edu-ID activities in Finland

May 26, SWITCH edu-ID Update Event 2021, Manne Miettinen
Background

• CSC and SWITCH
  ○ Haka and SWITCHaai were the first SAML AAIs in Europe
  ○ SWITCHaai policy and documentation were closely read at CSC
  ○ Shibboleth Consortium Board
  ○ Géant and other European co-operation

• eduID day in Utrecht, March 2020
User-centric identity is in the air…

• A lot of talk about “continual learning” and its requirements for ICT infrastructure
  o Vision 2030 for Higher Education and Research
  o Digital identity management in education working group

• eduID has been presented, but not catching fire yet...

• Difficulty in prioritizing use cases

• Enthusiasm about MyData and self-sovereign identity
Use cases

• Foreign student enrollment in Finnish universities
  ○ Applying from abroad, smooth enrolling, e-KYC

• International and domestic student (and researcher) mobility

• Seamless identity and data access from primary school to university

• Seamless identity and data access when changing or visiting another institution (domestically)
Finnish special flavours

• Finnish government e-ID and personal identity code
  o Personal identity code reform
  o Digital identity development project 2020–2023
    o Mobile app with an identity wallet

• KOSKI register and National Learner ID
  o Centralized registry of study records (from primary to tertiary)
  o Every learner is assigned a persistent unique id based on OID
  o National Learner ID reform 2022
Difficulty of getting started

• Finnish economy has performed rather poorly a decade
  o Finland’s old-age dependency ratio is 3rd highest in Europe
  o Cuts in university spending

• Co-ordination of different state activities
  o Difficulty in finding focus
  o Difficulty in finding resources to elaborate on the visions
A ray of hope

• The Vision 2030 for the Higher Education initiative is transforming into a project with resources
  o Hoping to get a share of the EU recovery fund

• The project has set an objective to specify the needs and requirements of a “organization independent identity provider” in 2021
Prospects

• Vision 2030 project will “discover” SWITCH edu-ID
  o Policy documents
  o Legal questions
  o Provisioning protocols
  o Other lessons learned

• Low threshold for exchanging information and participating in Zoom meetings