

**JOINT DECLARATION**  
**BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER OF ESTONIA**  
**AND THE PRIME MINISTER OF FINLAND**  
**ON AN INITIAL ROADMAP FOR**  
**CROSS-BORDER DATA EXCHANGE AND DIGITAL SERVICES**  
**BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF FINLAND**

The Prime Minister of Estonia acting on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Prime Minister of Finland acting on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Finland (hereinafter referred to as *both sides*),

*recognizing* the potential contribution of bilateral cross-border data exchange in facilitating the movement and interactions of people and companies between the two countries, as well as reducing the administrative burden and costs within public agencies, and thus supporting the economic integration of the two countries and their sustainable growth,

*having regard* to free-of-charge and automated data exchange (including exchange via direct access to each other's databases) as a first step towards developing joint and seamless cross-border digital services,

*taking* into account the opportunity to act as a role model and champion in stimulating the advancement of the Digital Single Market in the Baltic Sea region and in the European Union, and to attract interest in joining the bilaterally launched data exchange initiatives,

*building* on and reflecting the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Information and Communications Technology, signed by Andrus Ansip, Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia, and Jyrki Katainen, Prime Minister of the Republic of Finland, on 10 December 2013, as well as the recommendations of the OECD's Public Governance Review of Estonia and Finland published in 2015,

*recognizing* that having the same data exchange platform (X-Road and Palveluväylä) makes the exchange of data technically easy and cost-efficient (including allowing the automation of existing ways of exchanging data), and that the main remaining obstacles are of an administrative and legal nature,

*taking* into account the relevant European standards and solutions designed within the European Union in the areas concerned,

declare the following:

1. Both sides will work jointly to agree by the end of 2016 the first concrete business cases, steps and deadlines for launching mutually beneficial automated data exchange in the areas of:
  - population registry data (e.g. change of address, deaths, family events). The legislative and structural possibilities shall be examined and mutual understanding concerning the preconditions for an intergovernmental agreement shall be reached by the end of 2016;
  - company registry data (e.g. general company information, representation rights, trade bans);
  - digital medical prescriptions;
  - social insurance benefits and payments (e.g. data on parental benefits, pensions, health insurance, unemployment insurance, etc);
  - maritime registries, ship and seafarer certificates.
  
2. Both sides will also explore the potential benefits and steps for bilateral data exchange by the end of 2017 in the following areas (not exclusive):
  - educational qualifications;
  - tax records (e.g. tax arrears, declared revenues, VAT payments);
  - digital health records;
  - vehicle and traffic registries;
  - police and criminal records (e.g. traffic fines).
  
3. There is ongoing work between the two countries in a number of areas, and to strengthen and deepen these cooperation initiatives, the both sides will:
  - agree and sign an agreement to set up a trust federation between X-Road and Palveluväylä by September 2016;
  - agree, by the end of 2016, on actions to make the Estonian and Finnish digital identities and signatures mutually accepted in practice in all public digital services offered by both administrations at the earliest opportunity;
  - continue the pioneering work and cooperation on the data model for public services (Public Service Data Repository based on European Core Public Service Vocabulary). The results of this mutual work can serve as a model for the other EU Member States;
  - work with the private and third sectors to make e-invoices and e-receipts mutually accepted in practice.
  
4. As the activities described above concern several government agencies and policy areas in both countries, the implementation of this declaration will be coordinated by the Government Office of Estonia and the Ministry of Finance of Finland. Initiation and development of cross-border data exchange will be considered a priority for digital development across the agencies in both governments.

5. The Prime Ministers intend to review progress in implementing this declaration and the bilateral exchange of data during their bilateral meetings, at least once a year.

Signed digitally on 10 May 2016

**Taavi Rõivas**  
**Prime Minister**  
**Republic of Estonia**

**Juha Sipilä**  
**Prime Minister**  
**Republic of Finland**