



Estonia / e-Residency Programme

Estonia is located in Eastern Europe between Latvia and Russia and bordering the Baltic Sea and the Gulf of Finland. It is a low-lying country with many lakes and forests and a temperate and relatively wet climate, with moderate winters and cool summers.

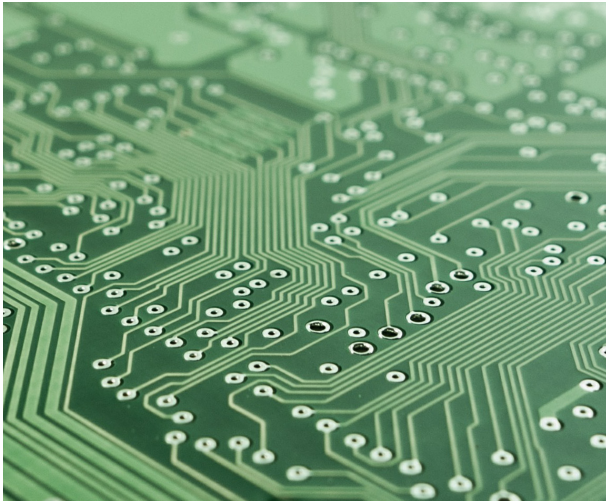
Estonia's culture incorporates elements from indigenous culture (such as the native language, Estonian) and Nordic culture. Estonia and the Baltic region in general have often been viewed as the point where East meets West; this can be seen in the presence of both Western Christian churches and Eastern Orthodox churches. Estonia was formerly part of the USSR until its independence in 1991, and Estonia still contains a sizeable minority of ethnic Russians. Tension has long existed between the Russian community and ethnic Estonians.

Nowadays, the sense of Estonian identity is strong. Estonian

people are generally relatively quiet and reserved, and the family is of great importance. Estonian society generally espouses equality, increasingly liberal views, and commitment to the concept of the welfare state.

Although Estonia is a very small state both in terms of population and geographical size, its innovations relating to state-citizen interactions are unprecedented. Following independence in 1991, Estonia has developed rapidly into a digital state; a country in which access to the internet is a human right and where a citizen can vote in elections online. Central to this movement is the removal of bureaucracy and the promotion of efficiency and transparency. Estonia's impressive digital infrastructure is unique not just in Europe, but the world. The e-Residency programme is the latest initiative, pioneering the idea of a country without borders.





e-Residency

E-residency is an electronic identification that allows the bearer to use online services of the Estonian government. E-residents can digitally sign documents and contracts, verify the authenticity of signed documents, encrypt and transmit documents securely, establish an Estonian company online (Estonian address required; Ousheng can assist in this regard), administer the company from anywhere in the world, conduct e-banking and remote money transfers, access online payment service providers, and declare Estonian taxes online. It will be accepted as online identification in all EU countries by 2018.

Eligibility for Application

The e-resident digi-ID can be issued to any foreigner who has links with the country of Estonia or a reasonable interest in using public services in Estonia, and who:

- is not a foreigner residing in Estonia with a residence permit or a right of residence;
- is not a foreigner who is staying in Estonia under the International Military Co-operation Act, holding an identity card or residence card issued by the Police and Border Guard Board.

Application Process

An application consists of basic information, a photo, a scan of a government-issued identity document and the application fee. A minimum of one paragraph describing your interest and motivations behind applying for e-Residency is also required. After a background check, the card can then be collected at an Estonian embassy or consulate. The process takes just a few weeks.

E-Residency is not a residency in the traditional sense and does not confer a right of residence or citizenship. An e-Residency card is not a travel document.

Core Advantages

- E-Residency allows you to set up a company within the EU with a very fast application process and no paperwork. Everything is carried out online, cutting down on red tape and bureaucracy.
- E-Residency gives the e-resident the ability to sign and authenticate documents online, securely and safely.
- E-Residents can conduct online banking and access international payment services, such as Pay Pal. This makes it incredibly simple to sell goods and services online.
- Estonian online systems allow you to administer a company remotely, declare taxes and do accounts using Estonian government software. This saves significant time and money.
- E-Residents can gain access to the EU market without establishing a physical company presence in Europe. An office address is required to set up a company in Estonia; Ousheng is on hand to assist you in this regard.
- Estonia has an advantageous tax system for companies. There is a 0% corporation tax on undistributed profits that are re-invested. Estonia also has double taxation treaties with a number of countries.
- The application process is quick and easy. You can become an e-resident in just a few weeks.



Banking

Banking in Estonia is easy, fast and secure. All standard financial transactions take place online, making it very easy to bank remotely. Most accounts are euro accounts, but some banks offer multi-currency accounts.

It is expected that people will soon be able to open a bank account without the need to visit Estonia for a face-to-face meeting. Recent changes to Estonian law mean that a video call may satisfy banking requirements of identification and verification. E-Residency does not entitle you to a business bank account and the decision to extend or deny banking services to an e-resident is solely at the discretion of e-Estonia's partner banks.

In order to open a bank account, strong links to Estonia must be shown. Therefore, if you would like to open a business bank account for your Estonian registered company, it is recommended that a business plan - adequately demonstrating ties to Estonia - is prepared ahead of time. Ousheng is there to advise and assist you in this regard.

Taxation

The tax system in Estonia is quite simple: 20% income tax, 20% VAT and 20% corporate tax on distributed profits. This means that as long as profits are reinvested by a company and not distributed, there is no corporate tax liability. Additionally, there are taxes that apply to employees and directors performing their functions within Estonia.

Economy

Like much of Europe, Estonia's economy was primarily agricultural prior to the Second World War. The USSR's annexation of Estonia profoundly changed the economy as Estonia was integrated into the larger Soviet system. After independence in 1991, Estonia rapidly modernised, introducing flat rates of tax, attracting significant foreign investment, and quickly building and diversifying its economy. Estonia joined the EU in 2004 and joined the Eurozone in 2011.

Recently, the economy has remained solvent and reliable, despite the global economic downturn. Estonia is almost entirely energy independent and the government places high emphasis on innovation. The Estonian government has embraced technology perhaps more than any other state in the world, and is creating a digital society. This increases transparency in government, and efficiency in business and everyday life.

Transportation

Estonia has a network of primary roads and rail connections to neighbouring Russia and Latvia. There are also several tram lines in the capital, Tallinn. Estonia also has a large number of sea ports, mostly on the Baltic Sea. There are 13 airports, with the largest being Tallinn's Lennart Meri Airport, with connections to Amsterdam, Paris, Moscow, Berlin, London, Copenhagen, Oslo, Stockholm, Istanbul, Rome and many other cities.





**Ousheng
& Partners**

Ousheng & Partners provides a range of services for high-net-worth investors seeking high-quality overseas residency solutions. Our professional and dedicated team has many years of successful experience in overseas residence and citizenship-by-investment programmes, and can advise and assist with all concerns inherent in relocation, including legal matters, property acquisition, and access to medical and education services.

Through our combination of industry-specific expertise and deep local knowledge, we provide our clients with a uniquely

professional, tailored, and reliable service. Let us help you take your first steps towards greater security and opportunity for you and your family.

As part of Kylin Prime Group, Ousheng & Partners can offer clients access to related services including portfolio management, and investment opportunities in alternative investment funds, enterprise investment projects, trusts, and other securities and assets. For more information, visit kylinprime.com.

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