



Migratory Pathways for Start-Ups and Innovative Entrepreneurs in the European Union

EMN Synthesis Report
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Aim and scope of the Study

Aim of the report

- Provide an overview of the migratory pathways available for **start-ups** and other **innovative entrepreneurs** coming to the EU

Scope of the study



25 EU Member States



2014 - 2019

Business environment

- Beneficial economic and societal impacts of fostering entrepreneurship
- Creating an environment where individuals are motivated to innovate, create new products or services, and take risks
- Whilst no EU-level instrument for attracting start-ups, the EU nevertheless plays an active role in this field, with attracting and retaining start-up founders and employees from third countries forming part of the objective of upgrading the single market



Fostering start-ups as a policy priority

- Attracting and fostering start-ups from third countries is a policy priority in over half of the MS: AT, BG, CY, EE, ES, FI, FR, IE, IT, LT, LV, MT, NL, PL, PT, SI, UK
- This priority has received high level political commitment



Fostering start-ups as a policy priority

■ Rationale:

- Tackling skills shortages
- Creating high-value jobs
- Bringing foreign capital
- Contributing to the state budget through tax receipts
- Promoting innovation and competitiveness on the international scene



With TechLeap.NL the Netherlands is running for European leadership in tech. Being one interconnected nation we're in a position where we can work as one unit to push the Netherlands forward together.

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Special start-up schemes



- **13 Member States** have introduced special start-up schemes: AT, CY, EE, ES, FI, FR, IE, IT, LT, LV, NL, PT, UK
- With the exception of IE, IT, NL, ES and UK, the schemes are still in their infancy, having been introduced in the **last three years**
- A special visa and residence permit to admit third-country national **start-up employees** currently exists in CY, EE, FR and PT. In the Netherlands, a pilot scheme will be introduced in 2020 for key personnel.
- No specific schemes are in place in the remaining 12 countries
- BE, BG and SE noted potential plans to introduce specific start-up schemes
- Half of the MS do not target specific sectors
 - But many have developed in the ICT sector, plus businesses targeting contemporary challenges

Admission conditions



Business-related

- Innovation, scalability, added value to national economy: all 13
- Business plan: AT, CY, EE, ES, FI, FR, IE, IT, LT, PT, UK
- Minimum level of capital: AT, CY, IE, IT, UK
- Facilitator/support scheme: **NL, PT, UK** (AT, EE, FR, IE, LT)

Founder-related

- Qualifications: AT, CY, ES, IT, LT
- Business experience: AT, EE, FI, IT, LT, PT
- Language skills: AT, CY, UK
- Other conditions (proof of subsistence, clean criminal record, health insurance, etc.)

Incentives and attraction measures



Business-related

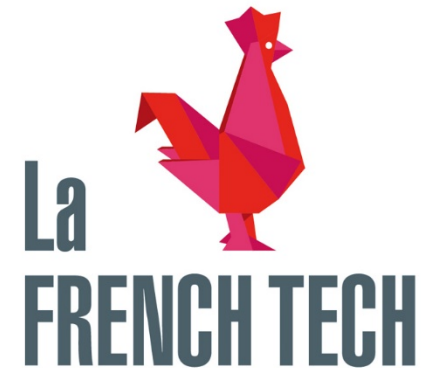
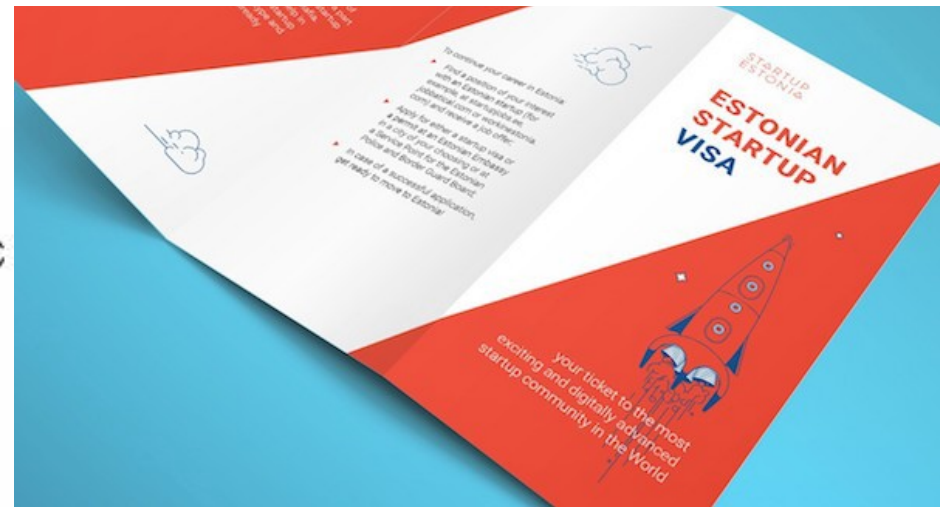
- Access to funding and investment
- Specialised information services
- Access to incubation and accelerator support programmes
- Co-working and dedicated spaces/facilities

Immigration-related

- Facilitated access to permanent residence
- Family members accompanying the sponsor and their rights
- Possibility to apply online; shortened processing times



Branding and promotion of schemes



Results and impact of special schemes



Number of permits issued (2018)

- UK (1,160 entrepreneur visas and 315 graduate visas)
- France (524 Talent passports issued)
- Estonia (422 visas and residence permits)
- Spain (104)
- the Netherlands (92)
- Italy (45), Lithuania (28), Ireland (19), Finland (18), Portugal (8), Cyprus (6), Slovak Republic (1) and Austria (0).

Qualitative observations

- Although most of the schemes are in their infancy, having a specific admission channel is considered to have helped attracting international start-ups and talent

Challenges and success factors



Macro level

- Global competition for talent
- Opportunities in domestic and other markets
- Lack of incubators and accelerators and other support schemes
- Ecosystems and hubs, including in major European cities
- Access to risk capital

Micro level

- Burdensome administrative procedures and lengthy application times
- Salary levels, cost of living, housing and quality of life
- Language skills



Thank you!

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