Estonia. Smart solutions for education innovation.
Education has been highly valued through generations.
Facts and figures

PISA results of Estonian students rank first in Europe

4th in the world in science skills (PISA 2018)

5th in the world in reading skills (PISA 2018)

8th in the world in math skills (PISA 2018)

95% of schools use e-diaries

1st in digital learning (CEPS 2019)
How did we get there?

+ EDUCATIONAL MINDSET
  It has always been both a guarantee of individual success and one of the main drivers of the country’s development.

+ CAN-DO ATTITUDE
  Over the last 30 years Estonia has had to rebuild the entire country after the restoration of independence. Estonia has implemented a lot of large-scale educational reforms, doing it „in Estonian way“ – fast and boldly.

+ DIGITAL SOCIETY
  In a country where 99% of state services are online and people trust e-society, we use the possibilities of technology also in education. That helped us also to handle distance learning during the pandemic.

+ INNOVATIVE START-UP CULTURE
  Past years have seen a rapid growth in the EdTech sector. Good public private cooperation has helped to tackle challenges, solve crises and create new solutions.
Characteristics of Estonian education

+ Estonia has successfully implemented INCLUSIVE EDUCATION SYSTEM. All students learn side by side in the same classroom and are entitled for free special support if needed.

+ Schools, school leaders, and teachers have A LOT OF AUTONOMY in Estonia. All teachers are required a Master’s degree.

+ As a digital nation, technology has a big role in education. ALL SCHOOLS USE E-SOLUTIONS such as digital learning materials or e-school for communication between home and school.

+ Children start school at the age of seven. 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.
Estonian education system

- **Doctoral Degrees**
- **Master’s Degrees** (2 years)
- **Bachelor’s Degrees** (3 years)
- **Diploma of Professional Higher Education**
- **Technical/Vocational College** (2–5 years)
- **University**
- **Secondary leaving examination**
- **General Upper Secondary School** Ages 16–19 (3 years)
- **Vocational Secondary School** Ages 16–19 (3 years)
- **Basic School** (Primary and Lower Secondary) Ages 7–16 (9 years)
- **Early childhood education** Ages 3–7 (Not Compulsory)
Everyone has a right for high quality education

- Free textbooks and school lunch
- Free study support services if needed
- Students with different abilities study together
- Students’ socio-economic status has the lowest impact on performance in the OECD
Pre-school: preparing for school

+ Curriculum based learning outcomes are achieved by learning-through-play method
+ 94% of children attend kindergarten, though this is not compulsory in Estonia
+ 69% of Estonian pre-school teachers have Bachelor’s or Master’s degree
Technology has a big role in education

+ The Tiger Leap programme in 90s aimed to establish an up-to-date IT infrastructure in the country, with a special focus on schools, providing internet connection, computers and IT trainings.

+ The Tiger Leap started the digitalisation of the entire public sector in Estonia. In few years, Estonia became the first country in Europe to provide stable internet connection to all schools.

+ Today, digital learning materials are available for all subjects and across educational levels and Estonian schools use wide range of e-school solutions.

+ Different educational programmes create interest in technology from kindergarten to vocational and higher education.

+ For the evidence-based decisions the educational data is accessible on the Internet.
Facts and figures

99% of Estonian kindergartens take part in technology education programme ProgeTiger

9% of students study ICT in Estonia — twice as many as EU average (Eurostat)

40% of ICT university students are female — this is highest share in Europe (Informatics Europe)
Digital solutions in everyday use

- E-diaries for schools and kindergartens: Eliis, eKool, Stuudium
- Digital learning materials and platforms: e-Schoolbag, OPIQ, Foxcademy
- Student admission systems: DreamApply, SAIS
- Examination Infosystem etc
2020: crisis as an opportunity

+ Technological advantages were a key during the global pandemic
+ Different sectors cooperated effectively
+ Use of e-services increased several-fold
+ Digital skills of teachers, students and parents improved a lot
Internationally acknowledged higher education

+ Estonian universities rank high in prestigious ranking systems such as THE and QS
+ Innovative study programmes: e-governance, cybersecurity
+ Student projects from self-driving car to space satellite
+ Over 150 degree programmes fully taught in English, in 11 internationally accredited universities
Ensuring essential skills

+ VOCATIONAL EDUCATION is free-of-charge for everybody and has flexible forms of studies. Close cooperation with the private sector provides students real workplace experience during studies. Moving from vocational education to higher education and vice versa is becoming increasingly popular.

+ The state has special project (OSKA) to ANALYSE THE LABOUR MARKET to find out what skills are needed in the future.

+ YOUTH WORK AND INFORMAL EDUCATION provide additional opportunities to develop skills needed. Estonian youth work is among the best according to OECD.

+ LIFELONG LEARNING. Acquiring new skills, retraining, and completing unfinished schooling are popular in Estonia: every fifth of all 25-64-year-olds attended at least one training last year.
Lifelong learning has become a lifestyle in Estonia.
Your guide to smart solutions

Are you interested in particular digital solution, study visit, etc.?
educationestonia.org

Interested in research opportunities in Estonia?
researchinestonia.eu

Would you like to know more about study opportunities?
studyinestonia.ee
Aitäh!

EducationEstonia.org