

Say no to envelope wages!

Envelope wages are prohibited in Estonia. Workers must receive fair wages and employers must pay state taxes on the wages of their employees.

If your employer pays taxes correctly, you are guaranteed:

- + sickness benefit and treatment;
- + compensation for occupational accidents and unemployment insurance;
- + the possibility to receive a fair parental benefit;
- + the possibility to obtain a bank loan;
- + the possibility to receive a higher pension.



If your employer paid you wages, but did not declare them, it may seem that you have received more money. In reality, you have to declare your wages yourself and pay income tax. If you do not, you will lose several important benefits. Additionally, you may also be fined in the amount of 1200 euros for submitting false information in your tax return.

Before commencing work in a new place:

! enter into a written contract with your employer, which states your duties and your full wages. A written employment contract provides protection and security in the event of a labour dispute, as you are able to prove what was agreed upon. When working officially, employees are guaranteed wages, holidays, benefits and restrictions on termination;

! you can check whether your employer has registered you officially and pays the state taxes on your wages. This can be done in just a few clicks in the online environment of the Tax Board (<https://maasikas.emta.ee>). You can also ask for assistance at +372 880 0811 or emta@emta.ee.

Remember that if you are looking for a new place of work, the easiest way to prove your experience is with previous official workplaces.

A person under temporary protection may register at the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund as unemployed in order to receive help finding job offers, apply for benefits, participate in training, etc. Those registered as unemployed may perform small jobs, i.e. work up to eight days per month and their monthly wages cannot exceed 261.60 euros. Small jobs must be done officially as well – otherwise the Unemployment Insurance Fund may recover the benefits received.

Thanks to your honestly paid taxes, Estonia has:

- + schools, kindergartens, universities and free education;
- + ambulances, first aid, hospitals, family physicians and prescription medicinal products;
- + public transport (buses, trams, trolleybuses, trains);
- + highways, street lighting and water supply;
- + security and safety (the Police and Border Guard Board, the Rescue Board, the Defence Forces);
- + humanitarian and military aid for Ukraine.



Accepting envelope wages harms Estonia. Estonia is currently helping Ukraine with humanitarian aid, money and weapons. If taxes are not paid, this assistance cannot continue, which harms Ukraine as well.

Thank you for paying taxes! Thanks to you, Estonia is provided for and able to help.



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