

eVoting with the European Citizen Card

(Extended Abstract*)

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Abstract: As many European countries are about to introduce national ID cards, which are compliant to the European Citizen Card specification [CEN15480] it is natural to study how those cards may be used to implement secure electronic voting schemes. For this purpose we introduce a modified variant of the electronic voting scheme introduced in [JCJ05] which may be used with European Citizen Cards.

1 Introduction

While there is a rich literature on the use of cryptography for electronic voting and first proposals in which smart cards are used for the secure implementation of such schemes [MaBC01, LeKi03], the application of smart cards for electronic voting purposes is not yet common in practice [KrTV07]. This may be due to the fact that not all citizen are equipped with secure smart cards yet and there is no business case for the creation of secure smart card infrastructures just for voting purposes. With the advent of the European Citizen Card specification [CEN15480] and the corresponding national electronic identity card projects this problem may disappear and hence it is natural to investigate how a European Citizen Card may be used for electronic voting purposes.

Among the existing proposals for electronic voting (cf. [Smit05b] for a survey) the scheme proposed in [JCJ05] – together with the variants of it [Smit05a, Schw06, WeAB07, AFT08] – seems to be an especially promising approach, because it provides *coercion-resistance*, which is particularly important for secure remote electronic voting systems. Therefore our contribution focusses on modifications, which are necessary to implement this scheme with European Citizen Cards according to [CEN15480] using Version 2 of the Extended Access Control protocol defined in [BSI-TR-03110(V2.0)].

The rest of the paper is structured as follows: Section 2 explains why and how the original voting scheme [JCJ05] needs to be modified such that it can be implemented with said

*The full paper is available at <http://www.ecsec.de/pub/ECC-voting.pdf>.

European Citizen Cards. [Section 3](#) will briefly discuss the proposed scheme and [Section 4](#) will finally summarize the main aspects and conclude the contribution.

Please refer to the full paper for more background information on the various related voting protocols [[JCJ05](#), [Smit05a](#), [Schw06](#), [WeAB07](#), [AFT08](#)], the European Citizen Card specifications [[CEN15480](#)] and the Extended Access Control protocol [[BSI-TR-03110\(V2.0\)](#)].

2 Voting protocol for European Citizen Cards

In this section we will briefly explain why and especially how the original voting scheme [[JCJ05](#)] needs to be modified to be usable with European Citizen Cards (ECC) supporting the Extended Access Control protocol [[BSI-TR-03110\(V2.0\)](#)].

While it would be an obvious approach to use the ECC for the authentication and identification in the Registration phase and the subsequent storage of the voting credential c_j in a secure manner, there are in particular two issues, which make it necessary to modify the ECC-standards or the voting protocol:

- *ECC does not support the generation of Zero-Knowledge-Proofs*
While the informative Annex C of ISO/IEC 7816-4 contains some information on the use of basic Zero-Knowledge-Proofs for authentication purposes (cf. ISO/IEC 9798-5), it is not yet common practice that smart cards support sophisticated Zero-Knowledge-Proofs as they would be required to implement the original protocol (cf. [[CrGS97](#), Section 2.6]).
- *ECC does not support ElGamal-encryption*
Because there is usually no requirement for data-encryption functionality on an eID-card and the support of the function PSO:ENCIPHER according to Section 11.2 of ISO/IEC 7816-8 might cause problems with the crypto-policy of some countries, the ECC-specification in Part 2 of [[CEN15480](#)] does purposely not support this functionality.

In the following we will show that the two challenges are no unsurmountable obstacles and that there is a slightly modified version of the original voting protocol, which may be implemented with the European Citizen Card.

As the original scheme our proposal comprises the phases *Setup*, *Registration*, *Voting* and *Tallying*, which are explained in the following.

2.1 Setup

As in the original scheme the Election Authorities (EA_i , for $1 \leq i \leq k$) agree on common domain parameters \mathcal{D}_{EA} and generate a key pair (SK_{EA}, PK_{EA}) in a distributed fashion

[GJKR99], which is used to encrypt¹ the credential c_j in the Registration phase (cf. Section 2.2) and the credential and the ballot in the Voting phase (cf. Section 2.3). The domain parameters \mathcal{D}_{EA} and the public key PK_{EA} are published on Bulletin Board BB_0 .

