

invest
estonia

investment guide



estonia. for digital and knowledge- based business

World-class human capital, unique digital capabilities, and a competitive business environment make Estonia a smart, agile location for businesses with global ambitions.

estonia at a glance

OFFICIAL NAME: Republic of Estonia

CAPITAL CITY: Tallinn

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: Estonian

TOTAL AREA: 45,339 sq. km

POPULATION: 1,366,491 (2024)

NATIONAL FLAG: 

CURRENCY: Euro (€)

GOVERNMENT: Parliamentary democracy

MEMBERSHIP: EU, NATO, OECD, WTO,
Eurozone, Schengen Area

CALLING CODE: +372

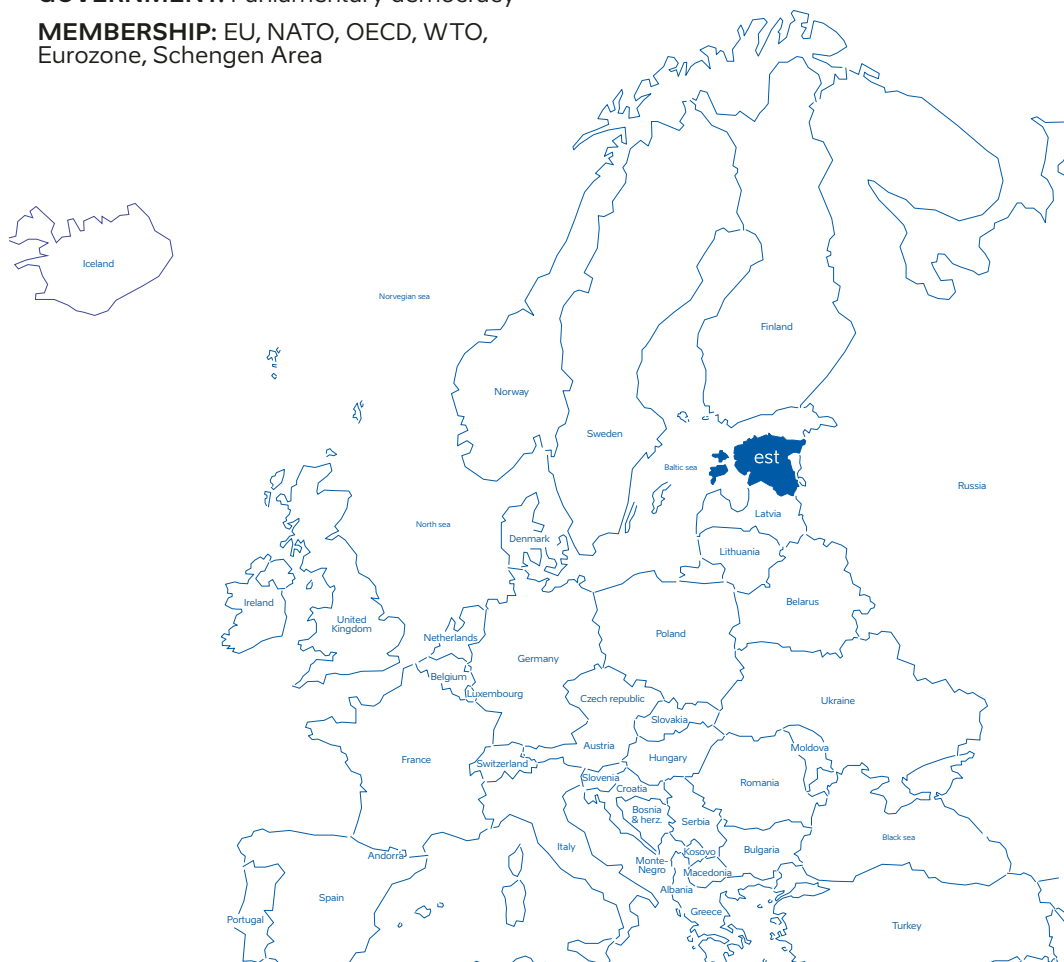
TIME ZONE: UTC+2

UNITS OF MEASURE: Metric system

ELECTRICITY: 220 V

DRIVING: On the right

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 112



a competitive and transparent economy

Estonia consistently ranks as one of the most open, competitive and transparent economies in the world. This success is due to a commitment to low red tape, the rule of law, and significant investment in infrastructure and human capital. This creates an environment that allows solutions and services to be researched, developed, and delivered globally.

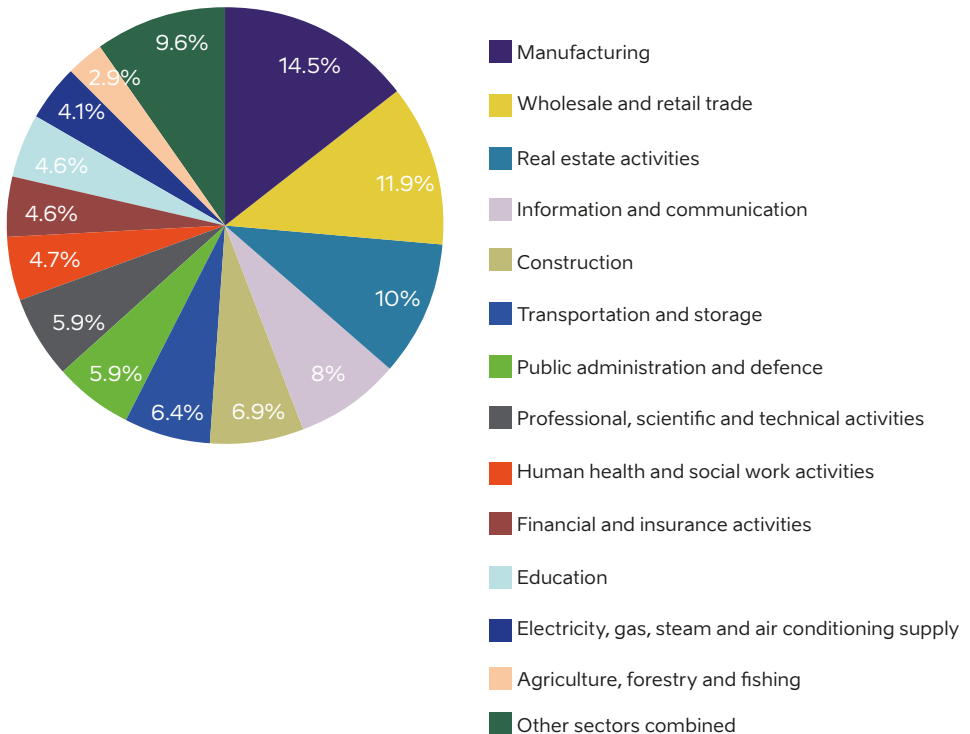
Estonia's R&D ecosystem and digital capabilities make it an innovation hotspot. Successful startups include Wise, Skeleton Technologies, and Bolt, to name a few. Global giants like Ericsson, Arvato, Kuehne+Nagel, and NATO all conduct R&D in Estonia. As IT becomes the value driver across all industries, Estonia is uniquely positioned as the choice for digital- and knowledge-based businesses.

