

## PROJECT NEWSLETTER 10 (7/2016)

With the pilot phase approaching in the autumn, as well as the ABC Gates being exposed to a wider audience for research purposes, we at ABC4EU thought this to be a great time to assemble a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and present it to you in this newsletter. With the basic knowledge and information about the ABC-gates and their background, it helps travellers to evaluate the performance of the gates more efficiently, as well as researchers get valuable data for further improvement and development of the ABC-gates. This FAQ will also be published on the ABC4EU webpage [www.abc4eu.com](http://www.abc4eu.com).

The FAQ explains the basics of border checks, automated border control, whom it is for, the technology in the gates, the reasons behind the idea of the gates and how the legislation and regulation is affecting the development of the gates.

For our regular readers, there is not much new information in this newsletter. However, this is a good review of what the ABC4EU project is about and what are some of the most crucial issues regarding automated border control and the ABC gates.

### 1. Why do we have automated border check gates?

One of the main purposes of the ABC-gates is to make border checks more flexible and user-friendly for passengers by harmonising the functionalities of border check automation. Self-service technology is considered as a positive factor with its side effects such as less queuing and the transferred responsibility over to the consumer.

Automation generally increases productivity and reduces the expenses. One border guard can easily monitor many gates and passengers at the same time, instead of only one, as the current process permits. The automated border gates will replace the shortage of human and spatial resources that nowadays challenge the border guard authorities. ABC will also promote the implementation of basic human rights due to e-gates providing the same treatment for everyone, and thus advancing equality among travellers with different background and origin.

### 2. What is the Schengen area and how does it affect the gates?

The Schengen area is an area of free movement for EU citizens. Schengen acquis abolishes border checks between the Member States of the EU. Schengen area consists of 28 countries; all of the EU countries except for the UK and Ireland, plus four non-EU countries (Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein). The Schengen Borders Code (SBC) that regulates free movement within the Schengen area establishes all procedures for crossing the EU borders.

### 3. Who can use the ABC-gates?

The ABC-gates can be used by EU-citizens and by those Third Country Nationals (TCNs) who enjoy free movement according to the SBC. The persons shall have a biometric passport (also known as ePassport), which is a precondition for the use of the ABC system. In 2017 every EU citizen will have a biometric passports. There are plans that in the later phase the ABC-gates may be available for all people enjoying the free movement withholding biometrics passports. Hopefully in the future the gates

will also be available for third country nationals.

### 4. What does the ABC-gate do? How does it work?

The automated border control (ABC) gate identifies a traveller and verifies his/her travel document by comparing information in the documents and the person showing the document. If the verification -process is successful the ABC-gate will allow the person to enter the country. It will primarily use facial recognition and has finger print readers as back-up when needed. There are different models used by different manufacturers. Still they have the same basic principle; they check the ePassport, whether it is real and it matches the holder of the passport. You can see Vision Box's gate [here](#), and SmartGate used in New Zealand and Australia, [here](#).

### 5. What are biometrics? What about biometric passport?

Biometrics refer to metrics related to human characteristics. Biometric identifiers are the distinctive, measurable characteristics used to describe individuals. Examples include, but are not limited to, fingerprint, facial recognition, DNA, palm print, hand geometry, iris recognition, retina and odor/scent. Facial recognition has been considered the main biometric marker for the use of ABC deployments. It is considered to be part of public information, unlike fingerprint or iris which cannot be seen or analysed with the naked eye like the face.



The information is stored in a chip, pictured above, which is inside the biometric passport. The chip contains the same information that is printed on the passport itself; name, date of birth, photograph, date of expiry, etc. and a digitised fingerprint. The high security of the chip is updated every second year. This leads to the five year validity of the ePassport.

#### 6. Who is able to view the biometric information?

To secure the privacy and the sensitive information of the passenger on the ePassport, they are supporting a vast amount of security protocols, standard interfaces, verification processes and other protection mechanisms. The biometrical information is encrypted to secure its storage and use. Different countries have different authorities with the access to the biometric information. They are for example customs, border guards, different ministries and other authorial offices.

Standards and protocols used in the ABC-gates are for example Basic Access Control (BAC), Active Authentication (AA) Passive Authentication (PA), Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) authentication and ISO-standards. You can read more of them from [here](#) and [here](#).

#### 7. Who are making this happen?

The companies of the ABC4EU-consortium have been presented previously in our Newsletter 7 and you can read more about it on our webpage [www.abc4eu.com](http://www.abc4eu.com)

#### 8. Are there currently any ABC gates somewhere I might encounter?

You can find ABC gates all around the world in several airports, land borders and even some harbours. Some of the gates are open to all passengers with biometric passports, whereas some require preregistering.

For more questions, you can contact us via [www.abc4eu.com](http://www.abc4eu.com)

#### Events where ABC4EU is represented in the future:

World e-ID & CyberSecurity - Digital Identity and Data Protection for Citizens and Businesses.  
September 26th -28th 2016.  
Marseille, France.  
<http://www.worlde-idandcybersecurity.com/program>

Keynote speech by Alberto Crespo, Atos.



@ABC4EU



ABC4EU-project

[www.abc4eu.com](http://www.abc4eu.com)  
[www.forum.abc4eu.com](http://www.forum.abc4eu.com)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no 312797.