ID4D
IDENTIFICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Digital identity, Legal identity, and the CR-ID link

WORLD BANK GROUP

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🌍 The World Bank estimates **1 billion people** around the world lack any foundational ID, such as a national ID card/number or birth certificate

📄 McKinsey Global Institute estimates **an additional 3.4 billion people** have a foundational ID, but limited ability to use it in a digital world

🚧 They face **major barriers** to access services, exercise their rights, and to benefit from the opportunities being created by the digital economy

Legal identity and related concepts

Legal identity: Basic characteristics of an individual's identity – e.g. name, sex, place and date of birth – conferred through registration and the issuance of a certificate by an authorized civil registration authority following the occurrence of birth. **In the absence of birth registration, legal identity may be conferred by a legally-recognized identification authority.**

Foundational ID systems: Intended for general purposes, including for providing proof of legal identity and a basis for issuing functional IDs. **Examples are national ID systems, population and civil registries**

Functional ID systems: Intended for specific use cases or transactions. **Examples include passports, voter IDs, driving licenses.**

Trust

Historically, identity has been verified – and trust created – through familiarity and by taking physical documents on face value.
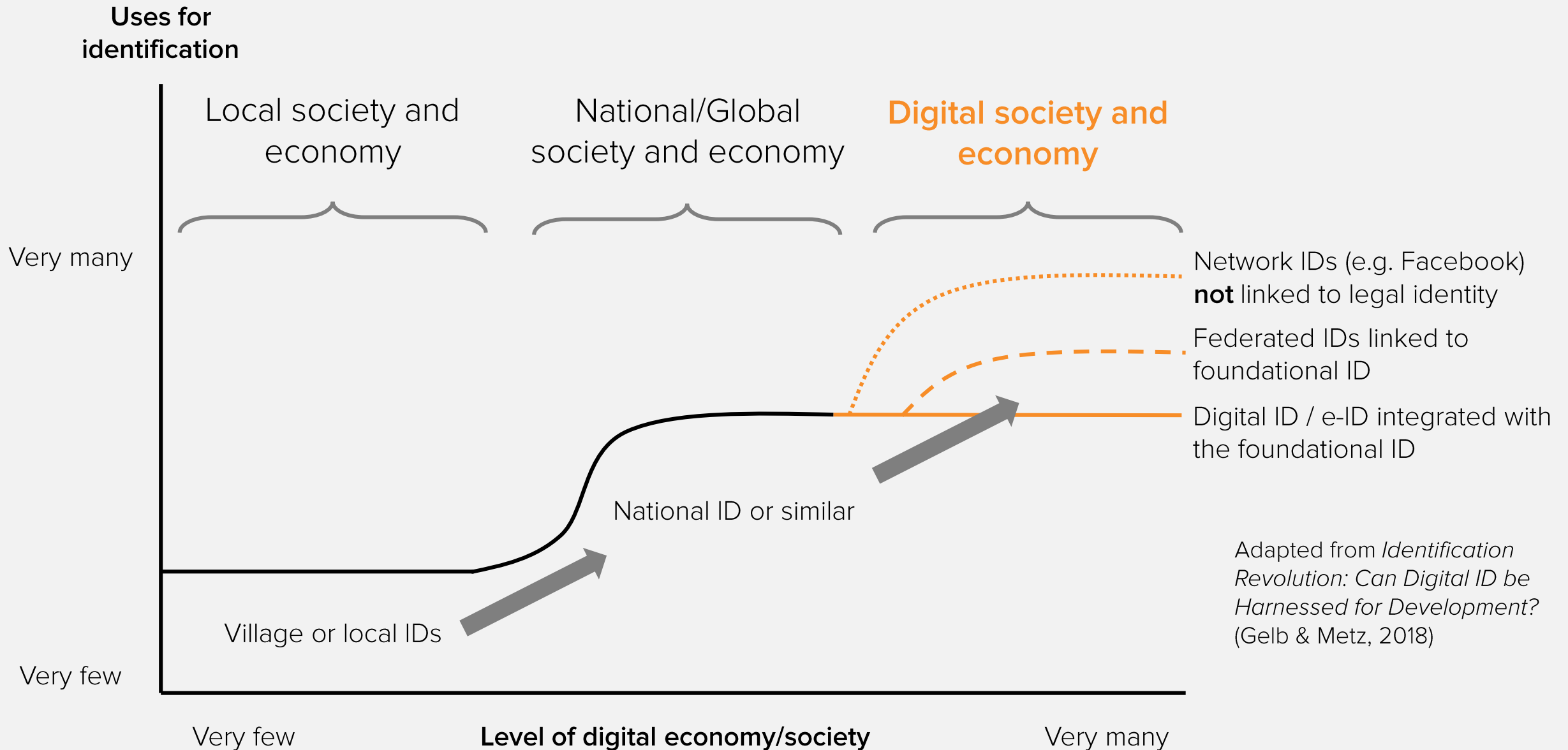
With the 4th Industrial revolution, and societies and economies becoming wider and more digital, **we need new mechanisms for creating that trust** – people need to be able to reliably prove who they are online.

