

The Future of European Digital States - Building on Best Practices from Estonia

ESMT Berlin, 16 April 2024 (15:00-19:00)

In light of the myriad of challenges facing European countries, including climate change, security threats, and labor shortages, the need for robust digital solutions has never been more apparent. Digitization not only offers greater efficiency, but also serves as a lynchpin for addressing these multifaceted issues, fostering resilience and innovation within states.

However, in the context of rapidly evolving digitization, trust and security are central to the digital ecosystems that form the foundation of modern societies. Estonia has been a pioneer in Europe in building a nationwide digital ecosystem based on trust frameworks based on electronic digital identities, ensuring user confidence and safeguarding critical data. Estonia's trusted digital ecosystem has spurred innovation and economic growth, helping to save 2-3% of GDP annually in transaction costs.

With Estonia's remarkable progress in digital governance, epitomized by its "Personal Government" vision with its whole-of-society approach to service delivery, and Germany's burgeoning initiatives such as registry modernization and the Online Services Act 2.0, this event serves as a nexus for cross-country collaboration. By leveraging Estonia's expertise and Germany's evolving strategies, we aim to chart a course towards a more digitally resilient Europe capable of meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

The in-person event "The Future of European Digital States: Building on Best Practices from Estonia" aims to share best practices and experiences between Estonia and Germany in developing digital ecosystems with digital identities and other trust measures to drive digitization. It aims to raise awareness among public and private sector decision makers about the efficiency gains associated with the adoption of digital identities and a personal public services ecosystem. Beyond awareness raising, the event will serve as a platform for collaborative dialogue, enabling Estonian and German stakeholders to engage in discussions and establish networks for knowledge sharing.

The event will address the importance of tools such as trusted and secure digital identities as well as citizen-centric proactive public service delivery as cornerstones in fostering confidence among both end-users and organizations within digital ecosystems. The debate will also provide a critical examination of key technological and regulatory requirements aimed at enhancing digital security and strengthening defenses against the evolving cyber threat landscape. It will cover the practical challenges of implementing digital frameworks, as well as the regulatory landscape at the EU level, which expects all European countries to offer a technological solution for eIDs, eSignatures and (Qualified) Electronic Attestation of Attributes ((Q)EAA) within an EU Digital Identity Wallet (EUDI Wallet), as well as a market for trust services by 2030.

The keynote by Estonian President Alar Karis will be followed by a panel of experts from academia, the private sector and government to address the pressing issues to drive national digital transformation.

This event is funded by the European Union Recovery and Resilience Facility, NextGenerationEU.

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Agenda - 16 April 2024 (15:00-19:00)

- 15:00 – 16:00 Registration and Coffee
- 16:00 – 16:05 **Opening remarks**
Opening by the Estonian Ambassador to Germany Marika Linntam
- 16:05 – 16:20 **European Digital States: Estonia**
Keynote by the Estonian President **Alar Karis** on the digital strategy of Estonia
- 16:20 – 16:35 **Digitalization in Germany**
Keynote by **Stefan Schnorr**, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport on the future of the digital state
- 16:35 – 16:50 **Status Quo of Digitalization in Germany**
Keynote by **Dr. Markus Richter**, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of the Interior on the state of Germany's digitalization
- 16:50 – 17:50 **Panel: Building European Digital States**
A moderated panel discussion between Estonian business representatives, high-level German and Estonian government representatives
- **Dr. Annika Busse**, Deputy CIO, Hamburg
 - **Oliver Väärtnõu**, CEO, Cybernetica
 - **Andres Raieste**, Senior Vice President of the Public Sector, Nortal
 - **Dr. Dirk Woywod**, CTO, Verimi
 - Moderator: **Johannes Steger**, Tagesspiegel Background Cybersecurity
- 17:50 – 19:00 Networking reception with drinks and buffet

Logistics

Venue & Address:

Our in-person event will be hosted at **ESMT Berlin, Schlossplatz 1, 10178 Berlin** ([Google Maps](#)), which is easily accessible via public transport from the city center (e.g., you can take the subway U5 to station "Museumsinsel" departing from Brandenburg Gate or Berlin Central Station).