

# Developments in Estonian Migration Policy

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## **Migration Policy since 2008:**

Encourage the temporary stay and settle in Estonia of these foreigners, whose arrival and stay in Estonia are in accordance with the public interest

and

to prevent the entry and stay in Estonia of these foreigners, who may pose a threat to public order or public security

# National Reform Programme “Estonia 2020”:

The two main objectives are:

- to achieve strong growth of productivity
- to restore the high employment rate observed before the economic crisis

## „Estonia 2020“

- **A coordinated talent policy, an inevitable part of which is cooperation between different sectors (the public and private sectors and universities)**, providing practical training opportunities for students from other countries and ensuring the existence of a relevant legal space that would **facilitate the continued stay of top specialists in Estonia after they have completed their studies.**

## Internal Security Strategy for 2020

- Citizenship and migration policy **promotes Estonia's development and ensures internal security**, building on the knowledge-based and comprehensive approach to citizenship and migration, and the open social and economic environment.

## **Amendments to the Aliens' Act:**

Together with co-operation partners several amendments to the AA have been made with the aim of encourage the arrival and residence of foreigners:

- 2013 September – AA I stage
- 2016 January – AA II stage
- 2017 January – AA III stage
- 2018 – IV stage

# Main amendments of the Aliens' Act:

**AA 2008**

\* Private sector partners 3

**AA 2016**

\* Private sector partners 15

**AA 2018**

**AA 2013**

\* Private sector partners 14+

**AA 2017**

\* Private sector partners 23

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## **Amendments to the AA are made taking into account:**

- Input from partners
- Political will
- Potential risk of misuse
- Potential threat to public order or public security

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**compromize**

## General requirement for residence permit:

- The purpose of application for residence permit is justified (work, study, family ties, etc)
- Sufficient legal income
- Actual place of residence in Estonia
- A medical insurance (if required)



# General reasons for refusal or revocation of residence permit:

- Misuse of residence permit
- Threat to public order or public security

## Changes to the AA that have been made:

- Welcoming programme
- E-residency
- Start-up visa
- Flexible transition from visa to residence permit
- Arrival of family members together with foreigner

- Encouraging the stay of foreigners who have acquired vocational or higher education in Estonia
- Residence permit for an investor
- Providing documents replaced with risk analysis based controls
- Expectation of lawabiding behaviour of a foreigner and a sponsor, etc.

# Temporary resident permits

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Employment	941	1 429	835	863	1237	1 659	1800	2273
Family ties	1063	1371	1253	1283	1387	1 458	1513	1372
Study	459	463	516	679	893	1 144	1297	1413
Enterprise	68	142	61	54	35	28	18	68
International agreement	968	838	639	624	508	637	106	23
Participation in crim.proceeding						2		
Legal income	44	62	-	-	-	-	-	-
For continuous settlement							1968	2359
Beneficiary of international protection	17	11	13	7	20	78	154	120
Family member of beneficiary of International protection	0	6	10	3	3	22	16	22
EU citizens	2 107	2 110	2 577	3 380	3 044	3 176	3448	4119
EU citizens' family members	11	24	45	43	44	42	35	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5 678</b>	<b>6 456</b>	<b>5 949</b>	<b>6 936</b>	<b>7 171</b>	<b>8 246</b>	<b>10 339</b>	<b>11 769</b>





# Thank you!

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