

PROJECT NEWSLETTER 1/2015

What is ABC4EU-project?

ABC4EU (Automated Border Control Gates for Europe) is an EU Framework Programme 7 (FP7) Project that began in January 2014. The ABC gate compares the biometric data (e.g. facial image or fingerprints, etc.) from the passenger's travel document onto the real-life equivalent. It also verifies the validity and reliability of the travel document. If the match is high enough, the passenger is let through the gate.

At the moment the ABC system can be used by passengers with an EU and Schengen country's ePassport, recognizable by a microchip symbol. One of the main objectives of the project is to update and integrate the current Automated Border Control (ABC) gate systems and extend their use to future ePassports and non-Schengen citizens.

The aim of ABC4EU is to make border checks more flexible and user-friendly for passengers by harmonizing

the functionalities of border check automation. Greater harmonization should create a better passenger experience and encourage people to use ABC gates at the borders. ABC gates facilitate more fluent travel by decreasing queuing time. Harmonization should affect many functionalities, the biometrics, gate design and border check process itself.

Simultaneously, states can fight cross-border crime and illegal migration more successfully, and provide a higher level of internal security. The system will also benefit different stakeholders, such as transport operators, as the increasing flow of travellers will be handled in an efficient way.

ABC4EU is an interdisciplinary project. The combination of different views, requirements and limitations enrich the research activities and serves the main purpose of harmonization. Other different research projects with a similar scope are running in parallel with ABC4EU. The different projects will collaborate in the relevant fields.



Thus far

ABC4EU started in January 2014. Many guiding frameworks were structured during the first year. The first technical review meeting was held in Belgium in March 2015, where the first opportunity was granted for questions and answers to a panel of experts.

General frameworks have been produced in the fields of ethical, social and legal aspects as well as technical and usability aspects. These frameworks guide the design of the new ABC gate, and will ensure that the new system will fulfill the set demands.

The pilots are the culmination point of the consortium's extensive groundwork. To transfer the research results and frameworks into practice, the new prototype has been set up. The pilot phase will collect experiences so that the project will end up with a fully functioning new system. In the first phase the prototypes will be field-tested, for example at a Spanish airport. The pilot will set the basis for the eGates of the future EU and Schengen borders. We are eagerly waiting for the concrete and specific traveller feedback to make our system even more user-friendly.

For more information, please visit www.abc4eu.com. You can also find us on LinkedIn and Twitter.

DURING FALL 2015 ABC4EU IS REPRESENTED IN

Helsinki, Finland, on August 20th – 22nd 2015
14th IEEE International Conference on Trust, Security and Privacy in Computing and Communications
<https://research.comnet.aalto.fi/Trustcom2015/>

Karlsruhe, Germany, on August 25th 2015
1st International Workshop on Identification and Surveillance for Border Control
To be held inside the 12th IEEE International Conference on Advanced Video and Signal based Surveillance
<https://www.fastpass-project.eu/isbc2015/node/158>

Darmstadt, Germany, on September 7th – 8th 2015
EAB Research Projects Conference 2015
<http://www.eab.org/events/program/79>

Rome, Italy, on September 29th – 30th 2015
1st IEEE International Symposium on Systems Engineering Conference
<http://ieeese.org/>



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