

A European health card for every Polish citizen

Since its admission to the European Union in 2004, Poland is obliged to comply with various European regulations that are applicable to all EU member countries. In healthcare, for example, the European Health Insurance Card is a standardized ID that provides every EU citizen with access to healthcare, at home or when traveling in any other EU country. Thus, in Poland, the state's National Health Fund has been tasked with delivering this card. This major project was successfully carried out with the help of **Unicard**, an Evolis distributor in Poland, using a variety of printers from Evolis over the past 8 years.

The challenge

To ensure compliance with EU healthcare directives, the National Health Fund, which is the local health authority in Poland, had to scrap the traditional social security and insurance documents in paper format, and migrate to an ISO ID-1 plastic card: the European Healthcare Information Card (EHIC).

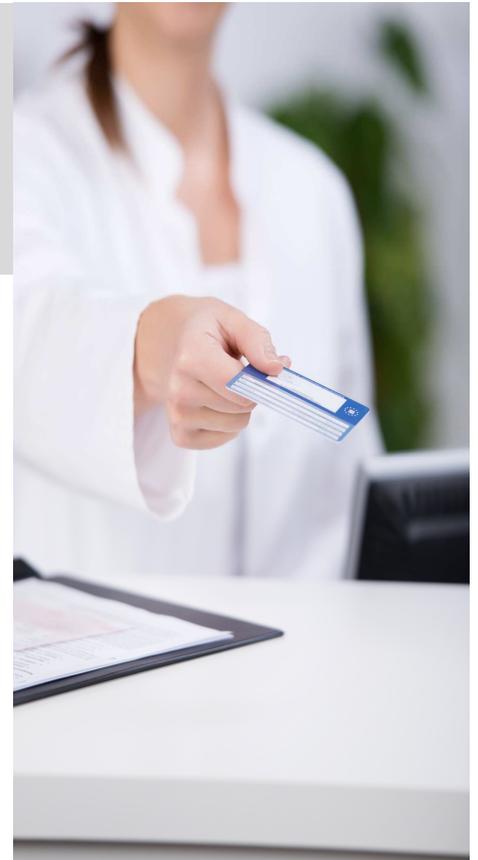
A public tender was floated to implement this new card, and to ensure its availability to as many Polish residents as possible. The requirements were to deliver this card through different branches, nationwide, by printing personal details, such as the beneficiary's first name, last name, ID number and the card expiry date. The printing cost per card was also key in NHF's decision, due to the gigantic scale of this project. Finally, the EHIC card required printing only, with no encoding whatsoever. "We decided to bid on the tender by introducing the **Tattoo** printer from Evolis, which seemed to be the perfect match to all features required", says Andrzej Smętek, Sales Director, Unicard, an expert in identification systems, in the business since 20 years, and an Evolis Distributor since 2000. "And we made the smart choice, as we received an initial order from the NHF for 89 of those printers in 2005".

The solution

The Tattoo printer was thoroughly evaluated, especially in its capacity to blend and integrate into existing business processes and environment. Tattoo is today operated in 16 branches of the National Health Fund, throughout Poland. The initial feedback was highly positive, which explains why the base of printers was expanded by almost 50% over the years, "Actually, we have standardized on Evolis printers for this ongoing project, while the NHF progressively invested in other Evolis models, such as the Pebble and the Quantum printers, to support their developing and future requirements."

The benefits

This project, like several other governmental projects, has two customer profiles: the Polish National Healthcare Fund, as the first-line user, but also every Polish citizen. Through this project, the NHF achieved regulatory compliance with the EU's healthcare directives, ensured easy operation and integration within their existing framework, and provided user-friendly printers that could be leveraged even by non-technical people. Today, the project has soared to new heights, with the deployment of 35 new **Zenius and Primacy** printers as replacements to the existing base.



Evolis Solutions:

- Tattoo, Pebble, Zenius, Primacy & Quantum

Key figures:

- 140 Evolis printers
- 16 local branches enabled in Poland

