Sichere Digitale Identität

6 Months to the Launch of the EUDI Wallet

Position Paper by the VSDI e.V.

The EUDI Wallet is set to launch in Germany on 2 January 2027. For the first time, this will lay the foundations for a digital identity infrastructure that can be used across Europe, designed to enable citizens and businesses to use digital credentials securely, in a way that respects data protection, and with ease. Against this backdrop, in June 2026 the Association for Secure Digital Identity (VSDI) conducted a four-week survey of its members from the business, academic and public sectors, asking them to identify what they considered to be the key challenges and priorities for the remaining six months leading up to the planned launch. Respondents answered five questions on the most important outstanding areas for action – ranging from onboarding and priority use cases, through risks associated with usage, to the necessary framework conditions and regulatory decisions. The findings summarized in this discussion paper highlight the issues currently of particular concern to the sector and where, in its view, the greatest opportunities and challenges lie.

Five key priorities for the successful launch of the EUDI Wallet:

1. Trust and understanding as the foundation for uptake

The success of the wallet will depend crucially on whether users perceive it as useful, easy to understand and trustworthy. The benefits of the wallet must be clear to the public and tangible in their everyday lives. This also involves designing the wallet to be as accessible and inclusive as possible and enabling digital participation through low-barrier access. At the same time, existing analogue alternatives should be retained so that no one is excluded from state benefits. Trust is built not only through information, but also through the technical design of the wallet. Features such as selective data sharing, data minimization and privacy by design enable users to decide for themselves what information they share and in which situations. At the same time, there needs to be clear communication about the features the wallet offers, how personal data is handled, and the specific benefits that digital credentials provide compared to current procedures. Alongside the technical roll-out, preparations for the market launch should therefore be carried out systematically. Awareness, trust and a clear understanding of the possible applications are essential prerequisites for the future use of the EUDI wallet.

"The greatest risk to the actual uptake of the EUDI Wallet is that citizens do not see any added value in it."

Roland Adrian (Managing Director at Verimi)

2. Added value is created through specific use cases

Adoption stems from utility. For the EUDI Wallet to become part of everyday life, it must be possible to use it in as many relevant use cases as possible right from the start. Although a limited set of functions is planned for the soft launch in early 2027, applications offering clear added value should already be available at launch. In addition to administrative services and digital onboarding and identification processes, there is significant potential, particularly in everyday usage scenarios. The more visible and frequent the wallet is in delivering tangible added value, the faster it can establish itself as an integral part of digital processes.

„Priority should be given to social benefit use cases and use cases from everyday life."

Lilly Schmidt (Expert in digital identities and the digitalization of public administration)

3. The success of the EUDI Wallet depends on the onboarding process

The success of the EUDI Wallet will not be measured solely by its technical availability, but by whether citizens, public authorities, businesses and service providers are able to use it from the outset. Six months before the planned launch, the necessary conditions must be put in place so that both users and providers can join the new ecosystem as easily, securely and with legal certainty. This includes functioning registration and certification processes, clear guidelines for public authorities and service providers, and ensuring that merchants are equipped to accept payments at an early stage. At the same time, clear communication is essential.

„Without a practical solution that is recognized by the German Federal Office for Information Security (BSI), the planned soft launch on 2 January 2027 risks facing a severe registration bottleneck that could undermine public acceptance from the very outset."

Prof. Dr. Christoph Thiel (Professor of Secure and Reliable Software Systems at Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences)

4. Clear standards speed up implementation

The introduction of the EUDI Wallet requires not only new technical components, but also a reliable framework for implementation for public authorities and the stakeholders involved in the wallet ecosystem. This calls for clear guidelines, standardized interfaces and practical guidance to enable consistent integration into existing processes. The sandbox provided by the federal government has already laid an important foundation for technical testing. In addition, further technical support services, such as integration libraries and the connection of existing administrative IT systems, should be made available at an early stage. Uniform standards and reusable solutions can help to reduce fragmentation between the federal government, the Länder, local authorities and private stakeholders.

„Standardization and the avoidance of federal and local fragmentation are key."

Elmar Reif (Chief Product Officer at PXL Vision)

5. Regulatory requirements must be clear

With six months to go before the planned launch of the EUDI wallet, the focus is now on the regulatory framework. There are still key tasks to be addressed, particularly with regard to certification processes, technical guidelines and the legal framework. At the same time, it is essential to ensure high standards of security that is interoperable across Europe, one that builds trust without unnecessarily compromising user-friendliness. Furthermore, ensuring an open and interoperable wallet ecosystem is crucial. These prerequisites lay the foundation for a reliable and trustworthy launch of the wallet.

„The standardized European certification scheme for the wallet must be finalized swiftly and to a high standard. This also applies to the (provisional) Technical Guideline issued by the BSI. Furthermore, the Digital Identities Act must be approved by the Bundesrat by November at the latest."

Franca Löwenstein (Senior Consultant at Bundesdruckerei)

Conclusion

With six months to go before the planned launch of the EUDI Wallet, the focus is now on its implementation. Technical development alone will not determine its success. Equally important are:

- clear communication
- specific use cases with demonstrable added value
- simple onboarding processes
- clear technical, organizational and regulatory frameworks

The coming months offer a unique opportunity to lay the foundations for a digital identity infrastructure that combines security, data protection and user-friendliness in equal measure, and which will create tangible added value in everyday life in the long term. From the VSDI's perspective, it is essential that the technical, regulatory and communication-related requirements are considered together, so that the EUDI Wallet can realize its full potential.

Status as of 6 July 2026

This position paper is based on a survey of members of the Association for Secure Digital Identity (Verband Sichere Digitale Identität e. V.) conducted in June 2026 amongst its members from the business, academic and public sectors.

The VSDI is the nationwide network for companies, universities and research institutions that is driving the transformation from analogue to digital identities. Its member companies and institutions employ a total of around 30,000 staff and together generate an annual turnover of approximately 750 million euros. The VSDI sees itself as a practice-oriented network of expertise for politics, public administration and business. Our members from the fields of research and academia are constantly developing innovative solutions to improve the security and usability of digital identities. Find out more at www.vsdi.de

Contact:
Verband Sichere Digitale Identität (VSDI) e.V.
Antonia Maas, Chair of the Board
Lina Crusius, Managing Director
Kommandantenstraße 18, 10969 Berlin
+49 175 2884859
info@vsdi.de