A variety of international organisations have acknowledged the Estonian economy as very open and competitive:

- #1 **OECD TAX COMPETITIVENESS INDEX 2023**
- #2 **FREEDOM ON THE NET**
Freedom House 2023
- #6 **INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM**
The Heritage Foundation 2023
- #18 **EASE OF DOING BUSINESS**
World Bank 2020

Extensive IT usage across the economy creates significant efficiencies, scalability, and real-time data.

Estonian GDP by Economic Activity (2022)



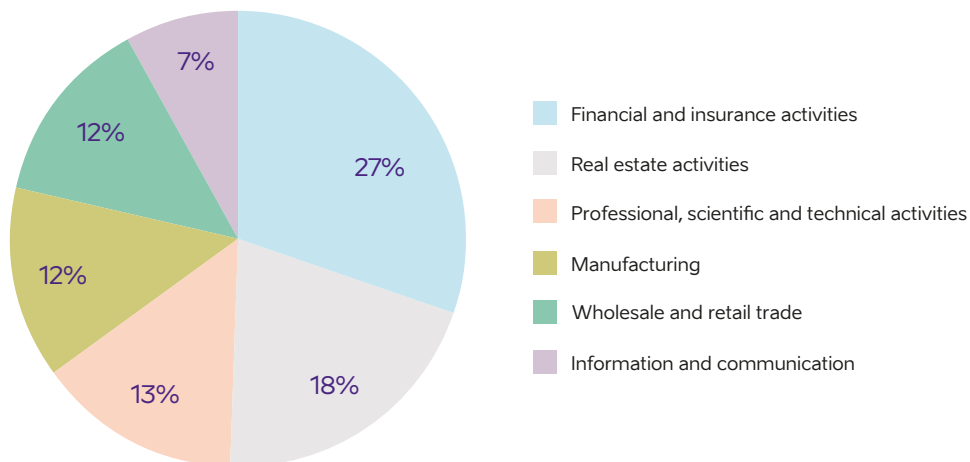
The Estonian Government demonstrates flexible and need-based legislation with a priority on the facilitation of entrepreneurship. This has resulted in a simple, transparent, and nimble business environment that is one of the key drivers of foreign direct investment in Estonia. In Central and Eastern Europe, Estonia is among the leading countries regarding foreign direct investment per capita.

Estonia has a very pro-business legislative framework and, more broadly, the Estonian society has a business-friendly attitude which is the expression of the country's perfect integration into the northern circuit of production, in which the Estonian subsidiaries often function as outsourcing sites for Scandinavian parent companies.

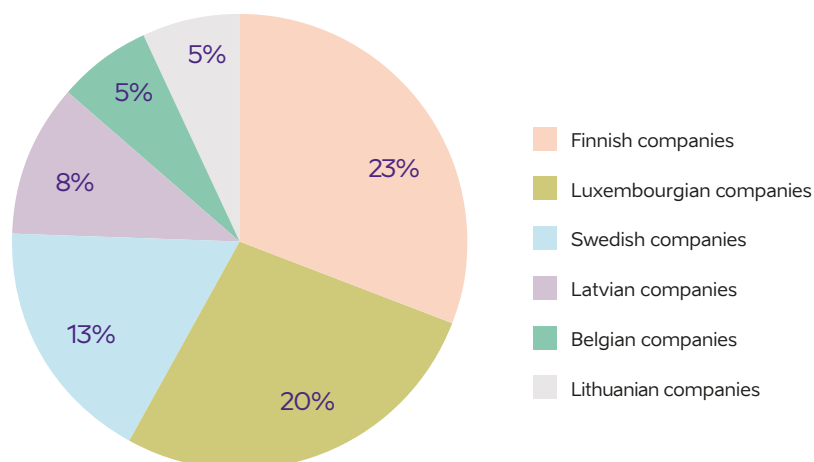
Estonia has some of the highest international credit ratings in the region.

Standard & Poor's: AA-
Moody's: A1
Fitch IBCA: A+

FDI stock by sector (2022)



FDI stock by origin (2022)



top investment projects of estonian investment agency in 2022

Neo Performance Materials
Kuehne+Nagel
Incap Electronics
Bifrost Tug
ABB
Orkla
Acino
Cegal

FLIR Systems
Estonia OÜ

Investor of the Year at
Estonian Entrepreneurs
Awards 2023



Angela Titzrath
CEO of Hamburger
Hafen und Logistik AG

One of HHLA's targets is to grow internationally.
Estonia is one of the fastest-growing economies in
Europe and a pioneer when it comes to digitalisation."

the estonian tax system

The Estonian tax system is known for its simplicity, broad taxbase, and low tax rates. The aim of the Estonian government is to shift the tax burden from labour to consumption.

The corporate income tax rate on regular profit distributions is lowered from 20% to 14% in cases where dividends are paid to legal persons

Corporate Income Tax

Estonian resident companies and permanent establishments of foreign entities (including branches) are subject to 20% income tax only in respect to all distributed profits (both actual and deemed), including:

- corporate profits distributed during the tax period
- gifts, donations and representation expenses
- expenses and payments not related to business
- transfer of assets of a permanent establishment to its head office or to other companies

Dividends paid to non-residents are no longer subject to withholding tax. However, withholding taxes may still apply to other payments to non-residents if they do not have a permanent establishment in Estonia or if tax treaties otherwise provide. Since the tax period for corporate entities is one month, income tax must be returned and paid monthly by the 10th day of the following month.

