

Migration statistics

2017–2021



Opportunities of European Union and third country citizens* to enter and live in Estonia



A European Union citizen and his or her family member



Right to stay — up to 3 months



Temporary right of residence — up to 5 years

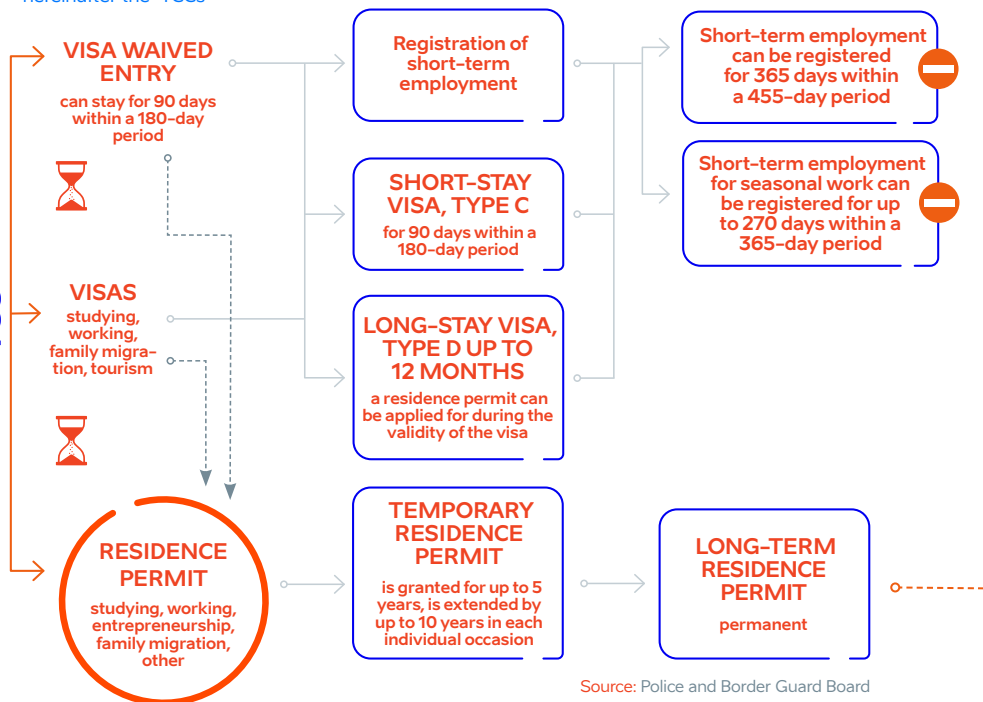


Permanent right of residence — no fixed period



* hereinafter the 'TCCs'

TCC



Source: Police and Border Guard Board

Long-term residence permit — permanent right to live in Estonia
has been living for at least 5 years

Refugee status — residence permit for three years
extended by 3 years

Subsidiary protection status — residence permit for one year
extended by 2 years

Applicant for international protection

Temporary protection status — a residence permit for one year, is extended by six months for up to one year and if necessary, is extended for another year. Temporary protection ends when the maximum period of protection ends or according to a decision by the Council of the European Union.

This overview of migration statistics 2017-2021 provides answers to the following questions:

- **Map of migratory routes**
- **What characterizes the emigration and return of Estonian citizens?**
- **How many Estonian citizens returned to their homeland?**
- **To whom, for what purpose, and how many visas were issued?**
- **How many registrations of short-term employment were there and in what areas?**
- **Who came to live in Estonia and what were the reasons?**
- **Where did the foreigners settle?**
- **Who were granted long-term residence permits and the right of permanent residence?**
- **Who were given international protection?**
- **Who were expelled from Estonia?**
- **Who became Estonian citizens?**
- **Who became e-residents?**
- **How many foreigners participated in the Settle in Estonia program?**

The overview was prepared by the Ministry of the Interior and the Estonian Contact Point for the European Migration Network. Designed by PauPau Design.



KULTUURIMINISTEERIUM



Euroopa Liit
Euroopa Sotsiaalfond



Eesti
tulevikku heaks



Euroopa rändevõrgustik

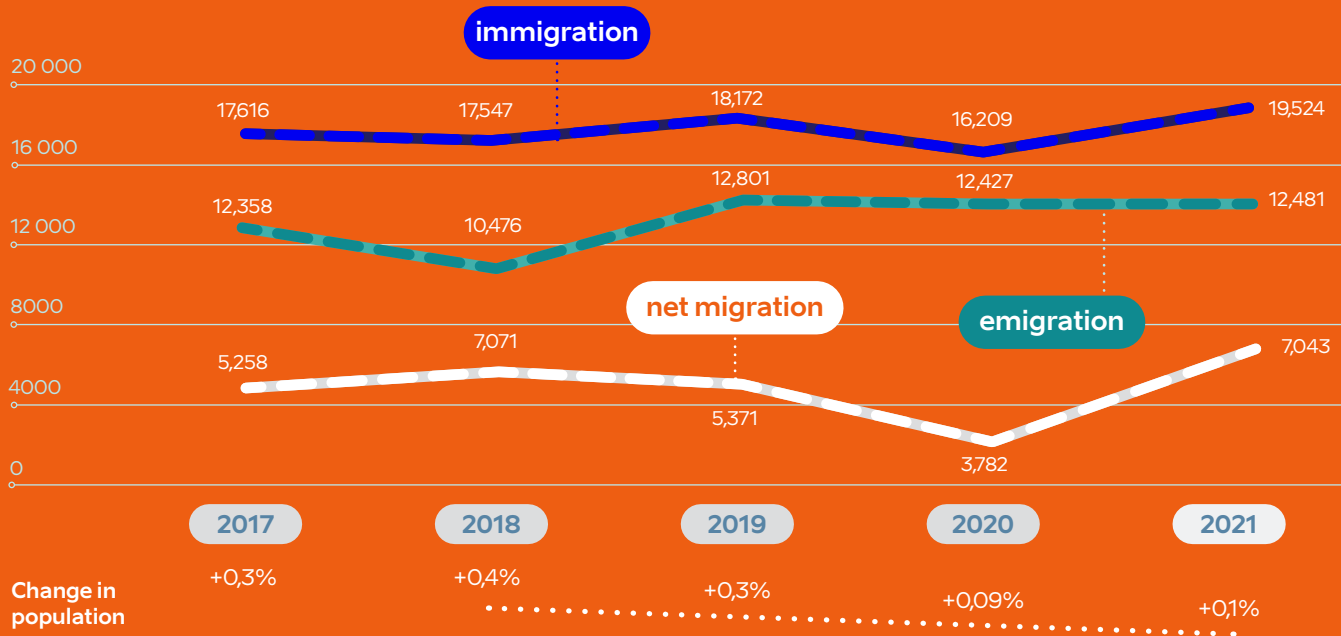
EESTI

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this publication is to provide an overview of the main migration trends in Estonia during the period of 2017-2021 and to explain the different aspects of migration.

