

Non-formal education and youth work

- + Youth work creates vast opportunities for the self-development of all young people aged 7–26 in Estonia. As many as 90% of those involved in youth work are very satisfied with the experience.
- + Almost half (48%) of the 7-18-year-olds participate in hobby education in Estonia.
- + Decisions affecting youth are made together with young people. One of the best examples of this cooperation is the right to vote in local government elections from the age of 16.
- + OECD considers Estonian youth work one of the best in Europe. Our youth development plan won the "Future Policy Award 2019" acknowledgement from the World Future Council.



Digital society and education

Technology has a huge role in our everyday life. As a digital society, we make the most of it also in education.

That also helped us to move online overnight and quickly handle distance learning during the global pandemic.

- + Educational institutions have modern IT infrastructures. Digital skills are a paramount part of the educational work in schools as well as in the training programmes of teachers.
- + A large part of Estonian education and school is in the cloud — we use digital textbooks, e-diaries, and other digital solutions. Educational information is available to everyone on the internet.
- + Estonia is a well-known innovator in the world with highest number of start-ups per capita in Europe, including brilliant EdTech companies reshaping the education scene.

Smart solutions for education innovation



Get a sight of the future education



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Education Estonia has been initiated by the Ministry of Education and Research and is coordinated by the Education and Youth Board.

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Lifelong learning

- + Acquiring new skills, retraining, and completing unfinished schooling are popular: Estonian adults within the 25-64 age group actively participate in learning at almost double the rate of the EU average (17.1% vs 9.2% in 2020).
- + Systematic and effective work with national volunteer networks is an essential part of lifelong learning.

What is happening in Estonian education?

Preschool education

- + In Estonia, preschool education is not only childcare but also part of learning with a curriculum and substantive and methodological activities.
- + 94% of 4- to 7-year-olds participate in the activities of preschool institutions.



General education

- + PISA 2018 results speak for themselves. The outcomes are notable in all areas. Estonia's basic education is top-ranked in Europe and among the best in the world.
- + We follow the principles of inclusive education: we support the development of all students; every child is important to us.
- + We implement formative assessments that guide each student's individual growth and promote learning.
- + In addition to traditional and digital classroom learning, projects and out-of-doors learning also play essential roles.
- + Study and holidays are in balance. Thanks to efficient use of time, our school day and school year are shorter than in many other countries.

Vocational education

- + In 20 years, we have optimised the school network, modernised the curricula, and upgraded the infrastructure.
- + Vocational education is free of charge, regardless of age, educational background, and individual needs.
- + Many different forms of flexible learning are available: school-based, workplace-based and e-learning.
- + There are close collaborations with companies in curriculum development and in creating opportunities for practice.
- + We boast annual medalists at international vocational championships.
- + Moving from vocational education to higher education and vice versa is becoming increasingly popular.

Higher education and research

- + The most prominent universities in Estonia — University of Tartu, Tallinn University, and TalTech — earn prestigious, globally recognised rankings (THE, QS).
- + We are internationally attractive: 11.4% of students are foreign, representing 124 nationalities.
- + Higher education is flexible and accessible. It is supported by a wide range of study forms, consideration of learning and work experience in studying, and the opportunity to work during studies.
- + Curricula, including many in English, are characterised by innovation and a particular focus on information technology and entrepreneurship. Alumni of Estonian universities have founded companies that are changing the world such as Skype, Bolt, Wise, and others.
- + Our research is world-class: among the top 10 countries in the world by Indicator of a Nation's Scientific Impact. The EstCube satellite, electric formula car, and self-driving car are examples of extraordinary student projects.

Estonia is known and recognised worldwide as a successful and innovative e-state. How has a country, which regained its independence in 1991, reached the pinnacle in PISA tests? Why does Estonia have most start-up companies per capita in Europe? What prompted us to implement the "Tiger Leap" project in education which started the digitalisation of the entire public sector, leading to increased innovation and transparency?

The answer:
we are an education nation.



EDUCATIONAL MINDSET

It has always been both a guarantee of individual success and one of the main drivers of the country's development. Lifelong learning has become a lifestyle in Estonia.



INNOVATIVE START-UP CULTURE

Estonia is the leader in Europe in number of unicorns per capita. No wonder, as Estonia is the ideal testbed for new technologies. Past years have seen a rapid growth in the EdTech sector.



CREATIVE MINDS

We are known for our pragmatic can-do attitude. Estonian teachers are well-educated and committed, while our schools have a high degree of autonomy.



DIGITAL SOCIETY

In a country where 99% of state services are online, we use the possibilities of technology also in education, helping us to handle distance learning and enable hybrid learning.