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“Transforming PNG: Digital Horizons and Public Service Excellence”  
Digital Government Delivery Workshop

**Digital Identity – What is the Role of Government?**  
Country cases



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**Legal Identity for ALL**



**Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Art. 6)**  
“Everyone has the right to be recognized as a person before the law”



**Convention on the Rights of the Child (Art. 7)**  
“The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality[...]



**International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (Art. 25(b))**  
“Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity to vote and be elected at genuine periodic election...”

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## 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



- **16.9** By 2030 provide legal identity for all including free birth registrations
- Legal identity is acknowledged to be catalytic for achieving at least 10 of the Sustainable Development Goals.



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## Leaving no one Behind

**Leave no one behind (LNOB)** is the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It represents the unequivocal commitment of all UN Member States to **eradicate poverty** in all its forms, **end discrimination and exclusion**, and **reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities that leave people behind** and undermines the potential of individuals and of humanity as a whole.



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## Why Legal [and Digital] Identity Matters?

- COVID-19 pandemic uncovered the greater need to increased remote services,
- Fast-paced transition towards digitization, even in resource-poor countries,
- Digital ID can unlock opportunities for the most vulnerable populations

**3.2 billion** have some form of ID and a digital trail

**7.6 billion** Of the people on earth:

**1 billion** people are estimated to lack a legally recognized form of ID (suso/nano/iphoto/lets/Poste)


**3.4 billion** people have some form of ID but no digital trail

Digital ID can unlock value by promoting inclusion, formalization, and digitization. For example:

- 45%** of women aged 15+ in low-income countries lack ID while only 30% of men do
- 1.7 billion** people globally could gain access to financial services
- 90%** of customer costs could be reduced

<https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/mckinsey-digital/our-insights/infographic->

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## Why Legal [and Digital] Identity Matters?

### Lack of Legal [and Digital] Identity hits the most vulnerable:

- ✓ Inability to enter legal transaction with public authorities or individuals (including commercial services)
- ✓ Inability to access formal education and health services [proof of ID is requested]
- ✓ Lack of protection for buying, selling, registering or inheriting property
- ✓ Inability to travel internationally
- ✓ Inability to vote or be elected to office
- ✓ Exposure to trans-border crime or terrorism

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## Why Legal [and Digital] Identity Matters?

### Lack of Legal [and Digital] Identity hits the most vulnerable:

- ✓ Impediment to entering contractual agreements with commercial entities
- ✓ Inability to open a bank account, or enroll in a health insurance plan or get cash transfers
- ✓ Impediment to enter work force and enroll as a taxpayer [Legal ID is a precondition]
- ✓ Obstacle in purchasing or registration of mobile phone SIM card
- ✓ Inability to access public services (including online).



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## Growing demand for Digital IDs

- According to Juniper Research"

*"The number of people using government-issued digital identity credentials is expected to grow by 150 percent from 1.7 billion [in 2019] to **more than 5 billion by 2024**, according to a new report on mobile biometric technologies, digital identity apps, and civic digital identity".*

*"[The] report predicts that mobile network operator **revenue from digital identity will reach \$8.1 billion in 2025**, up from just \$1.3 billion in 2020.*

Source: <https://www.juniperresearch.com/researchstore/fintech-payments/digital-identity-research>




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# Why is it hard to get Legal and Digital Identity?



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## Legal vs Digital IDs


### Legal ID


- ✓ An agreed common definition:
  - ✓ Basic characteristics of an individual's identity [e.g., name, sex, place and date of birth] conferred through registration and the issuance of a certificate by an authorized civil registration authority following the occurrence of birth,
- ✓ Linked to civil registration system
- ✓ Legal ID is retired by the issuance of death certificate by registration authority

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-Item3k-Overview-E.pdf>

### Digital ID

- ✓ No universally adopted definition
  - ✓ Understood to be a unique and constant identity – a virtual identification card – assigned to individuals that authenticates them as users of all their portable digital devices, both in the digital world, such as online banking, commerce, and in the physical world whenever such identification may be required
- ✓ Involves biometrics, such as fingerprint, iris scanning





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## Data gathering and Authentication

### Legal ID

Source: Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Rev. 3, para. 26.