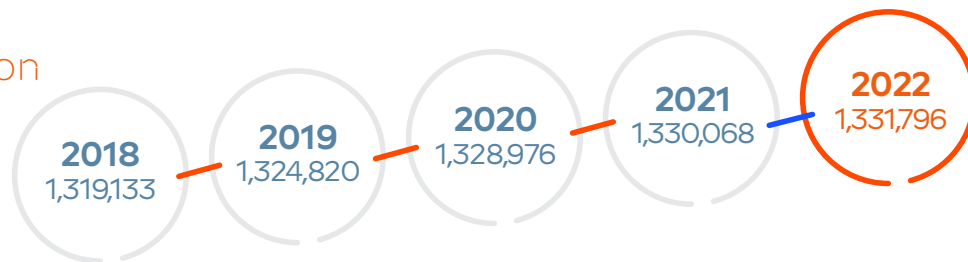
Net Migration (as of January 1, 2022)

Source: Statistics Estonia



Estonian population

2018-2022
(as of January 1, 2022)



Source: Statistics Estonia

More and more individuals are coming to Estonia to live, work, or study, among them a number of Estonian citizens. According to Statistics Estonia, the population of Estonia as of January 1, 2022 is **1,331,796**. In 2021, the population decreased by 5,315 individuals due to the natural growth rate (a high mortality rate exceeded the birth rate that has remained unaltered during recent years) and increased by 7,043 individuals due to positive net migration (more people came to live in Estonia than left the country). Overall, Estonia's population grew by 1,728 individuals.

In 2021, 19,524 individuals came to live in Estonia and 12,481 individuals left to go abroad. Compared to 2020, immigration increased by 3,315 individuals and emigration by only 54 individuals.

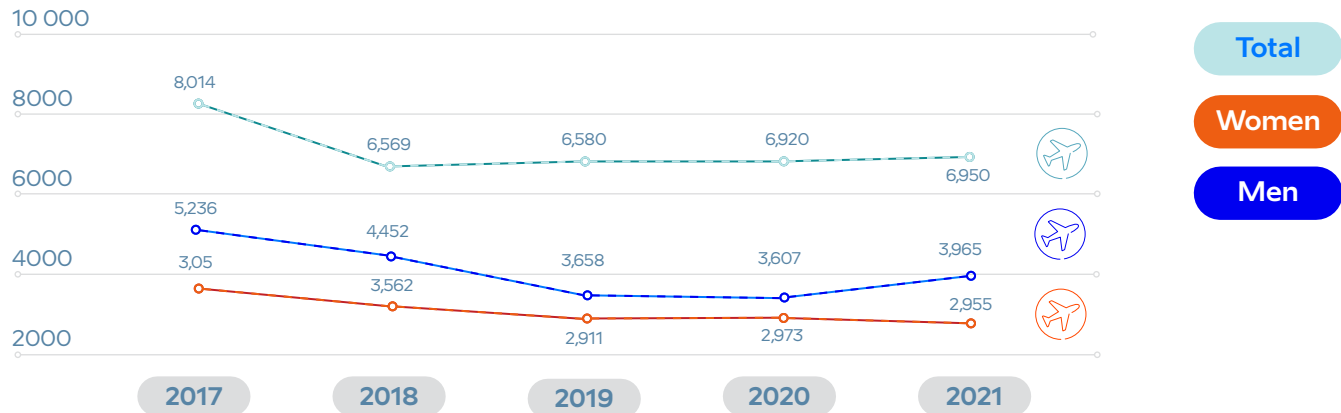


Emigration and Return of Estonian Citizens

In 2017-2021, the total number of Estonian emigrants (35,033) was smaller than the total number of those that returned (36,606). In the last five years, 1,573 more people with Estonian citizenship have arrived in Estonia than left. Thus far, migrants have been men rather than women. People emigrate at a younger age of 20+ and

return at middle age of 50+. In 2021, the largest number of Estonian citizens returned from Finland (47%), Great Britain (10%), and Russia (8%). The largest number of people also left for Finland (62%), Russia (8%), and Great Britain (5%).

Emigration of Estonian citizens (in 2017-2021)




Country to which Estonian citizens emigrated *

+ Finland	2690
 Russia	341
 Great Britain	219
 USA	119
 Sweden	108



2021

Country from which Estonian citizens returned*

+ Soome	2425
 Great Britain	528
 Russia	410
 Germany	217
 Norway	188

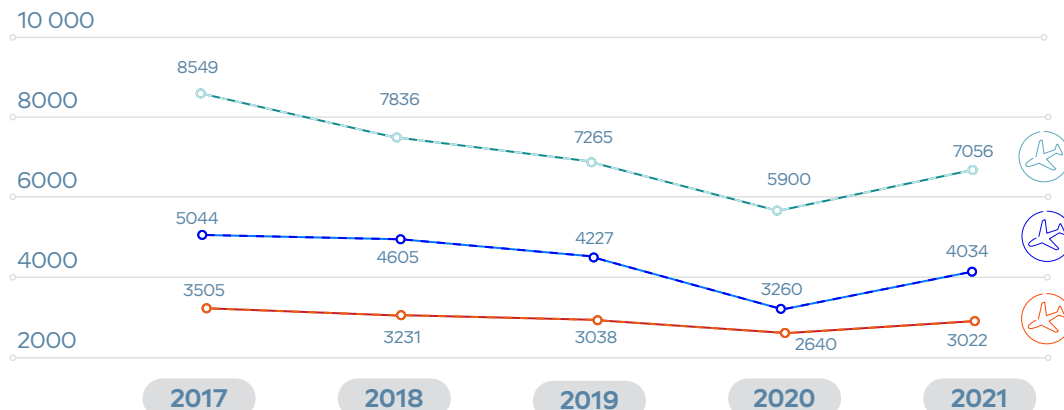


2021

Source: Statistics Estonia

Return of Estonian citizens (in 2017-2021)

* In the case of immigration and emigration of Estonian citizens, the country of origin or destination of migration is not known in all cases.



