

research and development in estonia

research and innovation

Estonia has a **broad, innovative and diverse** research landscape. Research is primarily carried out by universities and other public and private sector education and research institutions.



**7.7
researchers**

per thousand
employed
(2019)¹



**Excellent
conditions**

for carrying out
research projects



**Highly
qualified**

staff at the
research
institutes



**3 times
growth**

in the number
of international researchers
employed in Estonia since
2010 (compared to 2020)²

Did you know?

- Estonian company **Crystalspace** has been selected by **Maxar Technologies**, a trusted partner and innovator in **Earth Intelligence** and **Space Infrastructure**, to build two cameras that will act as a stereo pair to monitor the operations of a robotic arm that will collect regolith samples from the **Moon**.
- **Starship Technologies** in cooperation with **Tallinn University of Technology** developed a **package delivery robot**, which has been tested in more than hundred cities all over the world.

¹ OECD, Main Science and Technology Indicators Database. www.oecg.org/sti/msti.htm (09.11.2021).

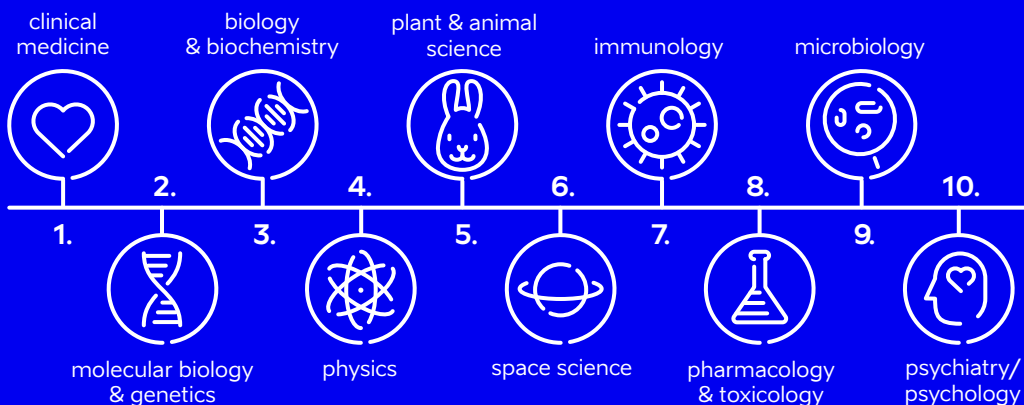
² Statistics Estonia. www.stat.ee (09.10.2021).

scientific publications and citations

The high quality of Estonian research and researchers is also visible in **research output**.

The 10 most cited fields according to WoS (InCites) in 2011–2021:

(compared to global average of the field) were:



For the Publications published in

2011–2018

by Estonian authors

8.99%

reached the
**10% of the world's
most cited publications**

this places Estonia

#19

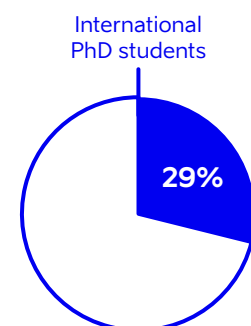
in Europe*

*according to European Innovation Scoreboard 2020

education

According to OECD PISA test results, in 2018 Estonian students performed the best out of all European countries in science, reading and mathematics. In the world, Estonia's students rank 5th in reading, 8 in mathematics and 4th in science.³

³ Ministry of Education and Research. PISA. <https://www.hm.ee/en/activities/statistics-and-analysis/pisa> (09.10.2021)

