

Estonia to turn all
first-graders into coders?

Ahto Truu, ahto.truu@ut.ee



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Estonia plans programming lessons for primary school kids

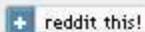
Get 'em young

05 Sep 2012 09:32 | by Nick Farrell in Rome | Filed in [Software](#) [Skype](#) [Europe](#)

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Estonia is hoping to push kids into programming from an early age.

According to [Venture Beat](#), the Estonian Tiger Leap Foundation has launched a program called "ProgeTiiger", where students in grades one to 12 will be introduced to computer programming and creating web and mobile applications.

The country which gave the world [Skype](#) and Playtech is planning to set its kids onto programming more or less from their first day at school, while British kids are mumbling their

way through the alphabet.

Tiger Leap Foundation training sphere manager Ave Lauringson said kids are interested in modern technology from an early age, and the ProgeTiiger programme creates prerequisites for students to develop from consumers of software to developers of software.

At the moment the programme is being tested in pilot schools with plans to roll it out to state schools later.

However, the first ones to start the lessons will be primary school students - after their teachers go through corresponding training in September.

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Estonian kids to learn coding

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Estonia's plan to get 6 year olds coding is a stroke of genius

BY Bobbie Johnson

20 Comments



When should children learn to code? Estonia's Tiger Leap Foundation wants children as young as six to be enrolled in coding classes —



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Poll: Should UK school children be taught how to code?

Children aged seven to sixteen are being given the opportunity to learn how to code in schools in Estonia, should UK school children be taught programming as part of their school day?

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Why Estonia Has Started Teaching Its First-Graders To Code



14 comments, 8 called-out

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Estonia, a small country with a population of 1.3 million people, punches above its own weight when it comes to advancements in tech. It was the birthplace



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The status quo

- Informatics not a subject in curriculum
 - ICT considered a cross-cutting concern
 - Skills to be acquired by use in other subjects
 - No centrally provided materials for the above
- Implementation
 - Many schools do offer IT classes
 - Mostly usage for standard office work
 - Very eclectic, due to lack of curriculum

Primary school

- Grades 1 to 3, ages 6 to 9
 - Interactive storytelling with Kodu
<http://fuse.microsoft.com/page/kodu>
 - Moving on to Scratch in grade 3
<http://scratch.mit.edu/>
- Implementation
 - Already used in one school
 - Course for pilot teachers this fall
 - Pilot roll-out from January

Basic school

- Grades 4 to 9, ages 9 to 15
 - Continuing with Scratch, adding Logo
 - Robotics (LEGO NXT/NXC or a local kit)
 - Web pages and simple web applications
- Implementation
 - Already used in computer clubs
 - Pilot roll-out from next September
 - Some modules will remain extracurricular

High school

- Grades 10 to 12, ages 15 to 18
 - Continuing with web development
 - + catch-up for those who missed out in primary
 - Programming in spreadsheets
 - Introduction to informatics
- Implementation
 - Computer club or elective course in school
 - May be compulsory in science-oriented schools

Thank you for your attention

Ahto Truu, ahto.truu@ut.ee