Total

Women

Men

Change in
favor of
return %

+6.7%

+19%

+10%

-14%

+1,5%

Source: Statistics Estonia

Which foreign country is home to the largest number of Estonian citizens?

Estonian citizens abroad, top 10 countries (as of January 1, 2022)

	Finland	54,094
	Russia	19,174
	Great Britain	9,528
	Germany	5,577
	Sweden	5,036
	USA	4,781
	Canada	3,042
	Australia	2,967
	Ireland	2,463
	Norway	1,594

According to information in the Population Register, 121,181 Estonian citizens live abroad as of the beginning of 2022. However, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs estimates that there are actually up to 200,000 people of Estonian origin living abroad.

Source: Population Register



VISAS

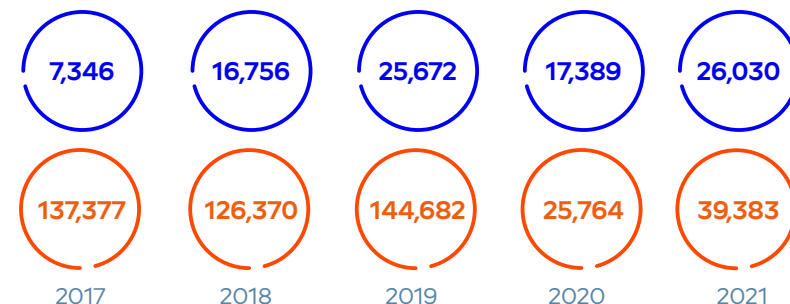
The Uniform Schengen Visa (type C visa) allows one to travel freely throughout the Schengen Area for up to 90 days in a 180-day period.

The long-stay visa (type D visa) is issued for staying in Estonia for up to 12 consecutive months for a maximum period of up to 365 days. The long-stay visa is a domestic visa that provides the right to travel freely throughout the Schengen Area for up to 90 days in a 180-day period.

Starting from 2020, a foreigner can apply for both a short-stay and a long-stay visa for remote work (the so-called digital nomad visa) if the purpose of the foreigner's temporary stay in Estonia is the performance of duties of employment irrespective of the location. In 2021, 153 long-stay visas were issued for remote work – nearly four times as much as in 2020 when 37 digital nomad visas were issued. For the most part, visa recipients were citizens of the Russian Federation, the United States of America, Great Britain, India, and Ukraine.

Visas issued by Estonia (in 2017–2021)

 Long-stay visa Type D visa  Short-stay visa Type C visa








Short-term (Schengen visas) type C visas

Total

Top 5 citizenships

39,383

-  Russia
-  Belarus
-  Turkey
-  Kazakhstan
-  India

Long-term type D visas

Total

Top 5 citizenships

26,030

-  Ukraina
-  Russia
-  Belarus
-  Moldova
-  Uzbekistan

As in 2021 restrictions on the movement of people due to COVID-19 continued to be applied around the world, including Estonia, the number of short-stay type C visas failed to regain its former level in 2020, falling short of the record numbers reached in 2019. However, the number of long-stay type D visas surpassed 2019's corresponding indicator.

Top 5 issued long-stay visas

(by purpose of travel, 2021)



TOURISM



Visiting
family



Business
travel



Other



Sports

Top 5 issued long-stay visas

(by purpose of travel, 2021)



SHORT-
TERM EM-
PLOYMENT



Visiting
family



Studies



Business
travel



Other

SHORT-TERM EMPLOYMENT

Foreigners who are staying in Estonia temporarily (e.g. based on a visa or visa waiver) may work in Estonia if their right to work arises directly from the law or an international agreement or if their employer has registered their short-term employment with the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board before they commence employment. Registration of short-term employment alone will not provide a foreigner with legal grounds to stay in Estonia.

Generally, short-term employment can be registered for up to 365 days in a 455-day period. Short-term employment for seasonal work can be registered for up to 270 days in a one year period. While the number of registrations of short-term employment was on a consistent rise in previous years, save for a temporary fall in 2020, 49% more short-term employments were registered in 2021 than in 2020, reaching the pre-COVID-19 level of 2019. Out of all registrations of short-term employment, 82% were men and 18% were women.

The number of short-term employment registrations for seasonal work also increased by 46% as compared to 2020.

Number of registrations of short-term employment (2017-2021)



Source: Estonian Police and Border Guard Board

Top 5 citizenships (2021)



Source: Estonian Police and Border Guard Board

Fields for employment in which short-term employment was registered, top 5 (2021)



Construction



Processing industry



Agriculture, forestry, and fishing



Transport and warehousing



Other service activities

Source: Estonian Police and Border Guard Board

WHO CAME TO LIVE IN ESTONIA AND WHAT WERE THE REASONS?

Temporary residence permit: a permit issued to foreigners for settling in Estonia. A temporary residence permit may be issued to a foreigner to settle with a spouse or a close relative, for study, employment, or enterprise, in exceptional cases for participation in criminal proceedings, in case of substantial national interest, or on the basis of a treaty. In addition, a foreigner who has lived in Estonia for at least three years may be issued a residence permit for settling permanently in Estonia. A temporary residence permit is issued with the period of validity of up to five years and may be extended for up to ten years.

Statistics on first-time temporary residence permits issued in 2021¹ indicate that most foreigners come to Estonia on the grounds of family migration, work, and studies. On the grounds of family migration, it is possible to settle in Estonia if the foreigner joins a spouse or close relative already living in Estonia or if the above settle in Estonia together.

¹ A temporary residence permit issued for the first time is issued to a person who applies for an Estonian residence permit for the first time. .