The private key SK_{EA} is distributed among the Election Authorities (cf. [GJKR99]) such that a certain subset of the k Election Authorities is required to perform private key operations.

Furthermore we assume that each Voter is equipped with an ECC, which is compliant to the eID profile defined in Part 4 of [CEN15480] and contains the additional file listed in Table 2.

DG	Content	R/W	Access
DG.b	Ballot	W	$\text{PACE}_\pi + t_B$
		R	$\text{PACE}_\pi + \text{PIN}_{\text{voting}} + \text{TA} + \text{CA}_{EA}$

Table 2: Additional File on ECC

The used abbreviations have the following meaning:

- PACE_π – is the regular password of the card holder, which is used to protect the communication channel between the local terminal and the contactless ECC,
- t_B – is an election specific template, which defines the syntactical structure of the ballot. This template is loaded onto the ECC in the Registration phase (cf. Section 2.2) and makes sure that only syntactically valid ballots can be stored on the ECC.

Thus in our scheme we do not require Zero-Knowledge-Proofs to prove that the ballot is syntactically correct in order to guard against randomization and forced abstention attacks, but only trust in the European Citizen Card to reject bogus ballots. Because of the sophisticated Common Criteria evaluation and certification procedures required for those cards this assumption is clearly justified in practice.

- $\text{PIN}_{\text{voting}}$ – means that one of the voting specific PIN-codes $\text{PIN}_{\text{valid}}$ or PIN_{fake} (cf. Section 2.2) has been entered correctly and
- $\text{TA} + \text{CA}_{EA}$ – means that the Terminal Authentication and *double* Chip Authentication protocol (cf. Section 2.3.2) was successfully performed between the ECC and the Registration Authority or the Bulletin Board respectively.

¹Note that our scheme uses the symmetric encryption algorithm – usually AES – supported by the European Citizen Card for Secure Messaging with a session key, which is agreed within the Diffie-Hellman-like Chip Authentication protocol (cf. [BSI-TR-03110(V2.0), Section 4.3]). Unlike the classical ElGamal scheme [ElGa85], which is used in the original scheme, our encryption scheme does not allow homomorphic re-encryption of cipher texts without knowledge of the session key and consequently prevents corresponding attacks, such as the one mentioned in [AFT08, CCM07] for example.

2.2 Registration

As in the original scheme each Voter needs to be equipped with a unique credential c_j to cast a valid ballot. Unlike in the previous schemes however, these credentials are *not* generated by the Registration Authority (RA). Instead, the credential c_j is generated by the ECC using the Restricted Identification mechanism introduced in [BSI-TR-03110(V2.0), Section 4.5].

The interaction of the ECC with the RA is shown in Figure 1.

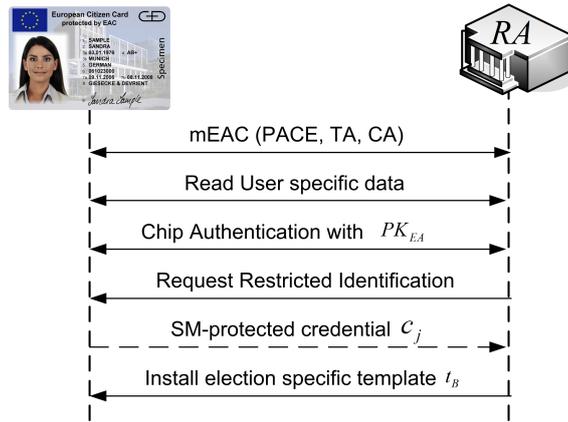


Figure 1: Registration Phase

Thereby the Extended Access Control protocol 2.0 (EAC 2.0, see [BSI-TR-03110(V2.0)]) is processed between the ECC and the RA. After the mutually authenticated connection establishment, the RA reads user specific data from the ECC, like the name of the cardholder and the document number for example² (cf. [BSI-TR-03110(V2.0), Table E.1]). Since this mechanism identifies the user, the RA can ensure that a Voter registers at most once. After that the Chip Authentication protocol is performed again using PK_{EA} and the Secure Messaging is restarted such that the used encryption key $K_{Enc,EA}$ now is derived from the key agreement with PK_{EA} while the value of $K_{MAC,CA}$ is kept from the initial performance of the Chip Authentication protocol, which used the ephemeral key pair generated during the Terminal Authentication protocol.

