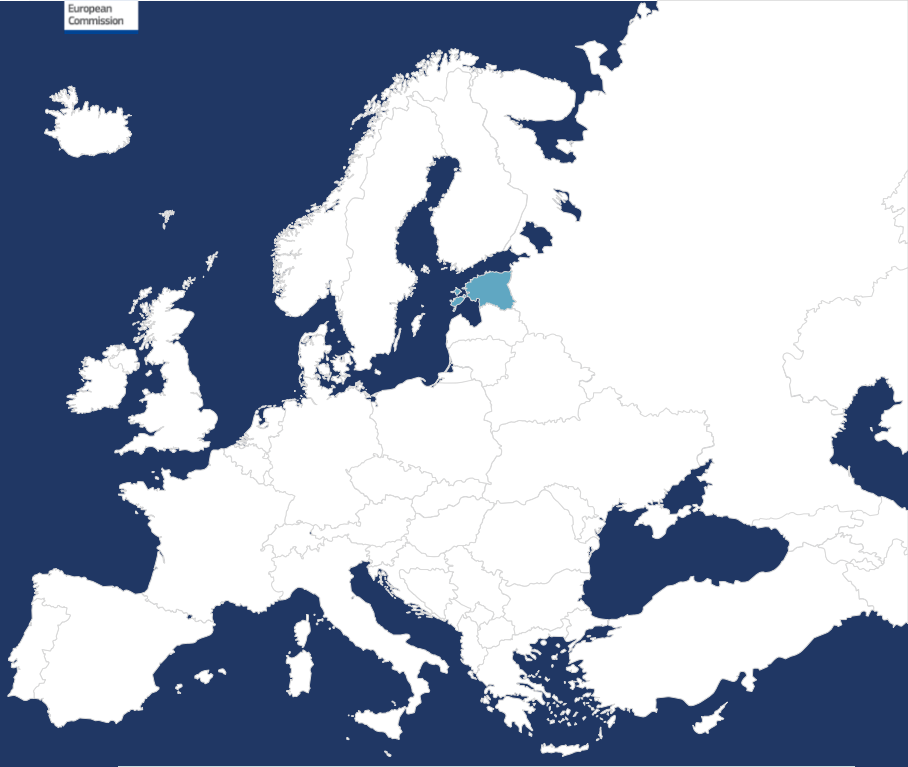# ESTONIA

Digital Public Administration Factsheet 2024

Main developments in digital public administrations and interoperability

JULY 2024

HIGHLIGHTS - KEY PROJECTS

- A new interoperability framework was launched in 2023, replacing a framework that was over ten years old. The new framework is more of a living document rather than a legislative text, so that it can be edited more frequently. Furthermore, it is not mandatory across the government, and it is rather a guidance document containing suggested principles. Thus, it provides value to domains where some of the principles would not apply.

- The Data and Artificial Intelligence White Paper 2024-2030 outlines the strategic goals for the development of data management and artificial intelligence in Estonia. Published in January 2024, the plan emphasises data-based governance, economic empowerment through AI, and a focus on reliability and human-centricity. It covers current trends, proposes a vision, and includes specific objectives for areas like data-based governance and trustworthy AI. The plan aligns with Estonia's broader policy goals, including the Estonia 2035 strategy.

Key figures

5 new initiatives adopted in 2023–2024

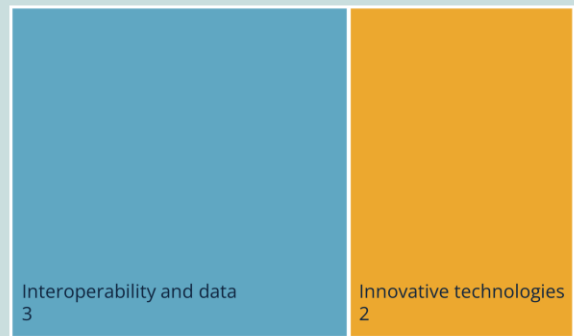Interoperability and data
3

Innovative technologies
2

Figure 1

Number of initiatives per topic adopted in 2023–2024

Towards the Digital Decade targets set for 2030: DIGITAL PUBLIC SERVICES

eID scheme (≥1)
YES

eHealth records (0–100)
97.5%

Digital Public Services for Citizens (0–100)
95.8%

Digital Public Services for Businesses (0–100)
98.8%

Source: Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI)

