

Bitkom supports European go.eIDAS Initiative

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go.eIDAS-Initiative launched across Europe and beyond

Europe was awaiting this major milestone for trustworthy electronic identification for a while: The cross-border recognition of notified electronic identification systems (eID) started on 29th of September 2018 across Europe. Against this background, leading European associations, projects and expert organisations in the sector of eID and trust joined forces to launch the non-profit go.eIDAS-Initiative today, which aims at supporting the widespread adoption of eID and trust services according to the eIDAS-Regulation (EU) No 910/2014.

EU-wide recognition of notified eID means started on 29th September 2018

The regulation [\(EU\) No 910/2014](#) on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market, which is commonly known as “eIDAS-Regulation” was introduced in 2014 and has been fully in force since 1st July 2016. An important concept of the regulation is that EU-Member States may notify their national eID scheme so that it will be recognised by other member states after an in-depth peer-review process. First EU-Member States, such as Germany and Italy successfully completed the notification process and further EU-Member states, such as Spain, Luxembourg, Estonia, Croatia, Belgium, Portugal and the United Kingdom, are following. On 29th September 2018 a major milestone was reached, as the EU-wide recognition of notified eID-schemes starts. This effectively means that the German eID card, which already has been notified on the Level of Assurance “high” in September 2017 will be recognised across Europe for identification. All other notified eID means shall be recognised in a similar manner after a transition period of one year after their formal notification.

go.eIDAS – Initiative to promote the practical implementation of the eIDAS-Regulation

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Against this background, leading European associations, projects and expert organisations in the sector of eID and trust joined forces to launch the non-profit go.eIDAS-Initiative today.

The main goals of the go.eIDAS-Initiative are to:

- Raise awareness for eIDAS in Europe and beyond
- Point out the benefits of eIDAS within application services and illustrate the huge trade opportunity for the EU related to pushing the eIDAS model and framework internationally
- Demonstrate the ease of use of eID and trust services
- Support the integration of eID and trust services into application services, with a special focus on small and medium enterprises in in selected sectors, such as transportation, financial services and online-platforms
- Promote the use and uptake of eIDAS in mobile environments
- Support the development of the [eIDAS-Ecosystem](#) and the internal market
- Promote interoperability among eIDAS-related solution components
- Support the creation of a sustainable network of eIDAS stakeholders

First steps and initial focus areas of this initiative comprise the creation and maintenance of localisable and extensible eIDAS-related information material, the provision of local eIDAS-related webinars and the creation and maintenance of eIDAS-related open source software.

go.eIDAS is an open initiative, which welcomes all interested organisations and individual people which are committed to the aforementioned goals. The go.eIDAS-Initiative invites all stakeholders within the [eIDAS-Ecosystem](#), such as application providers, eID-related stakeholders, trust service providers, conformity assessment bodies, other service providers, regulatory authorities and other public sector bodies, publicly funded projects and initiatives, academic institutions and standard development organisations, whereas commercial organisations shall demonstrate reasonable pro bono aspects related to their participation.

The go.eIDAS-Initiative has been initiated by the following associations, projects and expert organisations:

- **BITKOM** – German Association for IT, Telecommunications and New Media (<https://bitkom.org>)
- **Buergerservice** – German Association for Citizen Services (<https://buergerservice.org>)
- **ecsec** GmbH (<https://ecsec.de>)
- **EEMA** – European Association for e-Identity and Security (<https://www.eema.org>)
- **ETF** – European Trust Foundation (<https://www.europeantrustfoundation.eu/>)
- **Fraunhofer** Institute for Industrial Engineering IAO (<https://iao.fraunhofer.de>)
- **FutureTrust** – H2020 Research Project (<https://futuretrust.eu>)
- **Kantara Initiative** (<https://kantarainitiative.org>)
- **LIGHTest** – H2020 Research Project (<https://www.lightest.eu/>)
- **NorStella** – Norwegian Association for Digitalisation and e-Identity (<https://www.norstella.no/>)
- **OSI** – Open Signature Initiative (<https://www.opensignature.org>)
- **Procilon** IT-Solutions GmbH (<https://www.procilon.de>)
- **TeleTrusT** – IT Security Association Germany (<https://www.teletrust.de/>)

It is gratefully acknowledged that European Union supports the go.eIDAS-Initiative through the pertinent research projects [FutureTrust](#) (G.A. No. 700542) and [LIGHTest](#) (G.A. 700321).

About the go.eIDAS-Initiative

The go.eIDAS-Initiative has been initiated by leading European associations, projects and expert organisations in the sector of eID and trust and aims at supporting the practical implementation of the eIDAS-Regulation (EU) 2014/910 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market. go.eIDAS is an open initiative, which welcomes all interested organisations and individual persons which want to benefit from and push forward the adoption of eIDAS in Europe and beyond.

Please refer to <https://go.eID.AS> for further information and latest news with respect to go.eIDAS.

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Bitkom represents more than 2,600 companies of the digital economy, including 1,800 direct members. Through IT- and communication services alone, our members generate a domestic annual turnover of 190 billion Euros, including 50 billion Euros in exports. The members of Bitkom employ more than 2 million people in Germany. Among these members are 1,000 small and medium-sized businesses, over 400 startups and almost all global players. They offer a wide range of software technologies, IT-services, and telecommunications or internet services, produce hardware and consumer electronics, operate in the digital media sector or are in other ways affiliated with the digital economy. 80 percent of the members' headquarters are located in Germany with an additional 8 percent both in the EU and the USA, as well as 4 percent in other regions of the world. Bitkom promotes the digital transformation of the German economy, as well as of German society at large, enabling citizens to benefit from digitalisation. A strong European digital policy and a fully integrated digital single market are at the heart of Bitkom's concerns, as well as establishing Germany as a key driver of digital change in Europe and globally.