### Digital ID

**Who you are**

- Fingerprint
- IRIS
- Face
- Voice

**What you know**

- 1234 PIN
- Hello123 Password
- A1B2C3 Verified Sequence
- 24 Word Seed Phras

**What you have**

- Smart Card
- Mobile

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## Challenges of Digitizing Legal ID systems

### Legal ID

Source: Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System, Rev. 3, para. 26.

- **Transmission and encryption:**
  - ✓ Hard-copy format to electronic => possible data breach during transmission (possible solution is encryption)
- **Storage:**
  - ✓ Scanning old records and entering their data (Not discarding/abandoning)
- **Retention:**
  - ✓ Server space, information management strategy, clarity on whether, when and how digitized and electronic records may be destroyed, etc.
- **Authenticity:**
  - ✓ methods to ensure authenticity, stolen certificates, etc.
- **Confidentiality of individual's information:**
  - ✓ robust security setups, multilayered protection, access to registers

<https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/Standards-and-Methods/files/Har>

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## Scaling and Securing Digital ID systems

**Scale and coverage**

- Does not always coincide with Legal ID
  - Biographic information e.g. a user's name or age
  - A trusted ID document is needed
- The process of retiring a Digital ID varies/unclear

**Risk of data misuse or breach; incidents have a greater impact (data not replaceable)**

**Risk of 'physical' verification tools being compromised**

**Who you are**

- Fingerprint
- IRIS
- Face
- Voice

**What you know**

- 1234 PIN
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**What you have**

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Third-party supervision might be required in case of an issue

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## Digital IDs in 193 UN Member States

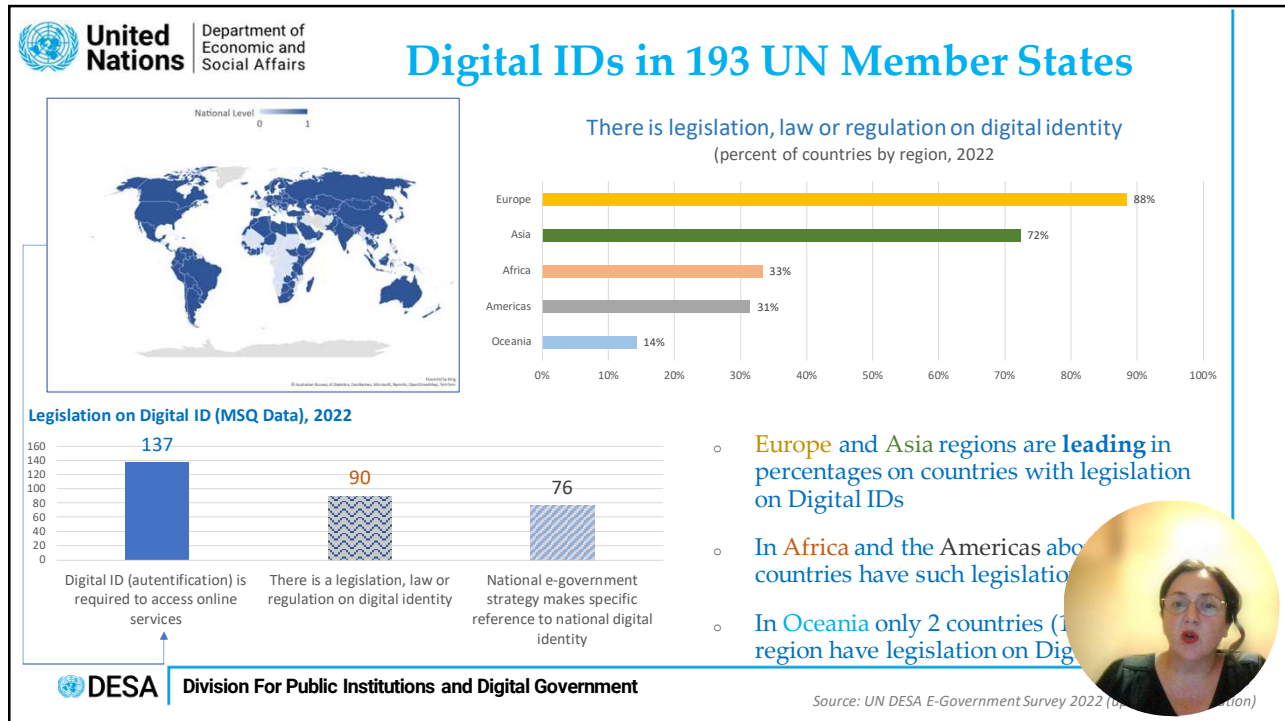
**Findings 2020 and 2022: (193 UN Member States)**