First-time temporary residence permits, top 5 citizenships by migration type (2021)

Total number of citizenships by grounds

 Ukraine	
 Russia	
 Belarus	
 India	
 Nigeria	
TOTAL	6087

Family migration (total – joining spouse / lose relative)

 Ukraine	
 Russia	
 Belarus	
 Nigeria	
 India	
TOTAL	2642

Residence permit for the purposes of studies

 Russia	
 Nigeria	
 Ukraine	
 Azerbaijan	
 Pakistan	
TOTAL	1078

Working

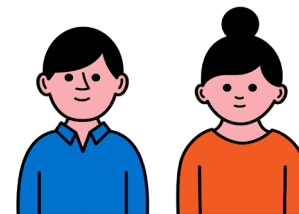
 Ukraine	
 Russia	
 Belarus	
 India	
 USA	
TOTAL	2249

Residence permit for engagement in business

 Russia	
 Iran	
 Belarus	
 Turkey	
 USA	
TOTAL	106

Source: Estonian Police and Border Guard Board

First-time temporary residence permits and rights of residence by migration types (2017-2021)



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021		
Total first-time residence permits	3,995	4,912	5,984	4,710	6,087	3,446	2,641
Family migration (total - joining spouse / lose relative)	1,184	1,661	2,272	1,958	2,642	862	1,780
Residence permit for the purposes of studies	1,211	1,267	1,330	533	1,078	628	450
Working	1,501	1,851	2,218	2,089	2,249	1856	393
Residence permit for engagement in business	53	87	134	111	106	92	14
Family members of EU citizens EL	42	57	82	106	107	22	85
Other reason*	46	46	30	19	12	8	4

*Other reason - participation in criminal proceedings, international

Source: Estonian Police and Border Guard Board

The total number of first-time temporary residence permits increased by 29% as compared to 2020, which was significantly affected by COVID-19 travel restrictions. Thus, the number of residence permits increased by almost all grounds - the increase was 35% in family migration, 102% in study migration, and 7% in labor migration. However, the number of residence permits in enterprise decreased slightly, by 4%.

LABOR MIGRATION

In 2021, the number of recipients of first-time temporary residence permits for employment increased by 7% as compared to 2020, the growth was significant for top specialists - 47%, while the number of foreigners working in Estonian start-ups decreased somewhat - 18%.

First-time temporary residence permits for employment by types of employment (2019-2021)

Labor migration	2019	2020	2021
General	1,283	1,256	1,248
Top specialists	390	384	566
Working in start-ups	315	232	190
Experts/advisers/consultants	78	53	64
Research activities/lecturers	42	36	52
Members of managing bodies of bodies corporate governed by private law	26	33	23
Sportsmen/coaches/referees	10	18	22
EU Blue Card	19	9	23
Minister of religion / monk / nun	16	22	29
Person engaged in creative activities	7	12	8
Teacher	15	12	14
Other	17	22	10
TOTAL	2218	2089	2249

Source: Estonian Police and Border Guard Board

SETTLING PERMANENTLY IN ESTONIA

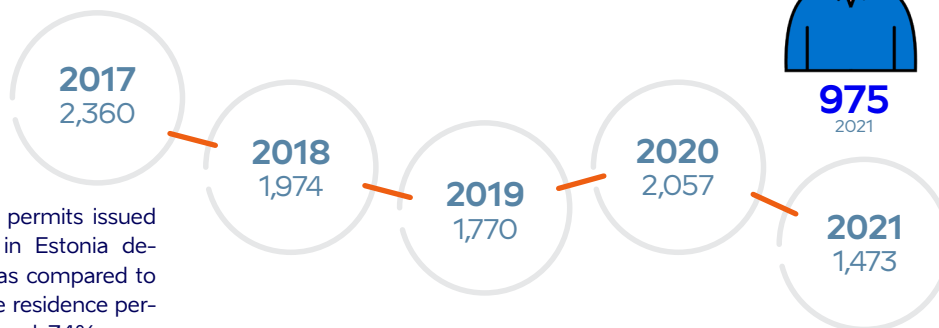
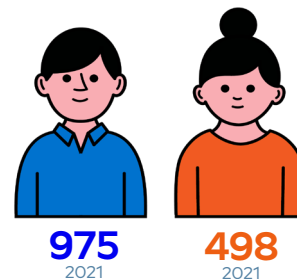


As of 2016, it is possible to apply for a residence permit to settle permanently in Estonia. On these grounds, a foreigner who has lived in Estonia for at least three years during five consecutive years and who has adapted well in Estonia can apply for a residence permit.

Temporary residence permits issued for settling permanently in Estonia

(2017-2021)

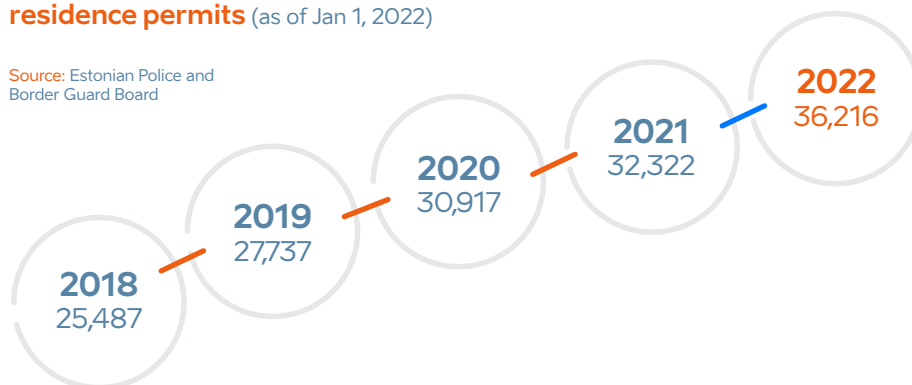
Source: Estonian Police and Border Guard Board



The number of residence permits issued for settling permanently in Estonia decreased by 28% in 2021 as compared to 2020. In 2021, 66% of the residence permit recipients were men and 34% were women.

Number of individuals with valid temporary residence permits (as of Jan 1, 2022)

Source: Estonian Police and Border Guard Board



Number of individuals with valid temporary residence permit by citizenships, top 5 (as of Jan 1, 2022)

	Ukraine	9,963
	Russia	9,572
	Undetermined citizenship	3,849
	Belarus	1,574
	India	1317
TOTAL		36,216

Source: Estonian Police and Border Guard Board

RIGHT OF RESIDENCE OF EU CITIZEN AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBER

EU citizen's right of temporary residence:

Temporary right of residence of a citizen of the European Union: a citizen of the European Union acquires a temporary right of residence for up to 5 years if they register their place of residence in the Population Register. The temporary right of residence is automatically renewed for 5 years if the place residence of a citizen of the European Union continues to be registered in Estonia.

Family members of a European Union citizen who are third-country nationals^[1] and wish to reside in Estonia must apply for a temporary right of residence and renewal thereof. In their case, it is not enough to register their place of residence in the Population Register.