"On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog."

Figure 1: Drawing by P. Steiner (© 1993, The New Yorker Magazine, Inc.).

It is an evolution as use cases emerge

Uses for identification

Local society and economy

National/Global society and economy

Digital society and economy

Very many

Network IDs (e.g. Facebook) **not** linked to legal identity

Federated IDs linked to foundational ID

Digital ID / e-ID integrated with the foundational ID

National ID or similar

Adapted from *Identification Revolution: Can Digital ID be Harnessed for Development?* (Gelb & Metz, 2018)

Village or local IDs

Very few

Very few

Level of digital economy/society

Very many

Digital identity

"A set of electronically captured and stored attributes"...
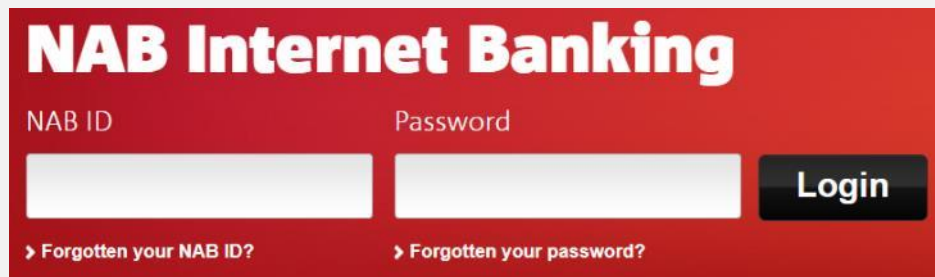
...which means something different to different people.
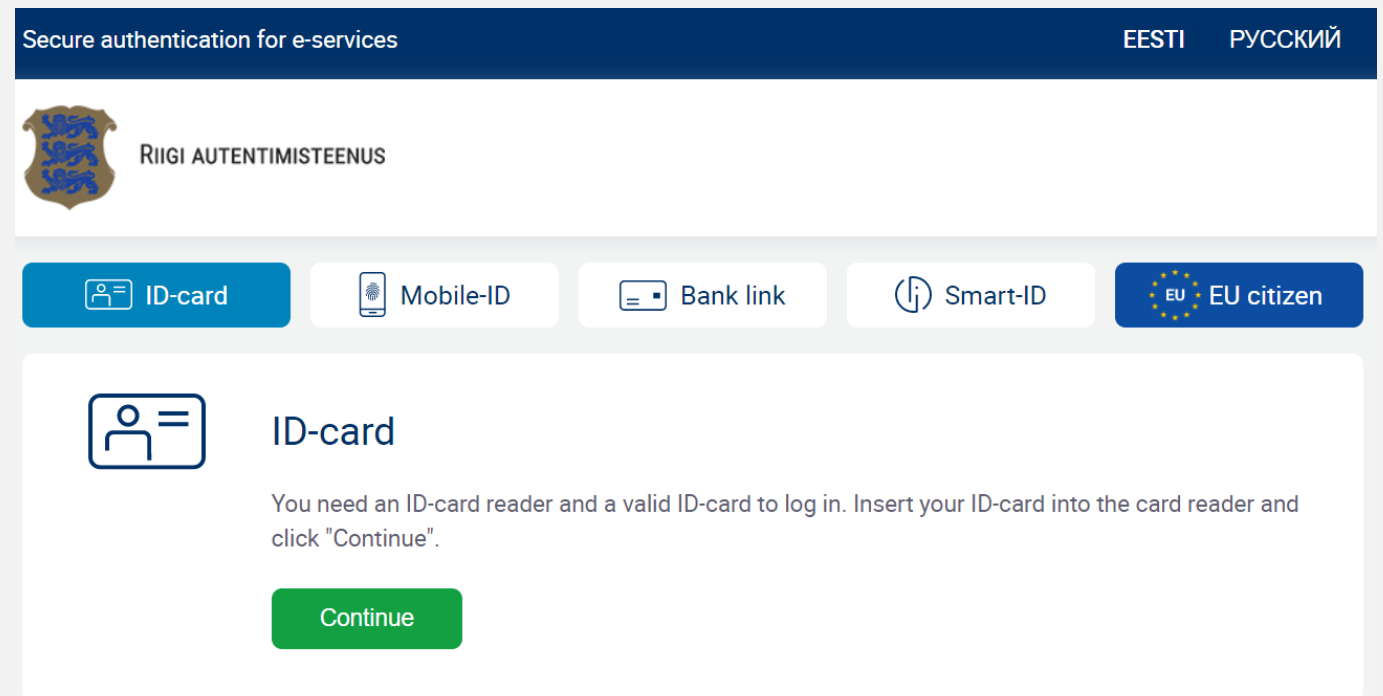
Online persona / social media

