

Thailand's Smart Visa and Eastern Economic Corridor — Big Capital, Modest Talent Uptake

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Thailand

Quality score: 62/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Thailand's Smart Visa (since 2018) gives skilled foreign professionals long stays without a work permit, feeding talent into the Eastern Economic Corridor, which drew 660.6bn baht (~US\$18bn) in H1 2025 — though visa uptake stayed modest at 2,558 grantees over eight years.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	2/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability	2/3
Sustainability / continuity	2/3
Innovation	2/3
Inclusiveness / equity	1/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-12

[Thailand Board of Investment \(BOI\); Eastern Economic Corridor Office \(EECO\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-12

[Nation Thailand — EEC draws 660.63bn baht in H1 2025 \(Sep 2025\)](#) — accessed 2026-09-12

[Thailand BOI — Smart Visa official statistics](#) — accessed 2026-09-12

[UNCTAD Investment Policy Hub — Thailand introduces Smart Visa](#) — accessed 2026-09-12

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