

# Who is eligible for parental leave in Estonia?

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Parental leave is granted to parents, usually after maternity and paternity leave, allowing mothers and fathers to take care of their young children without losing their jobs. Such a policy exists in all EU Member States and in Estonia it is called Lapsehoolduspuhkus. The policy design and eligibility rules vary across the EU and not all women and men in the EU are eligible for parental leave.

**Parental leave in Estonia is:**

- Paid
- Uninterruptive
- Leave is to be shared between parents

**6 % of women and 13 % of men in employment are not eligible for parental leave**

This factsheet is based on an eligibility study of how many women and men aged 20-49 would be eligible for parental leave if they had a child in 2017 and the reasons behind their non-eligibility (1).

**Who is eligible for parental leave in Estonia?**

- ✓ Employees (self-employed)
- ✗ Self-employed
- ✓ Same-sex parents
- ✗ Non-citizens (2) (limited rights holders)

**In the EU-28 (3):**

- 15 countries restrict access to employees with short working duration before birth (not Estonia)
- The self-employed are not eligible in 10 countries (including Estonia)
- 17 countries do not allow access for same-sex parents (not Estonia)
- 15 limit access to refugees or asylum seekers (including no access for asylum seekers in Estonia)

**In Estonia, self-employment is the only employment-related reason for non-eligibility for parental leave.**

Gender	Employment Status	Not eligible for parental leave	Eligible for parental leave
Women	all employment	6%	94%
	self-employed	100%	0%
Men	all employment	13%	87%
	self-employed	100%	0%

(1) Reasons for lack of access (refugees and asylum seekers when they apply) are taken in the attachment to the methodology of the study.  
(2) Women share categories multidimensional and cover all EU-28 citizens, the country variable, refugees and asylum seekers.  
(3) The data are collected before the 2018 EU enlargement.

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## Read more

[Factsheet: Who is eligible for parental leave in the EU-28?](#) →

[Factsheets: Eligibility for parental leave in EU Member States](#) →

# Downloads



**Who is eligible for parental leave in Estonia?**

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