



Monitoring Report

Programme Name:	Supporting Social Inclusion (SSIP)
Programme Operator:	Ministry of Culture
Swiss Support Measure Partner:	Bern University of Applied Sciences
Reporting Period:	The present Monitoring Report covers the period from the beginning of the Agreement until 31.12.2025.

Overview

Kick-off meetings for joint planning and development have taken place in all components in 2024. These kick-off meetings have shown the need for a general introduction to transcultural competences as a common basis. Based on this, specific activities have been planned, tailored to the respective components.

In all components, we started with online workshops. This format enabled a broad participation at a lower cost and enabled exchange, to have a good basis for a more targeted exchange in more elaborate study trips or expert exchanges in the following years.

The activities were designed to enable open communication and exchange, rather than one-way delivery, allowing participants to learn from one another. It is worth mentioning that the partnership already extends beyond the SSIP, as partners exchange information on publications and events taking place outside the scope of the programme.

The activities in the components varied in intensity due to the different stages of progress of the SSIP program.

- In the first component, many online workshops took place, as well as a visit by an expert to the RARA conference in Estonia.
- In the second component, activities focused on the study trip to Switzerland, which provided a very enriching exchange for everyone.
- In the third component, there were also online workshops on various topics.
- In the fourth component, there were a few workshops, according to the needs of the processes of the component's activities.

It became apparent how different the social systems and education in Estonia and Switzerland are, making it necessary to clarify basic principles and terms to learn from each other. Getting to know each other personally face to face (study trip) facilitates exchange and mutual understanding.

Programme Component 1:	Cultural and linguistic integration
Programme Component Operator:	Ministry of Culture
Summary of the activities implemented during the reporting period:	<p>The activities of this component aimed at facilitating the ongoing work of the Integration Foundation (IF) as well as the National Library (RaRa) in the domain of cultural and linguistic integration with online workshops on the specific topics identified together in the kick-off meeting.</p> <p>The activities of this component were planned in a kick-off workshop with Swiss partner and Estonian colleagues and followed by various workshops on different topics that have been identified in the kick off meeting. Further, an expert of media literacy participated in the RARA conference in October in Estonia as a speaker and panelist. The activities ended with planning a workshop for the Action Plan 2026.</p> <p>The various online workshops provided a mutual understanding as a common ground to work more in-depth next year that will be facilitated by the planned study trip to Switzerland.</p>

#	Activity	Planned start date and end date of the activity during the period	Actual start date and end date of the activity during the period	Notes
1.1	Kick-off workshop with Swiss Partner and Estonian	1,5 hrs	2 nd October 2024	Workshop preparation and development of Action Plan by Prof. Dr. Eveline Amman Dula and Aron Korozs
1.2	Trans-Cultural Competencies: Theoretical Insights and Best Practices	Approx. 2 hrs Second Half of January 2025	23 rd January 2025	Expertise of the Institute for Social and Cultural Diversity Prof. Dr. Eveline Ammann Dula & Aron Korozs
1.3	Integration, Libraries, Media Literacy: Experiences from Swiss Libraries	Approx. 2 hrs February 2025	3 rd February 2025	Workshop with experts from the field: Livrechange

1.4	Digital Tools for Integration for Multicultural Contexts: Swiss Experiences and Challenges	Approx. 2 hrs February 2025/March 2025	6th February 2025	Workshop with experts from the field using digital tools for integration: Swiss Red Cross
1.5	Establishing and Managing a System of Volunteers: Best Practices and Challenges from a Swiss Perspective	Approx. 2 hrs March 2025	12th March 2025	Workshop with experts from the field, working with volunteers for facilitating integration: HEKS
1.6	Peer-to-Peer Language Learning: Insights from Swiss Experts	Approx. 2 hrs April 2025	15th May	Workshop with experts from the field, using peer-to-peer learning: Sprachmobil
1.7	Designing and Evaluating Social and Cultural Integration Services	Approx. 2 hrs May 2025/June 2025	13th June 2025	Workshop with experts in integration on a collective level (Prof. Simone Gäumann)
1.8	Online Planning Workshop for the Action Plan 2025-2026	Approx. 1,5 hrs. September 2025	25th September 2025	with Aron Korozs and Prof. Dr. Eveline Ammann Dula
1.9	Conference Rakvere	1 Day	23 October 2025	Media Literacy Conference in Rakvere Estonia (Anna Antonakis) INTERVIEW Invisible Work and Invisible Harm: European Regulations Are Not Censorship but the Protection of People from Harm - Eesti Rahvusraamatukogu

Programme Component 2:	Strengthening the social- and child protection services
Programme Component Operator:	Ministry of Social Affairs
Summary of the activities implemented during the reporting period:	In this component, a study trip of Estonian experts to Switzerland took place in May 2025 focusing on seven themes currently relevant in their work was the main activity: 1. Overall understanding of the child protection system in Switzerland.

