

Valtti-card Service, Finland

Title of the policy or measure (in English)	The Valtti-card service (Valtti-kortti)
• Country	Finland
• Sectors	Construction and woodworking
• What groups are targeted by the measure	Employers in the construction industry (direct target group) Contractors in the construction industry (direct target group)
• Purpose of measure	Prevention
• Short sentence summarising the measure	The Valtti-card is a photo identity card and a smart card used to gain access to construction sites fulfilling the legislative requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act concerning identification of construction employees.
Background	
• Background context driving the implementation of the measure	There was a need to ease the administrative burden for companies in the construction industry to comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the Finnish Tax Administration. There was also a need to simplify access controls on construction sites. Another driving force was the development of new services to check the professional competencies of construction workers and streamline labour recruitment. The Valtti-card can be used as an access card to get on to construction sites. Access cards are legally required by the authorities and Valtti-card is one card that fulfils the legal requirements. Also, by offering an easy way to verify the reliability of subcontractors, the Valtti-card helps to restrict the potential of grey-market operators.
• When was the measure implemented? (including start date and end date/ongoing)	October 2013 – ongoing
• Names(s) of authorities/bodies/organisations involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suomen Tilajavastuu Oy – maintainer and owner of the service • Confederation of Finnish Construction Industries RT – an organisation involved in developing the idea and a cooperation partner • Companies (contractors and subcontractors) buying the service • Relevant authorities (e.g. of occupational safety and health, and tax)
• Scope of the measure (a pilot project, nationwide, regional wide)	National measure in the Construction Industries (users can also be foreign companies operating in Finland).
• Type of (policy) measure	Tool
• Key objectives of the measure	The Valtti-card service supports employers and contractors in the construction industry to fulfil their statutory obligations. The Valtti-card is a photo identity card and a smart card for access control onto construction sites. It can be used in multiple ways - for identification, working time monitoring, checking the validity of different certificates required and providing worksite training. In

	<p>future, it will be possible to access professional qualifications recorded in the electronic qualifications register. The Valtti-Card allows electronic data from different systems to be combined.</p>
Specific measure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Description of how the measure operates in practice 	<p>The Occupational Safety and Health Act obliges all persons working on construction sites in Finland to wear visible pictorial identification that states their name, employer and tax number. Furthermore, the Occupational Safety and Health Act obliges principal operators of construction sites to maintain a list of all the personnel working at the site. In addition to this, every person working on a construction site must register with the tax number register, maintained by the Finnish Tax Administration, in order to receive a tax number to be displayed on their identification.</p> <p>The Valtti smart card can be used as an access card in electronic access control, in addition to which the service can be used to collect and report employee information to the Finnish Tax Administration. Each Valtti smart card is connected to a centralised database¹ that can be used to retrieve the employee's information and to check the validity of the card.</p> <p>The employer orders the Valtti cards for their employees and records their information in a centralised data storage system, in which the employer can also edit and update employee data. The employer is also responsible for the validity of card-holders' information. When the card is used at a construction site, it pulls information from the centralised data storage system, ensuring that employee information is always up-to-date. Some of the employee data is also recorded in the systems used at the site which can be used to create an obligatory monthly list of employees for the site and the monthly report to be sent to the Finnish Tax Administration.</p> <p>The Valtti-card service has also enabled the development of a centralised competence register. The centralised data storage system allows employers to add data on employees' qualifications and competences.</p> <p>Valtti-cards help the fight against undeclared work by enabling construction operators to gain real-time information through the digital system.</p> <p>The Valtti-card is versatile and expandable. Several systems support the Valtti-card and it is possible to extend the card to store a company's own programmes.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What resources and other relevant organisational aspects are involved? 	<p>Implementation of the Valtti-card involves an organisation that has the ability to collect and combine information from digital data systems and the cooperation of all relevant authorities to provide the relevant information.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the source(s) of funding? 	<p>The service is paid for by operators of the construction industry themselves. The price is moderate at EUR 24 plus VAT per card.</p>
Evaluation and outcome	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the measure achieved its objectives? 	<p>Most companies in the construction industry use Valtti-cards (40 000 companies, 360 000 users). Its usage is comprehensive in construction companies of various sizes.</p> <p>The Valtti-card has been very successful in fulfilling legislative requirements under the Occupational Safety and Health Act concerning construction worker</p>

¹ For example, <https://prosentti.vero.fi/Veronumerorekisteri/Tarkistus/VeronumeronTarkistus.aspx>, https://www.vero.fi/en/About-us/contact-us/efil/efiling_reports_on_construction_work/

	<p>identification on site and the Tax Administration's requirements concerning the public Tax Number register. While an access card is legally required, the Valtti-card is one such card only and so is not compulsory. But due to its versatility and expandability to meet the needs of companies it has gained success. Large companies and other contractors can make the usage of Valtti-cards a requirement on their construction sites.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment method (including indicators used to measure its impact), and the outputs and outcomes achieved 	<p>According to inspections of police and occupational safety and health authorities, there has been improvement in identification of employees on construction sites. In 2008-11 25-33 % of construction site workers had no identification card and by 2013-15 this figure was only 7.5-8.3 %</p> <p>An inspection report of tax administration² shows that employers' knowledge of their responsibilities and working in accordance with legislation has increased especially in the construction business. A key reason for this is co-operation with labour market organisations.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are lessons learnt and the key conditions for success? 	<p>Lessons learnt and success factors include the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to prevent undeclared work and the grey economy, it is important that the card is digital and hard to falsify. Valtti-cards are difficult to tamper with due to technical solutions that effectively prevent interception and scanning of the card. The Valtti-card has changed the manual process of collecting and verifying personal information into an electronic and automated process. Having a common standard for collecting and accessing information between all the parties has also enabled innovation of new services for the construction sector. Valtti smart cards are connected to a centralised database, which enables employee's information to be retrieved at the construction site. An important element of the Valtti-card is that it is functional in different companies and cities, and in the future also in other countries such as Sweden due to common standards. An important element in extending the card's use is to add companies' own data systems and employees' qualifications data to it. The Valtti-card is useful also for inspection authorities who can now easily access and get real-time information about employees at the construction site.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level of transferability (e.g. other countries/groups/sectors) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valtti-card is digital, which enables its transferability to other countries. The tool is transferable to construction businesses in other countries that want to ease the administrative burden for companies in occupational safety and health, and taxation issues, facilitate access controls on construction sites and ensure the professional competencies of construction workers. Co-operation is needed especially with labour market organisations or other institutions representing construction businesses to ensure the co-development and usability of the service. Co-operation is also needed with the tax administrators, occupational safety and health administrators and other officials in order to develop a tool that fulfils legislative requirements in these areas.
<p>Additional information</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contacts 	<p>Päivi Kantanen, Ministerial adviser, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment</p>

² The Grey Economy Control Statistics 2016, https://www.vero.fi/contentassets/54e9775a7d4a48bcbfa79590795d4e23/harmaatalous_en.pdf

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.veronumero.fi/henkilokortit/ https://www.tilaajavastuu.fi/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Valtti-card.pdf http://blogi.tilaajavastuu.fi/mika-ihmeen-Valtti-card Riku Rajamäki (2015) Current issues in inspections of construction business (a presentation of Regional State Administrative Agency of Southern Finland) The Grey Economy Control Statistics 2016
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metadata and key words for online search 	Finland; construction industry; ID card; electronic access control; Occupational Safety and Health Act; Valtti card; working time monitoring; Finnish Tax Administration; qualifications register; tax number register; centralised data storage