

The Austrian e-card: Health Card and Citizen Card for a Modern Administration

For about two years the Austrian e-card is THE key to the health system. For the card holder the e-card is even more than a health insurance card: by the citizen card function it becomes also a key to e-Government services.



Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions

All social insurance institutions belong to the Main Association of Austrian Social Security Institutions (Hauptverband der österreichischen Sozialversicherungsträger). This umbrella organisation is responsible for safeguarding general social security interests and for representing the social security institutions in matters of common concern (e.g. concluding contracts with physicians, hospitals, etc.). It also represents the Austrian social security system in dealings

with similar organisations abroad and, in an international context, acts as a liaison body in matters of health, accident and pension insurance.

The structure of the Austrian social security system has the advantage of customer-oriented service. The disadvantages of the decentralized structure are counter-balanced by the co-ordinating function of the Main Association.



The Project

In addition to the Social Insurance Signature (used for applications within the field of social insurance) the e-card contains "sleeping" signature applications according to e-Government Law:

- Secure electronic signature (for qualified signatures according to Signature Law)
- Advanced electronic signature (for advanced signatures and encryption)

The e-card is prepared to be used as a citizen card. Each citizen has the possibility to make his e-card a personal identification card and to access services of e-Government round the clock at home.

The activation of the citizen card function can be done easily: either by registration in one of the registration outlets of social security institutions or via the internet portal of the Austrian Social Insurance www.sozialversicherung.at. After registration the card holder is provided with the secure data for his citizen card. These data are stored on the e-card (certificate and identity link parameters). The electronic signature (the certificate) can be activated by the citizen himself. The activation code is provided by the registration outlets or via registered mail, the trust centre for the qualified certificate is a.trust.

In order to use the e-card as a citizen card on the PC you need a standard card reader and a special software for the issue of the personal signature. This software, also called citizen card environment, is provided by the Republic of Austria and is free of charge. Since the citizen card function is part of the tasks of the e-card system which are determined by law the activation of the citizen card function is also free of charge for the card holder.

Austrian Social Security Institutions already provide several e-services on their website like information on insurance data, basic data on health insurance, application for child allowance or the electronic old age pension account. Further applications in the eGovernment sector are for instance "FinanzOnline" (annual tax declaration), student allowance applications, criminal record, residence registration confirmation, and so on. A list of the applications is available at www.buergerkarte.at.
Get more Information:

www.chipkarte.at
www.sozialversicherung.at

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