

A group of children are gathered around a table, looking at and handling Estonian Euro banknotes and coins. One child is holding a 1 Euro coin on a stick. The scene is brightly lit, and the children appear to be engaged in a learning activity.

Welcome to Estonia!

Ülly Enn
Ministry of Education and Research
19.09.2024 in Tallinn

Estonia

- + population: 1.3 million
- + language: Estonian
(finno-ugric language group)
- + 45,339 km²
- + EU, NATO member (since 2004)
- + 99% of public services online
- + 157,000 students
- + 16,500 teachers
- + 500 schools



Education has been highly valued through generations

Before 1918

Under Danish, Swedish, German, Russian rule

13th c. First monastic schools

17th c. Schools for peasant children

1860-70s Compulsory school

1881 Literacy rate 94%

1918-1940
Estonian Republic

Start of the Estonian national education system. From 1920 compulsory and free education for 6 grades.

1944-1991
Soviet Occupation

Estonia managed to maintain high-quality teaching and learning in Estonian language.

1991
Republic of Estonia

The modernisation of Estonian education begins:

- 1997 Tiger Leap Programme
- Targeted investments – digital infrastructure
- Changes in the national curricula

From reforms to PISA success: Estonian students at the top in Europe

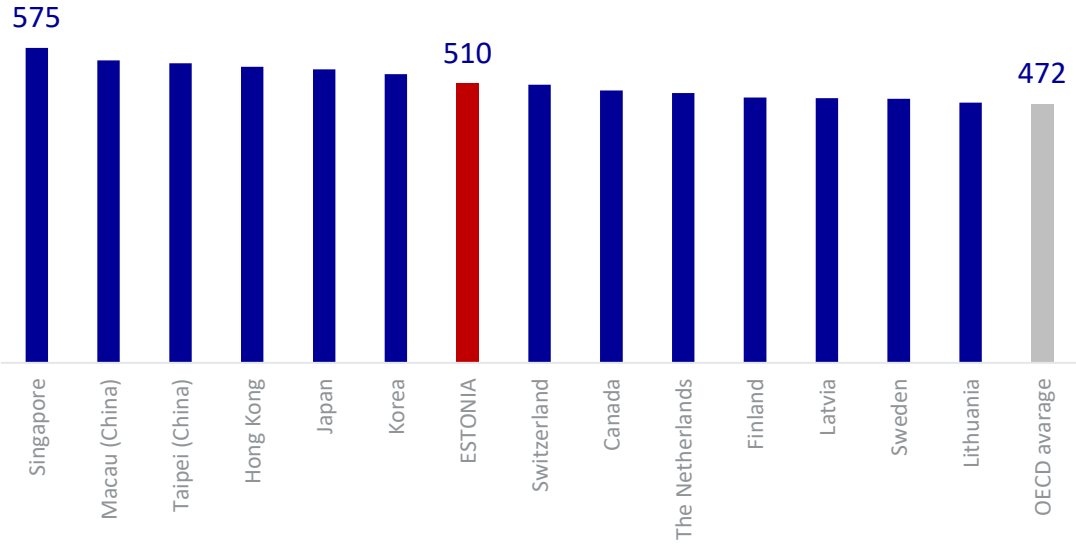
2022 rankings in Europe:
+ 1st-2nd in mathematics
with Switzerland