#1

**OECD TAX
COMPETITIVENESS
INDEX 2023**

Easy administration –
taxes can be declared
via e-tax/e-customs.

Labour Taxes

The social tax rate is 33% (incl. health insurance). In addition to social tax, unemployment insurance tax at a rate of 0.8% must be paid on gross salaries (an additional 1.6% is withheld from employees' salaries).

VAT

The standard VAT rate is 22%; the reduced rate is 9%, and 0% in some cases.

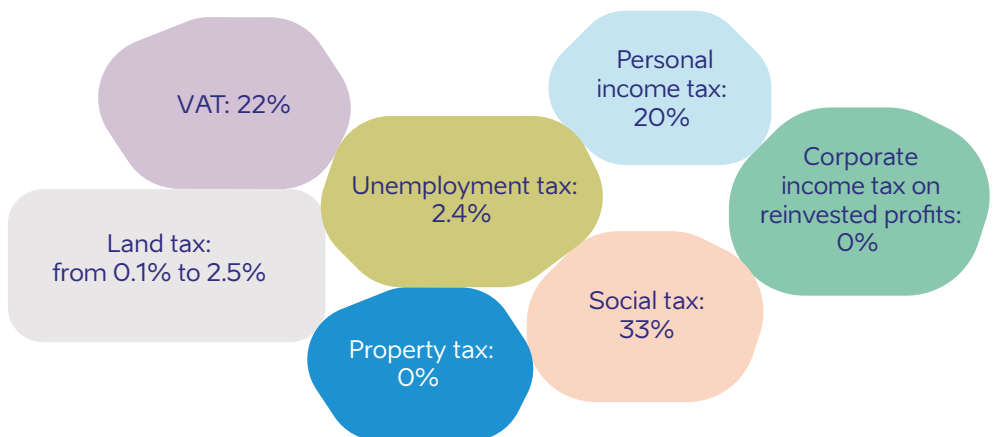
The threshold for obligatory VAT registration is €40,000 per year in turnover.

The taxable period is one calendar month, and VAT returns must be submitted to the tax authority by the 20th day of the month following the taxable period.

Personal Income Tax

Residents pay tax on their worldwide income. Taxable income includes:

- income from employment
(salaries, wages, bonuses, and other remuneration)
- business income
- interest, royalties, rental income
- capital gains
- pensions and scholarships (except scholarships financed from the state budget or paid on the basis of law)
- Personal income tax is withheld from employees' gross salaries every month and paid by the employer.



e-Tax services include:

- individual income tax claims
- an enterprise's declarations of income tax, social tax, unemployment insurance and contributions to the mandatory pension fund
- value-added tax returns
- alcohol excise, tobacco excise, fuel excise, and packaging excise duty returns
- INF declarations
- customs declarations

Non-residents may choose a tax representative. The tax representative of a non-resident is a person to whom the Tax and Customs Board has issued a corresponding activity licence and is authorised to represent the non-resident for the performance of obligations arising in Estonia.

Each year, around 98%
of all tax declarations in Estonia
are filed electronically

It takes
approximately 3 minutes
to file taxes online

Additional information:

Estonian Tax and Customs Board
emta.ee/en

Ministry of Finance
fin.ee/en

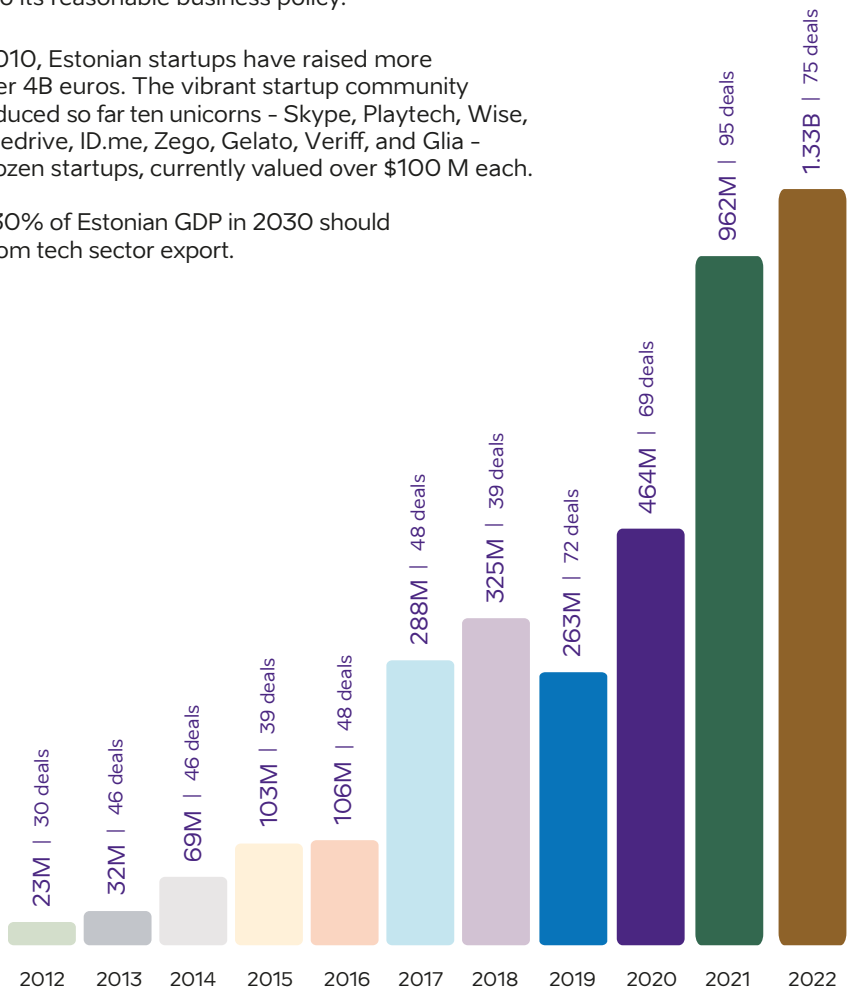
startup ecosystem

Estonia is roughly the same size as Switzerland, but with 6x fewer people. Our superpower? Startups. According to Index Venture, startups are less prone to fail here, and Estonia is perceived as an extremely attractive place for business thanks to its reasonable business policy.

