



3rd Work Cycle

Working Group C3

“Smart Cards”

Summary of Final Deliverable

Athens, October 2002

1 Conclusions and Strategy Proposals

1.1 General Priorities (Proposals to the State)

Smart cards are being chosen internationally as a safe part of security and information technology system infrastructures and in particular as a means of access to open networks. The banking and mobile telephony sectors have invested and continue to invest billions of euro while new users include public transport organizations and the public sector for a wide range of applications.

In Europe, the USA and Japan the relevant government agencies are implementing large-scale projects using smart cards and promoting research and development in similar supplementary technologies such as biometrics.

In Greece, apart from telecommunications providers, mass investments have not been made. The major success of phone cards in Greece over the last decade led to the construction of three factories that are aimed at emerging markets.

The e-business forum Working Group from the Ministry of Development managed to gather together for the first time all directly involved users, researchers and suppliers of smart cards as part of an effort to exchange information and views.

The Working Group unanimously proposes that this effort be kept up by means of:

1. Establishment of a not-for-profit smart card society which would be co-financed by the private and public sectors. Its scope would be to work on issues relating to:
 - ✓ Training personnel in these technologies in cooperation with university institutes
 - ✓ Promoting R&D
 - ✓ Guaranteeing a legal and institutional framework fully in line with the European one
 - ✓ Ensuring interoperability of infrastructures in various sectors
 - ✓ Expanding joint investments in various sectors
 - ✓ Coming into line with European initiatives as they have developed following publication of the 'Smart Card Open Infrastructure for Europe' report in the context of the e-Europe initiative
 - ✓ The effort to promote solutions in neighbouring countries.
2. Organizing a **Greek Conference (and possibly a product and application fair) on smart cards** to be held each year.
3. Preparation of a **Greek roadmapping research project**, possibly in the context of the forthcoming e-business programme from the Hellenic Secretariat General for Research and Technology. This project should include all 'players' in the Greek market (university & research institutions, card and reader industries, software developers, consultants). The objectives of the projects should be:
 - ✓ Smart cards technology foresight for the next 5 years
 - ✓ Smart cards business development foresight for the next 5 years
 - ✓ Identification of needs in terms of research for development of the Greek smart card industry
 - ✓ Identification of needs in terms of infrastructure and support for entrepreneurship of the Greek smart card industry
 - ✓ Determination of measures that need to be taken to cover these needs
 - ✓ Pilot efforts to develop technologies and applications to confirm the above results.

1.1.1 Proposals for the public sector

Representatives of 8 ministries and organizations took part in the first meeting of the Working Group which related to the public sector. There is interest in this technology but a lack of familiarization among users and experts and a risk of waste of resources on the study and development of separate systems which are incompatible or which overlap each other. A characteristic example is that the toll road smart cards for the Attica Road and the National Roads are incompatible with each other.

The proposal for the creation of an agency which would coordinate the development of infrastructure and the issue of cards could prevent such types of superfluous waste.

At the same time a committee could be established within such an agency focusing exclusively on the public sector.

At European level, even in potential Member States of the European Union, there is satisfactory coordination of the relevant initiatives. The Porvoo Group, for example, consists of 15 states and its objective is a trans-European digital ID card financed by the European Commission's eEpoch project. Other examples include the e-Europe Smart Cards initiative and other projects which are focused on specific applications such as the E-111 card, etc.

The proposed agency would ensure Greek participation and involvement in all relevant initiatives and at the same time coordination between these initiatives. At the present the Hellenic Ministry of the Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization is currently participation in the eEpoch project on a self-financing basis.

A particularly important issue is transfer of technology which has been developed internationally to public administration. This could be achieved through a series of seminars, workshops, and so on and in particular through certain pilot actions which could be implemented at local level so that experience can be acquired.

1.1.2 Information and Awareness Raising

The findings of the Smart Cards Group together with the e-Europe Smart Cards deliverables can and should be forwarded to all interested parties.

They are a record of the most up to date information, white papers, proposals, and specifications in Greece and Europe. Promoting and advertising them must be one of the primary concerns of the proposed agency.

1.2 Technical issues - standards

In the deliverable on Smart Card Open Infrastructure for Europe which was prepared in the context of the e-Europe initiative there is a detailed reference to both basic technical issues and standards and new needs for standardization. The main standardization agencies, such as CEN/ISSS and ETSI, participated in and continue to participate in the initiative while many specialists also participate in ISO committees. Given that participation of Greece is limited – only two people participate in the e-Europe Smart Card Charter committees and the Hellenic Standardization Organization does not participate in smart card standards committees - the relevant information should be forwarded to the agencies involved.