

e-Residency of Estonia (also called virtual residency or E-residency) is a program launched by Estonia on 1 December 2014. The program allows non-Estonians access to Estonian services such as company formation, banking, payment processing, and taxation. The program gives the e-resident a smart card which they can use to sign documents

E-residency allows company registration, document signing, encrypted-document exchange, online banking, tax declaration, and fulfilment of medical prescriptions. Other services become available as the scheme is expanded. A digital ID smart card issued by the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board in Estonia or at an embassy is used for access to services.

E-residency is not related to citizenship and does not give the right to physically enter or reside in Estonia.

When you sign up for Estonian e-Residency, you receive a government-issued smart ID card that provides digital identification and authorization. That way, you can digitally sign important documents, access secure services, and make secure transactions - even if you don't live in Estonia. For example, e-Residency would allow an Indian entrepreneur to establish an Estonian company that he runs from Singapore to serve clients based in Germany. He'd also be able to use his digital signature to sign contracts with customers throughout the European Union. All of it would be done online, remotely, and completely hassle-free.

e-Residents are given a digital ID card that contains a special chip. This card enables them to use Estonian public and private sector services and resources, sign documents remotely, and encrypt files.

As an e-Resident, you'll be able to:

- Establish and run a company online
- Conduct your banking online e.g. make electronic bank transfers
- Have access to international payment service providers
- Digitally sign documents (annual reports, contracts) within the company as well as with external partners
- Verify the authenticity of signed documents
- Encrypt and transmit documents securely
- Declare taxes online

As an e-Resident, you'll be able to:

1. Read more from the [official e-Residency website](#)
2. Fill out the [online application](#) form. You'll need to upload your photos, describe your purpose for applying, and pay the €100 e-Residency state fee.
3. Once your application has been submitted, you'll need to wait about 10 business days for the background check to be completed.
4. After you verify your identity at the pickup location, you'll get a starter kit which contains your digital ID card and a smart card reader.