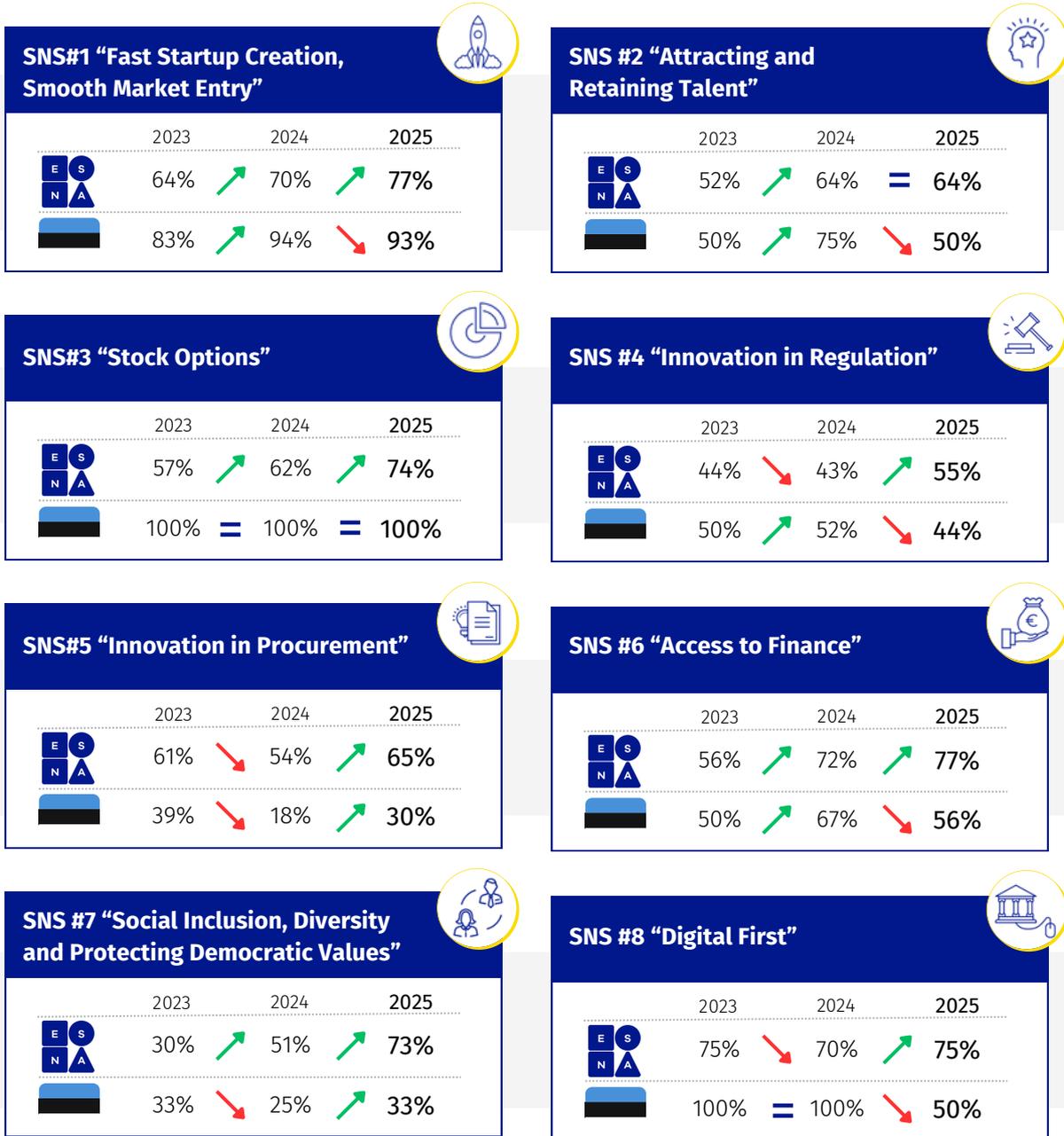


# Estonia

## EU Startup Nations Standards Report - Country's results

### RESULTS OVERVIEW



# Estonia

Results per Indicator - 2023 | 2024 | 2025

## Standard #1 “Fast Startup Creation, Smooth Market Entry”

Substandards	Indicator	2023	2024	2025
Time & Cost	1.1.1	100%	100%	100%
	1.1.2	100%	100%	100%
	1.1.3	60%	60%	60%
Startup Fast Lane	1.2.1	100%	100%	100%
	1.2.2	100%	100%	100%
	1.2.3	100%	100%	100%
Cross-border Services	1.3.1	90%	92%	86%
	1.3.2	50%	100%	100%

### > Standard #1 - Indicators description

**1.1.1** - Number of days to establish a business online\*

**1.1.2** - Number of days to establish a business in the commercial registers\*

**1.1.3** - Administrative costs to establish a startup

**1.2.1** - Existence of an online service to set up a company

**1.2.2** - Existence of fast lane & helpdesk available for entrepreneurs

**1.2.3** - Existence of a virtual helpdesk for regulatory issues for startups and scaleups

**1.3.1** - Index of the cross-border services\*\*

**1.3.2** - Utilisation of legal documents from other EU countries for startup establishment or expansion within the single market

## Standard #2 “Attracting and Retaining Talent”

Substandards	Indicator	2023	2024	2025
Visa Application	2.1.1	50%	100%	100%
	2.1.2	-	100%	50%
Programmes for Talent	2.2.1	50%	50%	0%
	2.2.2	49%	49%	49%

\*These indicators in 2023 corresponded to the number of days to establish a business.

\*\*External indicator; due to methodological changes, the indicator is not comparable with previous editions.