Proving our legal identity online

Internet logins

NONE OF THESE ARE WRONG

The CR-ID link

- **Why?:** Timely updating of ID system records based on CR is critical for the integrity of data and avoiding costly re-registration/updating campaigns

- **Births:** Issuing an ID system credential at the time of birth registration (e.g. a national ID number)

- **Deaths:** Notifying deaths to 'deactivate' the person's record in the ID system

- **Marriages/Divorce/etc.:** Notifying changes of name

Note: It does not have to be the same system or institution, as long as link is legally, operationally and technologically enabled

The 'Stock and Flow' model for registration

The Stock (People alive today)

Registered with birth certificate / record as evidence, if they have one.

Alternative evidence accepted to prevent exclusion. Retroactive birth registration not required.
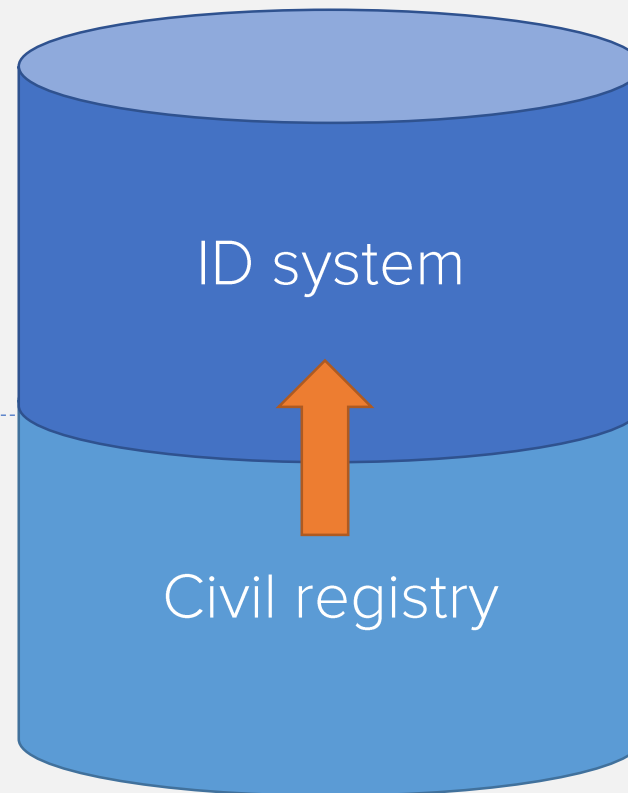
The Flow (Children today [e.g. up to 5 years] and born from tomorrow)

Record in ID system created at the time of birth registration.

