



Why 2021 is the year of optimism, openness and opportunity

I would like to thank all of our members, project partners and event sponsors for your support, participation, collaboration and friendship this year. Whilst many of us have not had the opportunity to be in the same room, we have come together as EEMA, to ensure that the fast pace of innovation, information sharing and digital transformation continues. In fact, this year has seen strategies accelerated and new technologies embraced in a way we may not have thought imaginable 12 months ago.

As we look to 2021 there is much call for optimism with Covid-19 vaccines of course topping the list. The Single Digital Gateway is set to transform public administrative services across the EU, along with the planned introduction of an EU-wide digital ID system for use across public and private online services. Also to be expected is version 2.0 of the

eIDAS regulation, and as a founding partner of the go.eIDAS-Association, EEMA will be at the forefront of disseminating and debating information, as we have done since its launch in 2014.

EEMA itself will be launching new initiatives including a new market intelligence programme, as well as opening up our extensive archive of papers, presentations and insights to our members for the very first time. We are also looking forward to revealing our new website in the new year.

On behalf of EEMA, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Stay safe and well and I look forward to meeting all of you next year, both virtually and in-person.

Jon Shamah
Chair of EEMA



New common approach to manage cross-border digital evidence



On 23rd February 2021 at 16:00 CET, EEMA will host its first High Level Briefing webinar of the year. The free-to-attend session will focus on the current issues and challenges relating to the handling of digital forensic procedures and the potential of the LOCARD project to solve some of these issues. [Registration is open now](#)



Decentralised proximity tracing combating Covid-19



EEMA is proud of its long association with Professor Bart Preneel, who was welcomed onto the Board of Management in 2018. This pride was exemplified when in giving his annual closing address at ISSE, he provided insight into vital work he and his team have been involved in this year, surrounding contact tracing to help stop the spread of Covid-19. before introducing the use of decentralised proximity

tracing and the development of the DP3T contact tracing solution.

To-date, the DP3T app has been adopted by 18 EU countries as well as Switzerland and the UK, with more than 57 million downloads, with average adoption of 18% and the highest rates in Finland and Ireland. A recording of the webinar is available at:

www.isse.eu.com



Predictions for the forthcoming year



John Erik Setsaas, Signicat and EEMA Board of Management

Despite vaccines being rolled out in the next months, Covid-19 will have lasting effects on the way we work. The new normal will be remote working. But people are longing to meet people in real life, and the new normal for conferences will be hybrid, with a combination of physical and remote participants. Hope to see many of you at the EEMA 2021 annual conference.

The concern of contracting Covid-19 and other upcoming viruses, has demanded accelerated R&D and innovation to develop vaccines and rapid diagnostic tests. We can expect similar rapid developments in the identity sector where both the private and public sector are recognising the need for secure and remote identity verification solutions. Covid-19 is a catalyst for improved electronic identity solutions, however will also be necessary in a pandemic world when verifying individuals who have contracted the virus such as being allowed to travel, getting access to venues or even face to face meetings.



Arkadiy Kremer, RANS and EEMA Board of Management

I consider that over the next year providing confidence and security in the use of digital transformation models and processes will be much more focused on their functionality. The role of EEMA as a competence centre on functional security will be extended. We will pay more attention to collaboration with universities, passing on the results of our ongoing projects and helping them to train experts on the basis of the solutions already applied, new technologies and business models, providing confidence, information culture and ethics.



Igor Marcolongo, InfoCert

I think that 2021 will be the year of digital identity: it will spread through Europe and become less chained to physical tokens and identity cards, so becoming more usable and affordable to European Citizens for eGov and private services. The European Commission will have an important role thanks to the eIDAS review process and the announcement of a new project for a single European digital identity.

And because I'm an optimist... I believe that the new paradigm of Self-Owned Identity will exit from the labs and will start to become more mainstream with the first real SSI-wallet operational and used within business processes.



Hugo Kerschot, IS Practice and EEMA Board of Management

We can hope that a positive effect of the Corona crisis is that our society embraces digital tools in daily life and work, like digitally signed documents, homework infrastructure... all tools that have existed for years but poorly adopted in our society until now.

Perhaps society will accept that apps can be as safe and privacy proof and even perform better than human interaction, for example in contact tracing.



Phil Flaxton, tScheme

Digital identity, secure data sharing and security are the foundations of the modern economy and society. Interoperability between different nations, different schemes and frameworks is the cornerstone of making a secure, safe and trustworthy world.

tScheme as an advocate for ensuring trust is independently assured and portable, believes we must maximise the potential for participation. Given the recent events globally, interoperability has never been more important for the safe and secure access to services.

Share your news with EEMA members. If you have news, initiatives and opportunities that you would like to share with other EEMA members please email Graham Thatcher: graham.thatcher@eema.org

