

e-Estonia

BACK

e-Identity

Estonia's e-ID: The Cornerstone of a Seamless Digital Society

Every Estonian, no matter where they live, has a **state-issued digital identity**—known as **e-ID**. In use for over 20 years, the e-ID is a **cornerstone of Estonia's e-state**, enabling secure digital transactions in both the public and private sectors.

People use their e-ID daily to:

- Vote online
- Sign documents digitally
- Access healthcare records
- Manage banking and business
- Shop securely and more

Multiple formats, one secure identity

The e-ID ecosystem includes:

- ID-card** (chip-based)
- Mobile-ID** (SIM-based for smartphones)
- Smart-ID** (app-based authentication)

Each option offers strong security and legal validity for digital interactions.

Digital inclusion beyond borders: e-Residency

Since 2014, Estonia offers **e-Residency**—a unique program allowing non-residents to access Estonian e-services and build borderless businesses. Over 100,000 e-residents now benefit from Estonia's trusted digital ecosystem.

Saving time, enhancing trust

Thanks to **digital signatures**, each Estonian saves an average of **five working days annually**. These tools make public administration faster and reduce bureaucracy—without sacrificing trust or transparency.

Shaping Europe's digital future

Estonia has actively shaped the **EU eIDAS regulation**, ensuring cross-border recognition of electronic identities and signatures. As part of **eIDAS 2**, Estonia champions **identity wallets**—secure mobile apps for identification, signing, and document storage.

Pushing boundaries: Identity wallet & split-key technology

Estonia is exploring **next-generation identity wallets** and **split-key technology**, offering a more secure alternative to traditional mobile systems—especially where **European certification** is required.

These innovations make digital identity:

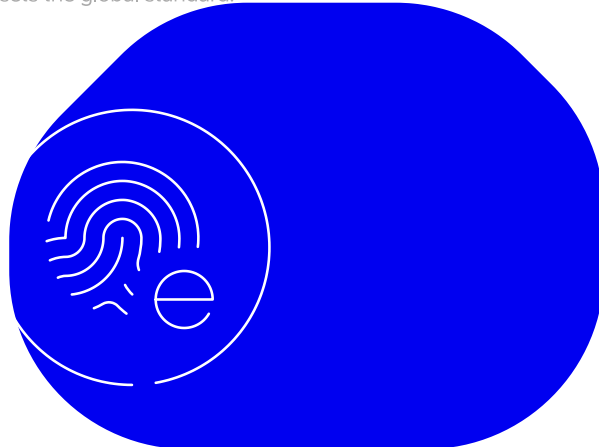
- More mobile
- More secure
- Easier to use—without compromising on privacy

Driving European interoperability

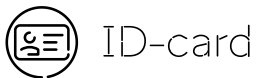
Through initiatives like **POTENTIAL**, Estonia is helping develop **interoperable digital driver's licenses** and other identity solutions across the EU, fostering both legal alignment and technical progress.

Conclusion

Estonia's e-ID system isn't just a technical solution—it's a **visionary model for digital governance**. By fully integrating e-identity into daily life, Estonia has created a **secure, efficient, and inclusive digital society** that sets the global standard.



ID-card



Estonia has by far the most highly-developed national ID-card system in the world. Much more than just a legal photo ID, the mandatory national card also provides digital access to all of Estonia's secure e-services.

The chip on the card carries embedded files, and using 384-bit ECC public key encryption, it can be used as definitive proof of ID in an electronic environment.

for digital signatures

for i-Voting

to check medical records, submit tax claims, etc.

to use e-Prescriptions

To learn more about the ID-card, visit its [webpage](#). [↗](#)

Find out, what are the costs on signing contracts in your [organisation](#) [↗](#)

99%

of Estonian residents
have ID card

800M

Digital signatures given
so far

5

Days per year saved with
digital signature

[SplitKey by Cybernetica](#)

[Digital Identity by RaulWalter](#)

[eID Remote Maintenance by RaulWalter](#)

[Online verification by Veriff](#)

[m-Residency by B.Est Solution](#)

Other solutions & services

Here are some examples of how it is regularly used in Estonia:

as a legal travel ID for Estonian citizens travelling within the EU

as a national health insurance card

as proof of identification when logging into bank accounts

for digital signatures

for i-Voting

to check medical records, submit tax claims, etc.

to use the e-Prescription service

e-Health

[e-Health record](#)

[e-Prescription](#)

[e-Ambulance](#)

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Developers of e-Identity:

[eID, Mobile-ID, Smart-ID, time-stamping by SK ID Solutions](#) [↗](#)