

## CASE STUDY

# E-ESTONIA: DIGITAL SOCIETY & OPEN DATA

Innovating for a future-proof tomorrow



## Background

Estonia, has a relatively small population relative to its territorial size. When it regained independence in 1991, the country's government budget was limited to about €130 million. Consequently, Estonia lacked the financial and human resources to establish traditional bureaucratic structures. Additionally, Estonia's sparse population meant that developing digital services would provide more convenient access for those living in its most remote areas.

In 1994 the parliament took the brave step of signing the first draft policy on digitalisation, a time when the general population lacked internet connections and the devices to use them. Choosing this IT path required immense courage.

In 2002 it became obligatory to have a digital ID to access basic public services, e.g. passport, driver's license etc. Today 99% of services are available digitally, including starting a business.

## Benefits

- It takes under 3 hours to start a company
- Paperless & simple e-taxation
- E-Residency - every world citizen can set up a company here
- Start-Up Nation supporting ecosystem

## Vision

Estonia sees itself in the post-digital era, characterised by citizen centric, digital-first new type of services without traditional analogues. E-Estonia takes a whole-of-society approach to service delivery.

More Info : [e-estonia.com](http://e-estonia.com)

Citizen Portal: [www.eesti.ee](http://www.eesti.ee)

# The EcoCore Project

Green Transition in Small Cities along Transport Corridors

'OUR CHILDREN, GROWN IN A DIGITAL SOCIETY, NEVER HAVING HAD TO VISIT A GOVERNMENT OFFICE – HOW WILL THEY IMAGINE THE FUTURE?'

E-Estonia



## Funding

The process has been funded through a variety of channels including national funding and EU funding (Social Fund & Recovery & Resilience Fund)

## Challenges:

- Digital literacy, inclusivity & accessibility
- Trust
- Legislative framework
- New path

## Key enablers

- Digital Minded Leadership
- Citizen-Centric
- Public Private Partnership
- Internet Access for everybody
- Each person owns their data & transparency is upheld
- Clear and honest principles
- Confidentiality, availability, integrity

## Next Steps

- 90% satisfaction with digital services by 2030
- Data driven governance
- Systemic experimentation
- Empowering digital change in public sector
- Increasing cybersecurity capabilities
- Developing 5G & 6G base network to support improved connectivity
- Ensuring fit for purpose legal framework
- Expanding business services

## Impacts

- Today there are more than 13,000 companies made by e-residents which added €11 million in taxes in 2019 alone.
- Reputation as the perfect test bed to try out new ideas and fail fast at minimum cost.
- Estonia is a world leader in unicorns per capita, with 10 today

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Open Data Portal:

<https://avaandmed.eesti.ee>

URBACT



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