#1 IN NUMBER OF STARTUPS, UNICORNS AND VC INVESTMENTS PER CAPITA IN EUROPE

Since 2010, Estonian startups have raised more than over 4B euros. The vibrant startup community has produced so far ten unicorns - Skype, Playtech, Wise, Bolt, Pipedrive, ID.me, Zego, Gelato, Veriff, and Glia - and a dozen startups, currently valued over \$100 M each.

Vision: 30% of Estonian GDP in 2030 should come from tech sector export.



startup ecosystem

Estonia has a busy, supportive and open startup ecosystem eager to support ambitious individuals and startups. In 2017, the Startup Visa program was launched to help non-EU founders grow their startup in Estonia.

Estonia isn't your market — it's your accelerator! Take Bolt. Launched in 2013 and a unicorn since 2018, has customers in 45+ countries, but has kept its HQ and largest office in Tallinn, Estonia

Estonian Startup and
Scale-up Visa program

1,500+
startups

500+
events



**Markus and
Martin Villig**
Bolt

You don't need to move to Silicon Valley to compete with huge global giants and build a transportation platform that's used by tens of millions of people across the world. We've done it all from Estonia."

labour market

The Estonian labour market is characterised by:

- a highly-skilled workforce
- 86% of adults speak at least one foreign language
- low unionisation
- simple and straightforward labour legislation

€820
minimum
monthly gross
income 2024

€1,685
average
monthly gross
income 2022

Remuneration and working time:

The labour legislation is liberal and offers more flexibility for agreement on terms and conditions of employment.

Wages must be paid at least once a month, and it is the employer's obligation to calculate and withhold all payroll taxes.

When hiring, the general standard is a four-month probation period with 15-days notice for termination of employment during the probationary period. Long-term employees usually have a one month notice period for termination of employment.

The standard working schedule in Estonia is 8 hours a day, 5 days per week. The duration of one shift may not exceed 12 hours. The duration of the annual vacation is 28 days.

Additional information:

Employment Contracts Act
riigiteataja.ee/en

finding suitable staff

Potential sources for finding suitable staff:

- the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund (free-of-charge services to employers)
- private recruitment companies
- career services departments in major universities
- online job listings, e.g. workinestonia.com



Marcin Kleczynski
CEO at Malwarebytes

We have been able to find such great talent that not only is in Estonia, but outside of Estonia trying to come to Estonia just for the cultural differences and how progressive the country actually is."

Additional information:

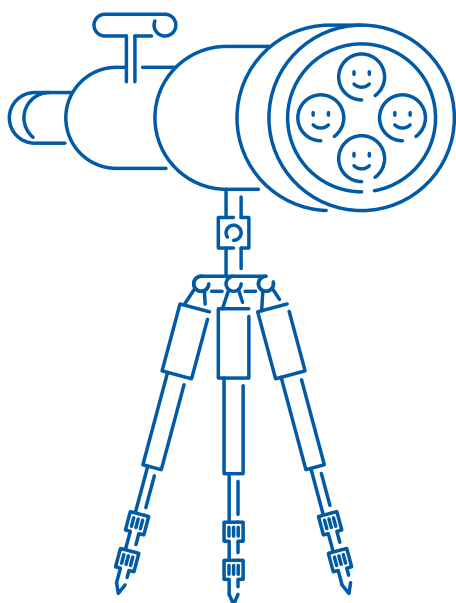
Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund
tootukassa.ee/eng

Career services of TalTech Tallinn
taltech.ee/en

Career services of Tallinn University
tlu.ee/en

Career services of the University of Tartu
ut.ee/en

Career services of the Estonian University of Life Sciences
emu.ee/en



Work in Estonia

- Helps companies in Estonia to find and keep people with exceptional skills from all over the world.
- Organises global recruitment campaigns.
- All the job offers from the most popular portals in Estonia are automatically fetched to the website of Work in Estonia.
- Offers foreign recruitment consultations.
- Has compiled a hiring checklist and the ready-made sample contracts in English for companies to use by hiring specialists from abroad.

International House of Estonia

- Provides free consultation services to local employers on how to hire foreign experts and on issues related to international workforce.
- Helps your employees and their families with the first steps to adapt in Estonia.
- Supports in organising the Estonian language studies.

Additional information:

Work in Estonia
workinestonia.com/for-employers/

International House of Estonia
workinestonia.com/internationalhouse

education and research

Higher education

Doctoral study (3–4 years)
Master's (2 years)
Bachelor's (3–4 years)

Senior secondary (3 years)

General senior secondary education Vocational secondary education

Basic education (9 years)

Education system:

Higher education

18 higher education institutions in 2022. Three levels: Bachelor's (3–4 years), Master's (2 years) and Doctoral study (3–4 years).

Senior secondary

Divided into general senior secondary education and vocational secondary education.

General senior secondary education:

3 years in a senior secondary school.

Vocational secondary education:

organised by vocational education institutions or higher education institutions. Besides vocational training, the student also acquires upper secondary education. In 2022 there were 35 vocational educational institutions in Estonia.

Basic education:

Compulsory to all children in Estonia (including children from other countries) from age 7 until grade nine, or the age of 17.

Education is free, from basic to higher education

Estonia has an attractive environment for research with top-level infrastructure and highly qualified specialists. Most research and development in Estonia is performed at universities. The largest public research university is the University of Tartu, followed by Tallinn University of Technology (TalTech), Tallinn University, and Estonian University of Life Sciences.

University of Tartu:

- one of the oldest universities in northern Europe
- the largest university in Estonia
- 2nd in the QS World University Rankings in Emerging Europe and Central Asia
- 1st in Times Higher Education New Europe ranking in 2018

TalTech:

- the flagship of Estonian engineering and technology education
- one of the most modern campuses in Europe – winner of the Best Campus category in “Science and Education” (Oxford 2014)
- TalTech campus is home to more than 200 high-tech companies, such as Skype, Starship Technologies, and Cybernetica

World-class environment for R&D, top-level infrastructure

High-level research is also carried out in the Research Centres of Excellence and Competence Centres that aim to bridge the gap between scientific and economic innovation. There are 9 Centres of Excellence and 6 Competence Centres:
researchinestonia.eu

A small nation who
has become great
in education.

