

PROJECT NEWSLETTER 8 (4/2016)

Preamble

Since the creation of The Schengen Area in 1995, several initiatives have been proposed with the aim of improving external border crossing efficiency and control. However, due to the diversity of those initiatives and the absence of a regulatory authority which supervises their development, there was a lack of an integrated solution among the Schengen's external border crossing points.

To fill the gap between controlling border crossing and the increase in the amount of travelers at the borders, ABC4EU (Automated Border Control for Europe), a European research project under the EU's Seventh Framework Program has been launched.

Now the project has been running for over two years and a considerable amount of work has been completed.

Since this is a large scale project that aims to revolutionize future border crossing processes, the input and feedback of several end-user entities is of utmost importance. Taking that into consideration two groups comprised of different stakeholders are formed, the EEUAB & EUIWG.

What is meant with stakeholders in this context? A stakeholder is an individual or group who has an interest or some aspect of rights or ownership in a project or enterprise and can contribute in the form of knowledge or support, or can impact or be impacted by the project or enterprise. Taking this into consideration, the project consortium has decided to create two groups that join together some of the most important stakeholders, the border guards who will be acting as advisory board

belonging to the EEUAB and the EUIWG comprised of academia, policy makers and so on.

What are the EEUAB & EUIWG?

External End-User Advisory Board (EEUAB) and End-User Integration Working Group (EUIWG) are part of ABC4EU project's dissemination and exploitation work package. The groups can be described as entities through which the project and its achievements can be evaluated. Their main aim is to review interim results with a broader audience from the End-User Community.

EEUAB is comprised of Border Guards and border authorities from European countries whereas EUIWG includes the stakeholders; academia, industry and policy makers. Both groups involve the end-users such as Border Guards as well as the stakeholders, and as such, the end-user activity is of the transversal kind and covers the full duration of the project.

How do they benefit the project?

The initial plan was that different meetings would be organized in regular basis for the Border Guards (EEUAB) and the stakeholders (EUIWG), however, in order to enable synergies between the entities, it was decided that the meetings will be scheduled and planned to be organized jointly. This way it enables us to achieve discourse on a sufficient level with both groups the Border Guards as well as the stakeholders. In addition, the border guards as members of EEUAB, will attend to partially restricted meetings where they will be evaluating the results and the stage that the project is in.

The partner organization responsible for gathering the EEUAB members is PriceWaterhouseCoopers, whereas, Laurea University of Applied Sciences is responsible for EUIWG and its members. The latter group includes a wide range of expertise of automated

border control gates. Mainly the members will be hand-picked from academia, industry and policy makers.

To expand the stakeholders' view, Laurea UAS will conduct several questionnaires to the public audience as well. The stakeholders and public audience will then form the End-User Community and its outlook to the stage and the results of the ABC4EU project.

What is the purpose?

We aim to make border checks more flexible and user-friendly for passengers at the EU external borders by harmonizing the functionalities of border check automation. ABC4EU project will organize two ABC gate pilots and with the end-user experiences we will be able to go towards the validation of the gates.

Greater harmonization should create a better passenger experience and encourage more people to use ABC gates at border crossing points e.g. airports. The ABC gates will also benefit different stakeholders, as the increasing flow of travelers will be handled in an efficient way. In order to accomplish this, strong end-user integration is needed. With sufficient end-user integration, ABC4EU can further strengthen its course towards the right path of harmonization.

Upcoming events:

- 10th Annual Border Security Expo
April 13th -14th 2016, San Antonio Texas, United States
<http://www.bordersecurityexpo.com>
- 25th ACI EUROPE Retail & Commercial Conference and Exhibition.
April 11th – 13th 2016, Helsinki, Finland
<http://www.aci-europe-events.com/airport-commercial-retail/>
- Association for Borderland Studies - Conference. April 13th -16th 2016, Reno, Nevada, United States.
http://absborderlands.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/ABS-Call_EN.pdf

• **Secure Document World (SDW) 2016.**
May 10th – 12th 2016, Queen Elisabeth II Centre, London UK
<http://www.sdw2016.com/>

• **9th ACI EUROPE Regional Airports Conference and Exhibition.** May 11th – 13th Vilnius, Lithuania
<http://www.aci-europe-rac.com/>

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