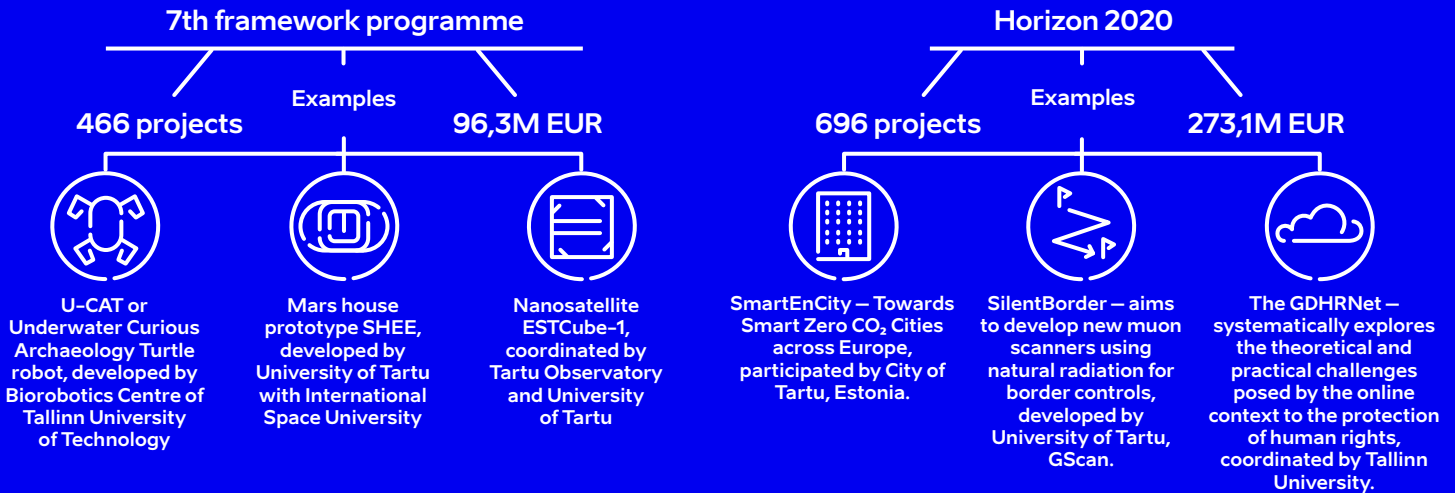


**PhD students
in Estonia in 2020/21**

international cooperation

70% of the publications by Estonian researchers have been published in collaboration with foreign colleagues (InCites).

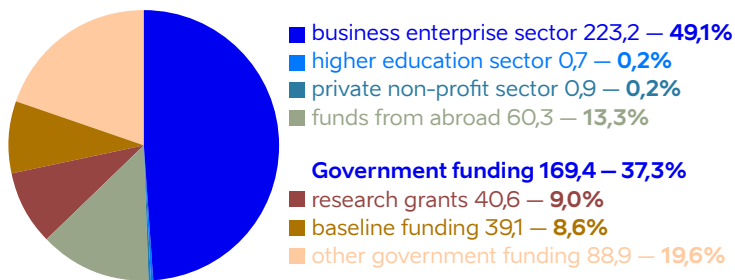
Being highly valued partners in the international cooperation projects, in 2021 Estonia became an Associated member of the **European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)**. Additionally, Estonia is actively participating in other international projects such as **European Space Agency, European Social Survey, European Spallation Source** and other various science and R&D projects.



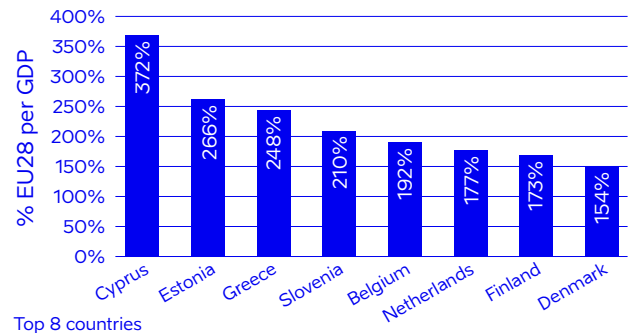
funding

Private and public sector funds play important role in funding research in Estonia. **Foreign funds** also count a remarkable share in Estonian research funding (primarily EU Framework programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon 2020). Estonian Research Council (ETAg) is the main body responsible for organizing competitions for national research grants, **supporting researchers' mobility and international cooperation**.

Expenditure on R&D by source of funds 2019 (mln EUR)



EU financial contribution for participants from a country in relation to GDP (EU28=100%)



smart specialisation

Smart specialisation is focused on the following areas, which are also the national focus areas for R&D, innovation and business until the year 2035:



more information



Estonian Research Council
www.etag.ee/eng



Research in Estonia
www.researchinestonia.eu



EURAXESS Estonia
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