#1 **IN EUROPE:** IN READING,
SCIENCE AND MATH
OECD, PISA 2022

#7 **IN THE WORLD**
OECD, PISA 2018



Marju Lauristin

Professor of Social Communication
at the University of Tartu
Lead expert in Estonia's education
strategy 2035

The willingness to create
the best education system
for the 21st century in
Estonia stemmed from
three sources: the
egalitarian tradition of the
comprehensive education
system, the ambitions of
the nation and trust in
education as the only way
to grow beyond the limits
set by the small size and
poverty of the country."

Additional information:

Ministry of Education and Research
hm.ee/en

Study in Estonia
studyinestonia.ee

Research in Estonia
researchinestonia.eu

Estonian Research Information System
etis.ee

the legal system & foreign businesses

The Estonian legal environment favours entrepreneurship and the entrepreneurial mindset. Foreign investors share the same rights and obligations with local entrepreneurs. All foreign investors may establish a company and conduct business in Estonia in the same way as local investors; no restrictions apply.

Foreign investors and local entrepreneurs have equal rights

Estonia has concluded treaties for the protection of investments with 32 countries, including the USA, Germany, France, Finland, Sweden, Norway, and Switzerland. Also, agreements for avoiding double taxation have been made with 60 countries, including the EU. The legal system in Estonia is based on the Continental European civil law model and has been influenced by the German legal system. Unlike in common law countries, Estonia has detailed codifications and issues are solved according to these. Estonian law is, at its basic level, divided into private and public law. Generally, private law consists of civil law and commercial law. Public law consists of international law, constitutional law, administrative law, criminal law, financial law and procedural law.

Flexible and needs-based legislation that supports entrepreneurship

Additional information:

Employment Contracts Act
riigiteataja.ee/en



Tilman Weide
Managing Director
of Linde Engineering

We are a global enterprise and we value flexibility, which we can find here in Estonia: good English language skills, great education and erudition, favourable business environment, flexible system and competitive human capital."

establishing a company

Modern e-solutions make setting up and running a business in Estonia quick and easy. Signing up a new company in the e-Business Register takes only minutes. In a few hours, the company is up and running.

e-Services supporting businesses in Estonia:

- **e-Business Register** — An advanced and secure tool allowing registration of a new company online, management of a company's data, filing of annual reports, and enquiries about other companies, etc.
- **e-Tax** — The electronic service of the Estonian Tax and Customs Board, enabling businesses to declare taxes online, as well as make customs declarations.
- **e-Financials** — State-provided simple web-based accounting software that assists companies in managing their bookkeeping.
- **Digital signatures** — Enables the signing of documents electronically with validity equal to handwritten signatures (Estonian ID-card or e-Residency card required).
- **e-Banking** — User-friendly online banking and invoicing services are available 24/7, accessible from anywhere in the world. The main service providers in Estonia are Swedbank, SEB, Luminor and LHV.

98%
of companies
established
online

99.9%
of banking
done online

98%
of tax declarations
filed online

legal forms of business

The most common forms of business entities in Estonia are the private limited company (OÜ) and public limited company (AS)

Private Limited Company (OÜ)

A private limited company is a company that has its share capital divided into private limited company shares.

As of 01.02.2023 the required minimum share capital of an OÜ is €0.01 per shareholder.

- Liable for the performance of its obligations with all of its assets, but a shareholder is not personally liable.
- Must have a management board: one or several members that are natural persons with active legal capacity without the obligation to hold shares in the company.
- If more than half of the board members do not permanently reside in Estonia, the company must give the Commercial Register a contact name and address in Estonia where documents may be sent.

Sole proprietor (FIE)

In addition to the possibility of establishing a business entity, it is possible for any natural person to conduct business as a sole proprietor (FIE).

Public Limited Company (AS)

One or more natural or legal persons with or without a share subscription may found a public limited company, and its share capital is divided into public limited company shares.

Share capital must be a minimum of €25,000.

- Liable for the performance of its obligations with all of its assets, but a shareholder is not personally liable.
- Must have a management board and a supervisory board. The latter must have at least three members that are natural persons with active legal capacity.
- If more than half of the board members do not reside in Estonia, the company must give the Commercial Register a contact in Estonia where documents may be sent.

Branch

Foreign companies may also offer their goods or services by establishing a branch. As a branch is not a business entity, the foreign enterprise is liable for obligations arising from the activities of the branch.

Establishing a Private Limited Company – as Easy as ABC

Step 1

Choose a name for your business and check that it is available
ariregister.rik.ee/nimeparing.py

Step 2

Holders of an Estonian ID card or e-Residency card (in addition, some EU member states' ID cards are accepted) can register the company online at the e-Business Register
<https://ariregister.rik.ee/eng>

OR

Step 2

Verify the corporate charter with a notary who will present the information to the Commercial Register.
List of notaries
<https://www.notar.ee/en/notaries/list>

Step 3

If the company's area of activity is subject to special requirements, a licence should be acquired.
Information concerning areas of activity and electronic registration is available at the Register of Economic Activities mtr.mkm.ee

Step 4

Register the employees in the employee registry at the Tax and Customs Board emta.ee

Step 5

Register the company as a VAT payer at the Tax and Customs Board emta.ee

e-Residency

Estonia is the first country to offer e-Residency – a transnational digital identity that provides access to Estonia’s transparent digital business environment and enables entrepreneurs to start and manage an EU-based company online.

e-residents can:

- Establish a company online.
- Manage a company from anywhere in the world.
- Sign and authenticate documents anywhere.
- Declare Estonian taxes online.
- Be the owner of your company. No local director needed.

Achieve location independence:

- Operate your company online while traveling.
- No need to re-establish your company after moving abroad.
- Avoid paperwork.

e-residents receive a digital ID card that provides:

- A government-issued digital identity.
- Secure access to e-services.
- The power to digitally sign and authenticate documents.

The digital ID card and e-services are built using state-of-the-art technological solutions, including a 2048-bit public key encryption and a two-stage PIN system.

The digital ID card is not a physical identification or a travel document and does not display a photo.

