

A photograph of a classroom. In the foreground, a young woman with long blonde hair is sitting at a desk, looking towards the camera with her hand raised. She is wearing a black long-sleeved shirt with a graphic. To her left, another student is looking down at a book. In the background, a teacher in a red sweater is standing near a whiteboard. Other students are seated at desks, some looking at books or tablets. The room has a modern feel with white desks and a grey wall.

Estonia. Smart solutions for education innovation

education
estonia

HARNNO

Education and Youth Board of Estonia

Priorities 2023

Post-merge service design
Organizational culture & new strategy
Preparing for EU funds



Raising awareness about the Estonian education opportunities

Coordinating teaching Estonian language and culture in 9 foreign universities



3200 credentials evaluations annually by ENIC/NARIC



9500 participants in mobility programs annually in Erasmus+ and EU Solidarity Corps



392 employees



16 regional offices



budget 79.4M

Estonia

- + population: 1.3 million
- + 45,339 km²
- + EU, NATO member (since 2004)
- + 99% of public services online



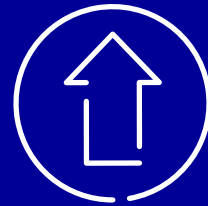
Estonian students top global rankings (PISA 2022)

1-2

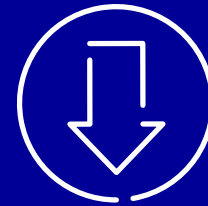
in Europe
in math, reading
and science

6-7

in the world
in math, reading
and science



≈ 1.5 times more
top performers
vs OECD mean



≈ 2 times less
low performers
vs OECD mean

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.

1991
Republic of Estonia

The modernisation of Estonian education begins.

The power of effort

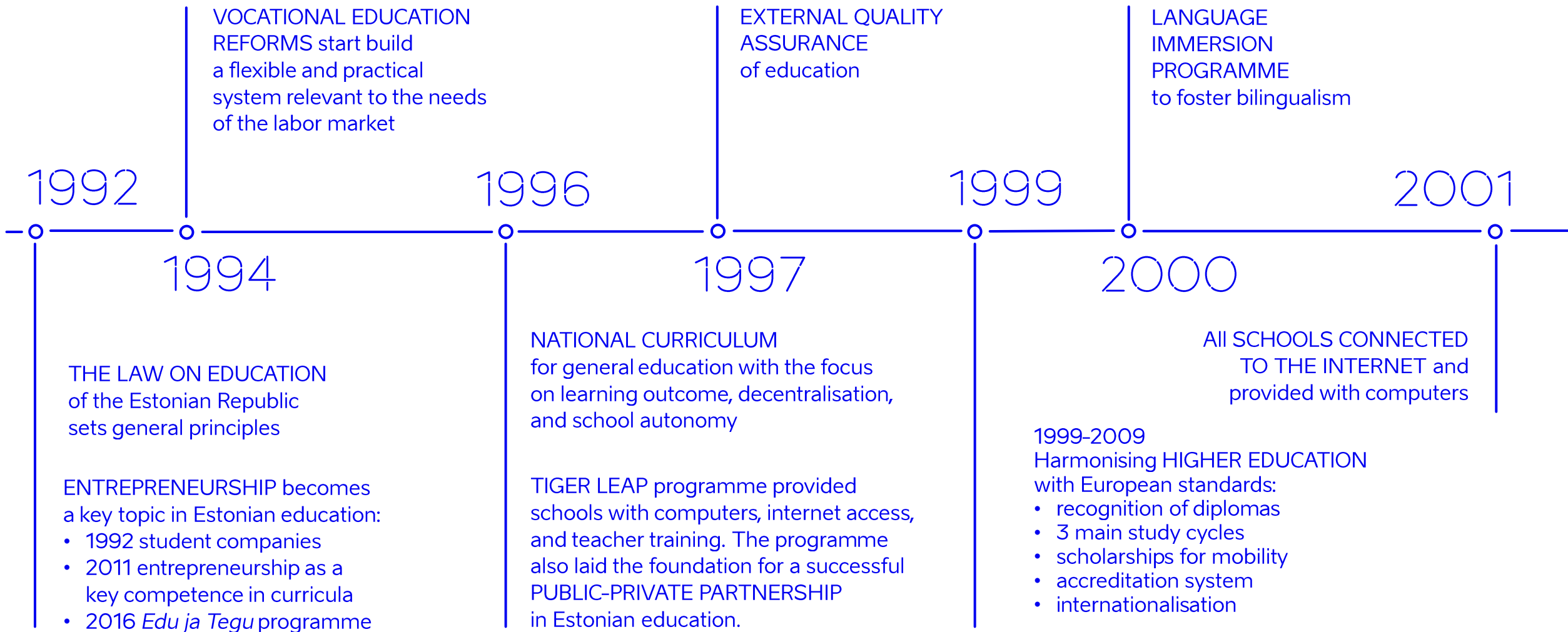
A young boy with curly blonde hair is climbing a red rope net structure. He is wearing a blue and white striped t-shirt and a grey safety harness. He is looking upwards with a focused expression. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and greenery, suggesting an outdoor setting like a park or a climbing gym.

