

Press Conference in conjunction with the Porvoo 15 conference on 27 May 2009

**Irene Rissanen
Communications Coordinator
Population Register Centre
Finland**

The Porvoo Group



The Porvoo Group is an international cooperative network whose primary goal is to promote a trans-national, interoperable electronic identity (eID) based on PKI technology (Public Key Infrastructure) and smart cards and chip ID cards, in order to help ensure secure public and private sector e-transactions in Europe.

The Group also promotes the introduction of interoperable certificates and technical specifications, the mutual, cross-border acceptance of identification and authentication mechanisms, as well as cross-border, online access to administrative services.

As its name suggests, the Group was established in the Finnish city of Porvoo in April 2002, in connection with the eEurope 2002 programme.

The Porvoo Group is a pro-active, European-level eID “interest group”, widely recognised as a significant and relevant contributor to informed public dialogue in this area.

The Porvoo Group members and conferences



- The majority of its members represent their respective national authorities
- Representatives of the business community as well as the European Commission and the UN have also contributed to its work
- The Group has seen constant expansion
- At present, some 30 countries from Europe, the United States, Canada and Asia have representatives in the Group
- The permanent secretariat of the Group consists of representatives from the Finnish Population Register Centre

The Porvoo Group meets twice a year. The conferences highlight the topics, developments and ongoing challenges in specific key areas of common interest in eID. The conferences have been attended by as many as approximately one hundred delegates.

Why a common eID?



Common European eID guarantees a cross-border recognition of a citizen, a company or a governmental body all over the Europe, as if they were in their home country interacting with national public and private services and applications.

The goal is to provide a user friendly and efficient public administration as well as secure interoperable and easy accessible electronic services.

The need for eID



A secure eID is a basic crucial element for all activities in electronic services, transactions and applications such as:

- **eGovernment**
- **health care**
- **social security**
- **banking and financial transaction**
- **mobility, work and residence**
- **public transport**
- **border control activities**
- **law enforcement**

Porvoo Group is pro-active



The Porvoo Group monitors the work in progress by the Member States and the EC on the EU eID roadmap, such as the development of common eID and common specifications.

The Group has also noted that there are needs to have a common vision on the core architectural and technical elements.

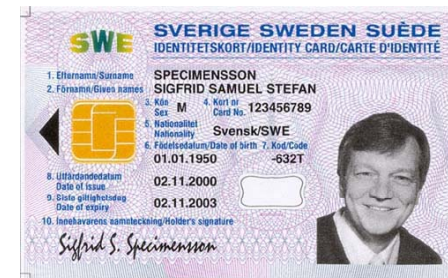
Cooperation with other groups



The Porvoo Group members have been offered, for example, a free entrance in the community of European Biometrics Forum in order to share the best practices and raise awareness among the participants.

Porvoo Group follows actively the collaborative efforts on the development of global interoperable eID, for example Japan has participated in the conferences and also the US is carefully monitored.

Some examples of European eID cards



- Austria
- Belgium
- Estonia
- Finland
- Italy
- Portugal
- Spain
- Sweden

Additional information



Additional information:

- www.fineid.fi -> What's going on around the world -> Porvoo Group