Famous e-Residents:

Edward Lucas, Shinzo Abe, Tim Draper, Angela Merkel, Guy Kawasaki

109,900+
e-Residents

175+
countries

29,000+
companies
created

stand: 2024/Q1

Additional information:

e-Residency
e-resident.gov.ee

financing a business

The Estonian government has approved a joint development plan for research and development, innovation and entrepreneurship for 2021–2035.

The strategy sets common goals for R&D, innovation and entrepreneurship for the next 15 years.

- information and communication technology – horizontally through all sectors
- health technologies and services
- the development plan focuses more than before on increasing the influence of science and scientists and on the use of research results in solving Estonia's development needs. In supporting businesses, the focus will shift from export-intensive to knowledge-intensive, innovation, and increased value-added.

Banks in Estonia offer a wide range of financial services from everyday banking to sophisticated wealth management, and are also the biggest providers of leasing and factoring services. The largest banks are subsidiaries and affiliates of Scandinavian banking groups.

Additional information:

Estonian Entrepreneurship
Growth Strategy 2014–2020
kasvustrateegia.mkm.ee

Enterprise Estonia
eas.ee

EU Structural Funds
struktuurifondid.ee/eng

state incentives

Large investor support scheme

Target group: Companies registered in the Estonian commercial register operating in the manufacturing sector.

The aim of the support scheme is active involvement of large investors in the economy of Estonia through technology investments, which contribute to the growth of productivity and export potential of a company, the increase of the added value of products, the opening of new market opportunities, and create conditions for the establishment of higher value adding jobs.



Maximum grant:
€ 3,000,000

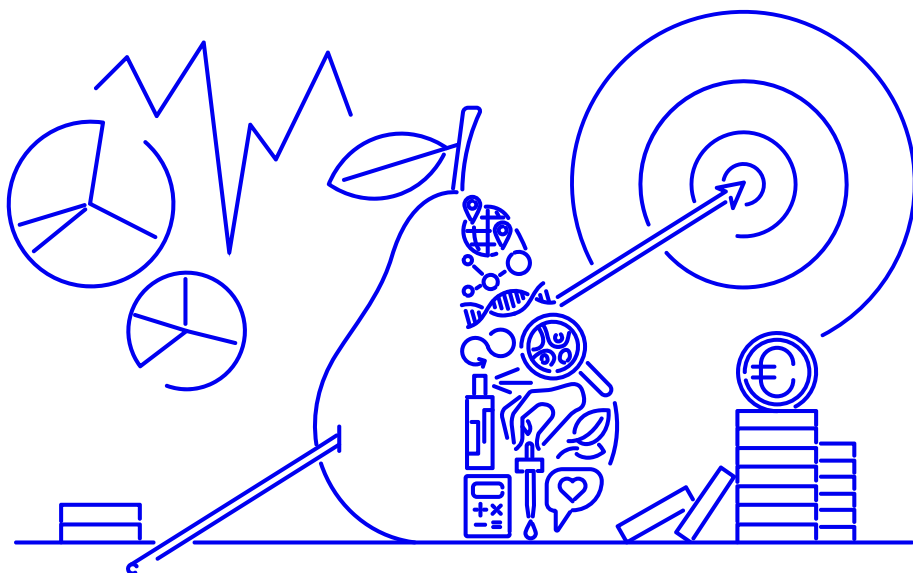
Product development support scheme

The purpose of aid is to support R&D activities for companies (3+ years of operations in Estonia and 8+ FTE) aiming to develop and launch new products or services.

The grant rate is (up to) 45% for micro; 35% for medium size; 25% for large businesses. Supported costs include fixed assets; renovation cost; recruitment cost; staff training; salary cost of new staff during the project period.



Maximum grant:
€ 500,000 per enterprise

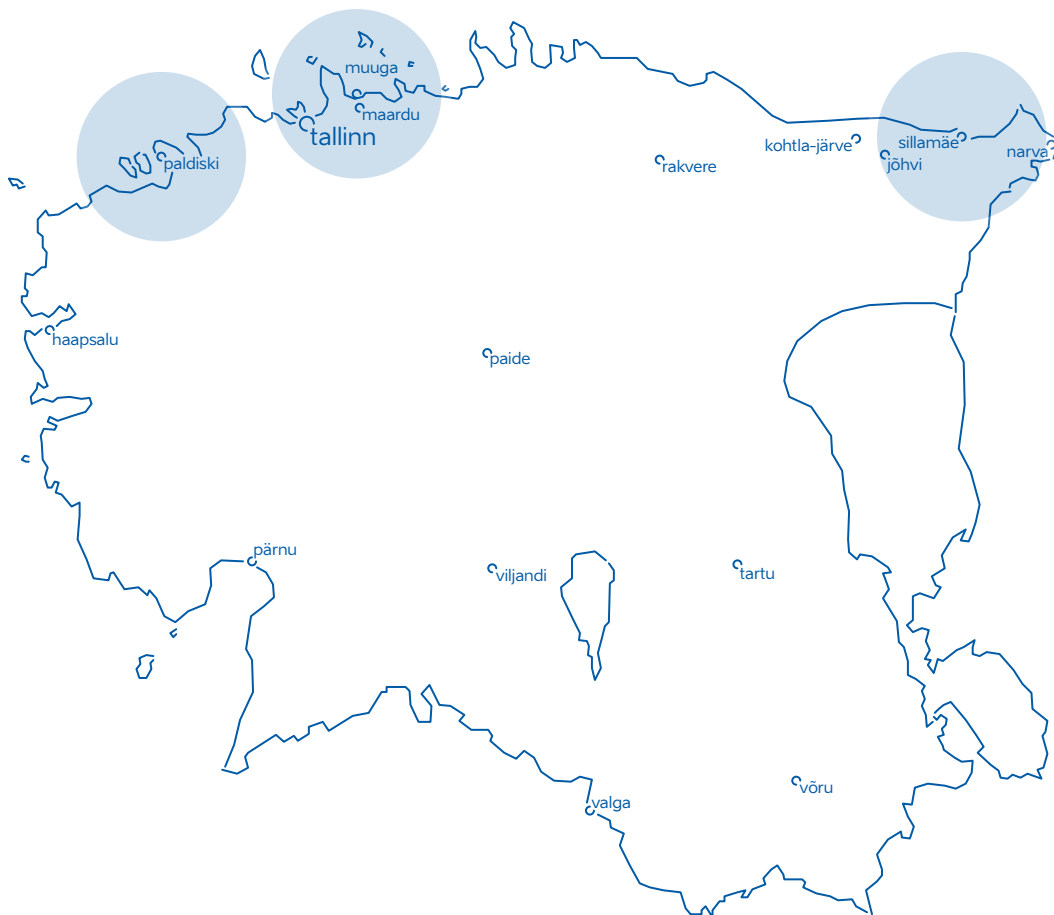


free-trade zones and industrial parks

There are three free-trade zones in Estonia and a number of industrial parks with predeveloped infrastructure that welcome manufacturing and logistics companies. Both free-trade zones and industrial parks are logistically in favourable locations near highways, railways, and ports.



