

Estonia looking towards Africa

Daniel Erik Schaer – Estonian Ambassador to South Africa

Estonia's
partnership with
Africa



Estonia in Europe



Estonian History

- Regular fighting and occupation by Sweden, Denmark, Russia and Germany (Teutonic Knights)
- 1918 - Independence proclaimed.
- 1940 August - Estonia incorporated into Soviet Union.
- 1941 - German troops invade.
- 1944 - Estonia occupied by the Soviet Union. Tens of thousands of Estonians deported to Siberia and Central Asia.
- 1988 - "Singing revolution" brings a third of the population together in a bid for national unity and self-determination.
- 1991 August — Restoration of Independence
- 2004 March - Estonia admitted to NATO.
- 2004 May - Estonia is one of 10 new states to join the EU.
- 2011 January - Estonia adopts the euro.
- 2016 October — Kersti Kaljulaid became Estonia's first female President
- 2021 January - Kaja Kallas became Estonia's first woman Prime Minister



northern europe's hub for knowledge and digital business

- + population: 1.36 million
- + area: 45,335 km²
- + currency: Euro
- + member of EU, Eurozone, OECD,
NATO, and Schengen Area



estonia - the most advanced digital society in the world

- + an active member and contributor to NATO, the European Union and the Eurozone
- + a strong economy with an unprecedented level of transparency in governance
- + Estonia's education system is one of the best in Europe
- + Estonian GDP contribution to national defence in 2024 is 3,2%
- + the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence and the eu-LISA headquartered in Tallinn

information society indicators



entire country is covered
with a broadband connection



99% of public services
are online



99% of Estonians have
an ID-card



1st country to use blockchain
on a national level



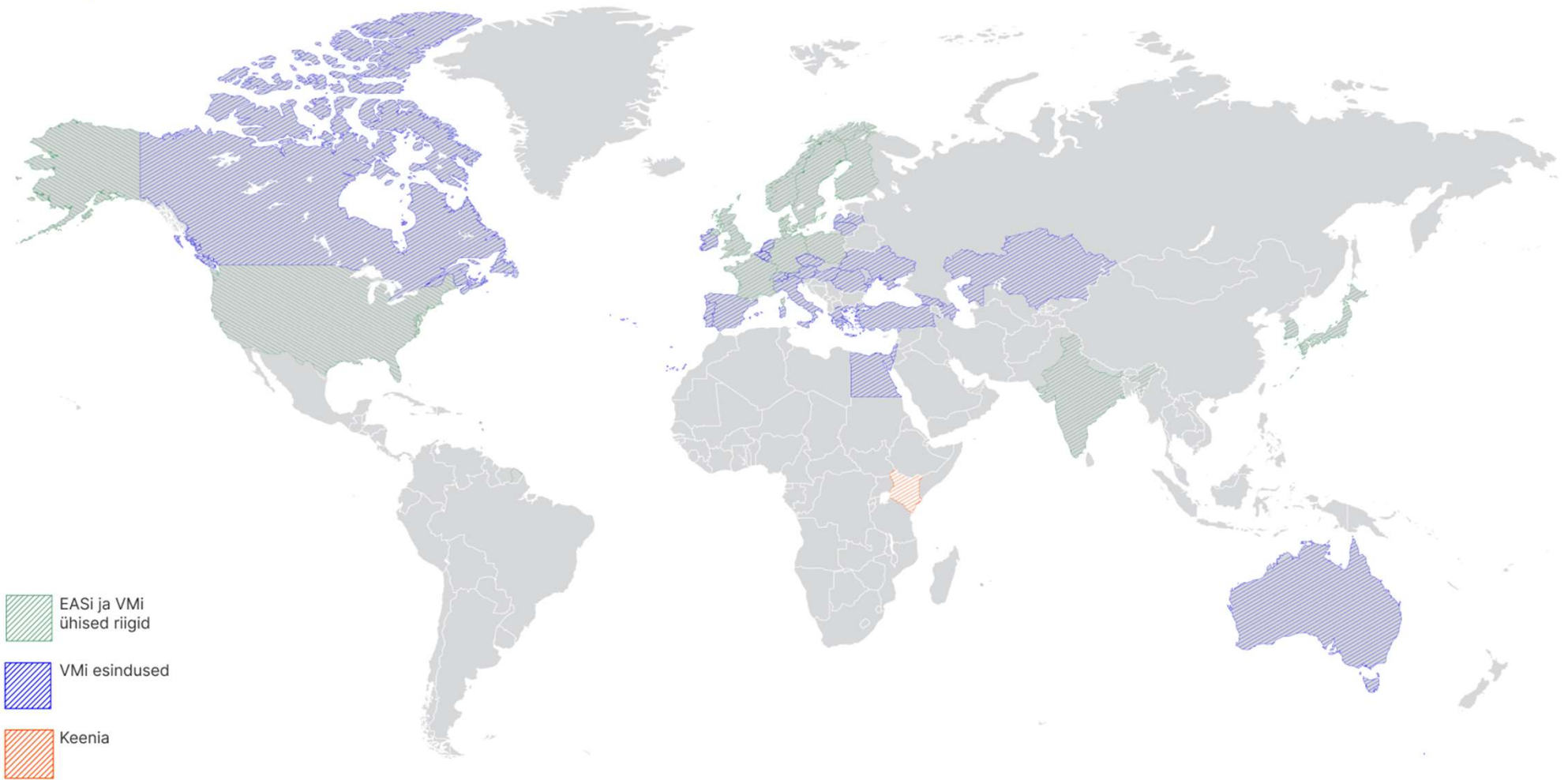
5 days and 2% of GDP per year
is saved with digital signatures



