

# e-Residency



## What is e-Residency?

A secure digital identity issued by the Government of Estonia to people from anywhere in the world that provides digital access to the country's trusted, transparent e-governance services and business environment.

## What does e-Residency give me?

- You receive a digital ID card with a unique personal identification code and two PIN numbers, which enable **secure digital authentication**.
- You'll also have access to a **global community** of remote entrepreneurs and startup founders.
- You can register an Estonia company within a day, digitally sign and encrypt documents, access a range of business banking and payment options, declare and pay taxes, and run your **EU business** online from anywhere in the world - all online, low-cost, and hassle-free.

## Who is applying to e-Residency?

- Since December 2014, 85,000 people from 170+ countries have applied to be e-residents. E-residents have registered 18,000 Estonian companies.
- The main motivation to apply is the ability to run a **location-independent business**, which perfectly suits remote entrepreneurs, digital nomads, freelancers, and mobile startup founders.
- The other key motivations include: bringing business to Estonia, using secure digital authentication and signatures, being a fan of e-Residency, and promoting Estonian culture.

## How do I apply for e-Residency?

Applying is simple, takes about 3-8 weeks, and costs from €100 to €130 depending on where you pick up your e-Residency kit.

1. Gather your documents: government-issued photo ID, passport-style digital photo, motivation statement, Visa or MasterCard.
2. Apply online in minutes at **e-resident.gov.ee** and pay the state fee.
3. Wait for the background check and approval email.
4. Pick up your e-Residency kit at the nominated pickup location
5. Follow the instructions to set up your digital ID.
6. Gain immediate access to Estonia's e-services.

## How do I open a company with e-Residency?

- Once you have your e-Residency digital ID, you're ready to **create your Estonian company online**. You can choose to do this yourself at the e-Business register or use the help of a virtual office service provider (recommended).
- The state fee to register a private limited company ('osaühing' or 'OÜ' in Estonian) is €190.
- You must use a licensed service provider to fulfil the legal address and contact person legal requirements. You may also need help with accounting, tax, legal matters, and business banking in Estonia, the EU, or your own country. The e-Residency Marketplace contains a list of service providers to help you establish, run, and grow your business.

## How do I open a business bank account with e-Residency?

- E-residents have a range of banking and payment options available for their business, including: a business banking account with an Estonian bank or a bank in another European Economic Area country, or a business account with a fintech.
- Fintechs take applications online. Estonian banks will require you to make at least one physical visit to set up your business account and also generally require business clients to have some connection to Estonia. We strongly recommend using a service provider to obtain a business bank account for your Estonian company as they are very knowledgeable about this process.
- E-Residency does not guarantee a business banking account. Opening an account is at the sole discretion of banks or fintechs. E-Residency also does not give people the ability to open a personal bank account in Estonia or the EU.

## Where do e-residents pay their taxes?

- Your Estonian company is automatically considered by the Estonian Tax and Customs Board as a tax resident in Estonia. **BUT** it is possible that the country in which you are from or reside will also consider your Estonian company liable to pay taxes there. In these circumstances, it will be important to consider both the domestic tax rules of your country and of Estonia as well as any relevant international treaty or rules to decide where you should pay corporate taxes.
- If your company is liable to pay taxes in Estonia, you can submit your company's Estonian tax declarations to the Tax and Customs Board online.
- E-Residency does not provide a personal tax residency to e-residents. This will remain in the country where the e-resident is an individual tax resident, usually in the country where they have their permanent home or spend a sufficient amount of time.
- We highly recommend speaking with a tax expert for advice on this incredibly complex matter.

## Does e-Residency give me the right to move to Estonia?

**No.** E-Residency provides no right of citizenship, residence or travel to Estonia or the EU.

## Why does Estonia offer e-Residency to foreigners?

- Estonia was the first country to offer e-Residency to people outside its borders. The idea was simple: open up digital access to Estonia's advanced e-services and trusted business environment. In this way, the programme would support economic growth and innovation potential in Estonia and share the digital nation's capabilities with the world.
- E-Residency has brought €54 million in direct economic benefits to Estonia, as well as indirect benefits from employment, new business opportunities, and increased awareness about the country's rich culture and remarkable digital transformation.

## Where can I find more information?

- Website: [e-resident.gov.ee](https://e-resident.gov.ee) - access the Application Page, Knowledge Base, Marketplace, Business Guide, Events Calendar, and more.
- Newsletter: subscribe on the website.
- Blog: <https://e-resident.gov.ee/blog> - find useful guides, e-resident stories, and guest posts by service providers and other experts.
- Social media: follow e-Residency on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.