A citizen of the European Union and a family member accompanying them have the right to stay in Estonia on the basis of a valid identity document for up to 3 months without registering and applying for a right of residence.

Number of individuals with valid temporary right of residence of an EU citizen (as of Jan 1, 2022)



Source: Population Register




Number of individuals with valid temporary right of residence of a family member of EU citizen (as of Jan 1, 2022)



Source: Estonian Police and Border Guard Board






² A third-country national is a foreigner who is a citizen of a country other than a Member State of the European Union, a Member State of the European Economic Area, or the Swiss Confederation. As of 2021, British citizens as well are third-country nationals.

EU citizens that registered their place of residence, top 5 citizenships (2021)

 Germany	592
 France	583
 Latvia	556
 Finland	464
 Italy	287
TOTAL	4,041

Source: Population Register






Number of individuals with a valid temporary right of residence of an EU citizen by citizenships, top 5 (as of Jan 1, 2022)

 Finland	7,681
 Latvia	5,111
 Germany	3,840
 France	2,427
 Italy	2,198

Source: Population Register

Decisions on the right of temporary residence of a family members of EU citizens, top 5 citizenships (in 2021)

(the periodic comparison table is presented in the "First-time temporary residence permits and rights of residence by migration types 2017-2021" table)

 Russia	32
 Ukraine	14
 Brazil	11
 USA	8
 Belarus	3
TOTAL	107

Source: Estonian Police and Border Guard Board

Number of individuals with valid temporary right of residence of a family member of EU citizen by citizenships, top 5 (as of Jan 1, 2022)

 Russia	133
 Ukraine	55
 Great Britain	42
 Moldova	26
 Undetermined citizenship	26
TOTAL	454

Source: Estonian Police and Border Guard Board

LONG-TERM RESIDENT'S RESIDENCE PERMIT

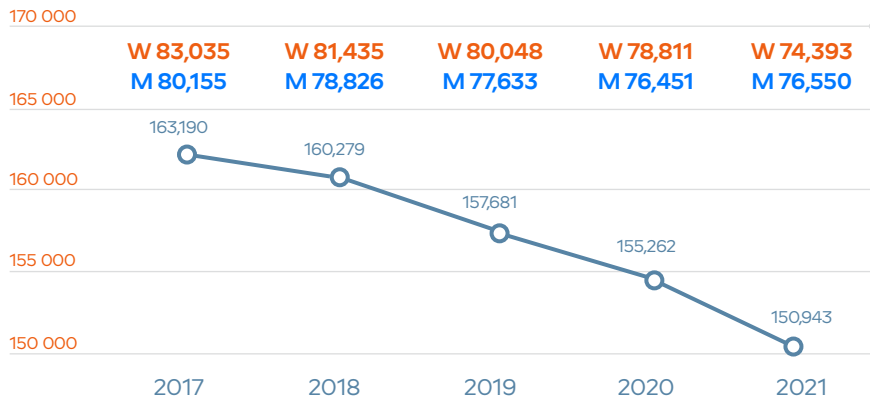
A long-term resident's residence permit is a residence permit issued for an unspecified term that can be applied for by third-country nationals if they have resided in Estonia on the basis of a residence permit for at least five years, have a valid temporary residence permit and permanent legal income, are insured, have registered their place of residence, and are proficient in Estonian at least at B1 level.

Recipients of a long-term resident's residence permit also include persons with undetermined citizenship (holders of the

so-called gray passport) who settled in Estonia before July 1, 1990 and have continued to reside in Estonia. The number of individuals with undetermined citizenship has decreased from year to year (from 69,009 individuals in 2020 to 66,682 individuals in 2021) - the main reasons for this are the death of relevant individual or the acquisition of Estonian or another country's citizenship. 70% of long-term residence permit holders belong to the 40-59 age group (33%) and the 60-79 age group (37%); 0% fall in the 0-19 age group, 14% in the 20-39 age group, and 11% in the 80+ age group.

Valid long-term resident's residence permits 2017-2021

(as of Dec 31, 2021)



Foreigners that hold a valid long-term resident's residence permit, top 5 citizenships

(as of Dec 31, 2021)

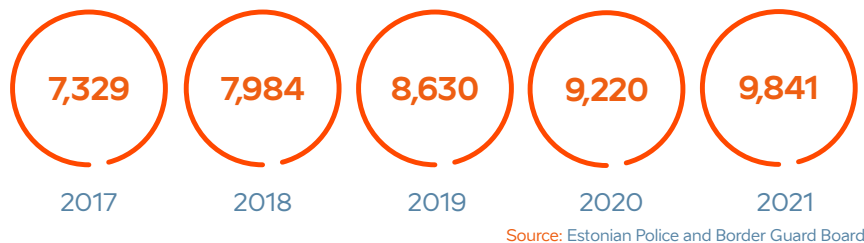
	RUSSIA	77,579
	Undetermined citizenship	66,682
	Ukraine	4,249
	Belarus	1,214
	USA	239

Source: Estonian Police and Border Guard Board

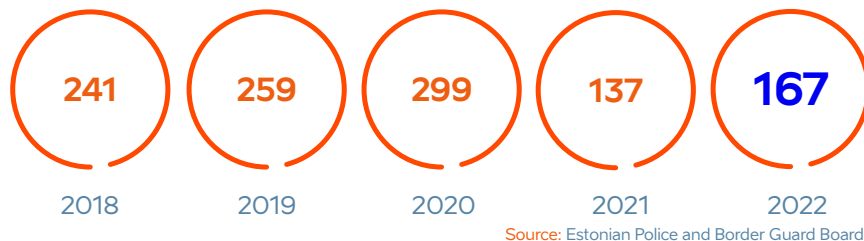
PERMANENT RIGHT OF RESIDENCE OF EU CITIZEN AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBER

A citizen of the European Union and their family member who is a third-country national and who has resided in Estonia persistently for five consecutive years on the basis of a temporary right of residence have the right to apply for a permanent right of residence.