2. Curriculum development with a special focus on **practical education of social and care workers** to ensure they are well-prepared for their respective fields.
3. Use of **innovative educational tools and methods in practical training** (e.g. virtual reality, one-on-one coaching, supervision). This thematic block should extend beyond tertiary education (with students) to include the ongoing **professional further education** of practitioners (in the Swiss context “certificate, master or diploma of advanced studies – CAS, MAS, DAS”), particularly in the field of child protection. Additionally, harmonizing child protection legislation with the relevant training/CAS curricula should be a key focus here.
4. Developing curricula to equip students and practitioners with the skills needed to work effectively **with diverse user groups, particularly migrants**.
5. Improving **access of refugees and migrants** to vocational **training and jobs in the social sector** (social work, care work), with a special focus on **professional language immersion** (preparation classes, diploma recognition etc.)
6. **Social sector employers and Social Work Associations** and other organisations **providing support systems for social workers** (e.g. supervision, peer-led or other supportive measures) and maintaining as well as monitoring employee well-being.
7. **Self-care** in the social sector and its thematization at the workplace and within the framework of basic training (higher and vocational education) and further education (management training).

In alignment with these themes, a study trip to Switzerland took place for six persons from the SSIP (Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonian Social Insurance Board and Estonian Social Work Association) involving various educational and training institutions, practitioners, and professional associations for a duration of **4 days (Monday 12th May – Friday 16th May 2025)**.

The debriefing and evaluation of the study trip highlighted how different the education systems and child and adult protection systems are in Switzerland and Estonia. A general introduction is essential to classify and understand the differences. The trip was generally considered inspiring and provided helpful ideas and suggestions for the sector.

#	Activity	Planned start date and end date of the activity during the period	Actual start date and end date of the activity during the period	Notes
2.1	Kick-off workshop	1.5 hrs	05.11.2024	Aron Korozs, Matthias von Bergen
2.2	Planning session study trip	1.5 hrs End of January 2025	24th January 2025	Aron Korozs, Matthias von Bergen
2.3	Study Trip: Insights from Curriculum Development and Social Workers' Associations in Switzerland	3-4 days April/May 2025	12-16 May 2025	Six experts from Estonia + Sandra Prince (Swiss Embassy) + Olga Gnezdovski (Ministry of Culture, Programme Operator). Article about study trip: Estland trifft die Schweiz: Ein Dialog mit Tiefenwirkung – knoten & maschen Responsible: Aron Korozs, Prof. Matthias von Bergen
2.4	Retrospective and evaluation of study trip	1.5 hrs Shortly after study trip	Retrospective with participants was done at the last day of the study trip	Aron Korozs, Prof. Matthias von Bergen
2.5	Planning workshop 2026	2 hrs September 2025	25th September 2025	Aron Korozs, Prof. Matthias von Bergen

Programme Component 3:	Increasing multicultural competence in the education sector
Programme Component Operator:	Ministry of Education and Research
Summary of the activities implemented during the reporting period:	<p>In the first kick-off workshop in September 2024, five online workshops were planned to take place between February and September 2025 with the aim of accompanying the start of the program and at the same time introducing stakeholders into the Swiss context.</p> <p>The program provided a comprehensive understanding of how multiculturalism and diversity are addressed across different educational levels in Switzerland. The structure is thoughtfully crafted, beginning with essential contextualization and progressively delving into practical implications and programs. In September, the experiences from these workshops were reflected upon and used to develop the action plan for the following year. The evaluation showed the need to differentiate between the concepts of multiculturalism and multilingualism and to understand them in different national and regional contexts. A public workshop on this topic is planned for 2026.</p>

#	Activity	Planned start date and end date of the activity during the period	Actual start date and end date of the activity during the period	Notes
3.1	Kick-off workshop with Swiss Partner and Estonian	1,5 hrs	25th September 2024	Workshop preparation and development of Action Plan by Dr. Luise Menzi and Aron Korózs
3.2	Introduction to Multiculturalism and Diversity in Switzerland	Approx. 2 hours February 2025	28th January 2025	Online workshop, experts: Prof. Dr. Eveline Ammann Dula, Aron Korózs, Institute of Social and Cultural Diversity, Bern University of Applied Science
3.3	Diversity in Teacher Training: Education, Research, Further Training and Curriculum Development in Switzerland	Approx. 2 hrs. March 2025	26th May 2025	Online workshop and exchange; experts: Elke-Nicole Kappus, University of Teacher Education Lucerne; Katja Schnitzer, Beatrice Bürki (FHNW School of Education)

