

### Establishing a digital identity in Switzerland with a public private partnership

**The Federal Council is currently preparing the dispatch upon the draft of the E-ID Act. The draft plans to set up an ecosystem for digital identities with state and private actors and is fully supported by Swiss Fintech Innovations.**

National digital identities are used every day in several countries. Successful cases are known for state electronic identity systems (i.e. in Estonia) as well as commercial electronic identity systems (i.e. iDIN in the Netherlands or TUPAS in Finland). Reality shows that market-oriented solutions are implemented more quickly and often more successfully than state systems, because financial institutions provide e-banking-solutions and therefore have already qualified identities which are verified against state documents.

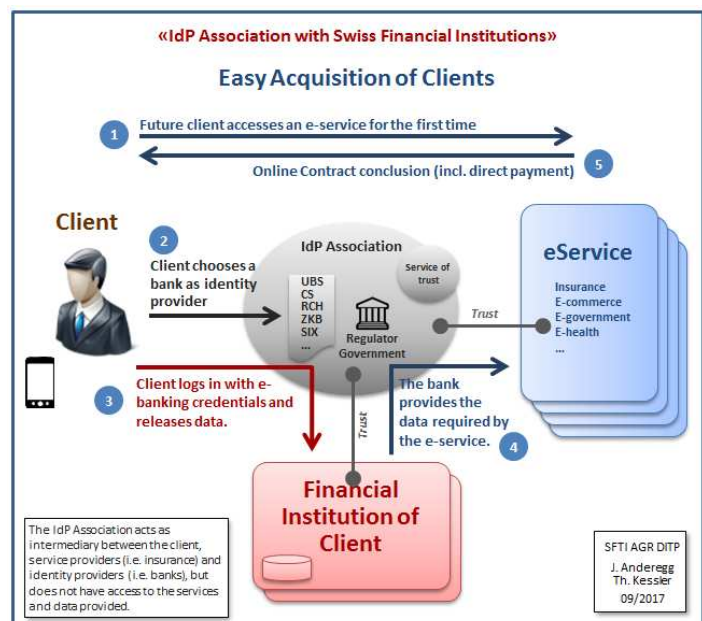
Swiss financial institutions are in a good position to implement an E-ID in the sense of a public private partnership: They have proven their great competency in cyber security, enjoy a high level of trust with their clients and cover up to 100 % of Swiss people with IT affinity. Swiss people are used to e-banking solutions and appreciate in particular, that identities are not used for uncontrolled monetary assessments unlike social media (Google, Apple, Facebook or Amazon).

If the existing e-banking identities are integrated into the state-regulated E-ID system, the solution may be implemented quickly and cost efficiently in our country. Moreover, over many years, financial institutions have invested large sums in their infrastructure, processes and professional competences. These achievements may be made available to large parts of the economy which in turn guarantees that highly qualified digital identities and related trust services may not be serviced by foreign providers and which makes an important contribution to “digital Switzerland” in 2019.

### A Promising Solution for the IdP Network with Swiss Financial Institutions as Identity Providers

This proposal is based on the assumption that Swiss financial institutions make their existing e-banking security solutions available to other e-service providers within the network for identity providers (IdP network). These may obtain electronically attributes of the state civilian identities, which were verified by the financial institutions on the basis of the personal identity documents of the clients. The illustration shows the process how online service providers may efficiently acquire new clients while obtaining the necessary data form IdP network. All participants benefit from this solution:

- Clients can use their proven secure log-in solution and do not have to record new data.
- Due to its simplicity e-service providers increase their contract rates and receive data whose quality complies with the standards required by FINMA regulations and SwissBanking rules of conduct.
- Financial institutions provide additional client benefits within the framework of their e-banking systems and thus strengthen their client relationship.
- In collaboration with the federal authorities, IdP network provides a privately supported “service public” which is free of charge for clients.
- The government still retains the supervision and control over the E-ID-system without investing a large sum of money.



It is important that clients may not be charged any fee. By this means the success story of a digital Switzerland may be written within a short period of time.