

IDs for everyone -campaign



Majority of the public and private e-services in Finland require verification of identity, which is most often done by using online banking credentials. IDs for everyone -campaign lowers the threshold of obtaining ID for those at high risk of digital exclusion.

Many vulnerable groups are prevented from using digital services due to lack of online banking credentials. One has to verify their identity with the official ID card or passport issued by the police in order to get the online banking credentials.

ID card applications, accompanied with a passport photo that should be less than 6 months old, are submitted to the police. Many rural residents face challenges to apply for an ID card due to long distances to the photo studio and police station, lack of public transportation, lack of private car, economical reasons etc.

IDs for everyone -campaign lowers the threshold of obtaining the ID in those rural areas that do not have public and private services available or easily accessible. Especially Finnish sparsely populated areas in East and North are far from services such as police station. Majority of Finland's area is sparsely populated rural area.

IDs for everyone -campaign tackles one of the **root causes of digital exclusion**. It provides an easy-to-implement budget solution to the challenge. The campaign also has social and participatory aspect.

The campaign can be easily implemented as a participatory process, in cooperation with the municipality, wellbeing services county, associations, congregations, companies and volunteers.



Why IDs for everyone -campaign is so important

A personal identity code is issued to everyone who is registered in Finland's Population Information System. This identity code is permanent.

To verify one's identity, a person needs an official ID card or a passport. Both ID card and passport are issued by the police and they are usually valid for five years at a time. The ID card has to be applied for just like a passport and paid by the applicant. The application has to be accompanied with a passport photo which is not more than 6 months old. There is no legislation in Finland that would require everyone to have a valid ID. **More than one million people in Finland do not have valid passport or ID card.**

Almost all of the online services provided by public authorities and many private services require strong identification to ensure the identity of the person using them. By far the most commonly used method of strong identification is to use personal online banking credentials. Banking credentials are issued by the bank where a person has their bank account. The bank requires identification with ID card or passport in order to issue the online banking credentials.

Especially Finnish sparsely populated areas are often far from public and private services such as police station and photo studios. The distances especially in Eastern and Northern Finland can be from 50 to hundreds of kilometers. Often there is no public transportation available.