0% income tax on retained
and reinvested profits

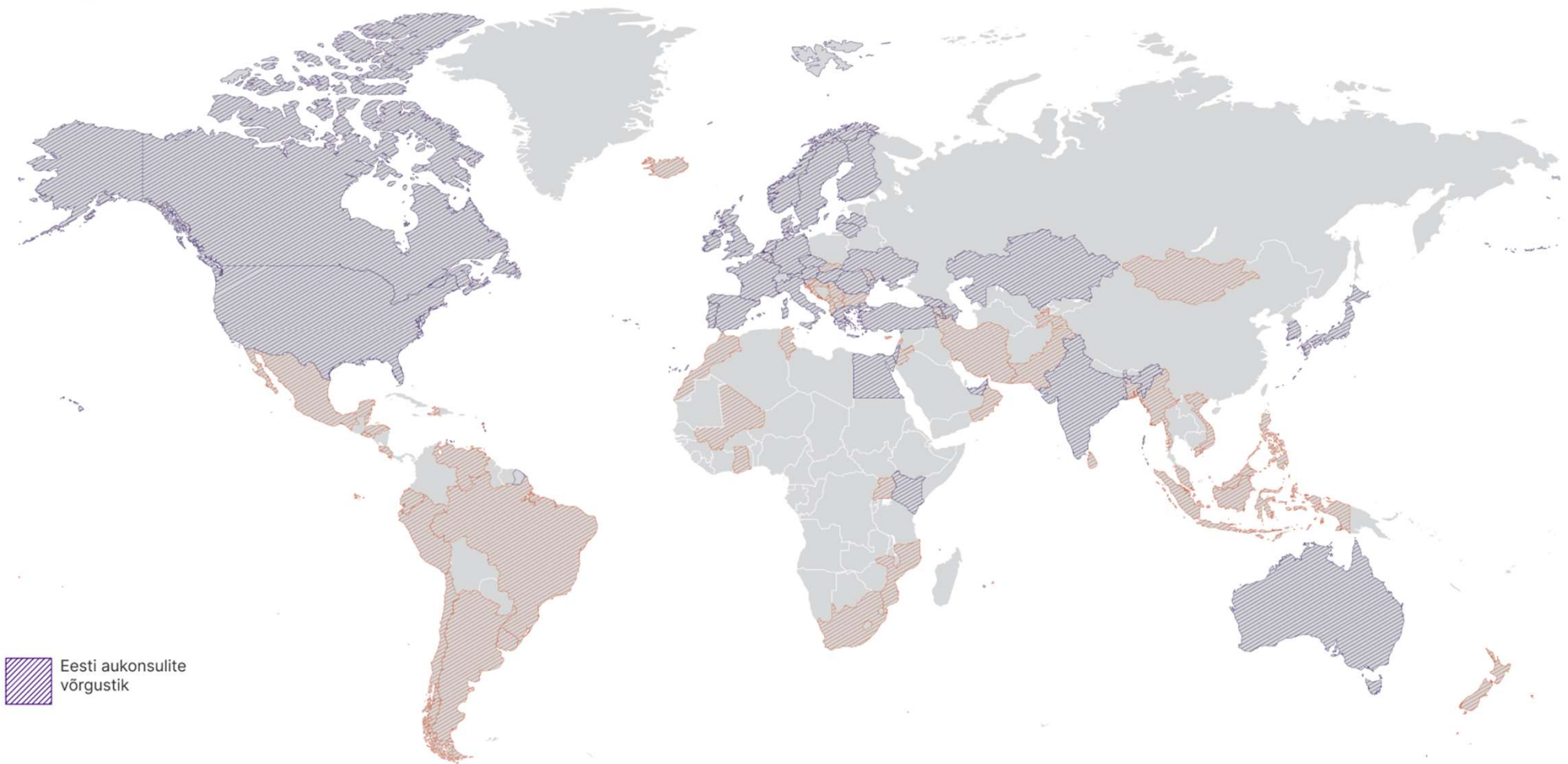



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 Eesti aukonsulite võrgustik

Estonia and Africa - History

- First known presence in 17th century – business related
- Aleksandr Pushkin's great grandfather Ibrahim (Abram) Hannibal served in Pärnu and Tallinn in the middle of the 18th century
- The 19th century brought an active missionary presence in Africa. Leonhard Blumer published the first Masai spelling book
- Independence brought relations with South Africa, Liberia, Ethiopia and Egypt.
- Estonia's main export to Africa were wood and forestry products, especially paper
- The main export partners were Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda, Angola ja Mozambique.
- Prior to World War II, Estonia had 6 honorary consulates in 4 countries (Algeria, Morocco, South Africa and Egypt)



Estonia in Africa

- Estonia's Strategy for Africa for 2020–2030
<https://www.vm.ee/en/estonias-strategy-africa>
- Priority areas: Foreign and security policy; Economic cooperation; and Development cooperation and humanitarian aid
