



Two projects developed in Estonia are amongst the finalists competing for the 4th **European eGovernment Awards 2009** - an initiative of the European Commission to stimulate innovation by identifying best practice examples using information and communication technologies in public sector organisations. This year 52 awards finalists from 17 countries are competing for the prizes. The winners will be announced on 19 November at the Ministerial eGovernment Conference 2009 in Malmö (Sweden). For the first time the finalists' projects are accessible online through a virtual exhibition.

Selected finalists 2009: Estonia

In 2009 a total of four submission from Estonia have been submitted to the awards. Two cases have been selected as finalists:

- **CrossBorderDS** aims at providing secure authentication for national and cross-border digital signatures;
- **KRIS** demonstrates how digitalising land register information can improve administrative efficiency.

Estonia participates also in a pan-European project, – **EUCARIS** – which competes as a finalist (see Dutch country factsheet <http://www.epractice.eu/awardsmediakit>). The other two Estonian submissions were recognised as good practices.

Cross-border Digital Signature in Company Registration Portal (CrossBorderDS)

Company start-ups made easy for foreign investors
Category 1: eGovernment supporting the Single Market



CrossBorder DS is a Portuguese-Estonian cooperation project to allow secure authentication for foreign individuals and businesses using eID for online company registration. It can easily be extended EU-wide to the benefit of all Member States. The current cross-border signature project accepts electronic applications from Portugal, Finland, Belgium and Lithuania to start a private limited company in Estonia.

→ <https://ettevotjaportaal.rik.ee>

Digital Land Register (KRIS)

Digitalised land register information for faster and more efficient service
Category 3: eGovernment enabling administrative efficiency and effectiveness



KRIS has enabled the entire land registration procedure to be covered with digital land register software, allowing more efficiency and convenience. An online inquiry system allows citizens, entrepreneurs and officials to easily obtain legal information from the land register. As a result, processing times have decreased from three months to approximately ten days and the number of workers in land registry departments has been reduced by around 20%.

→ www.rik.ee/33192





4th EUROPEAN eGOVERNMENT AWARDS 2009 – FACTS

- Submissions from 31 out of 34 eligible countries
- Total number of submissions: 259
- Number of finalists: 52 from 17 countries
- Number of finalists by categories:
 - Category 1: eGovernment supporting the Single Market - 5 finalists
 - Category 2a: eGovernment empowering citizens - 18 finalists
 - Category 2b: eGovernment empowering businesses - 6 finalists
 - Category 3: eGovernment enabling administrative efficiency and effectiveness - 23 finalists

4th EUROPEAN eGOVERNMENT AWARDS 2009 - CATEGORIES

- **Category 1. eGovernment supporting the Single Market:** strengthening the Single Market by increasing mobility for businesses and citizens in the EU;
- **Category 2. eGovernment empowering citizens:** improving access to public services for citizens;
- **Category 2b. eGovernment empowering businesses:** improving access to public services for companies, by creating business opportunities and generating savings for businesses (particularly SMEs);
- **Category 3. eGovernment enabling administrative efficiency and effectiveness:** making public services and administrative processes simpler and more efficient, thus reducing the administrative burden.

A separate **public prize** will be awarded based on the online votes cast by members of ePractice.eu (membership open to all).

EUROPEAN eGOVERNMENT AWARDS BACKGROUND

The purpose of the European eGovernment Awards is to support the implementation of European eGovernment policy and strategies and facilitate good practice exchange. In this context, since their launch in 2003 the Awards have been promoting the best ICT-based solutions for public services in Europe.

The European eGovernment Awards are organised every two years, coinciding with high-level EU Ministerial eGovernment conferences. Their aim is to monitor progress and identify policy and research priorities for the future. This year the 5th Ministerial eGovernment Conference, "Teaming up for the eUnion", is a European Commission-Swedish Presidency joint event. It will take place on 19-20 November 2009 in Malmö (Sweden). The European eGovernment Awards ceremony and Finalists Exhibition are integral parts of the conference.

VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

Virtual Exhibition of European eGovernment Awards is accessible at <http://www.expopolis.com/>

FURTHER INFORMATION

Awards website: www.epractice.eu/en/awards

Full list of finalists: www.epractice.eu/en/awards/finalists

5th Ministerial eGovernment Conference, 19-20 Nov 2009, Malmö (SE): www.egov2009.se

Press queries: info-eGov-conference-press@ec.europa.eu Tel: +32 2 299 45 31

EUROPEAN eGOVERNMENT AWARDS CONSORTIUM

- Center for European Public Administration, AT www.donau-uni.ac.at/verwaltung
- Danish Technological Institute, DK www.teknologisk.dk
- RSO S.p.A., Rome, IT www.rso.it
- P.A.U. Education, ES www.paueducation.com