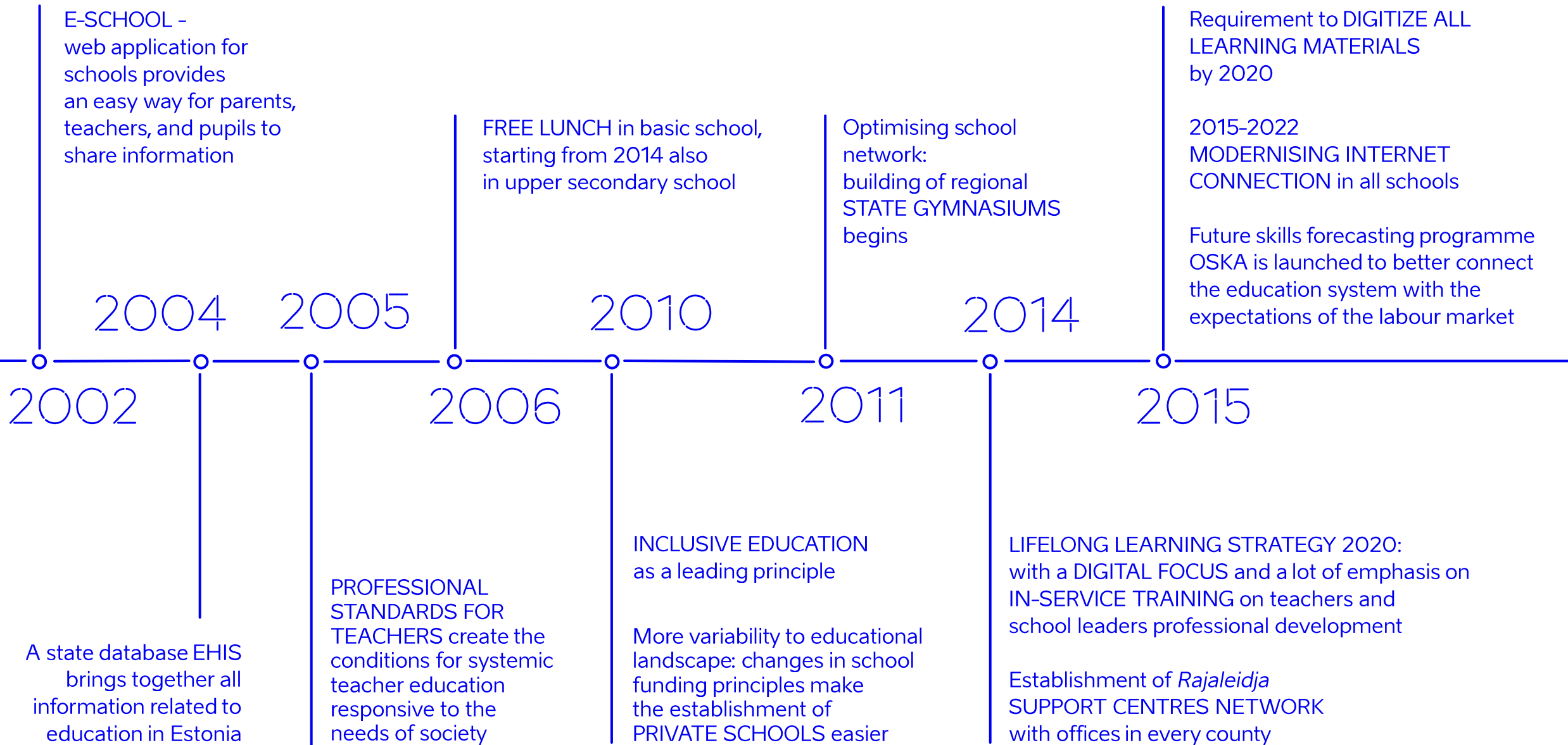
Estonian students consistently exhibit a strong growth mindset and lead the PISA rankings in 2018 and 2022.

