Estonian e-residency: a transnational digital identity for entrepreneurs

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Estonia

- Area: 45,333 square km
- Population: 1.3 million
- Language: Estonian (related to Finnish)
- Estonians 70%, Russians 25%, others 5%
- GDP per capita 15,186 EUR (2014)
- Average monthly salary 1064 EUR (2015)
- Living standard very similar to the Czech Republic, but there are a few things we do differently...
Digital society

• E-voting
• E-tax returns
• E-prescription
• E-school
• E-health record
• E-business
• E-ticket
• and many more.
• **1994**
  – Information Policy passed
• **1996**
  – Tiger Leap project created
• **1999**
  – Data Protection Department created
• **2000**
  – Digital Signatures Act
  – e-Tax filing begins
  – e-Cabinet introduced
  – Population Registry Law passed
• **2001**
  – Introduction of X-Road
  – Population Registry opens
• **2002**
  – ID Card introduced
  – Law on e-Election passed
• **2003**
  – Launch of ID bus ticket
• **2005**
  – First e-Elections
  – e-Police system comes on line
• **2007**
  – First Mobile-ID system comes on line
• **2008**
  – Launch of e-Health system
• **2010**
  – e-Prescription introduced
• **2011**
  – Smart Grid introduced in Energy Sector
X-Road - the backbone of e-Estonia

• Infrastructure of secure data exchange; allows the nation’s various e-services’ databases, both public and private, to link up and operate.

• All of the Estonian e-solutions that use multiple databases use X-Road. All outgoing data from the X-road is digitally signed and encrypted. All incoming data is authenticated and logged.

• X-Road was designed with growth in mind, so new e-services, with their various platforms can join it.
Estonian e-Residency?

- e-Residency offers every world citizen a government-issued digital identity and the opportunity to run a company online.

- It’s 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.
What does it really mean?

• e-Residents receive a smart ID card which provides:

  • digital identification and authentication to secure services
  • digital signing of documents
  • digital verification of document authenticity
  • document encryption
So the e-Residents can:

• Digitally sign documents and contracts

• Verify the authenticity of signed documents

• Encrypt and transmit documents securely
How can a Czech businessman benefit from this?

- **Establish a company online.** A physical address in Estonia is required to establish an Estonian company.

- **Administer the company from anywhere in the world.**

- **Conduct e-banking and remote money transfers.**

- **Access online payment service providers**

- **Declare Estonian taxes online.** e-Residency does not automatically establish tax residency.
How to apply?

• Fill a form: https://apply.e-estonia.com/

• Download a photo copy of your ID and a photo of yourself.

• Pay 100 EUR

• Pick up at the closest Estonian Embassy, where you are asked to give biometric data (fingerprints)
Statistics

• Since the 1st of December 2014 Estonia has issued 9,339 e-residency cards.

• Top three countries:
  • - Finland 20%
  • - Russia 9%
  • - USA 6%
E-residents’ business activity

- 975 engaged with Estonian companies
- 1001 own a business in Estonia
- 485 have established a new company
Do Czechs have interest in e-residency?

- The Estonian Embassy in Prague has delivered 101 e-residency cards.

- Mostly to businessmen, IT-people, journalists

- Most common plan we hear is to register a company in Estonia, which would operate globally while the owner lives in Prague.
Estonian digital society as testing ground

• E-residency is a good tool to use for global activities

BUT

• you could also just test your ideas, services, products (software or hardware) in the Estonian market by using our e-solutions or our X-road before going global.
Thank you!

In case of questions please contact us at the

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