

Estonia's AI-Assisted Grading Trial for National School-Leaving Essay Exams

AI in Education · Good practice · Estonia

Quality score: 53/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

A 2026 peer-reviewed study tested LLM and statistical-NLP grading of Estonia's national school-leaving essay exams across two full cohorts. AI scores fell within the human-rater range in 60% of cases, with final decisions kept with human assessors.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of learning impact	1/3
Equity & inclusion	1/3
Transparency, ethics & data protection	3/3
Teacher capability & pedagogy	1/3
Scalability & sustainability	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-07-12

[Estonian Education and Youth Board \(Harno\), with Tallinn University researchers](#) — accessed 2026-07-12

[ERR News — Estonia looking into AI grading for native language exams](#) — accessed 2026-07-12

[arXiv preprint — Machine-Assisted Grading of Nationwide School-Leaving Essay Exams with LLMs and Statistical NLP](#) — accessed 2026-07-12

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