Being a digital society means being exposed to cyber threats and staying aware of their existence. With solid investments in its cyber security infrastructure, Estonia has developed extensive expertise in this area, becoming one of the most recognized and valued international cyber security experts.

Ensuring cyber security has three main components: the architecture of the information systems, user awareness, and established rules with full compliance. In order to ensure information security to the providers of vital services, it is particularly important to adhere to both awareness and security requirements. Compliance is monitored by the Information System Authority (RIA).

Through numerous training programmes and media campaigns, the RIA ensures that everyone is aware of cyber security issues. Estonia guarantees cyber security above all via the architecture of the information systems and the proper training of the professionals responding to incidents.

### Facts and figures

- E-solutions and robust cyber security require a functioning infrastructure and organisational structures. If any link in the chain fails, there needs to be an alternative way to provide that service.
- There have been 1.3 million ID cards issued in Estonia, 67% of which are used regularly.
- There are over 3000 e-services available for use in the public and private sectors.

### Questions & answers

#### How can we ensure the security of the users of e-services?

With the baseline national digital identity, which includes the national ID card and its additional tokens — mobile ID, residence card, digital ID, e-resident card. This ensures the uniformity of a person’s identity on the internet, and allows for authentication and digital signing.

#### How is the overall cyber security of e-services ensured?

A distributed architecture of data management, where the data is maintained by the owners of the databases and X-road allows the secure exchange of information between databases and registries. The data cannot be duplicated and there is no central database, the communication between databases is encrypted and sessions leave traces with evidential value. Communication with and between state institutions takes place in a national communications network, which the Information System Authority (RIA) monitors around the clock.

### Bringing the Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence to Estonia

Because of Estonia’s experience with the 2007 cyber attacks and their effective adoption of e-government solutions, the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence (NATO CCD COE) was founded in Tallinn in 2008.

The NATO CCD COE manages cyber security research and training. The heart of the Centre is a diverse group of experts — researchers, analysts, trainers and educators — from 20 nations. The mix of military, government and industry backgrounds means the NATO CCD COE provides a unique international 360-degree understanding of cyber defence. The Centre is staffed and financed by member nations and is not part of NATO’s military command or force structure.