- 137 countries with digital ID, of which
  - 13 countries that have newly implemented digital ID:
  - 28 countries with ongoing Digital ID initiatives
- 56 countries with no digital IDs

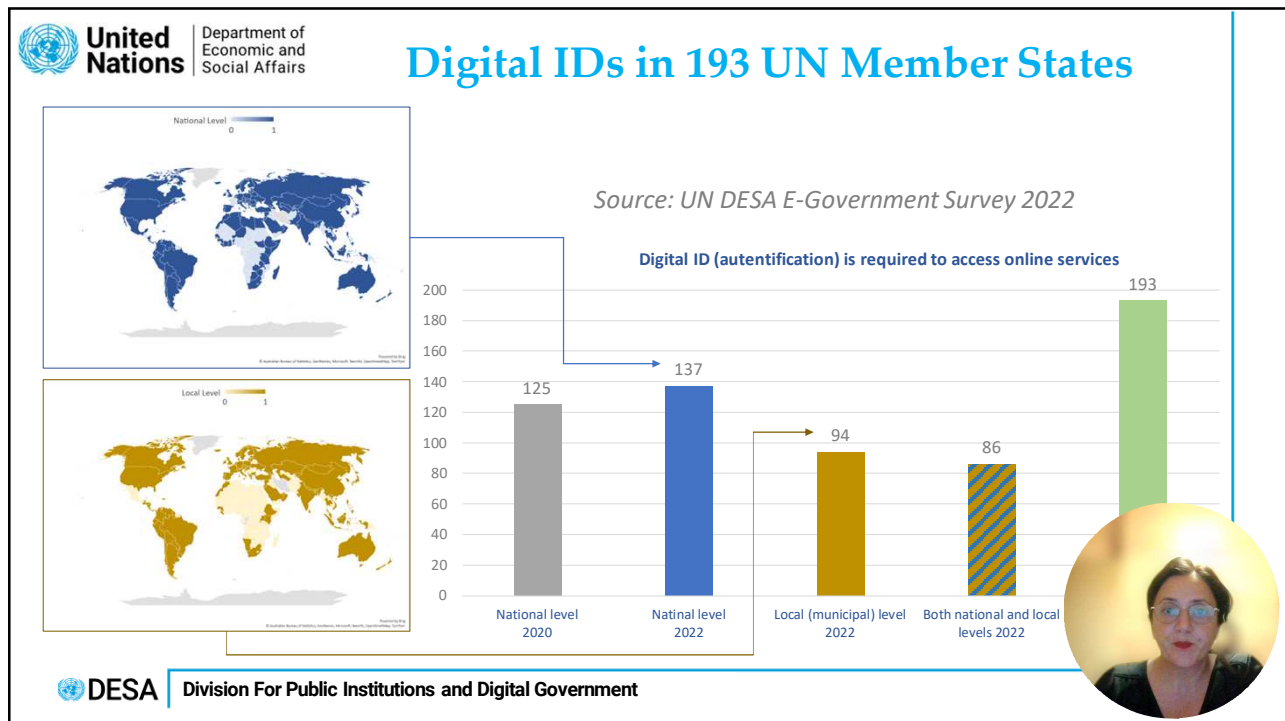
Source: UN DESA E-Government Survey 2022

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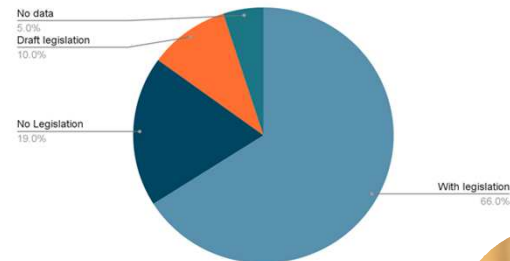
## Digital IDs in 193 UN Member States

### Differences:

- ❑ In **developed countries**, mostly an upgrade from *already existing physical ID systems*
- ❑ In **developing/least developed countries** the implementation of an identification system, in some cases, *is directly made under digital form, leapfrogging physical ID*

### Legislative gaps:

Privacy and data protection legislation (193 UN Member States)



