

Welcome Address by Paolo Borghi

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have been awaiting Porvoo 12 for some months now and feel great joy today to be able to actually welcome you all in my home town Grosseto.

I also am honored to convey you the personal greetings of On. Giuliano Amato, our Minister of the Interior.

I speak to you as the councillor responsible for our ICT services, our branch that is dealing with all technical issues of the eID card that we issue to our citizens.

In Italy, the CIE card by the Ministry of the Interior is issues to citizens, like its paper equivalent before, by Municipalities. Like in Germany, also in Italy municipalities run the the population registers.

Having run an ICT department of great relevance since 1977, and having recognized the potential of online services since the time of pioneers, we have warmly welcomed the opportunity to collaborate with the Ministry of the Interior in the 2nd Pilot Project for the Italian eID card in 2003.

We have since issued more than 30'000 eID cards to our residents and have thus covered just short of 60% of our eligible population.

So as municipality, we are not only involved in keeping the population register and issueing eIDs, but we put key importance on using eIDs as a catalyst for innovation and ever improving our capability of efficiently serving our citizens. In particular, eIDs are a key enabler for replacing face to face interaction at the town offices and thus avoid the restriction to certain

opening times, queues, and the need for travel. Only with eIDs do we have sufficient guarantees for security and privacy to be able to expose critical services online.

In Italian culture, identity cards have since always played a very important role in the relationship between public administration and citizens. With the web and the Internet having become an integral part of our life styles, it was really inevitable to convey this concept into the electronic domain.

We are therefore very happy to have chosen Porvoo 12 to inaugurate our first online services to our citizens. For this purpose, in an international and open source collaboration, we have developed our own access control solution. Many of you will know this solution from previous Porvoo meetings as the “Open Source eID Interoperability Demonstrator” that, as you have already seen in demonstrations, already works with many foreign eID cards.

While we worked on our local needs, we have recognized the importance of embedding our work in an international context and would like to thank the Porvoo Group and other communities for their contributions and for providing a lot of help and knowhow.

While we open our services to citizens now, we have already extensively tested our system by using eIDs to protect internal services that are used by our staff and by using them to secure critical access by law enforcement agencies to some of our data.

Since we believe that doing is much more convincing than talking, we have developed a first version of a web application that modernizes the traditional Porvoo Group country updates that we propose as a service to the international eID community. An up-to-date overview of eID status is maybe a contribution by itself. We believe that beyond this it is an ideal way to

showcase our work in eID interoperability. Write access to the repository that we proposed be directly used by member states, will be protected with each member states eID.

Before handing over to the next speaker and wishing you successful work session, I would like to take the opportunity to warmly thank all our sponsors. As a poor local government, the organization of such an event would have been completely out of our reach.

Our industry sponsors have made the Porvoo 12 meeting possible without imposing their marketing in a disturbing way. We would also like to emphasize the importance of the local sponsors on our own territory who have generously contributed and facilitated many things. Last but not least, I would like to express my gratitude to the institutions who have lent their name to support the meeting and thus expressed confidence in our organizational capabilities.