

Vabamu

The Estonian Foundation for Freedom
Supervisory Council Statement
Vision, Mission and Core Values
Revised October 17th 2021

Vision

Forever Free!

Mission

- Show people that freedom is not free and requires constant vigilance to defend.
- Memorialize the occupation, honor the resistance, celebrate the recovery of freedom.
- Engage Estonian youth and encourage civic involvement.
- Strengthen Estonia's economy through connections to global centers of innovation and finance.
- Promote conversations about key issues facing the future of freedom.

Values

- **Inclusion:** We welcome involvement from all: young, old; every nationality and race; all persuasions.
- **Honesty:** We are open to discuss all points of view and recognize life's complexity.
- **Optimism:** We believe in the power of individual freedom.

Operating Principles

- The Kistler Ritso Foundation, Stanford University, Vabamu and Estonian academic, business, civic and political leaders collaborate across all areas of Vabamu's activity.
- Vabamu has a dynamic leadership team that builds and promotes programs that can secure project, grant and philanthropic funding that can ensure long term financial independence.

1. Collections, Exhibits and Events:

- Collects and presents the recent history of both free and unfree (occupied) Estonia in a way that educates and impels visitors to action.
- Vividly illustrates the Nazi and Soviet occupation periods, the resistance to tyranny, attainment of freedom, and spectacular recovery.
- Explores the nature of government, how democratic elections sometimes have the same results as invasion or revolution; why civic engagement, vigilance and well-constructed constitutions that

separate power are more important; threats to freedom can come both from outside and from well-meaning activists within.

- Sheds light on the freedom stories of others, leaving visitors with an emotional connection and an understanding of what they can do to promote and maintain freedom in their home country.
- Adheres to best practice scientific collecting principles, collaborates with universities and other cultural institutions, carefully stewards donations.

2. Youth Engagement (Noorte Vabamu “Nova”)

- Engages Estonian and Russian speaking youth.
- Meets young people where they are and engages in subjects of interest.
- Enables content creation, publication and promotion by Nova users.
- Develops interest in and skills for civic engagement.
- Collaborates with teachers to promote knowledge of history and civics.
- Promotes ties between Stanford students and Estonian institutions.

3. Entrepreneurship and Economic Development

- Strengthens connections between Estonia and leading global innovation and financial centers.
- Encourages Estonian academics to create products and companies based on their research (for example through the Technology Fellows partnership between Stanford and TallTech).
- Brings leading investment firms to Estonia / Nordic region (for example the Entrepreneur First Nordic Hub in Tallinn and the Creative Destruction Lab [CDL] program at Tartu).
- Builds pathways for more Estonian talent to become entrepreneurs.

4. Global Conversations About Freedom

First Topic: Digital Society and the Future of Freedom

- Showcases Estonian Digital Society and the values underpinning it through exhibits, seminars, conferences and other events.
- Recruits a world class advisory board to develop an international program.
- Leverages practical Estonian experience to help international communities use digital technologies to deliver broad social benefit.
- Mitigates concerns about government control, commercial exploitation and misinformation that can slow or prevent progress.

Vabamu's activities are connected and complement each other to support the Foundation's vision and mission

- For example, Digital Society is an exhibition and seminar series at Vabamu; an issue of vital importance for young people; a theme for the CDL program at Tartu; and an important conversation for Estonians and global leaders.