Number of EU citizens with permanent right residence and EU citizens' family members 2017-2021 (as of Dec 31, 2021)



Number of individuals with valid permanent right of residence of an EU citizen's family member (as of Jan 1, 2022)




Top 5 citizenships of EU citizens with permanent right of residence and number of such citizens (as of Dec 31, 2021)

 Finland	2,370
 Latvia	2,360
 Lithuania	1,403
 Germany	605
 Great Britain	500

Source: Estonian Police and Border Guard Board

Number of individuals with valid permanent right of residence of an EU citizen's family member by citizenships, top 5 (as of Jan 1, 2022)

 Russia	74
 Undetermined citizenship	17
 Ukraine	12
 Latvia	9
 Georgia	5
TOTAL	167

Source: Estonian Police and Border Guard Board

WHERE DID THE FOREIGNERS SETTLE?

According to data in the Population Register, in 2017-2021 period, citizens of both third countries and the European Union have settled most often in Harju County and Tartu County.

The map shows the first-time registrations of the place of residence of European Union and third-country nationals in different Estonian counties in 2021.



Top 5 cities/towns (2021)

Third country nationals

Tallinn
3,844

Tartu
587

Narva
155

Pärnu
120

Kohtla-Järve
95

EU citizens

Tallinn
2,527

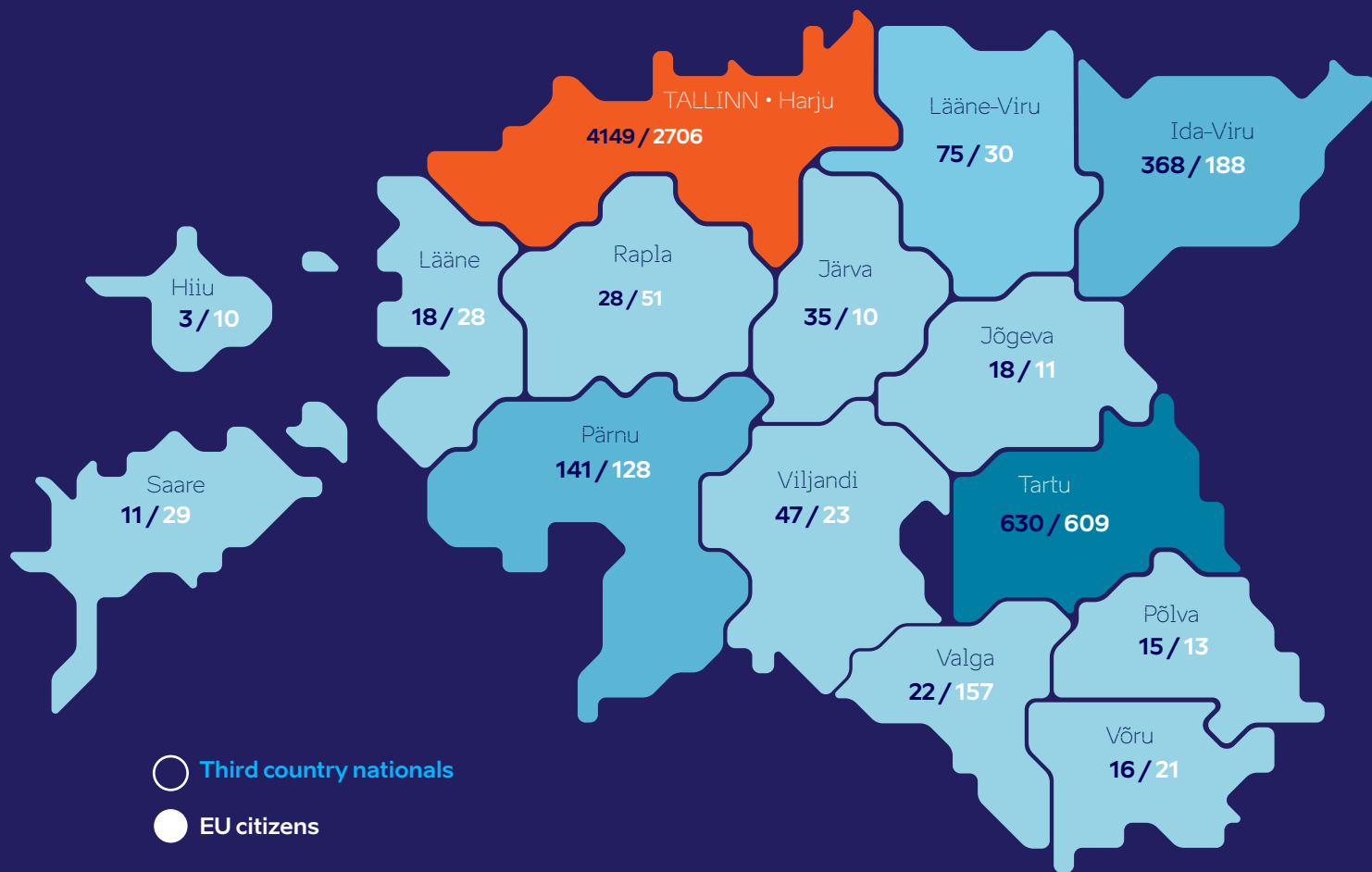
Tartu
590

Valga
125

Narva
93

Pärnu
90

Source: Population Register



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Applying for international protection is a fundamental human right. Estonia has taken on an international commitment to protect those foreigners who cannot live in their homeland safely.

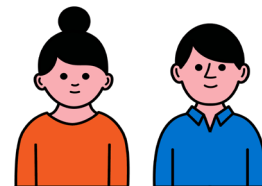
The beneficiary of international protection is a foreigner who has been recognized as a refugee or beneficiary of subsidiary protection and who has been granted an Estonian residence permit.

In recent years, the number of applicants for international protection has remained relatively low; however, the number of applicants increased by 65% in 2021 as compared to 2020.

The number of beneficiaries of international protection has also remained low and was augmented by individuals in need of international protection who were accepted under the European Agenda on Migration for 2015–2017 and the European Commission's call of 2017.

In 2021, the situation in Afghanistan escalated, as a result of which the Government of the Republic decided to accept up to 30 Afghans who had cooperated with Estonia and our allies. In 2021, 16 individuals evacuated from Afghanistan arrived in Estonia.

