Automated Border Control Gates for Europe

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How does the Automated Border Control (ABC) work? Self-service vs. face-to-face border checks

As the harmonisation of the European Automated Border Control Systems is one of the main objectives in the ABC4EU-project, it is essential to know, how the Automated Border Control works. The main functionalities in every ABC system are mainly based on three facts:

- the authenticity of the used travel document must be verified by checking the integrated security features
- user identification must be done by comparing the biometric data incorporated into the travel documents against its present holder
- both the document and traveler's information must be compared against the authorities background databases

If the comparison score, or match, between the issued document against the real-life equivalent is high enough, and no background information is found, the passenger is let through the ABC gate.

All the above mentioned steps can also be conducted by the border guards in the face-to-face passport control. The checks are carried out at any EU external border crossing points, but usually the ABC system as a self-service is faster. In self-service the border crossing can be done easily in less than twenty (20) seconds. This is something travelers should be looking forward to when stressed and under time pressure. The biggest failures or fears are usually related to the misconception that one is not technically-oriented enough to use the ABC gates. That is a misunderstanding – basically you just put your travel document into the scanner and stand still. *Volá!*

Finland | ABC
The Netherlands | Privium
Germany | EasyPass
France | Parafes
Spain | ABC System
Portugal | Rapid

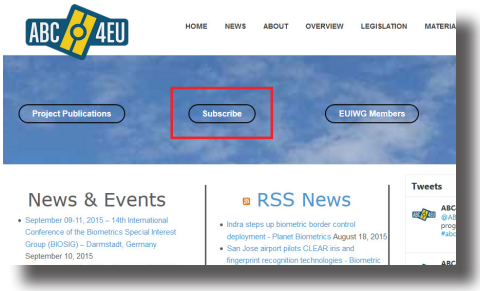
Despite the three functional steps in every ABC system, the gates function different ly in the European Union member states. The systems' usability and unique features depend on the manufacturer, machine age, connections to the databases, biometrics used etc. From the end users' point of view, this is not a suitable situation – it has to be ensured that the ABC gates can be used similarly anywhere at the EU external land, sea or air borders, once the process is familiar. Therefore one of the main goals of ABC4EU is to make border checks more flexible and user-friendly for passengers by harmonizing the functionalities of border check automation.

What might be the ABC's future?

The ABC will likely become more important in the future field of travelling. The development will be intensified and partly automated border crossings will give border guards the possibility to focus better on the risks that might occur in the traffic, as well as the other daily activities and tasks. Like any other automation, the ABC will meet the information security requirements and enhance their use for a faster traveller flow among the border control points. Biometrics will be continually researched and new biometrics will be used. ABC will also be implemented in countries and nationalities outside the EU to ease the border control processes worldwide. The system will also be synchronized with the check-in and other information already gathered in order to make ones travelling smoother. *How does this sound to you?*

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EVENTS WHERE ABC4EU IS REPRESENTED IN DURING FALL 2015

1st IEEE International Symposium on Systems Engineering (ISSE). September 29th-30th, 2015 in Rome, Italy. http://ieeeisse.org/

IEEE Conference on Communications and Network Security (IEEE CNS 2015). September 28th-30th, 2015 in Florence, Italy. http://cns2015.ieee-cns.org/

EU-LISA working-level Conference entitled "The future tested: Towards a Smart Borders reality" on October 8th 2015 in Tallinn, Estonia. http://www.eulisaconference.eu/

International conference for profile, predict and prevent data-driven policies, markets and societies. October 30th-31st, 2015 in Paris, France. http://cersa.cnrs.fr/profile-predict-and-prevent/

Smart Border Conference. November 23th-25th, 2015 London, UK. http://www.smarterborders.com/

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