- Presence: Embassy in Cairo, Egypt; Ambassadors accredited to Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Mali as well as Kenya and South Africa; Enterprise Estonian representation in Nairobi, Kenya; Honorary Consuls
- 2024 focus on 5 countries: Kenya, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Uganda
- Africa Business Forum II, Tallinn - May 27, 2025



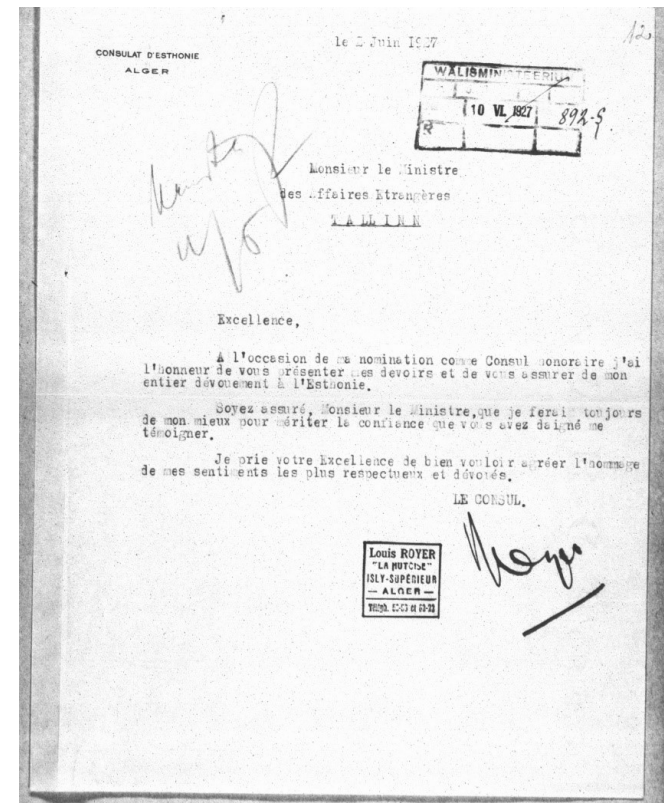
Presence and Business

Embassies and Honorary Consulates in Africa

- 1 Embassy — Egypt
- 11 Honorary Consulates

Exports to Africa

- Over 400 MEUR per year, last year over 200 MEUR in services to South Africa
- Cereals, wood and forest products, machinery, oils
- Growth sector — services, e-solutions and green tech



Looking forward

- Review of strategy taking into account current situation (Russian aggression in Ukraine, food security, energy prices, green deal)
- Increase presence/footfall in Africa
- Mapping of business interests and opportunities
- Building relationships

Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid at AU Summit



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REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS