



# Guide to the e-Residency



With this short reading you will be able to learn what the e-Residency program is, what it is for, what are the requirements to become an e-resident and how to become one.

## Estonia

Estonia is located in northern Europe bordering Russia, Latvia and Finland, it has a small population of 1.3 million, it is member of the OECD, the EU and the Eurozone but is best known, probably to many as one of the most digital countries and one of the most technologically advanced countries in the world pioneer of famous platforms such as Skype, in fact all public services in Estonia are available online so much so that the only thing I think you cannot do in Estonia without being in the flesh is now getting married and divorced, Estonia is an incredibly entrepreneurial nation, in fact every Estonian you meet will probably own a company or a startup.



## The e-Residency

The e-Residency system was introduced for the first time in the world in Estonia in 2014 in order to attract business and investment opportunities and to support the economic growth of Estonia as well as to spread the knowledge of the Estonian language, history and culture; Estonia is currently offering online over 99 public services, basically all the population has a digital identity card, all residents declare their taxes online, by now 98% of Estonian companies are incorporated online without going through any notarial deed and the vast majority of banking operations here is performed online; the entire country is covered by one of the fastest broadband connections in the world. It is estimated that



about two percent of GDP is saved every year thanks to the use of digital signatures and in particular thanks to the digital ID launched in 2014 through the e-Residency program which is now also open to foreign citizens, this means that anyone from all over the world can now benefit from the advantages of the Estonian system simply by obtaining an Estonian ID and can also set up a company and start their own business

and then manage it completely online remotely from anywhere in the world without the need for the physical presence of the company owners therefore without ever visiting Estonia. So what is e-Residency in practical terms? The e-Residency is a digital identity that gives you access to Estonian public online services through a secure online identification process that allows you to digitally sign contracts, draw up those public documents and deeds that usually are notarised, carry out online transactions. The system offers also the ability to encrypt and even send documents using your digital ID, moreover over time the e-Residency has also become a global community of electronic residents and this is probably one of the most surprising but also appreciated aspects of the program as the program has led to Estonia investors from all over the world; to date, the e-resident community features over 93,000 individuals from 179 countries.





First of all, it should be clarified that obtaining the Estonian digital residence does not mean in any way becoming a resident of Estonia from civil law perspective, but rather means obtaining a tool capable of producing and validating documents which eventually can have legal effects, drafting public documents and generating declarations (including tax) directly online without the need of third parties. The e-Residency is not a travel document such as a passport, it is not even a visa or a residence permit for Estonia, this means that obtaining the e-Residency does not change your residence status or your tax domicile, therefore does not guarantee you either the opening of an Estonian bank account when starting a company as well as the opening of a personal bank account as for this you may need support from our or another consulting company on site, in fact, it often happens that some people get confused about the meaning of e-Residency mistakenly regarding it as a mean of obtaining residence or a tax domicile in Estonia or simply as permit to travel and stay in Estonia or in the Shengen area, but in reality it does not provide any of such rights.

## Why become an e-resident?

The main motivation for most people is to benefit from the advantages of the Estonian tax system which is currently regarded as the best among of those of the 38 OECD Member Countries by registering an Estonian limited company online and manage it completely remotely thanks to the fact that the Estonian government allows users who own e-Residency to access not only all state services on all administrative platforms, but to access also Estonian private services such as an online bank accounts; any time your company decides to distribute profits and therefore (and only then) to need to pay corporate income tax, through the e-Residency it is possible to fill in tax returns and pay taxes directly from abroad, all that allows you to save time and money.



For more information on the Estonian tax regime and why it is regarded as the most effective tax system among those of the Western Countries, you can contact us and request our brochure “Estonia, Corporate Income Tax” which is also available to download from our website on the web page [www.relieva.eu/holding](http://www.relieva.eu/holding).

## How is the e-Residency obtained?

The first thing you need to do to apply for your e-Residency is to fill in your online application directly from the e-Residency portal, if you have all the necessary documents, the procedure normally takes from 20 to 30 minutes, our company could give you guidance during the procedure through screen sharing; the documents required are a copy of your passport or other identity document and a passport-size photo.



The procedure can also be carried out via smartphone for which there are instructions on the application form and eventually you will also need a MasterCard or Visa credit (or debit) card in order to pay the registration fee which is between 100 and 120 euros depending on the place you choose for the pickup. After submitting the application, the Estonian Police and Border Guard will review it within 30 days, but applications are typically reviewed in just 20 days. The right to become e-resident is granted only to private individuals in all countries except those from countries with sanctions or restrictions as Russia and Belarus.



## The e-Residency kit

Once the Police and Border Guard have accepted your application they will notify you that your e-Residency kit is ready and that it will be sent to your chosen pick-up location where it could be ready for collection within two and five weeks. Once your electronic residence kit is available you can make a simple telephone appointment to collect it.

Once collected the e-Residency kit will be immediately active and usable to access the Estonian Public Administration services and even to make you register a new limited company.

The entire process from the request to the collection of the kit can take from three to eight weeks.

To date, you can choose from 45 collection points around the world whilst new collection points will be opened in the coming months. The kit can be collected within six months from its availability and only in person as it will be necessary to provide your fingerprints and authenticate your identity in front of the authorized office employee or the personnel of the Embassy.

