

Memorandum of Understanding
between
Väestörekisterikeskus (hereinafter VRK)
and
AS Sertifitseerimiskeskus (hereinafter SK),
referenced hereinafter together as the Parties

WHEREAS:

European integration and globalization processes lead to increased international communications, including exchange of legal signed documents;

a readiness exists in Finland and Estonia to apply new technologies for increasing the efficiency of communications and thus the quality of life;

VRK in Finland and SK in Estonia are having a similar status of being the recognized national Certificate Authorities and sharing a common interest to provide interoperable services within and between the countries based on the certificates issued by them;

Finland and Estonia are issuing national electronic identification documents that will provide to the population the tools for giving digital signatures;

strengthening electronic communications between Finland and Estonia helps to serve the common goal of the countries to maintain their leading role in promoting e-business and e-government methods and technologies in the European and global scene;

the Parties have agreed to the following.

GENERAL TERMS

1. The Parties will act in good faith and share information about existing and upcoming digital signature and document initiatives within their countries and abroad. The goal of such information sharing is to ensure widespread recognition of the national ID initiatives of Finland and Estonia.
2. In the process of ensuring digital signature interoperability, the Parties will make their best efforts to develop and follow the same standards and concepts, and try to unify their understanding and practices about ID cards and digital signatures. In this process, the Parties may share open software components with each other. The terms of use of such components will be regulated by the license terms of the software or a separate agreement between the Parties and under condition that the use of such components will not cause any extra costs for the Parties.
3. The Parties will cooperate in promoting digital document and signature handling to make legally binding digital documents a reality within and between Finland and Estonia.

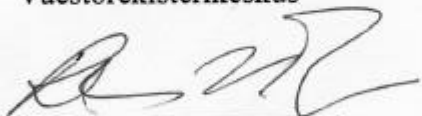
RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

4. The Parties will take necessary measures if needed that the certificates issued by them conform to Qualified Certificate requirements defined in EC directive 1999/93/EC and other existing and upcoming national, European and international legislative acts which will facilitate a mutual recognition of the certificates issued by each other in their respective countries as valid for giving legally binding digital signatures.
5. The Parties will provide each other with FinEID and EstEID test cards and access to testing environments when appropriate, in order to ensure compatibility of their solutions and make it possible to test them.
6. SK will ensure that OpenXAdES/DigiDoc supports FinEID cards and certificates issued by VRK, and maintain the OpenXAdES/DigiDoc architecture web site at www.openxades.org.
7. When it is in the interests of VRK and its resources and national legislation enable it, VRK participates in ensuring that the infrastructure services provided for FinEID certificate validity confirmation are compliant with OpenXAdES/DigiDoc requirements.
8. The Parties will make their best efforts to ensure that the open-source software components for giving and verifying digital signatures developed within the framework of this agreement will remain available to IT developers and any other interested parties free of charge.
9. The Parties will promote each other's activities and national initiatives at relevant events and through other appropriate channels.

ADDITIONAL TERMS

10. This Memorandum of Understanding is public information. The status of further agreements and documents concluded between the Parties will be agreed upon separately as appropriate.


Ritva Viljanen
Director General
Väestörekisterikeskus



Ain Järv
CEO
AS Sertifitseerimiskeskus



20.05.2003


Tapio Aartma
DIRECTOR