

Efficiency

Estonia is #1 in Entrepreneurial Activity in Europe
(World Economic Forum 2017)

Introduction

RESISTANCE

Estonia is a country that has never had much money, a huge internal market or mineral resources, but we have a lot of entrepreneurial people. According to the World Economic Forum, we are #1 in Entrepreneurial Activity in Europe. Estonians are the pathfinders in the ICT world today, searching for new solutions to get things done cheaper and faster. We are like a village of inventors in a global world because we realized that our small size is a huge advantage that can help create efficient solutions the world desperately needs.

Narrative

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

Do you remember what changed the world price of international calls? What made free international calls possible? Skype was originally developed and continues to be developed in Estonia. International financial transfers using the same philosophy became a reality thanks to Transferwise. Finally, GradCAD became the Facebook of engineers, connecting the creative minds of the world's engineers to make the engineers themselves much more efficient.

The private sector is doing well, but what about the public sector? We are probably the only country in the world where cabinet meetings have no paper trail. Ministers can sign a decision from their smart phone, even in the back seat of their car using digital signatures and Mobile-ID. Estonia might be the only country in the world with a national start-up – the e-Residency programme. By 2025, this nation with a little over 1 million citizens, aims to provide a world-class business environment and e-services for 10 million e-residents.

Citizens? We do not need to go to the bank to make payments. This can be done at home. In fact, very few daily dealings require us to leave our homes: submitting tax claims, arranging a doctor's appointment, checking what homework our children have, signing contracts, even electing Members of Parliament and much more can be done at home in minutes. The weather does not affect the election results in Estonia!

Every Estonian saves an average of 5 working days a year, thanks to signing documents digitally. It's like getting an extra week's vacation every year! E-services are out of bounds only for marriages, divorces and real-estate transactions. You still have to get out of the house for those.

Results

EXAMPLES, FACTS

The Estonian ICT sector and ambitious start-up community (known as the Estonian Mafia) dare to create innovative e-services that change the world – from Skype to E-residency.

Estonians trust e-solutions and use them every day. Virtually all state-related operations are completed digitally – prescriptions, tax return claims or starting a business.

Estonian e-solutions are not made to be used only by Estonians – e-residents can remotely set up and manage businesses, add digital signatures to contracts, make payments and use a number of private sector e-services to make cross-border businesses operate reliably and easily. Such services make e-resident companies more competitive because less bureaucracy saves time and money.

Estonia is a successful exporter of experience and solutions – almost one-third of the world's countries have learned from the experience of the Estonian information society.

Estonia boasts the world's first transnational data exchange platform. A distributed and efficient X-road solution between Estonia and Finland was launched in 2017.

Conclusion

PUNCH LINE

If you want be part of an effective country, where simply by signing digitally, you get an additional week of vacation and where you can elect the Parliament from the comfort of your own home, come to Estonia. If you want to become part of an effective business environment and e-services, become an e-resident of Estonia.

Even the leader of the world's most powerful country realised while visiting Tallinn, that he would have had a lot less of a headache and less gray hair, had he known to ask for assistance from Estonia.

"I should have called the Estonians when we were setting up our health care website"

Barack Obama, US President, 3 September 2014, Tallinn.