+ 1st-2nd in reading with Ireland

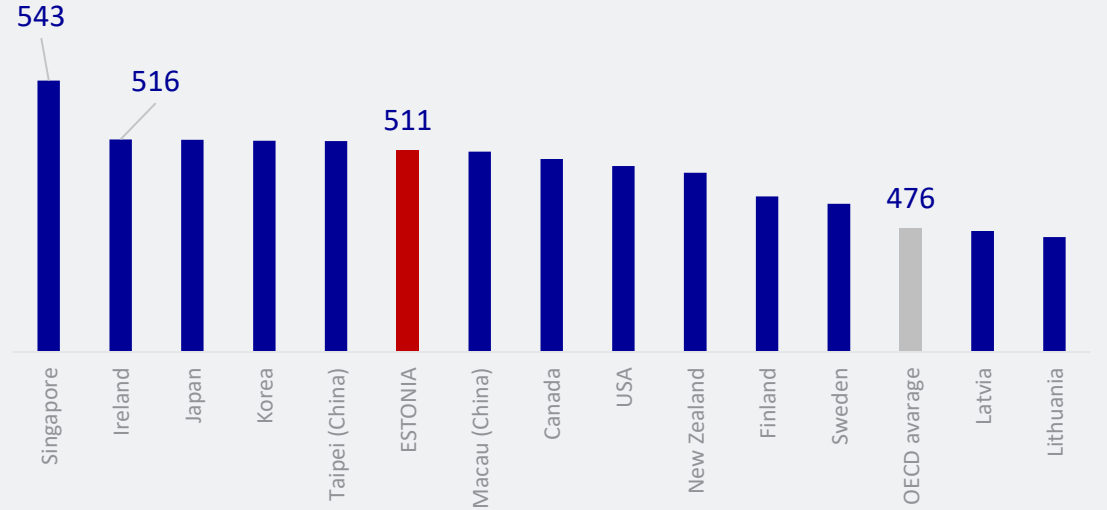
+ 1st in science

	Mathematics		Reading		Science	
1	Estonia	510	Ireland	516	Estonia	526
2	Switzerland	508	Estonia	511	Finland	511
3	Netherlands	493	UK	494	Ireland	504
4	Ireland	492	Finland	490	Switzerland	503
5	Belgium	489	Denmark	489	Slovenia	500
6	Denmark	489	Poland	489	UK	500
7	UK	489	Czech Republic	489	Poland	499
8	Poland	489	Sweden	487	Czech Republic	498
9	Austria	487	Switzerland	483	Latvia	494
10	Czech Republic	487	Italy	482	Denmark	494

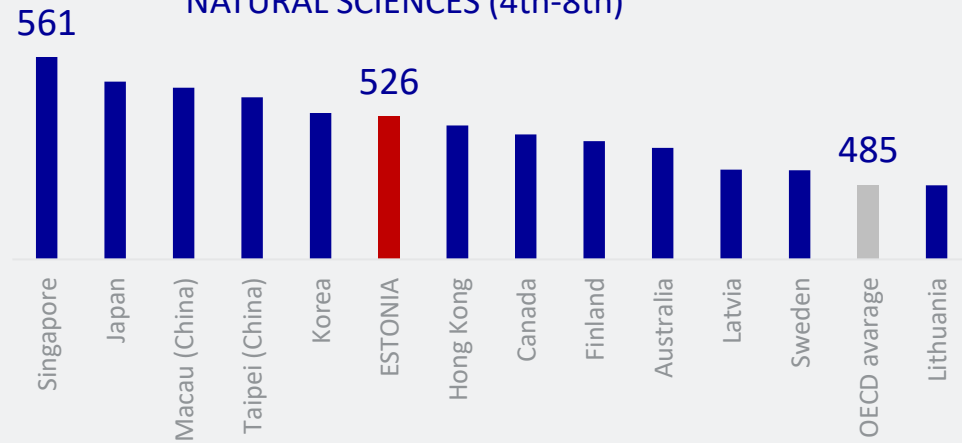
MATHEMATICS (7th-8th)



READING (2nd-9th)



NATURAL SCIENCES (4th-8th)



* Countries with an average score below 400 points are excluded from the chart

Students from Estonia

PISA 2022

1.

In world

growth mindset

1.

In Europe

creative thinking

- + self-directing learners
- + feel safe in school and on the road to school
- + rather satisfied with life (boys more than girls)
- + teachers are autonomous in designing the learning process

6 Key Qualities of Estonian Education System

- + **MENTALITY:** Aim-high-and-work-hard mindset
- + **AUTONOMY:** Autonomy of schools and teachers
- + **GOVERNANCE AND SOCIETAL SUPPORT:** Evidence-based and equity-promoting governance, broad societal support for education
- + **DIVERSITY:** Diverse and responsive school network
- + **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:** 94% of 4-7-year children attend kindergarten
- + **DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES:** Targeted investments, competences and tools



Evolutionary Challenge of the 21st Century

A photograph of a young child with blonde hair looking at a book, with another child in the background holding a water bottle.

Developing higher-level cognitive skills:

- + Collaborative problem solving
- + Creativity
- + Intercultural competency
- + Effective written and oral communication skills
- + Ethical decision making
- + Information and media literacy
- + Leadership
- + Critical thinking
- + Analytical thinking

Key reforms

- + Transition to Estonian as the language of instruction
- + Extending compulsory learning age and reform of vocational education
- + Adjusting school network
- + Financing of higher education
- + Addressing teachers' shortage
- + AI in education
- + Attention to education export



Aitäh!
Thank you!

