FastPass welcomes a new partner !

The FastPass Consortium is happy to welcome a new partner among its members: the Romanian Border Police. Part of the Romanian Ministry of Interior, this specialized institution carries out all the tasks related to the border crossing, like the surveillance and control of travellers or the fight against illegal immigration and border crime. Driven by a notable experience in European projects, the Romanian Border Police is a proficient partner who will have an important role during the demonstration phase of FastPass, as it will provide a demonstration site for land border in Moravita, at the Serbian frontier. The requirements of such a crossing point will be carefully studied in order to be fulfilled by the FastPass solution.

Mykonos: the challenge of a suitable solution for an optimized sea border control

FastPass has the luck to count among its partners the Port of Mykonos (Greece), which will be one of the demonstration sites of the project. In order to stronger incorporate the specific requirements of a sea border, the

Port of Mykonos invited the Consortium to visit its border checking point at the end of October 2013. Seaports are infrastructures within a particular context and thus have very specific needs.

Even more sensitive to the tourist season than the other types of borders, ports face an irregular flux of passengers, with the arrival of several boats per day transporting up to 6000 persons each at the height of the season. Those people have to pass the border and the security controls as quick as possible in premises that are not necessarily built for such an amount of persons. Currently, the travel agencies collect the passengers' data and forward the information to the border guards who will compare it to the persons effectively crossing the border. Another issue is the control of the boat crew, which is conducted under defined rules and processes. Sea border crossing has to comply with different regulations- mainly the Schengen Border Code and the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code - which is an additional important matter.

Hence, all these constraints constitute a real challenge for finding an innovative solution able to optimize the sea border control. A challenge that the FastPass team is ready to take up!

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FastPass beyond Europe

Although being a EU funded project, FastPass crosses the borders of the Old Continent: a presentation of our activities has been made in Montreal, Canada, at the ICAO Conference - Ninth Symposium and Exhibition on ICAO MRTDs, biometrics and security standards new focus on ABC, on 22nd -24th October 2013. Together with partners from ICAO and countries all over the world the importance of common goals and standards in eMRTDs and ABC have been emphasized.

At the heart of scientific key issues

The FastPass Consortium participated in the 2nd Annual Global Conference and Exhibition on Future Developments of ABC organized by FRONTEX at Warsaw, on 10th October 2013, by presenting four papers written by AIT Austrian Institute of Technology (Austria), the University of Reading (UK) and Teknologian tutkimuskeskus VTT (Finland). Several burning issues were discussed.

First of all, the topic of document verification in the context of a fully automated border control system was studied. Indeed, without the presence of a border guard able to compensate potential mistakes made by the document verification system, possible risk scenarios in currently used optical security feature verification methods and electronic security feature emerge. (See: "Document security in the age of fully automated border control system").

Furthermore, a focus on vision-based technologies proper to enhance ABC secure zones was proposed. Three of them are presented: counting and separating humans within an e-gate; robust left item detection in secure zone and queue-length detection. (See: "Visual surveillance technologies for enhancing ABC secure zones").

The issue of dependability management as a structured and integrated entity in the whole ABC development process was also considered. Indeed, its relevance concerning the optimization of border control capacity should not be underestimated. (See: "Dependability Management in Automated Border Control").

Last but not least, the concern of counter-spoofing research was examined in light of current algorithms developments able to match the new trend: merging multiple biometrics (face, fingerprint, iris) to better face the spoofing attacks. (See: "Biometrics in ABC: Counter-spoofing research").

Would you like to know more? All these papers can be freely consulted on our website.

New ! Our archived newsletters are available here !