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIONS

- The Estonian Digital Agenda 2030, adopted by the Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications in 2021, outlines a vision and action plan for the country's development over the following decade. Focused on leveraging digital technology, the agenda aims to enhance the Estonian economy, State institutions, and society. Key contributions of the agenda are organised around several critical areas, including digital government, connectivity, cybersecurity, and alignment with other development plans. Regarding digital competence development, it prioritises initiatives such as ensuring sufficient ICT professionals, promoting reskilling and upskilling, enhancing citizen digital literacy, and investing in research and development activities to strengthen Estonia's digital capacities.

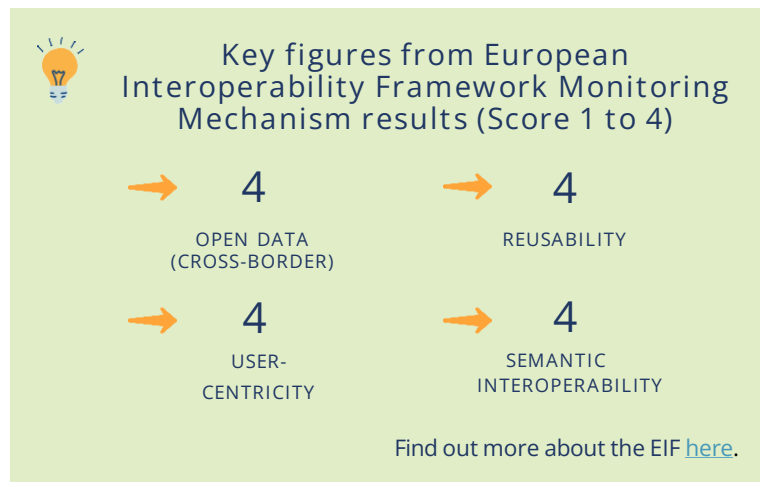## DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF PUBLIC SERVICES

- Accelerate Estonia is a government-led national testbed platform powered by the Tehnopol Science and Business Park. It invites citizens and businesses to experiment, validate, and solve global problems. Participants contribute solutions that can be scaled globally, create economic opportunities for Estonia, and drive systematic change. In return, Accelerate Estonia collaborates with policy owners and public sector influencers to identify enablers and address constraints. It provides public sector with specialists, covers experiment costs for selected projects (up to EUR 90,000), and focuses on themes like mental health, green initiatives, and Wild Card topics.

TRUST AND CYBERSECURITY

- No new initiatives in this field have been reported.

INTEROPERABILITY AND DATA

- Estonia has established the world's first Data Embassy in Luxembourg. This pilot project is hosted in a high-security data centre and stores copies of critical datasets identified by the Estonian government. These datasets are essential for the country's functioning. In subsequent phases, Estonia plans to move beyond mere backup storage and operate live from the Data Embassy when necessary. The backed-up databases include those from: eFile (court system), Treasury Information System, eLand Registry, Taxable Person's Registry, Business Registry, Population Registry, State Gazette, Identity Documents Registry, Land Cadastral Registry, and National Pension Insurance Registry.

Key figures from European Interoperability Framework Monitoring Mechanism results (Score 1 to 4)

→ **4**
OPEN DATA (CROSS-BORDER)

→ **4**
REUSABILITY

→ **4**
USER-CENTRICITY

→ **4**
SEMANTIC INTEROPERABILITY

Find out more about the EIF here.

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

- The Action Plan for Artificial Intelligence 2024–2026 was published in January 2024. This plan builds upon previous AI action plans and aims to further integrate AI across various sectors, including public services, the private sector, and education. It emphasises a human-centric and trustworthy approach to AI development. Key elements include enhancing AI competencies within the public sector, fostering collaboration between public and private entities, and supporting research and development. The plan also addresses the need for legal frameworks to ensure ethical AI use. Additionally, the plan recognises the importance of high-performance data processing and language technology in advancing AI applications.

- The Estonian Central Bank is researching the suitability of the Keyless Signatures Infrastructure (KSI) blockchain for supporting a central bank's digital money infrastructure. KSI is a core eGovernment technology in Estonia. The research aims to design a practical, scalable, and secure platform while meeting stringent privacy and security requirements.