Now the Restricted Identification mechanism [BSI-TR-03110(V2.0), Section 4.5] is used to create the "election specific identifier"

$$c_j = I_{ECC}^{EA} = h(I_{ECC} \cdot PK_{EA}),$$

which plays the role of the anonymous credential c_j in the original scheme. This credential is computed by the ECC in a Diffie-Hellman key agreement with the public key of the

²If the ECC under consideration is an ICAO-compliant travel document, on which biometric characteristics are stored, and the systems of all Voters *would* be equipped with appropriate biometric sensors, the registration procedure could comprise a biometric authentication step (cf. [Hof04]), which may provide even more security.

election authorities PK_{EA} and the private identifier I_{ECC} of the ECC and subsequent computation of the hash-value of the x-coordinate of the agreed elliptic curve point ($I_{ECC} \cdot PK_{EA}$). Note that the operating system of the ECC prevents unauthorized access to the identifier I_{ECC} and we require that those identifiers are generated in a manner, which does *not* allow anybody to link the election-specific credentials (cf. [BSI-TR-03110(V2.0), Annex A.5.1]).

The credential c_j is transported from the ECC to the RA using Secure Messaging with $K_{Enc,EA}$ and $K_{MAC,RA}$. The structure of the Response-APDU is depicted in Figure 2 (see [BSI-TR-03110(V2.0), Figure F.3] for more details).

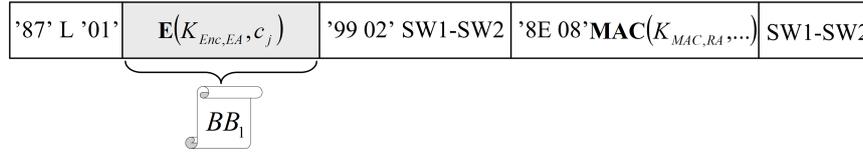


Figure 2: Response APDU containing protected credential c_j

Because the RA knows $K_{MAC,RA}$, which has been generated in the first Chip Authentication, it is able to verify the Message Authentication Code protecting the APDU, which prevents replay attacks. On the other side the RA does *not* (need to) know the key $K_{Enc,EA}$, which depends on a random number r_{ECC} generated by the ECC during the second Chip Authentication (cf. [BSI-TR-03110(V2.0), Section 4.3.1.2]) and therefore provides a probabilistic encryption of the credential c_j . Using this "trick" it is possible to realize the required "ElGamal-like" encryption without having a `PSO:ENCIPHER`-command available on the card.

Next the RA will publish the value $\mathbf{E}(K_{Enc,EA}, c_j)$ and the random number r_{ECC} to the Bulletin Board BB_1 and the RA will install the election specific template t_B on the ECC, which guards against the randomization and forced abstention attacks.

Finally the Voter may³ choose one or two PIN codes. The first PIN code (PIN_{valid}) is used to cast a valid vote, which includes c_j . The second PIN code (PIN_{fake}) is optional and may be used to transmit a fake vote, which includes a randomly chosen number r_{fake} instead of c_j . As in the original scheme, this mechanism is of central importance to reach coercion resistance.

It should be noted that we assume that the Voter performs this Registration procedure in a trustworthy environment, which is not controlled or observed by a coercer. Furthermore we also assume that the ECC and the Registration Authority is trustworthy such that only eligible Voters are able to register (at most once) and the Registration process does *not* leak any additional information which may be used to link the personal data read from the ECC during registration to the encrypted credential $\mathbf{E}(K_{Enc,EA}, c_j)$ posted on BB_1 . More details on the trustworthy implementation of the Registration step, which is critical for the security of our scheme will be provided in a forthcoming paper.

³Note that the Voter should *not* publicly commit that he has chosen the second PIN code, because this would enable a coercer to force him to enter two different PIN codes, which are acceptable by the ECC.

