

ID cards for construction workers enforce regulatory compliance in Austria

Fraud in social insurance contributions is a problem in Europe, especially in the construction industry. Austria is no exception to the rule with an informal economy estimated to represent up to 10% of its GDP, depriving the state of at least €7 billion in taxes and social contributions each year. A law package came into force in 2009 to deal with "social fraud" practice in the construction industry.

Customer Testimony



Manuel IRRSCHIK,

CEO, ISHAP GMBH

Why did you select Evolis in 2008?

Overall, there were three reasons. First of all, Evolis printers support Linux-based software. This is crucial for us and for the ISHAPCARD software system. Second, we value the quality and reliability of their technical support. And third, the performanceto-price ratio proved to be very attractive.

Are you satisfied with the Zenius printer?

Yes, we are. At the moment, there are about 30 such printers in use at construction sites all around Austria. So far, our customers have printed around 80,000 ID cards for their workers. They are happy with the software and the printers because both are easy to use and help to save valuable time.

What are your plans for the future?

Well, we planned an expansion to our operations in Germany and Slovakia in 2010. However it was also important for us to update and develop the interfaces and software with social services and financial software. We decided to invest on these improvements. Today we are just about to enter the German market. It is Of course, a challenge for a rather small Austrian software company.



80,000: This is the number of ID cards that have been released by general contractors in Austria since the deployment of the Evolis solution

We are very optimistic about implementing our offer, and also convinced that our technology can bring benefits to the German construction industry.

For more information : www.ishap.at





Fighting fraud with User-friendly software and hardware

The challenge is huge: general contractors become liable for the social insurance contributions of their subcontractors in the event these subcontractors do not, or cannot pay all contributions, or should they fail to register all their workers in the social insurance system. To enforce this new regulation in the field, general contractors required an easy and simple method of collecting data from all their workers and to provide each one of them with an ID badge that would act as proof of compliance. "The new regulations have placed the burden on general contractors, since they have to seek and implement a simple, yet cost-efficient way to enforce compliance throughout their scattered sites in Austria" says Manuel Irrschik, CEO of ISHAP, an Austrian software.

General contractors usually operate several sites scattered nationwide. To comply with the new regulation, they needed a solution available on local sites, while, at the same time, providing centralized management with all workers records. ISHAPCARD was designed with these goals in mind, making it the benchmark choice for general contractors. At the core of ISHAPCARD, one finds a central database that documents all relevant personal data regarding workers on a particular site, regardless of whether they are employed by the general contractor or by a subcontractor. An ID picture, the social insurance number, the name of employer and other relevant personal data are fed into the ISHAPCARD database via a windows smartphone or an online interface. For those who prefer using Android-phones, ISHAP also launched a new Android application, ideal to work with the ISHAP Card-app, (available for Android 4.0 and higher). The software is updated frequently and ISHAP adds new features on a regular basis. This ISHAP interface provides easy data editing and management, as well as centralized monitoring with notification when important documents are about to expire.



This is the case for resident authorizations or passports which are scanned and securely stored. The system also provides document for employers willing to hire foreign citizens legally. As an end-to-end solution, ISHAPCARD, also comes interfaced with an Evolis Tattoo or Evolis Zenius card printer to deliver personal identification cards to all site workers. These printers are provisioned by EDV-Beratung Christian Grassl, the Evolis distributor in Austria. As of May 2013, 80,000 ID cards have been printed and ISHAP are achieving about growth rates of at least 165% each year.

THE CUSTOMER

ISHAP

Flexible and fast deployment

Many of the largest general contractors in Austria are currently using ISHAPCARD on their scattered sites. A typical deployment at a construction site is ready to go live within 2 to 3 days, including user training: ISHAP offers a ready-to-use bundle that includes a Zenius printer, a windows mobile smartphone, the ISHAP print servers, as well as an all-in-one office printer & scanner from HP.

TECHNOLOGY

Tattoo & Zenius

Around 160 Evolis cards printers are deployed at construction sites all over Austria. During the last 3 years, Evolis Tattoo personalized the ISHAPCARDs. In 2012, the fleet was completed with the new Zenius. The Zenius is a compact and light printer that simply and easily fits on any desk in an office. This printer can be moved around from site to site as and when a site opens and closes. Operating the Zenius requires no more skills than those involved for a traditional desktop printer. As an entrylevel printer in the Evolis range, Zenius matches professionallevel plastic card personalization with low upfront investment, which makes it the ideal printer for small organizations or even for large-scale projects in a distributed environment, which is typically the case in the general construction industry.

Streamlined process and flexible card template

The Evolis Zenius takes data stored within ISHAP and prints it on the worker's identification badge. The printer at the construction site then delivers the ID card to the workers as they show up at work. The worker's ID photo is printed on the card to eliminate the lending of cards to any other worker. "With this flexible solution, each construction company has its own specific card template and set of data printed on the badges", Irrschik explains, "And it's very important that construction managers and foremen be able to handle and maintain the printers easily and rapidly. Time is a very precious commodity on construction sites these days. Besides, the ID card gives a worker a feeling of belonging, and can be worn with pride."

