING RESULTS

- First release: Aug. 2010 at Civic Teachers' Summer School
- First reactions - (youth) NGO-s
  - Lowering the voting age
  - Civic participation, political protest
- Media - generally uninterested (in PISA also!)
  - Specific issues - emigration of Russian-speakers
  - Teachers Gazette - school climate
- Teachers - different reactions
  - listening politely (acting teachers)
  - curious & willing to learn (future teachers)
- Ministry of Education - *"Tell us who & what should do"*



# PUBLICATIONS (EST)

- National Report: Spring 2011, 122 pp
  - 13 countries (incl. Korea, Chin. Taipei)
  - All topics covered
  - Domestic focus: Estonian & Russian-speaking schools
  - Paper version sent:
    - To all participating schools (140)
    - To governm. & non-gov. agencies (57)
  - i-version accessible at
    - website of the Ministry of Education & Research
    - webiste of the Institute of Politics & Governance, Tallinn Univeristy

# PUBLICATIONS (ENGL)

- ◉ Executive Summary (11pp.)
  - <http://www.tlu.ee/?LangID=2&CatID=4726&ArtID=10504&action=article>
- ◉ Secondary analysis
  - Research note in JSSE 2010/3 (*New study... available for the research community*)
  - Special issue of the *Journal of Social Science Education* 2012/1. (submissions due Oct.15th)