2.3 Voting

As in the original protocol the Voting phase may be performed an arbitrary number of times. In our proposal however this phase consists of two steps:

1. Casting the vote
2. Transmitting the vote

2.3.1 Casting the vote

The voter uses his local PC to complete the ballot form. Afterwards, the voter establishes a local connection to the ECC using the Password Authenticated Connection Establishment (PACE) protocol (cf. [BSI-TR-03110(V2.0), Section 4.2]) together with his individual PACE password (π). After execution of the PACE protocol, a secure channel between the local PC and the ECC has been established and it is possible to store the ballot $B_{j,t}$ inside the file $DG.b$ on the ECC, if it complies with the previously installed election specific template t_B (see Figure 3).

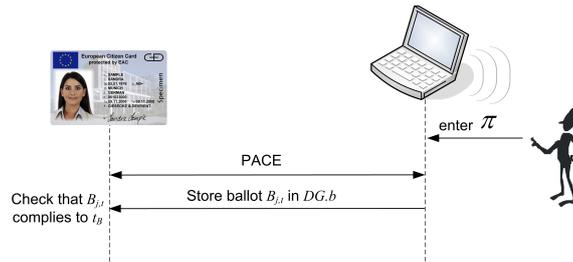


Figure 3: Store the ballot within the ECC

2.3.2 Transmitting the Vote

To transmit the vote v , consisting of the encrypted ballot $b_{j,t}$ and the credential c_j , from the ECC to the Bulletin Board BB_2 the protocol depicted in Figure 4 is executed:

1. To achieve user consent, the PACE protocol is performed locally, which results in a Secure Messaging session between the ECC and the local terminal / PC.
2. The Voter enters his voting PIN. Normally, he uses PIN_{valid} , which results in a valid vote. In the case of a coercion, he has the possibility to enter PIN_{fake} , which results in an invalid vote, because the ECC is not returning the encryption $\mathbf{E}(K_{Enc,EA}, c_j)$ of the credential c_j , but the encryption $\mathbf{E}(K_{Enc,EA}, r_{fake})$ of the random number r_{fake} , which has been chosen in the Registration phase but has not been registered and hence will lead to an invalid vote with high probability. Note that because

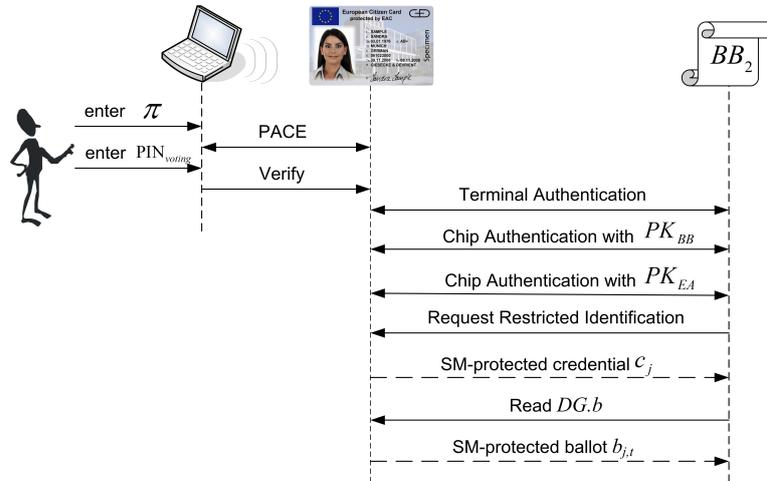


Figure 4: Transmitting the vote

$K_{Enc,EA}$ depends on the random number r_{ECC} provided by the ECC in the Chip Authentication protocol (cf. [BSI-TR-03110(V2.0), Section 4.3]), the encryption of c_j (or r_{fake}) is probabilistic and an attacker does not have any means to detect, whether the voter has used PIN_{valid} or PIN_{fake} .

3. To authenticate the Bulletin Board BB_2 , the Terminal Authentication protocol is performed between the ECC and BB_2 . Thereby the ECC validates the correctness of the presented certificate and checks the signature provided by the Bulletin Board. In addition to a challenge provided by the ECC the signature also contains the hash value of the ephemeral public Diffie-Hellman key PK_{BB} .
4. Now the regular Chip Authentication protocol is performed using the ephemeral public key PK_{BB} and the authenticity of the public key PK_{ECC} is checked by Passive Authentication⁴.
5. In the next step the Chip Authentication protocol is performed a second time using the public key of the Election Authorities PK_{EA} in order to generate a new Secure Messaging encryption key $K_{Enc,EA}$, which depends on a random number r_{ECC} provided by the ECC. As explained in Section 2.2 this key and the previously generated $K_{MAC,BB}$ is from now on used to protect the responses from the ECC.
6. The Bulletin Board requests the credential c_j from the ECC using the Restricted Identification protocol and receives it in encrypted form $\mathbf{E}(K_{Enc,EA}, c_j)$ (cf. Figure 2).

