

Travel – digitalising ID cards to make travelling easier

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Introduction

Pearle*- Live Performance Europe is the European federation regrouping through its members over 13,000 organisations and companies in the music, performing arts and live event sectors.

Pearle* has taken note of the Commission's invitation to a call for feedback on its plans to present a proposal on the digitalisation of travel documents.

As a general principle, Pearle* welcomes the European Commission's initiative to digitalise travel documents, particularly through the introduction of digital travel credentials based on identity cards. Facilitating smoother, faster, and more secure border crossings aligns with the broader goal of promoting mobility within the EU. The cultural and live performance sector relies heavily on the free movement of people within the EU. Simplifying travel for touring artists, technicians, and other professionals. It would also be beneficial to our audiences that are travelling to festivals and events abroad. In other words, Pearle* acknowledges that the initiative could potentially be of interest and use for different target groups.

Comments

While Pearle* supports digitalisation as a step forward in innovation and efficiency, we believe the following considerations must be taken into account to ensure the benefits of this initiative:

- Digital travel credentials must follow the highest standards of data protection as stipulated under the GDPR. Mechanisms to avoid misuse, fraud, or unauthorised access.
- The digitalized photo associated with an individual's ID should be strictly used for travel-related purposes only, ensuring privacy is upheld and limiting its use to its intended function.
- A safeguard for individuals using the system should be in place to prevent Member States from deactivating or revoking credentials arbitrarily, in order to limit free movement.
- The system must be inclusive and user-friendly, especially for those who may face challenges with digital technologies, including older individuals and those with limited access to digital resources.
- Adoption of digital travel credentials should always remain voluntary, ensuring that individuals can continue to rely on physical travel documents if they prefer. Individuals who opt out of using digital travel credentials must face minimal inconveniences, ensuring their rights and mobility are not affected regardless of their choice.

- Contingency plans should be in place to handle potential system failures. Reliable backup systems must be available to prevent travel disruptions in case of technical issues, cyberattacks, or outages.
- A close cooperation with transport carriers is essential for a successful integration of the system

Conclusion

In conclusion, Pearle* supports the proposal's aim to modernise travel documentation and enhance mobility within the EU.

We view the potential applications of digital travel credentials as a positive development, particularly in easing the process of registering with national authorities when relocating to another Member State, thus reducing administrative burdens, and potentially supporting access to electronic identification systems and services that rely on secure and reliable identification methods. Finally, the integration with the European Digital Identity Wallet is another positive aspect.

However, safeguards related to data security, accessibility, and system reliability must remain a top priority to ensure the success and transparency of this initiative.

We welcome the opportunity to participate in this consultation and support the proposed amendments. We look forward to ongoing collaboration to improve mobility for cultural professionals across the EU.