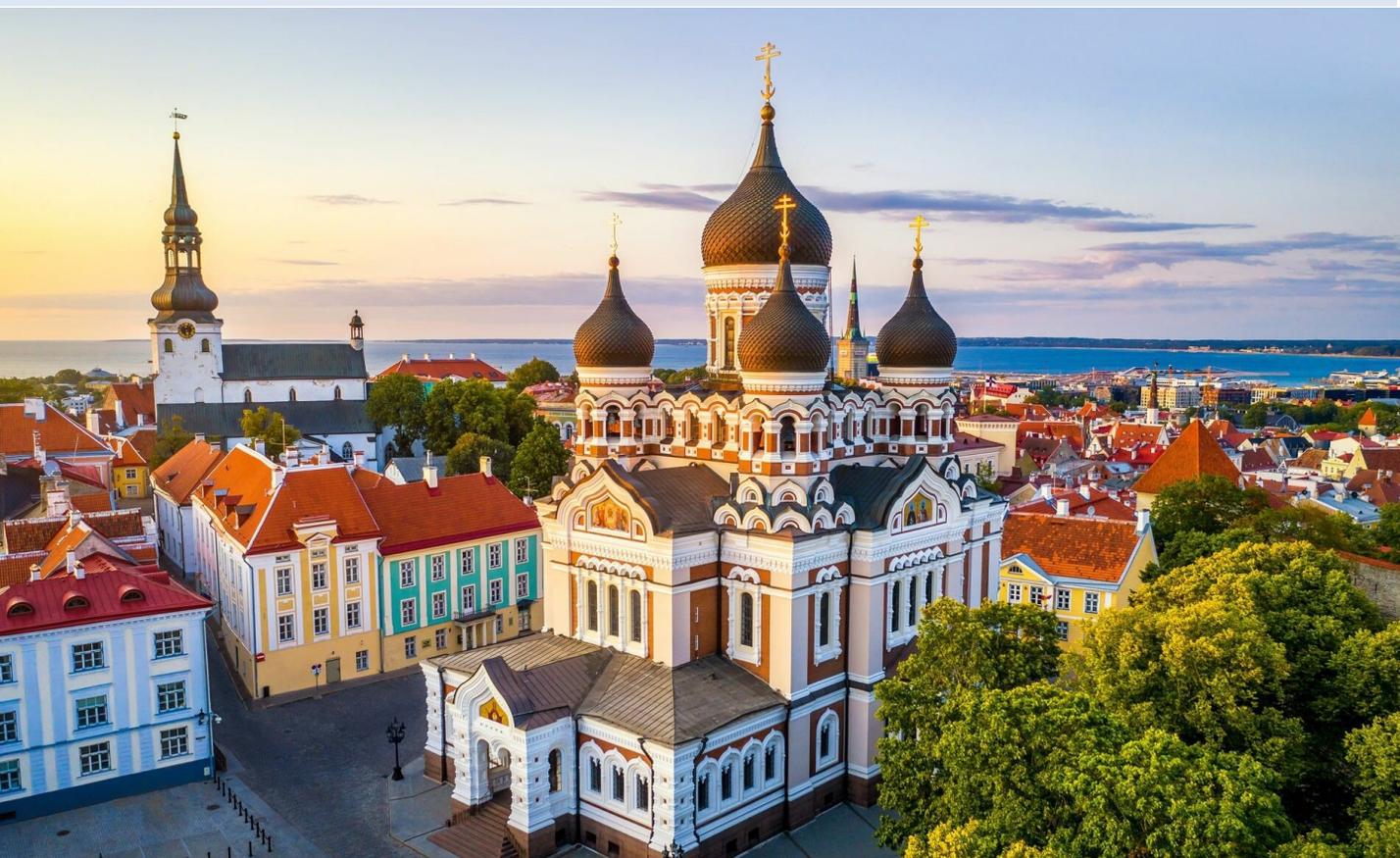
## The Marketplace

Relieva is one of the international tax consultancy companies selected for the e-Residency Marketplace which is basically a list of authorized corporate entities by the government of Estonia to promote the program and to support foreign national subjects interested in obtaining their e-Residency or simply interested to set up an Estonian limited company or business. In order to access the Marketplace, Relieva had to sign an e-Residency Code of Conduct for customer protection purposes.



When giving their advise on the e-Residency features, members of the Marketplace such as Relieva can also provide qualified advice on international taxation as well as on the Estonian taxation, on local administrative practices and also on the access to the e-Business Register services.

Among their services, Relieva is currently offering also to its e-resident customers the immediate constitution of limited liability companies (which can be registered in just a few minutes) and the registration of recreational crafts with the following release of the Estonian flag by the Estonian maritime authorities. Relieva has made available to its customers also an easy-to-read practical guide on Estonian tax regime for both business, capital and property income as well as all its experience in the field of international taxation. If you need further information about the e-Residency program you may request also direct assistance from the Estonian Police and Border Guard by sending an email to the address displayed on their website [www.e-resident.gov.ee](http://www.e-resident.gov.ee) and [www.politsei.ee](http://www.politsei.ee), you may also contact the Estonian Police and Border Guard to make an appointment to collect your e-Residency kit, to change your pick-up location, to get a term extension or just to get new pin codes, which are the access codes you use for your digital ID.





## Digital nomads

The e-Residency is an amazing tool also for the so-called digital nomads, who are those people who work remotely, often travelling all over the world as wherever they are at a given moment, digital nomads can completely remotely manage their Estonian company. This condition requires digital nomads also to remotely manage both personal and business banking services whose use is essential to the daily operational and financial management of their business therefore digital nomads are in the need of those tools that traditional banks often do not make available to their customers. The Estonian government, parallelly with the selection of consultants for the e-Residency Marketplace, has selected some "fintechs", those are credit institutions able to provide their customers with more flexible and digital banking services including services related to investment in cryptocurrencies. Relieva will help you to choose the fintech that best suits your wants and needs also based on your country of residency, your tax domicile and the business you run.



REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA  
E-RESIDENCY



e-Residency  
marketplace  
member



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