- **Paldiski Free-Trade Zone,**
Paldiski Northern Port
portofpaldiski.ee
- **Muuga Free-Trade Zone,**
Port of Muuga
portoftallinn.com/muuga-harbour
- **Sillamäe Free-Trade Zone,**
Port of Sillamäe
silport.ee
- **Ida-Viru Industrial Area, Jõhvi**
ivia.ee
- **Port of Sillamäe Industrial Park,** Port of Sillamäe
silport.ee
- **Muuga Industrial Park,** Port of Muuga
portoftallinn.com/muuga-industrial-park
- **Port of Paldiski Industrial Park,**
Paldiski South Harbour
portoftallinn.com/paldiski-industrial-park
- **Narva Business Park**
narvapark.ee/en
- **Reola Business Park**
dtz.ee/uusarendus/reola
- **Vahi Industrial Park, Tartu**
vtp.ee/en
- **Loode-Pärnu Industrial Area, Pärnu**
investinparnu.com/en



0% corporate tax
on retained and
reinvested profits
is also preserved in
free trade zones

Pre-developed
infrastructure,
great locations

Free-trade zones are established by the Estonian government and monitored by the Estonian Tax and Customs Board.

Additional information:

Estonian Tax and Customs
Board emta.ee/eng

premises

There are minimal restrictions for foreigners acquiring fixed assets in Estonia. Existing restrictions fall into two main types according to the Restrictions on the Acquisition of Immovables Act:

- restrictions arising from the acquisition of 10 hectares or more of agricultural or forested land
- restrictions arising from national defence reasons

Tallinn

A class office 16-21 EUR/sqm
B1 class office 10-16.5 EUR/sqm
Medium-sized retail in major shopping centers 8-38 EUR/sqm
New and renovated warehouses 4.9-6.2 EUR/sqm

Tartu

A class office 12-16 EUR/sqm
B1 class office 7-13 EUR/sqm
Medium-sized retail in major shopping centers 6-32 EUR/sqm
New and renovated warehouses 4.9-6 EUR/sqm

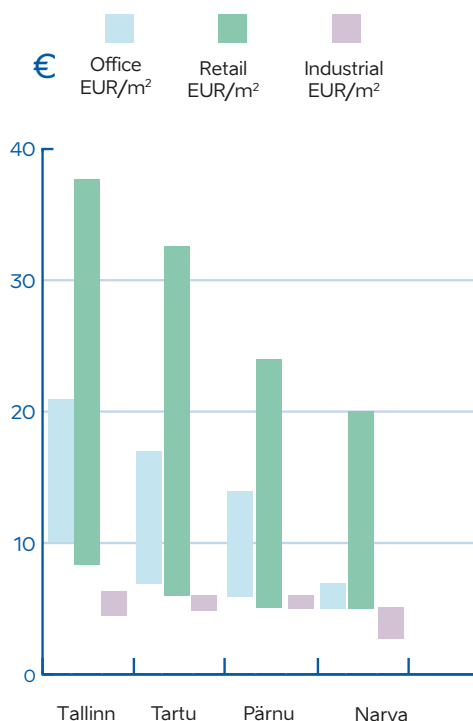
Pärnu

A class office 10-13 EUR/sqm
B1 class office 6-10 EUR/sqm
Medium-sized retail in major shopping centers 5-24 EUR/sqm
New and renovated warehouses 5-6 EUR/sqm

Narva

B1 class office 5-7 EUR/sqm
Medium-sized retail in major shopping centers 5-20 EUR/sqm
New and renovated warehouses 3.5-5.5 EUR/sqm

The following graph shows the indicative range for rents (excluding VAT and operating expenses) in the major towns of Estonia for class A and B1 office premises, medium-sized retail units in major shopping centres, and new and renovated warehouses.



Source: Colliers stand 2022

healthcare services

Estonia has a state-provided healthcare system that is built on solidarity-based health financing. The medical service does not depend on the amount of social tax paid. Health insurance is administered by the Estonian Health Insurance Fund.

State-provided health insurance funded by the social tax

An insured person is a permanent resident of Estonia or a person living in Estonia on a temporary residence permit or on the basis of permanent residence who pays social tax for himself/herself or for whom the social tax is paid. Children under 19 years of age and pregnant women hold equal status to insured persons. Everyone has the right to receive emergency medical care regardless of whether they have health insurance or not. Each person in Estonia who has visited a doctor has his or her own

online e-Health record, containing medical case notes, test results, digital prescriptions, and X-rays as well as a full log-file tracking access to the data.

99% of health data generated by hospitals and doctors is digitised

This allows doctors to access a patient's records easily from a single electronic file. Patients can access their data at all times by logging into the e-Patient portal with an electronic ID-card and also track which doctors have had access to their files.

99%
of prescriptions
digital

99%
of health data
digitised

100%
electronic
billing

Additional information:

Work in Estonia
[workinestonia.com/living-in-estonia/
healthcare-overview](https://workinestonia.com/living-in-estonia/healthcare-overview)

Estonian Health Insurance Fund
haigekassa.ee/en

quality of life

Estonia has one of the most competitive and open business environments in the world. But what makes Estonia an attractive place for working and living?

→ WHO has ranked Estonia's air as one of the cleanest air in the world.

→ Over half of Estonia's land area is covered by forest (52%), making it the 6th most forested nation in Europe.

→ Safety - online and offline. Crime rates are low and cyber safety is an especially hot topic with the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence located in Tallinn.

→ Top quality education - #1 in Europe and #3 in the world (in 2018).

