

## 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 87% of those involved in youth work are very satisfied with the experience.
- + 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.
- + The Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) considers Estonian youth work one of the best in Europe. Our youth development plan won the “Future Policy Award 2019” acknowledgment from the World Future Council.



## Lifelong learning

- + Acquiring new skills, retraining, and completing unfinished schooling are popular in Estonia: 20.2% of all 25- to 64-year-olds attended at least one training course in 2019. This indicator holds fourth place in the European Union.
- + Systematic and effective work with national volunteer networks is an essential part of lifelong learning.

## Digital society and education

As a nation close to nature, we love our sea and forests. Meanwhile, as a digital society, we make the most of the latest technology. This is also true in education:

- + Educational institutions have modern IT infrastructures. Digital skills are a paramount part of the educational work in schools as well as in the training programs 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.
- + EdTech companies — such as eKool, DreamApply, Lingvist, Clanbeat Education, Opiq, etc. — actively contribute to the export of Estonian education.

## Education Estonia – your guide to smart solutions

- + **Would you like to learn more about the Estonian education system?**
- + **Would you like to have a consultation concerning a specific area of education?**
- + **Are you interested in a particular product such as digital solutions, training programs, etc.?**

**Contact:**  
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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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# Smart solutions for education innovation



Estonia is known and recognized 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 one of the highest numbers of start-up companies per capita in the world? **What** prompted us to implement the “Tiger Leap” project in education which started the digitalization 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 world leader in unicorns (ie tech companies with a value of over \$1Bn) 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 remote or hybrid 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 optimized the school network, modernized 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, e-learning, and cycle learning.
- + There are close collaborations with companies in curriculum development and in creating opportunities for apprenticeship.
- + 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 recognized rankings (THE, QS).
- + We are internationally attractive: 12% of students are foreign, representing 120 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 characterized 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, TransferWise, 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.