

WELCOME TO ESTONIA!

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Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner, ESTONIA

Work in Estonia

- Ca 10% of Estonian population has emigrated since 1990
 - About 420 000 people, or 31.4% belong to various ethnic groups other than Estonians.
 - Russians make up 25 % of the total population
 - Ca 4000 incoming annually
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We welcome investments, tourists and PEOPLE



- Ethnicity as a ground since 2004
- From 21.05.2016 as a designated body for nationality ground
- Barriers for Estonian tourist guides or bus drivers in some other EU countries, "missing a special license"; "the bus must undergo a thorough control" etc.
- Problems in Estonia for repatriating Estonian families, for couples of different ethnicities, migrant workers, Russian speaking minority, asylum seekers etc.
- Russian language public schools and kindergartens – segregation problems.
- Language immersion
- Estonian Language Act

Challenges

- Information and training both for families and local governments
 - A booklet – rights and how to avoid discrimination on the grounds of ethnicity, nationality, language etc in different languages
 - Kindergartens and school system
 - Vocational schools
 - Universities
 - Registered Partnership Act – income tax release for non-working partner under Parliament discussion, should be accepted before 01.01.2016
 - Family law – full duty of care between partners and two generations upwards and two generations downwards
 - Women working full time. 64% of women (15-64) work
 - Adequate resources: Commissioner has not been given any extra resources
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ID – card for EU citizen

What is e-Residency?

“e-Residency offers to every world citizen a government-issued digital identity and the opportunity to run a trusted company online, unleashing the world’s entrepreneurial potential.”

The Republic of Estonia is the first country to offer e-Residency — a transnational digital identity available to anyone in the world interested in administering a location-independent business online. e-Residency additionally enables secure and convenient digital services that facilitate credibility and trust online.

e-Residents can:

- ◆ Digitally sign documents and contracts
- ◆ Verify the authenticity of signed documents
- ◆ Encrypt and transmit documents securely
- ◆ Establish an Estonian company online within a day. At the moment a physical address in Estonia is required, which may be obtained using an external service provider.
- ◆ Administer the company from anywhere in the world.

- For EU-citizens in Estonia: no working contract or other documents needed.
- Residence registration online (signed electronically by the lessor). Whole process ca 5 minutes.
- Same social benefits, right to vote on local elections etc.
- ID card application online, receiving card within 30 days.



Debates so far

- EU citizenship or all citizenships?
 - Constitution §30: all public service is restricted to Estonian citizenship, except the exceptions.
 - Public Service Act § 14: EU citizens as Estonian citizens; except heads of public authorities, state surveillance, national defence, judges, prosecutors, access to state secrets, ambassadors; mayors, heads of local government.
 - Education, right to education
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