→ English is widely spoken, whether at the doctor's, on the street or in official institutions.

#1

**COUNTRY IN THE WORLD
FOR DIGITAL LIFE**

InterNations 2019

→ No other tech hub beats Tallinn when it comes to optimizing your monthly expenses. Rent in Tallinn is 8 times more affordable than in San Francisco

→ The pace of life is not hectic as in larger cities - no crowds or ridiculous traffic jams

→ Tallinn the EU to provide free public transport to its citizens.

→ Vibrant nightlife, frequent music and film festivals



Lauren
Head of Marketing &
Chief of Product, Jobbatical
From the New York, USA

Because of the affordability the amount that you make in Estonia allows you the same luxuries and quality of life as in New York.”



Khalid
Test Lead, Testilo
From the Netherlands

Moving to Estonia went very fast - sorting out the documents took a day, whilst in Berlin, this had taken a week. Estonia’s biggest advantage is the way everything is based on IT, which makes taking care of administrative formalities extremely easy and fast.”

residence permits

For Citizens of the EU, EEA, and Swiss Confederation

A citizen of the EU may stay in Estonia on the basis of a valid travel document or identity card for up to three months. In order to stay longer, the EU citizen must obtain the right of temporary residence. An EU citizen must register his/her stay at the local government authority nearest to his/her residence within three months from the date of entering Estonia. The right of temporary residence is granted for a period of five years.

For Third-Country Nationals

A residence permit may be temporary (with a period of validity up to five years) or long-term. A temporary residence permit may be issued to an alien:

- for settling with a spouse or close relative permanently residing in Estonia
- for study
- for work and business
- in case of substantial public interest
- as an extension of a residence permit when a source of legal income exists

Temporary residence permit for business

A third-country national may apply for a residence permit for business:

- in the case of owning shares in a company or acting as a sole proprietor and having invested at least 65,000 EUR in business activities (at least 16,000 EUR in the case of a sole proprietorship)
- for conducting business in a start-up — by obtaining a Startup Visa
- as a major investor - direct investment of at least 1,000,000 EUR

A long-term residence permit may be issued to a foreigner who:

- has stayed in Estonia permanently on the basis of a temporary residence permit for at least five successive years
- holds a valid temporary residence permit
- has registered residence, health insurance, and permanent legal income for subsistence in Estonia
- has knowledge of the Estonian language at least at a basic level



Additional information:

Estonian Police and Border Guard Board
politsei.ee/en

Estonian Aliens Act
riigiteataja.ee/en

Work in Estonia
workinestonia.com

Startup Estonia
startupestonia.ee/visa

estonian investment agency

The Estonian Investment Agency, a part of Enterprise Estonia, is a government agency promoting foreign investments in Estonia and assisting international companies in finding business in Estonia.

Our services:

- information services and investment preparation
- investment proposals and visits
- consulting and project management facilitating contacts, negotiation with authorities
- mediating recruitment services and identifying suitable properties
- post-investment / aftercare services

Top Investment Agency 2018–2020

by Site Selection Magazine

2020–2023
Invest Estonia in top in Emerging Europe's annual investment promotion report

Automation at Invest Estonia listed among UNESCO's global top 100 AI projects in 2021 - 2022

Most Creative Investment Promotion Marketing at the Go Global Awards 2022

Our success stories include:

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Marubeni

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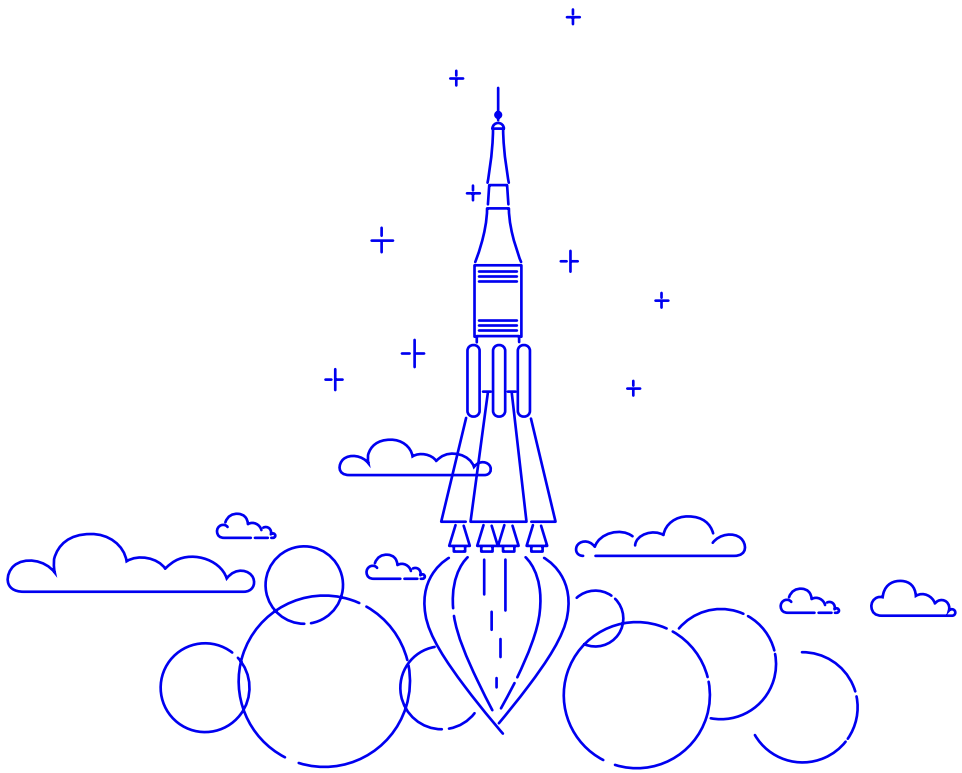
Symantec

THE LINDE GROUP

Metsä

FORTACO

NordicNinja
by 30 Nordic Ventures



Martin Kolbe
CIO of Kühne+Nagel

When we were looking for a country to create a nearshore IT centre, we turned to Enterprise Estonia for assistance. From the beginning, we knew we were in good hands. Thanks to their support, we made many fruitful contacts with organisations and companies with whom we could talk openly about our experiences. This ensured us solid footing when we decided to build an IT nearshore centre in Estonia."

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