Characteristics of Estonian education

- + TEACHERS ARE HIGHLY EDUCATED.
A teaching qualification requires the completion of a Master's degree.
- + Schools, principals and teachers have A LOT OF AUTONOMY.
- + Estonia has INCLUSIVE EDUCATION SYSTEM, providing special programmes for the gifted and support for those requiring it.
- + Every student has access to free SPECIAL SUPPORT, including psychological and speech therapy, at schools or counselling centres.
- + QUALITY OF EDUCATION is endorsed by internal evaluation surveys and external assessment of learning outcomes.
- + Education is FREE-OF-CHARGE from basic to higher education. School meals, textbooks, and transit are provided free of charge.
- + HOBBY EDUCATION offers wide opportunities for self-development in music, sports, art, technology, etc.
- + STRATEGIC PLANNING is a crucial element of Estonia's education system.

Restart of the education system



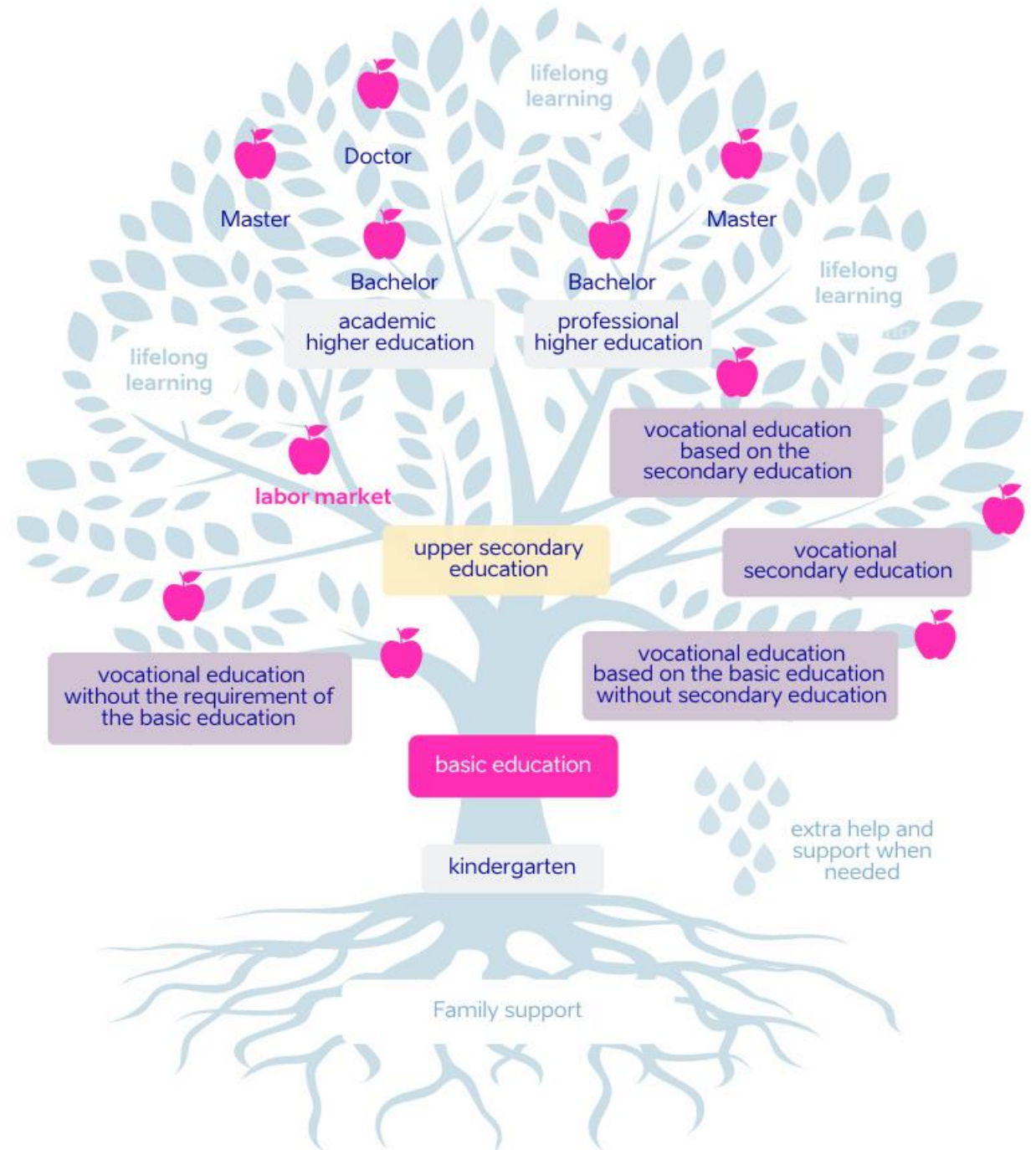


Preschool: preparing for school



- + 94% of 4-6-year children attend kindergarten, though this is not compulsory in Estonia
- + Curriculum-based learning outcomes are achieved by learning-through-play method

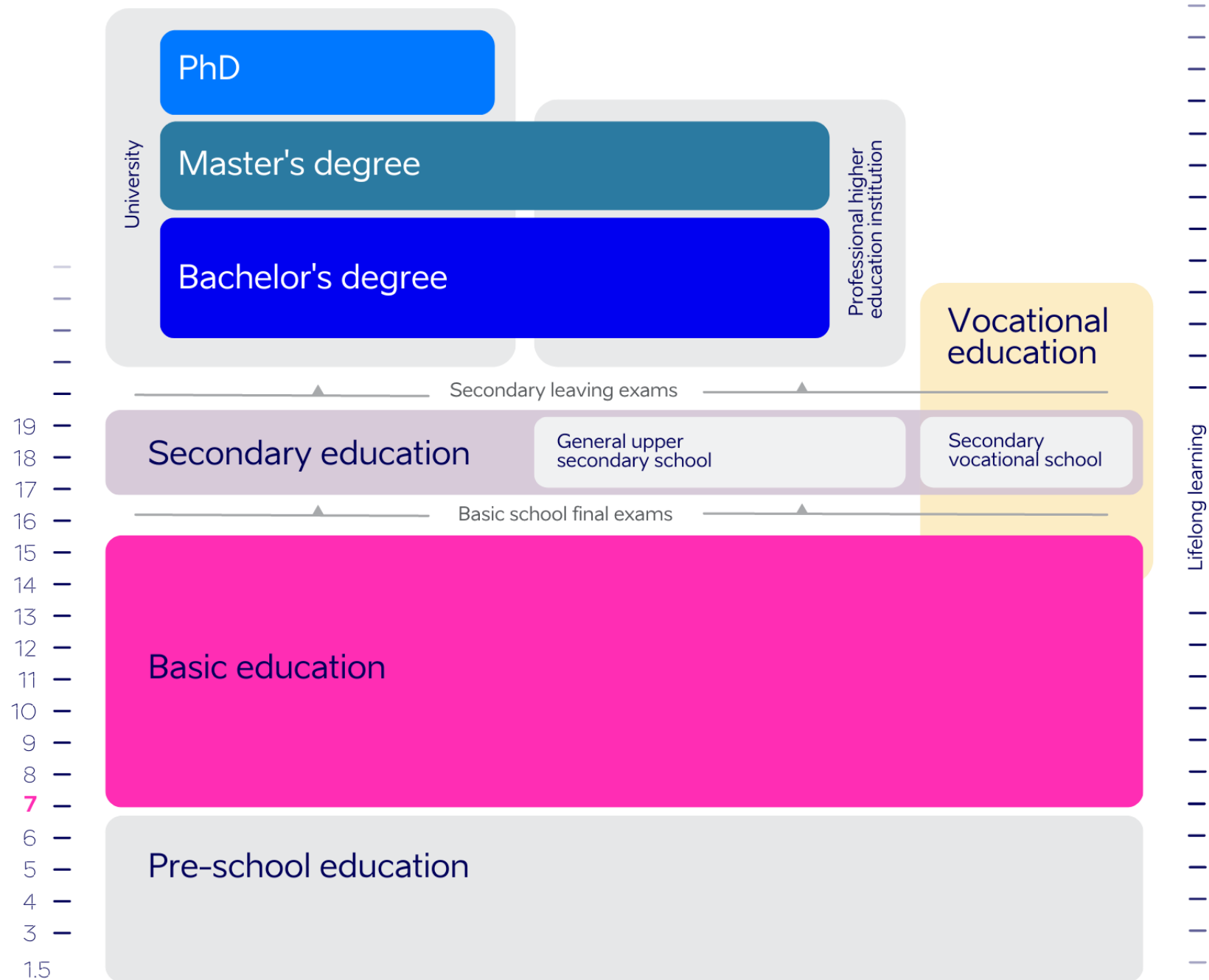
The strength of the tree depends on its roots