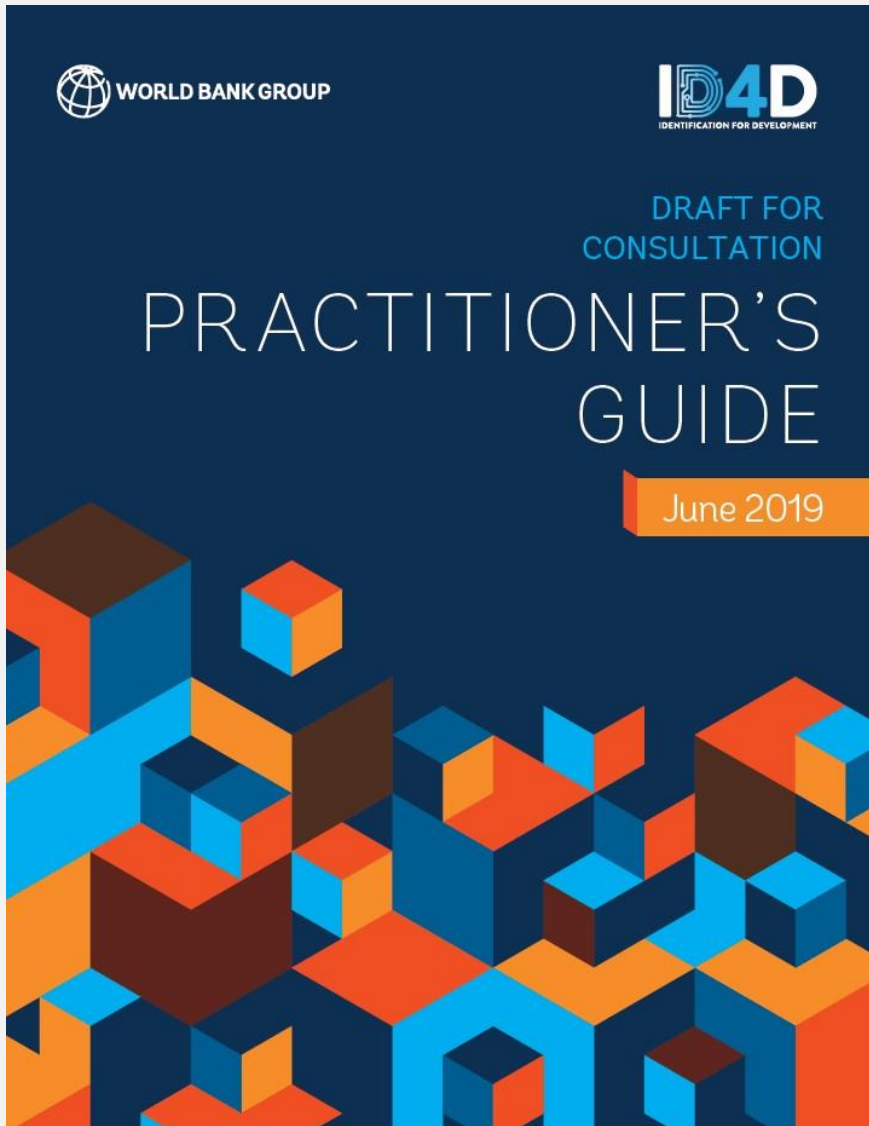Biometrics collected at appropriate age, if necessary.

ID system

Civil registry

Registration of deaths.

Registration of other vital events

id4d.worldbank.org/guide

Key messages

1. **One size fits all does not work:** Definitions and conceptualizations will be different in every country – reflecting unique political, social, cultural, and economic realities.

2. **"Digital identity" is an opportunity – not a threat – for CRVS:** It creates a new and important investment case and opportunity to streamline CR processes.

3. **Check out ID4D materials, including the Practitioner's Guide.**

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Helping countries realize the transformational potential of identification