

Non-formal education an 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: 19.7% of all 25- to 64-year-olds attended at least one training course in 2018. 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.

Become an Education Nation!

Each state, local government, and educational institution can be part of the experience of Estonia and make it work for its own benefit.

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.?

Let's get together and talk!

Contact:
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Estonia.
For the smartEST
people in the world.



How has Estonian education achieved top global rankings?

How has Estonia, with only 1.3 million inhabitants, reached the pinnacle in PISA tests?

What has taken our universities to the most important top-lists in the world?

How has one country succeeded in applying the most modern trends in education — smart digital solutions, learner-centered and inclusive education, lifelong learning as a lifestyle?

- + **We value education** through the generations.
- + **We have an innovative start-up mindset.** We are confirmation that the significant changes decisively implemented in the 90s have worked thanks to innovative reforms — we dare to change things.
- + **We are a digital society** for whom e-signatures, e-elections, e-residency, e-tax returns, e-prescriptions, e-government, e-police, etc., are part of everyday life. We also use the possibilities of technology in education: digital textbooks, e-assessments and e-diaries, and e-environments for applying to school are just a few examples.
- + **Education is accessible to everyone.** This means equal opportunities, regardless of economic or social background.
- + **Our schools have a high degree of autonomy,** from curriculum development to the organization of school life.



What is happening in Estonian education?

Preschool education

- + In Estonia, pre-primary 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 pre-school 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.
- + Multilingual learning is part of everyday life.

Vocational education

- + In 20 years, we have reformed the entire vocational education system: 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: 11% of students are from abroad, from 125 nationalities in total.
- + 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: 10% of our scientific articles are among the most cited articles in the world. The EstCube satellite, electric formula car, and self-driving car are examples of extraordinary student projects.