

PROJECT NEWSLETTER 17 (06/2017)

The Joint Showcase event in cooperation with ABC4EU and BODEGA projects a success

ABC4EU and BODEGA projects held a Joint Showcase Event in Levi, Finland on May 2 to May 5 in 2017. There were two keynote speeches and seven workshops in the event. It offered an excellent opportunity to expand the end user community of both projects, and also to network. The keynote speeches were given by Mr. Ignacio Zozaya from Frontex, and Colonel Mika Rytönen from the Finnish Border Guard. All together 43 people attended the event from a wide end-user community: EU and national law-enforcement authorities, research facilities, NGOs and private sector.

Mr. Zozaya works as a senior research officer in Frontex, coordinating research related to Risk and Passenger Intelligence Analysis, Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Records (PNR), eBorders and Automated Border Control (ABC), and also Biometrics at the European Union level. In his keynote, he stated that the EU is going through a series of reforms affected by the refugee crisis and by the changes in the political field, as well as within the EU. He strongly recommended the research community to be active in searching for answers and solutions that combine the different stand-alone systems and solutions that work across nations, but also in interagency cooperation. He reminded that Frontex is there to help, as the issues with tightening immigration policy, increasing passenger flows and the scarcity of resources are common amongst the community.

Colonel Rytönen has worked for the Finnish Border Guard for 25 years, out of which 10 years at the Finnish Border Guard Head Quarters and in the Ministry of the Interior. He is working with border management development at the EU-level, and is currently involved in many different issues including EES, ETIAS and SIS. He spoke about the complex situation in the EU; politicians have to react to the increasing threat level, and they could react by making law enforcement actions, such as making the border checks more rigorous. At the same time, the risk assessment on borders becomes more challenging, as by following the new rules and regulations, the board guards have to focus more on the increasing checks also for EU-nationals. Colonel Rytönen also expressed his concern on the homogenous need to develop ABC-systems mainly for airport use. Developing ABC-systems only for airports does not offer flexible solutions for the EU countries that have other type of borders. There is also a need for technology that can be used in other formats than kiosks, such as in difficult weather conditions on land borders, calling out for a need for new innovations.

Both keynote speakers called for new innovations and active participation from the research community, which was well-received by the end user community. The vivid and interesting discussions and the workshops provided an opportunity for deepening the understanding and for focusing effectively on the theme. The workshops and discussions formed a cohesive basis for seeking solutions to a set of questions provided to the seminar by the European Commission. While the seminar in Levi was officially a joint event of ABC4EU and BODEGA project, also other EU-funded projects were present. Amongst the at-

tees were representatives from Fast-Pass and MobilePass projects, both of which also researched border security and border automation. This reflects directly to the European Commission's call for greater cooperation between the EC-funded research projects.

ABC4EU in press

ABC4EU collaborates with Atos, an international leader in digital transformation. Atos' active work in the ABC4EU project was presented on Atos' global website in Spanish. Atos provides two key subsystems for the project: the National Facilitation Program (NFP) with a registration station and a mobile system dedicated to the control of smart borders. These subsystems have been tested in two successful pilots. In the future, the systems will contribute to effective management of authorized short-term stays, further automation of border controls, better detection of usurped documents and identities and will include denials of entry.

Future events

ABC4EU will be present in EAB Research Projects Conference (EAB-RPC) 2017 in Darmstadt, Germany on the 18th of September 2017. The conference presents the key research topics biometrics and identity management that are currently investigated in a number of EU-projects running under the seventh Framework program or Horizon 2020. To learn more, please follow our webpages <http://abc4eu.com> or the conference webpages <http://eab.org/events/program/122>



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