
ABC 4EU
Automated Border Control Gates for Europe

Background

People travel and migrate. International movement is on the rise and so are the numbers of border crossings each year, too. In 2011 alone, there were over 700 million border crossings, and estimates predict that there will be an 80 % increase by 2030. Border crossings should be made as smooth and rapid as possible for travellers without compromising security. This would benefit both states and passengers if the Border Control Processes were automated and harmonised, i.e. uniform across Europe.

The aim of ABC4EU (Automated Border Control gates for Europe) is to make border checks more flexible and user-friendly for passengers by facilitating ease of use of ABC gates and harmonising the functionalities of border check automation. One of the main objectives of the ABC4EU project is to update and integrate current ABC systems and extend their use to second generation passports and Third Country Nationals (TCNs).

Many ABC gate systems have been deployed at European airports to improve border crossing processes. This has led in improved speed, security, and process automation. Fully operational deployments of the ABC gates will facilitate the border crossing process of TCNs requiring a visa (80 % of the world's non-EU population) while maintaining high level of security at the border.

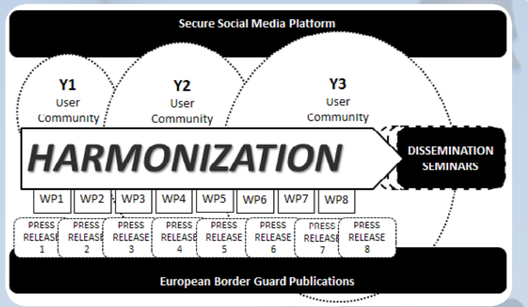
ABC4EU is a 3,5-year EU Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) Project that began in January 2014. The project is led by Indra Sistema S.A. from Spain with 15 consortium partners from eight Member States of the European Union.

The EU Commission launched the Smart Borders Initiative in 2011, which consist of a Registered Traveller Programme (RTP) and an Entry / Exit System (EES). Combining these systems with ABC gates would facilitate more fluent travel by decreasing queuing time of passengers at the border crossing points at the very same time when states can fight against cross-border crime and illegal immigration more successfully providing higher level of internal security within the EU.

Experiences of current systems have been periodically assessed by Frontex at ABC Workshops, where a need for harmonised approach at the Border Crossing Points (BCPs) has been addressed as one of the most urgent issue. Greater harmonisation should create a better traveller experience and encourage people to use ABC gates at BCPs. In particular areas such as e-passports management, biometrics, gate design, human-machine interface (HMI), border checks processes, signalling and interoperability with other law enforcement systems will require harmonisation.

The ABC4EU project will upgrade and test current ABC systems. Pilot projects deployed for example in Spain and Portugal (at airports, harbours and land borders) will be upgraded and tested as a part of ABC4EU project. Also RTP and EES concepts, and other relevant technology for border control, will be developed and tested to assess their feasibility for future automated border control.

Project Goals



The figure above illustrates the end-user integration into the ABC4EU project. End-users have a significant role in harmonisation. The aim is to expand the network of 'border community' and gather different actors working closely with border management: border guards, other border authorities like police, customs and immigration service, airline companies, airport owners and Frontex to mention a few. The figure shows how the User Community will be expanded throughout the project. The figure attached presents only 8 WPs due to WP 9 being an administrative one by its nature having nothing to do with User Community Integration.

A total of six periodic and documented face-to-face workshops will be held, and some virtual workshops will be encouraged. The Work Package (WP7) leader Laurea University of Applied Sciences will deliver a secure social media platform to support the User Community. The results will be shared with newsletters and press releases published periodically.

Expected results

The ABC4EU project consists of 9 Work Packages (WPs). Each work package focuses on different aspects of ABC systems. The titles of different WPs are as listed below:

- WP1 Legal, Social and Ethical aspects (WP leader ETICAS)
- WP2 Technology Assessment and End User Requirements definition (WP leader PricewaterhouseCoopers)
- WP3 ABC Processes & Workflow Design (WP leader Vision-Box)
- WP4 EU ABC Architecture (WP leader Indra)
- WP5 Subsystem Development and Integration (WP leader Indra)
- WP6 BCP Test & Validation (WP leader PricewaterhouseCoopers)
- WP7 Dissemination and Exploitation (WP leader Laurea)
- WP8 Technical and Scientific Coordination (WP leader Indra)
- WP9 Administrative and Financial Coordination (WP leader Indra)

Project Consortium

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PricewaterhouseCoopers (Spain)
Eticas Research and Consulting SL (Spain)
Universidad Rey Juan Carlos (Spain)
Ministerio Del Interior (Spain)
Ministerio Da Administração Interna (Portugal)
Vision Box – Soluções De Visao Por Computador SA (Portugal)
Università Degli Studi Di Milano (UMIL) (Italy)
Dermalog Identification systems GMBH (Germany)
Cognitec Systems GMBH (Germany)
Safe ID Solutions GMBH (Germany)
Laurea University of Applied Sciences (Finland)
Centre for Irish and European Security Limited (Ireland)
Politsei- ja Piirivalveamet (Estonia)
Ministerul Afacerilor Interne (Romania)

Project information

Web page: www.abc4eu.com, www.abc4eu.eu

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