

# 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.



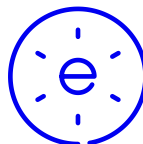
### CREATIVE MINDS

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.



### 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.



### 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.

# How does Estonian education stand out in the world?

## PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

Curriculum-based learning outcomes are achieved by learning-through-play method.

## GENERAL EDUCATION

Top-ranked in Europe and among the best in the world. Students' socio-economic background does not play a role in obtaining a good education (PISA 2018). Digital literacy, as one of the general competencies, is integrated with each subject taught.

## DIGITAL SOLUTIONS

We embrace the possibilities of technology throughout the education system: digital textbooks, e-assessments, e-diaries, and e-learning environments etc.

- + Educational institutions have modern IT infrastructures.
- + Digital competences and IT skills are a paramount part of the educational work in schools as well as in the training programs for teachers.
- + Estonian students' schoolbag is in the cloud and educational information is online, available to everyone.
- + Estonia features strong educational technology companies that make learning more personal.

## VOCATIONAL EDUCATION

Free of charge for all age groups. Close cooperation with the private sector provides students real work experience. Moving from vocational education to higher education and vice versa is popular.

## HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Estonian universities are highly valued by local and international students.

- + Estonian universities are rated highly in prestigious ranking systems such as THE and QS.
- + We are internationally attractive: 11.4% of students are foreign, representing 124 nationalities.
- + Our research is world-class: among the top 10 countries in the world by Indicator of a Nation's Scientific Impact.

## 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).

## YOUTH WORK

OECD considers Estonian youth work as one of the best in Europe, with 90% of involved (age 7-26) being very satisfied. Decisions affecting youth are made together with young people and youth unemployment is low in Estonia.

# 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: [hello@educationestonia.org](mailto:hello@educationestonia.org)

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