Digital IDs need Secure Physical Documents

The African continent currently experiences almost 60 million annual arrivals, a large part of which is attributed to intra-African travel. Growing trade and travel between African nations, the ongoing liberalization in intra-African air traffic, and above all, rapid changes brought about by digitalization create a growing need to maximize the physical security and digital compatibility of passports and ID documents. To that effect, it has become a global standard to integrate highly sophisticated security features, the most advanced of which are Optically Variable Devices (OVDs).

Unlike any other security elements, OVDs are able to combine three levels of security (overt, covert, and forensic elements) in one single feature. At the forefront of all OVD features are those based on the Swiss KINEGRAM technology, which is trusted by more than 110 countries worldwide and used in passports, ID documents, visa or visa on arrival documents, as well as drivers' licenses or residence permits.

A prime example for government documents requiring physical security features are multi-purpose, physical-digital documents, especially card-based ID documents with digital functions. Such cards are rapidly gaining popularity on the African continent, granting citizens easy access to a multitude of government services. A recent World Bank report further encourages African countries in the introduction of strong physical identity cards, which can then successfully support the implementation of e-Services. The need for equipping such IDs with the strongest and most reliable security features, such as OVDs, is evident.

With physical ID documents, especially travel documents, well on their way to incorporate more and more digital functionalities, it is paramount to equip them with security features that are compatible with digital identity solutions. The KINEGRAM technology is at the forefront of linking the physical to the digital world, both incorporating and paving the way for e-functionalities and Digital IDs. It is evident that only security features which follow this best-of-both-worlds philosophy will retain their validity in a time where the need for secure physical documents remains ever important.

OVD KINEGRAM
For government documents and banknotes

Examples of optical security features

US Greencard with KINEGRAM
EU Schengen Visa with KINEGRAM

Another highly advanced solution is the Digital Seal Enterprise App. This sophisticated application offers both digital authentication of the biometric data stored on the chip as well as live facial recognition of the bearer to confirm he is the rightful owner of the document. It allows for smart decisions based on facial recognition via algorithms, in support of human face matching by a law enforcement officer.

Both the KINEGRAM Digital Seal App and the more advanced Digital Seal Enterprise version are perfect tools to securely establish both a person’s identity and the authenticity of their ID document. At the same time, the physical security offered by OVDs based on KINEGRAM technology maximizes the document’s protection and the trust in identity verification, whereby providing the best foundation for making ID documents fit for the digital age.

The Digital Seal App can be downloaded at:
Google Play Store and Apple Store

The Enterprise version is available from OVD Kinegram on request. More information is also available on the website www.kinegram.com.