⁴Since the ECC keys for Chip Authentication are not unique, this protocol does not reveal the identity of the ECC and hence the card holder. Hence Passive Authentication only ensures that the Bulletin Board communicates with *some* authentic ECC.

7. If $\text{PIN}_{\text{valid}}$ was provided in step 2, the ECC returns the encrypted credential c_j as depicted in [Figure 2](#). If PIN_{fake} was entered, the ECC will return an encrypted random number r_{fake} , which will result in an invalid vote with high probability.
8. Finally the Bulletin Board BB_2 reads the ballot stored in $DG.b$ from the ECC. Similar to the transmission of the credential the ballot $b_{j,t}$ is encrypted with $K_{\text{Enc},EA}$ and the integrity and freshness of the returned APDU is protected with $K_{\text{MAC},BB}$. As the latter key is available to the Bulletin Board, it may readily verify the message authentication code, but it can *not* decrypt the encrypted ballot $\mathbf{E}(K_{\text{Enc},EA}, b_{j,t})$.
9. If the verification of the message authentication code is successful, the data listed in [Table 4](#) is published on BB_2 .

Vote Part	Description
$\mathbf{E}(K_{\text{Enc},EA}, b_{j,t})$	Encrypted ballot
$\mathbf{E}(K_{\text{Enc},EA}, c_j)$	Encrypted credential
t	Timestamp of vote transmission
PK_{ECC}	Public Diffie-Hellman key of the ECC
r_{ECC}	Random number used for key generation (cf. [BSI-TR-03110(V2.0), Section 4.3])

Table 4: Contents of a Vote v_j

10. If the verification of the message authentication code fails, the transcript of the communication may be published separately, but the transmitted data are not processed further.

2.4 Tallying

The result of the Tallying phase is to eliminate double or unauthorized votes and count the valid votes in order to determine the result of the election.

We will explain the the different steps of this phase by considering the content of the corresponding Bulletin Boards BB_i :

3 Discussion

In this section we will briefly sketch how the coercion resistance is realized in our proposed scheme and highlight the advantages of our proposal compared to the previously known schemes [[JCJ05](#), [Smit05a](#), [WeAB07](#), [Schw06](#), [AFT08](#)]. A more formal and comprehensive security analysis will be the subject of a forthcoming paper.

i	Description of step, which fills BB_i
3	An appropriate subset of the Election Authorities EA_i collaborate in order to decrypt the credentials c_j for all votes v_j stored in BB_2 and publish the votes with decrypted credentials through some robust and verifiable decryption MIX-net (cf. [JJR02]) on BB_3 .
4	For all votes v_j in BB_3 with identical credentials c_j , all votes except the vote with the latest time stamp is eliminated and the result is stored on BB_4 , such that only the last vote of an eligible voter will be counted.
5	The remaining votes in BB_4 are sent through a robust and verifiable decryption MIX-net (cf. [JJR02]) and stored in BB_5 . As in the original scheme this step anonymizes the remaining encrypted ballots $B_{j,\hat{t}}$ and credentials $C_{j,\hat{t}}$.
6	An appropriate subset of the Election Authorities EA_i collaborate in order to decrypt the registered credentials c_j stored in BB_1 and publish the result through some robust and verifiable decryption MIX-net (cf. [JJR02]) to BB_6 .
7	The credentials in the votes stored in BB_5 are compared with the registered credentials in BB_6 , such that all authorized votes can be published on BB_7 .
8	An appropriate subset of the Election Authorities EA_i collaborate in order to decrypt the ballots $b_{j,\hat{t}}$ stored in BB_7 and publish the result to BB_8 .
9	Finally it is possible to count the respective votes in BB_8 and publish the final result of the election in BB_9 .

Table 5: Description of steps in Tallying phase of ECC-based voting scheme

3.1 Coercion-Resistance

As defined in [JCJ05] a voting scheme is coercion-resistant if it is receipt-free and additionally prevents the randomization, the forced-abstention, and the simulation attack.