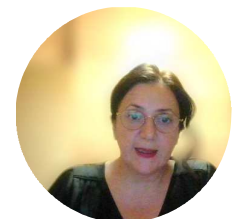
Significant obstacles remain in internet connectivity, penetration rates, , affordability

Source: UN DESA research and UN MSQs




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## Country Cases



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## Estonia

**e-Estonia e-Identity**


All Estonians, no matter where they happen to live, have a state-issued digital identity. This electronic identity system, called eID, has existed over 20 years and is the cornerstone of the country's e-state. e-ID and the ecosystem around it is part of any citizen's daily transactions in the public and private sectors. People use their e-IDs to pay bills, vote online, sign contracts, shop, access their health information, and much more.

Estonians can use their e-ID via state-issued identity or ID-card, using Mobile-ID on their smartphones, or the application Smart-ID. Holders of a digital identity need not be Estonian residents anymore however. Since 2018, Estonia has also offered a program called e-Residency for anyone who wishes to become an e-resident and access its diverse digital services, regardless of citizenship or location.


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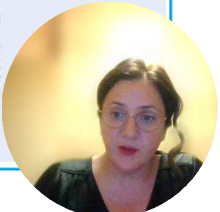
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## Poland


**Box 4.3 Digital identify and social support for refugees in Poland**

Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, the Polish authorities have taken immediate action so that Ukrainian war refugees could apply for a Polish national ID Number which allows them to fully benefit from the assistance offered by the Polish central and local government units, such as gaining access to the national healthcare system and educational system under the same conditions as the Polish citizens. The process of assigning the PESEL identification number in a non-discriminatory way (i.e., it is assigned in the same way to Ukrainian citizens and to the Polish). The ID number, known as PESEL, was made available to Ukrainian refugees as soon as just three weeks after the war in Ukraine has broken out. Any refugee can register at any commune office by submitting a filled-in application form and a photograph. Ukrainian citizens who are over 18 years old can also create a [Profil Zaufany](#) (Trusted Profile), to allow them to use public administration services online as some services are available exclusively on the Internet. Within first weeks there were over 270k new Trusted Profiles registered.


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## Philippines

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**PSA Philippine Identification System**

1.3M followers • 1 following



- **PhilSys**, the foundational identification system that aims to provide a valid proof of identity for all citizens and resident aliens as a means of simplifying public and private transactions, was signed into law in **August 2018**.
- Aimed at completing the enrollment of the population by 2023
- **Privacy-by-Design** feature
- **Data Governance Framework**, will further outline the privacy and data protection protocols and standards that will govern PhilSys operations
- **Institutional Framework**: National Privacy Commission (NPC) and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), who have the mandate and capability to secure and protect the data






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## Key takeaways:

- ❖ **Digital IDs unlock great opportunities** [banking commerce, remote services, collaboration, etc.], but they rely on robust Legal IDs systems
- ❖ **Emerging technologies** [e.g. blockchain, AI] can improve data processing, verification, and authentication processes
- ❖ **Use of biometric data** is increasing for identity verification, but it is **not risk-free** [risk of data misuse or breach]
- ❖ **Data and privacy protection is priority** when implementation and management of digital ID
- ❖ **Partnerships** between public and private sector as well as with international actors and academia can lead to more efficient digital ID solutions



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## Useful links:

- [United Nations Secretary-General’s report on “Our Common Agenda”](#)
- [Secretary General’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation](#)
- [UN E-Government Survey 2020 and 2022](#)

- [Handbook on Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Systems: Management, Operation and Maintenance, Rev. 1,](#)
- [Report of the Secretary-General on introduction of the UN Legal Identity Agenda – a Holistic Approach to Civil Registration, Vital Statistics and Identity Management](#) (approved by ECOSOC in June 2020)
- [Overview of the United Nations Legal Identity Agenda](#) (approved by ECOSOC in June 2020)
- [UNCT Operational Guidelines on UN LIA implementation](#)
- [United Nations Legal Identity Agenda Task Force Guidelines: Maintaining Civil Registration and Vital Statistics during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (living document, to be updated)
- [Guidance to UNDP Country Offices on the privacy, data protection and broader human rights dimensions of using digital technologies to combat Covid-19](#)
- [UN Legal Identity Agenda website](#)

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## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Спасибо

Thank You

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谢谢

Merci

Gracias

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