Rahvusvahelise kaitse taotlejad soo lõikes

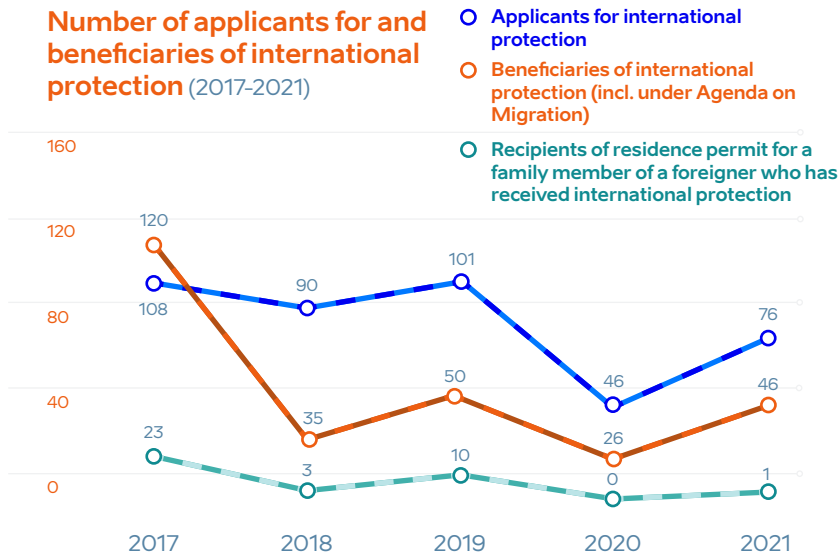


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46

(as of Dec 31, 2021)

Number of applicants for and beneficiaries of international protection (2017–2021)



Source: Estonian Police and Border Guard Board

Since 1997, 1,324 foreigners have applied for international protection from Estonia, and international protection (refugee status + subsidiary protection status) has been granted to a total of 603 foreigners, including 213 individuals who arrived and received protection under the Agenda on Migration (86 of whom were granted refugee status and 127 were granted subsidiary protection status). A total of 97 individuals have been granted a residence permit for a family member of a foreigner who has received international protection.

Over time, many beneficiaries of international protection have either returned to their homeland or settled in another Member State, but there are also those whose status in Estonia has changed. For example, 11 beneficiaries of international protection have acquired Estonian citizenship by today.

Citizenship of applicants for international protection

(1997-2021, top 5)

 Ukraine	209
 Russia	180
 Georgia	99
 Afghanistan	75
 Syria	72
TOTAL	1324

Source: Estonian Police and Border Guard Board

Refugee status is granted to a person who has been identified as having a well-founded fear of persecution on the grounds of race, religion, nationality, social group membership, or political orientation and has been granted international protection under the 1951 Geneva Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.

Subsidiary protection is granted to a foreigner who does not qualify as a refugee but whose return or repatriation could pose a serious risk to their person (e.g. death penalty, torture, other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, international or domestic armed conflict).

APPLYING FOR INTER-NATIONAL PROTECTION

At a border crossing point

International protection can be applied for prior to entering the country at any border crossing point on the border of the Republic of Estonia. In most cases, this is done if the foreigner does not have a valid visa, travel documents, or Estonian residence permit required for entry.

At a service point of the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board

If the foreigner is already in Estonia, the application is submitted to a service point of the Police and Border Guard Board.

Citizenship of beneficiaries, incl. under Agenda on Migration, of international protection (1997-2021, top 5)

 Syria	199
 Ukraine	93
 Russia	66
 Iraq	42
 Afghanistan	39
TOTAL	603

Source: Estonian Police and Border Guard Board



EXPULSION

A foreigner who has no legal basis to stay in Estonia is required to leave the country. A precept to leave the country is issued to a person staying in the country without a legal basis that the person must comply with within the shortest possible time. A precept to leave either imposes on the person an obligation to leave as subject to a term of voluntary performance (within the period of 7 to 30 days) or the obligation to leave is executed by way of compulsory enforcement through detention of the person and expulsion from Estonia. Voluntary departure is preferable to forced removal. In 2021, voluntary adherence to the precept to leave accounted for 91% of the total number of precepts to leave. The precept to

leave lists the reasons as to why the person must leave the country. In 2021, the largest number of precepts to leave was issued to citizens of Ukraine, Moldova and the Russian Federation.

It is possible for a person who voluntarily performed the obligation to leave the country to receive return and reintegration support through the VARRE project, implemented by IOM's (International Organization for Migration) Estonian representation. The VARRE project was started in Estonia already in 2010 and with its support almost 600 individuals have returned to their homeland. In 2021, with VARRE's support, citizens of Moldova, Ukraine, and Georgia were the most numerous to return to their homeland.

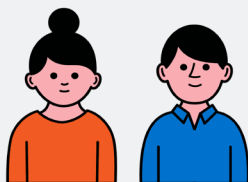
Departure of individuals on the basis of a precept to leave and voluntary return supported by VARRE project (2017-2021)

	Number of individuals who left the country on the basis of a precept to leave subject to compulsory execution	Number of individuals who left the country on the basis of a precept to leave subject to a term of voluntarily performance	Number of individuals who left the country voluntarily with support of the VARRE project
2017	127	503	82
2018	155	666	45
2019	208	1,000	132
2020	108	989	128
2021	104	1,089	40

Source: Estonian Police and Border Guard Board

WHO BECAME ESTONIAN CITIZENS?

In 2017-2021, Estonian citizenship was granted by naturalization³ to 4,170 individuals of whom 2,257 were women and 1,913 were men.



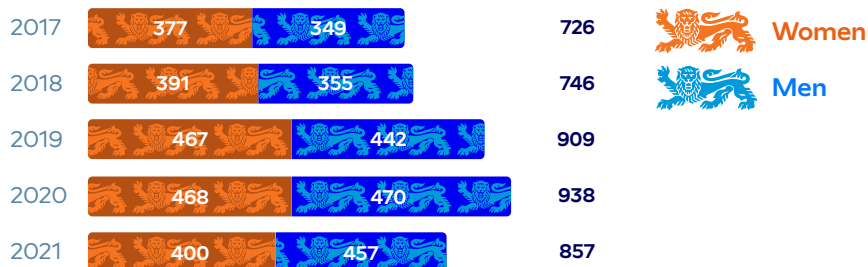
Women
2,257

Men
1,913

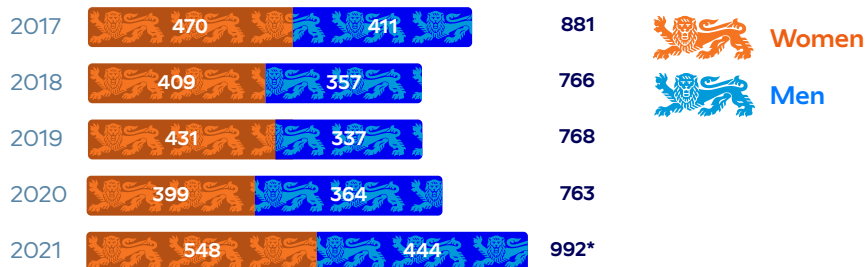
³ Naturalization means acquisition of citizenship not by birth under the terms and conditions provided for in the Republic of Estonia Citizenship Act..