No matter which path you have started on, you have the possibility to move on from one branch to another.

Estonian education today

General education:
+ 162 919 students
+ 16 942 teachers
+ 514 schools



Preparing for the information society

95%

of schools use e-diaries

4th

in media literacy
Media Literacy Index 2022

1st

in digital learning
CEPS 2019

99%

of Estonian kindergartens take part in technology education programme ProgeTiger

9%

of students study ICT in Estonia — twice as many as EU average
Eurostat 2018

40%

of ICT university students are female — this is highest share in Europe
Informatics Europe 2020

Technology opens up new possibilities

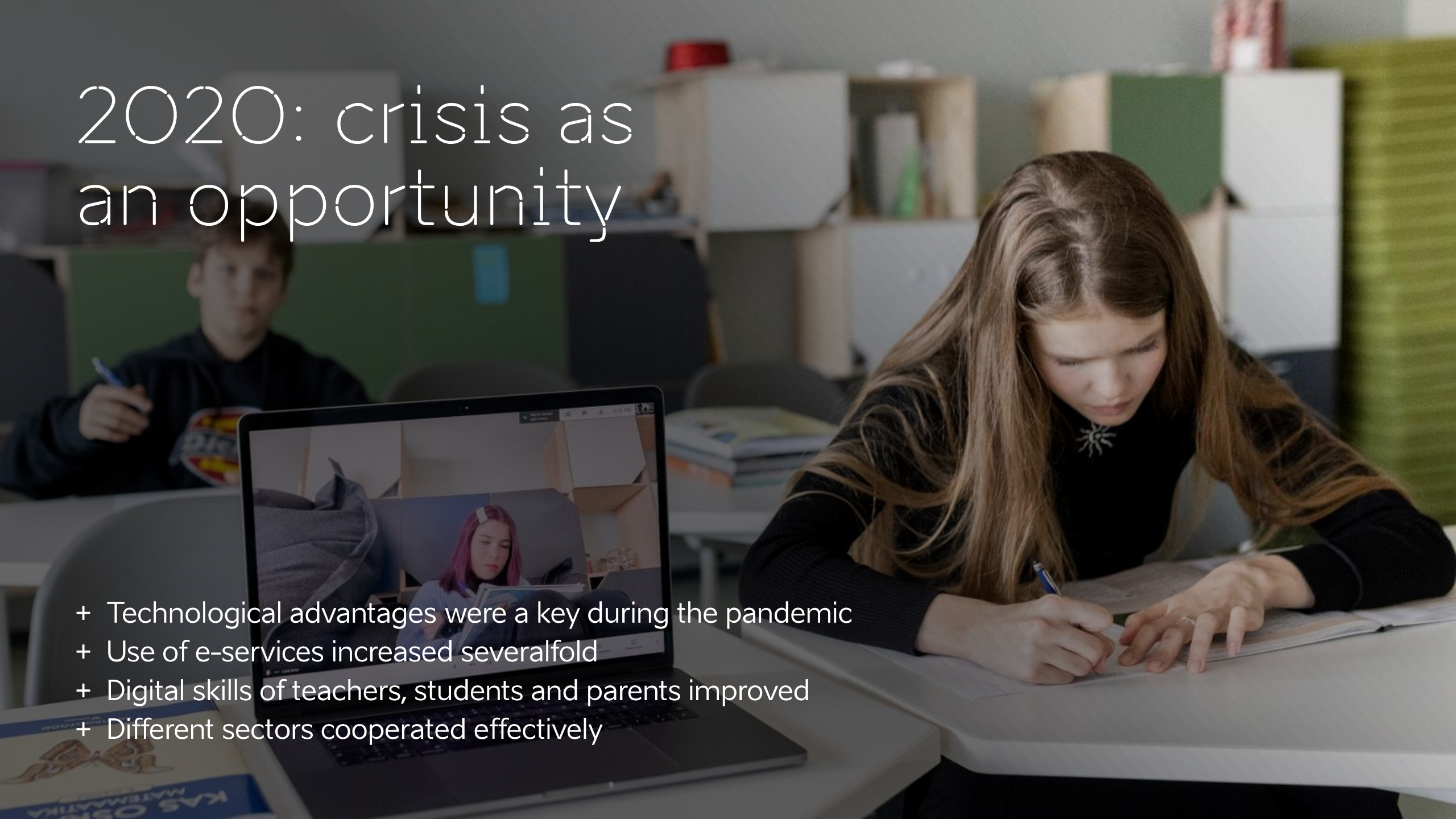
- + The Tiger Leap programme in the 1990s provided schools with INTERNET CONNECTIONS, COMPUTERS, and IT TRAININGS.
- + For the evidence-based decisions, the EDUCATIONAL DATA is publicly accessible on the internet.
- + DIGITAL LEARNING MATERIALS are available for all subjects and across all educational levels.
- + DIGITAL COMPETENCE is set in curriculum as a general competence.
- + Educational programmes create INTEREST IN TECHNOLOGY from kindergarten to university.
- + All schools in Estonia use E-SOLUTIONS.
- + Many schools and kindergartens have EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGISTS - technology integration specialists to support teachers.

Digital solutions are in everyday use

- + E-diaries for schools and kindergartens: Eliis, eKool, Studium
- + Digital learning materials and platforms: e-Schoolbag, OPIQ
- + Student admission systems: DreamApply, SAIS
- + Examination Infosystem EIS for digital tests
- + Estonian Education Infosystem EHIS
- + HarID user administration system

