



ERIK

RIK Centre of Registers and Information Systems

Cross Border Digital Signature

What is the cross border digital signature?

In Estonia, digital signature and ID-card is widely used. Over 90 % of citizens in Estonia have the national ID-card with a smart chip and card owners can communicate with the government by electronic means through the qualified digital signature. The Estonian Qualified digital signature is equal to a handwritten digital signature therefore it can be used over the Internet when establishing new companies. In Estonia it is possible to start a new legal entity (a private limited company) in 12 minutes with your ID-card and a digital signature from your home. We found that in Portugal they have similar possibilities (a nationwide ID-card, a digital signature and online company registration). So we decided to cooperate on this matter and to accept each other's digital signatures in the company registration portals (<https://ettevotjaportaal.rik.ee/> ; www.portaldaempresa.pt).

This project and the result is one of a kind in Europe. Now also foreigners may use this fast and convenient way of business management.

Now a company can be founded in the Estonian Company Registration Portal of the Commercial Register on the Internet also with the Portuguese, Finnish, Lithuanian (Mobile-ID) and Belgian ID-card.

Why is it good and how does it make things better?

For example if you are from Portugal and you want to do business in Estonia and you do not have a private limited company, you can establish one with your Portuguese ID-card in Estonia without traveling to Estonia.

In the same project we decided to accept the ID-card and digital signature from Belgium, Lithuania and Finland. You can establish a new legal entity with your Belgian, Finnish or Lithuanian ID-card in Estonia. This innovation has given us the know-how and opportunity to be the first in EU to implement such solution which is great advantage for Estonia.