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Results per Indicator - 2023 | 2024 | 2025

> **Standards #2 - Indicators description**

- 2.1.1 - Time to complete visa applications for founders
- 2.1.2 - Time to complete visa applications for experienced workers
- 2.2.1 - Existence of return of tech diaspora programmes
- 2.2.2 - Index of talent attractiveness for entrepreneurs\*

### Standard #3 “Stock Options”

Substandards	Indicator	2023	2024	2025
Taxation	3.1.1	100%	100%	100%
Non-voting rights	3.2.1	100%	100%	100%
	3.2.2	-	100%	100%
Stock Options Scheme	3.3.1	100%	100%	100%

> **Standard #3 - Indicators description**

- 3.1.1 - Stock Options taxed only as capital gains
- 3.2.1 - Existence of stock options with non-voting rights for startups
- 3.2.2 - Minority Shareholders & Bureaucracy\*
- 3.3.1 - Existence of a country-specific stock options scheme

### Standard #4 “Innovation in Regulation”

Substandards	Indicator	2023	2024	2025
Think Small First	4.1.1	100%	100%	100%
Compliance Exemptions	4.2.1	0%	0%	0%
Regulatory Sandboxes	4.3.1	100%	100%	100%
	4.3.2	40%	60%	0%
	4.3.3	7%	10%	0%

\*External indicators

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Results per Indicator - 2023 | 2024 | 2025

> **Standard #4 - Indicators description**

- 4.1.1 - “Think Small First” principle implementation level
- 4.2.1 - Existence of compliance exemptions/alternatives for startups
- 4.3.1 - Existence of regulatory sandboxes
- 4.3.2 - Number of established regulatory sandboxes
- 4.3.3 - Number of startups involved in regulatory sandboxes consortia

**Standard #5 “Innovation in Procurement”**

Substandards	Indicator	2023	2024	2025
Procurement Opportunities	5.1.1	100%	100%	0%
	5.1.2	-	0%	0%
Intellectual Property Rights	5.2.1	100%	50%	50%
	5.2.2	12%	10%	10%
	5.2.3	N.A	0%	0%
Open-source Assets	5.3.1	0%	0%	0%
Tech-Transfer Policies	5.4.1	0%	0%	100%

> **Standard #5 - Indicators description**

- 5.1.1 - Existence of administrative impediments to startup participation
- 5.1.2 - Existence of incentives for public buyers and procurement services to procure innovation from startups
- 5.2.1 - Possibility of ownership of IPR for startups in innovation procurement
- 5.2.2 - Intellectual property receipts as percentage of total trade\*
- 5.2.3 - Existence of exceptions for public sector Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) ownership based on overriding public interests
- 5.3.1 - Existence of startups actively supported and contributing with open-source assets
- 5.4.1 - Existence of policies for smooth tech transfer

\*External indicators

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Results per Indicator - 2023 | 2024 | 2025

## Standard #6 “Access to Finance”\*

Substandards	Indicator	2025
Public Access to Finance	6.1.1	0%
	6.1.2	100%
	6.1.3	100%
Indirect Access to Finance	6.2.1	100%
Tax Relief Measures	6.3.1	0%

### > Standard #6 - Indicators description (2025)

**6.1.1** - Existence of equity instruments funded by the RRF to startups

**6.1.2** - Existence of public grants, loans and other non-equity instruments

**6.1.3** - Utilisation of EIB, promotional banks and dedicated vehicles distributing funds to established/professional VC

**6.2.1** - Initiatives to diversify private capital for high-growth startup co-investment

**6.3.1** - Existence of tax relief for BAs

## Standard #6 “Access to Finance”

Substandards	Indicator	2023	2024
Public Grants	6.1.1	100%	100%
Indirect Access to Finance	6.2.1	100%	100%
	6.2.2	0%	100%
Tax Relief Measures	6.3.1	0%	0%

### > Standard #6 - Indicators description (2023/2024)

**6.1.1** - Existence of RRF support for Venture Capital for startups

**6.2.1** - Utilisation of EIB and promotional banks for VC investment gap bridging

**6.2.2** - Adoption of initiatives to diversify private capital for high-growth startup co-investment

**6.3.1** - Existence of tax relief for BA

\*Due to changes in the structure of Standard #6, the 2025 scores are not directly comparable with those from past editions. The 2024 and 2023 results are provided below for reference.

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Results per Indicator - 2023 | 2024 | 2025

## Standard #7 “Social Inclusion, Diversity and Protecting Democratic Values”

Substandards	Indicator	2023	2024	2025
Incentives for Startups	7.1.1	100%	50%	100%
	7.1.2	100%	100%	100%
	7.1.3	0%	0%	0%
Incentives for Founders	7.2.1	0%	0%	0%

### > Standard #7 - Indicators description

**7.1.1** - Existence of national awards and policies for startup role models

**7.1.2** - Existence of social inclusion mobilisation initiatives

**7.1.3** - Existence of incentives for diversity hiring

**7.2.1** - Support to founders from underprivileged backgrounds

## Standard #8 “Digital First”

Substandards	Indicator	2023	2024	2025
Digital First	8.1.1	99%	99%	98%
	8.1.2	100%	100%	100%
	8.1.3	100%	100%	100%
Knowledge Sharing	8.2.1	100%	100%	0%

### > Standard #8 - Indicators description

**8.1.1** - Index of digital public services for businesses\*

**8.1.2** - Digital public services availability by percentage of areas covered

**8.1.3** - Existence of national digitalisation strategy implementation

**8.2.1** - Existence of proactive engagement for digital knowledge sharing and best practices

\*External indicators