2020: crisis as an opportunity

- + Technological advantages were a key during the pandemic
- + Use of e-services increased severalfold
- + Digital skills of teachers, students and parents improved
- + Different sectors cooperated effectively



Youth work and hobby education offer more possibilities

- + 80% of the 7-19 year olds participate in hobby education or hobby activities
- + 90% of youth are satisfied with youth work and extracurricular activities (2020)



Vocational education: ensuring essential skills



- + VOCATIONAL EDUCATION is free-of-charge for everybody and has flexible forms of studies.
- + The state has special project (OSKA) to ANALYSE THE LABOUR MARKET to find out what skills are needed in the future.
- + Close COOPERATION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR provides students real workplace experience during their studies.

Internationally acknowledged higher education

- + Estonian universities rank high in prestigious ranking systems such as THE and QS
- + Innovative study programmes: e-governance, cybersecurity etc
- + Student projects from self-driving car to space satellite
- + Over 150 degree programmes fully taught in English, in 11 internationally accredited universities

Lifelong learning has become a lifestyle in Estonia

- + Estonians within the 25-64 age group actively participate in learning at almost double the rate of the EU average (21% vs 12%, Eurostat 2022).



We truly think
that the best thing we can
give to our children is not
land, house or a bank account,
but good education.

T. H. Ilves

Aitäh!

education
estonia



educationestonia.org



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Küllike Heide, Laur Kadajane, Aivo Kallas, Tallinn University, Ajujaht