3.4	Diversity in School in Switzerland: Perspectives from the Pilot Project “Rassismuskritische Schule” Bern	Approx. 2 hrs. April 2025	23rd April 2025	Online workshop and exchange; expert: Nadine Soltermann, School Office of the City of Bern
3.5	Navigating Transition and Diversity in Switzerland: Bridge programmes after compulsory school	Approx. 2 hrs. May 2025	26th March 2025	Online workshop and exchange; experts: Ursina Heierli und Samuel Bürki, Managers “Practical Skills and Integration (BPI)” at the vocational education and training center BFF Bern
3.6	Best Practices in Diversity Education for University Personnel : Unlearning Racism at the BFH	Approx. 2 hrs. Sept 2025	19th September 2025	Online workshop, experts: Prof. Dr. Stefanie Duttweiler and Prof. Dr. Annina Tischhauser, Institute of Social and Cultural Diversity, Bern University of Applied Science with Aron Korózs (BFH)
3.7	Online Planning Workshop for the Action Plan 2025-2026	Approx. 1,5 hrs. September 2025	14th October 2025	

Programme Component 4:	Strengthening civil society through social innovation
Programme Component Operator:	Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Estonia
Summary of the activities implemented during the reporting period:	<p>During the first of year, the programme was focused on developing a common understanding and definition of "social innovation", discussing key criteria of "socially innovative" practice especially within the context of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and setting up key criteria for the upcoming years with regard to possible project exchanges, study trips and the forthcoming manual of the National Foundation of Civil Society (NFCS). Another key focus of the NFCS is the organisation of Hackathons, which is thus also a focus topic of the First Action Plan of the present component.</p> <p>Therefore, the activities were focused on two workshops:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The first workshop involved an exchange on Swiss experiences in organising Hackathons with experts from the BFH. 2) The second dialogue workshop provided an overview of support mechanisms provided by state actors to civil society especially within the context of social innovation. Experts from both Estonia and Switzerland discussed concepts, criteria, and impact measurement, and inductively established a common working definition and criteria for selecting best practices in the upcoming SSIP years.

The two online workshops laid a solid foundation for a shared understanding of social innovation, which will be further developed in 2026 through a study trip and visits to relevant projects.

#	Activity	Planned start date and end date of the activity during the period	Actual start date and end date of the activity during the period	Notes
4.1	Kick-off workshop with Swiss Partner and Estonian	1,5 hrs	30. September 2024	Workshop preparation and development of Action Plan by Dr. Claske Dijkema and Aron Korozs
4.2	Hackathons (4SocialGood): Experiences from the Swiss Perspective	Approx. 2 hrs January 2025	29th January 2025	Prof. Dr. Debra Hevenstone (BFH) and Prof. Dr. Oliver Hübeline (BFH), project managers of the Hack4SocialGodd
4.3	Expert Workshop “ Social Innovation and Civil Society in Estonia and Switzerland”	Approx. 2 hrs March 2025	27th May 2025	Prof. Dr. Pascal Dey
4.4.	Online Planning Workshop for the Action Plan 2025-2026	Approx. 1,5 hrs. September 2025	14th October 2025	with Aron Korozs and Dr. Claske Dijkema
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Management cost

Summary of the activities implemented during the reporting period:	<p><i>Please summarize the overall achievements during the reporting period and cumulatively since the start of the Agreement. Give a brief assessment on implemented activities.</i></p> <p>The management included mainly the administrative support of the online workshops and the preparation of digital tools like padlet and Miro Board that were quite helpful for kick off and planning.</p> <p>The workshops were structured to ensure a balanced combination of input, reflection, and interactive exchange. Each session began with a presentation by the Estonian team, providing insights into specific themes, current developments, and related challenges. The core of the workshop consisted of a thematic input by Swiss experts, followed by discussion and exchange among participants. At the end of each workshop, padlet was used to summarise key lessons learned, address open questions, and generate ideas for further collaboration and future exchange.</p> <p>Overall management also included the preparation of the action plans 2025 and 2026, the monitor report, budget and financial report.</p>
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Bern, 02.03.2026

Prof. Dr. E.
Ammann Dula

Annexes
1) Financial Progress
2) <i>If needed include any supporting documents, reports, or data that provide additional context or information</i>