Our proposed scheme is *receipt-free* because the decryption of the registered credentials and the comparison with the ones submitted in the Voting phase (cf. Step 6 and 7 in Table 5) is performed after the MIXing step and hence it is not possible for the Voter to produce a receipt. Furthermore it should be noted that the attack presented in [AFT08, CCM07] against the schemes presented in [Smit05a, WeAB07] is not possible in our scheme as the credentials are produced, encrypted and transmitted using the trusted ECC.

The *randomization attack* is not possible, because ballots, which violate the syntax defined by the election specific template t_B can not be stored on the ECC. Because of the Secure Messaging employed within the EAC-protocol (cf. Figure 2) it is not possible to "inject" data into an established channel, which has not been stored on the ECC before.

As in the original scheme the *forced abstention attack* is prevented by requiring an "anonymous channel" to cast the vote. As we use the ECC and the EAC-protocol for this purpose (cf. Figure 4) it is in particular necessary that the certificate of BB_2 only allows to read $DG.b$ and no other data groups, which may contain personal data of the card holder and hence would endanger anonymity.

The *simulation attack* means that the Voter gives away its valid credential c_j to the Co-

ercer, who will subsequently act on behalf of the Voter. As in the original scheme the Voter may simply use PIN_{fake} to export the random r_{fake} instead of the registered credential c_j and hence the simulation attack is not possible. In addition to this the ECC in our scheme even does not allow to export the plain credential, even if the Coercer knows both PIN_{valid} and PIN_{fake} . This is due to the fact that in our scheme the credential c_j is produced by the ECC using the Restricted Identification protocol and the secret source identity I_{ECC} together with the public key PK_{EA} of the Election Authorities and subsequently probabilistically encrypted for this public key (cf. [Figure 2](#)). In order to obtain the plaintext credential c_j an attacker would either need to decrypt $C_{j,t} = \mathbf{E}(K_{Enc,EA}, c_j)$ or smuggle in his own public key in the second run of the Chip Authentication protocol. The decryption of $C_{j,t}$ is not feasible because the private key SK_{EA} of the Election Authorities is shared among trustworthy parties, which store the key shares in a secure fashion. That an attacker uses his own public key and domain parameters, which may ease the computation of the discrete logarithm I_{ECC} is prevented by the requirement that the hash value of an admissible public key PK_{EA} needs to be included in the certificate of the Bulletin Board (cf. [\[BSI-TR-03110\(V2.0\), Annex C.3.2\]](#)).

3.2 Advantages of the proposed voting scheme

The main advantage of our scheme compared to the original scheme [\[JCJ05\]](#) is, that our Tallying phase only requires linear work – just as the schemes proposed in [\[Smit05a, WeAB07\]](#). Those variants however are not receipt-free because of the attack mentioned in [\[AFT08, CCM07\]](#). On the other hand it is not possible to mount this attack against our scheme, because the credential is produced and securely transmitted by the European Citizen Card.

While the scheme proposed in [\[AFT08\]](#) also has a linear Tallying phase it still requires complex zero-knowledge proofs and much more bandwidth.

An additional advantage of our scheme is that the Voter does not need to remember a long and randomly chosen credential c_j , but only the short PIN codes and hence our scheme seems to have important advantages with respect to usability. While a similar effect could be reached in the scheme proposed in [\[Schw06\]](#), this scheme requires that the Voter will be equipped with special purpose hardware, which clearly is not possible in real world scenarios just because of economic reasons.

4 Conclusion

Based on the discussion in the previous section it seems that our scheme offers many important advantages compared to the previously known schemes [\[JCJ05, Smit05a, Schw06, WeAB07, AFT08\]](#). As our proposal is based on European Citizen Cards according to prCEN 15480, which support the Extended Access Control protocol and those cards may soon be available to many European citizen, it does not seem to be impossible that our

proposal will attain great practical relevance some day.

Acknowledgement

The authors would like to express their sincere thanks to the various people who contributed to this paper by fruitful discussions and valuable suggestions. In particular we would like to thank Johannes Buchmann, Henning Daum, Michael Kreutzer, Dennis Kügler, Rainer Urian, Melanie Volkamer and the anonymous referees.

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