Applying for and obtaining citizenship (2017-2021)

Applications



Naturalized individuals



Source: Republic of Estonia Ministry of the Interior

* incl. 91 children who automatically acquired Estonian citizenship from the moment of birth by naturalization and whose parents have undetermined citizenship and the child was born in Estonia

HOW TO OBTAIN ESTONIAN CITIZENSHIP?

Acquisition, obtainment, and resumption of Estonian citizenship:

- Estonian citizenship is acquired by birth by a child whose at least one parent is an Estonian citizen upon the child's birth.
- Estonian citizenship is obtained by naturalization and restored to a person who lost Estonian citizenship as a minor.
- As of 2016, Estonian citizenship is automatically granted to a child born in Estonia from the moment of their birth if the child's parents are not citizens of any country and have resided legally in Estonia for at least five years at the time of the child's birth.

As of 2019, the citizenship agreements system was launched, the aim of which is to facilitate the acquisition of citizenship. Foreigners who have lived in Estonia for at least five years can conclude a one-off language learning agreement with the state that, on the one hand, enables the foreigner to benefit from free language courses and, on the other hand, obligates them to pass an Estonian language exam at least at B1 level and apply for Estonian citizenship within one year of passing of the exam. Participants in language training are compensated by the state for up to 20 days of study leave in the amount of the average salary.



Previous citizenships of individuals who obtained citizenship by naturalization, top 5 (2021)

○	Undetermined citizenship	546
🇷🇺	Russia	266
🇺🇦	Ukraine	32
🇱🇻	Latvia	10
🇧🇪	Belarus	6

Source: Republic of Estonia Ministry of the Interior

E-RESIDENTS

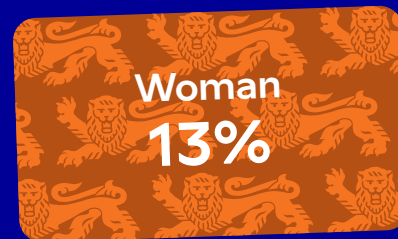
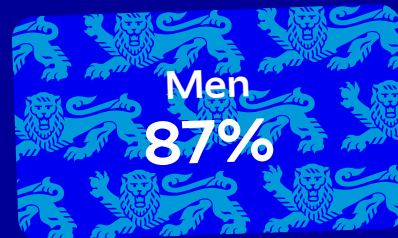
Estonia was the first country in the world to start offering e-residency or digital identity services to citizens of foreign countries. As of today, several other countries in the world have created and are creating similar programs following Estonia's example.

Starting from December 2014, non-residents can apply for Estonian e-resident status together with an e-resident digital ID card that is a state-guaranteed secure digital means of identification and enables foreigners to use Estonia's e-state services whenever needed and irrespective of location. However, the e-resident's digital ID is not a physical identity or travel document (it does not have a photo) nor does it grant citizenship, tax residence, a residence permit, or a permit to enter Estonia or the European Union.

In addition to founding companies in Estonia, Estonian e-residents use their digital document to manage such founded companies, perform online banking transactions, access international payment services, file their income tax returns electronically, and digitally sign documents and agreements.

The total number of
e-residents as of
December 31, 2021

88,267



The total number of
e-residents (as of December 31, 2021)

-  Russia
-  Finland
-  Ukraine
-  Germany
-  China

Source: Enterprise Estonia

Source: Estonian Police and Border Guard Board

Decisions to issue an e-resident's digital ID (2017-2021)



13,436
2017

-  Ukraine
-  Finland
-  Germany
-  Great Britain
-  Russia

13,977
2021

-  Russia
-  Germany
-  Spain
-  Ukraine
-  China


22,367
2018

-  Japan
-  Russia
-  China
-  Ukraine
-  Germany

16,630
2019

-  Russia
-  Germany
-  Ukraine
-  India
-  China

12,955
2020

-  Russia
-  Germany
-  China
-  Ukraine
-  Spain

Source: Estonian Police and Border Guard Board

SUPPORTING INTEGRATION OF NEW IMMIGRANTS

The “Settle in Estonia” integration program is a training program offered by the Estonian state that helps foreigners who have arrived in Estonia to integrate more easily and adapt to local life. During various courses an overview is provided of the functioning of the Estonian state and society and of the daily organization of life in the country.

The “Settle in Estonia” integration program consists of **basic Estonian language training** and seven thematic training courses: **basic module, work, entrepreneurship, studies, science, family, and international protection**. Courses take place in Tallinn, Tartu, and Narva mainly in English and Russian.

Participants and program

The “Settle in Estonia” integration program is open to all foreigners who have a right of residence or a residence permit and who have lived in Estonia for less than 5 years. The integration program launched in August 2015 and by the end of 2021, training courses had been attended 10,685 times. In 2021, the “Settle in Estonia” program was attended 2,262 times. One person could also par-

Participants in integration program






(2017-2021)

	Russia	2017
	Ukraine	1,214
	Belarus	
	Syria	
	Latvia	

ticipate in several of the integration program’s modules. From 2021, the integration program offered Estonian language courses at A2 level in addition to A1 level. The number of participants was 524 and 381, respectively.

In 2021, a total of 164 different training courses took place as part of the integration program, including 126 online courses. A1 and A2 language courses attracted the most participants, followed by courses in the basic module and the entrepreneurship module⁴.






⁴ As from 2021, the work and entrepreneurship module is offered as two separate modules.

 Russia
 Ukraine
 India
 Nigeria
 Belarus






2018
1,479

 Russia
 Ukraine
 India
 Nigeria
 Turkey

2019
2,073

 Russia
 Ukraine
 Nigeria
 India
 Belarus

2020
1,950

 Russia
 Ukraine
 Nigeria
 India
 Iran

2021
2,262

Source: Republic of Estonia Ministry of the Interior / Ministry of Culture



In 2021*, **825 men and 921 women** participated in the integration program

The average age was **35 for men and 33 for women.**

*division reflects unique participants. The average age was 35 for men and 33 for women.

