The role of identity verification in the border check process

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What’s in a name?

- Frontex
- Border Security
- Schengen
- Border Checks
- The challenges of identity verification
1. What is Frontex?


- Mission: "Intelligence driven operational cooperation at EU level to strengthen security at external borders"

- Tasks:
  - carry out risk analyses;
  - coordinate operational cooperation;
    - joint operations
  - support with technical and operational assistance
  - assist EU Member States with training their Border Guards (Common Core Curriculum);
  - follow up on developments in research relevant for the control and surveillance of external borders.

What Frontex does not do:
- does not execute border control/surveillance itself
- does not cover customs' area of responsibility (focus on movement of persons only)

2. What is Border Security? Schengen expectations
3. What is Schengen? Map and Numbers

- 25 Members + SAC
- Circa 400,000 border guards
- 11,000 km external land borders
- 43,000 km external sea borders
- 1,792 border crossing points:
  - 665: air BCPs
  - 871: sea BCPs
  - 246: land BCPs
- Traffic volume estimates: 300 M per year (160 EU/CH/EEA, 60 TCNVH, 80 TCNVE)/800M border crossings.
- Main purpose: manage external borders of the area of free movement (facilitation and security); fight irregular immigration

Surveillance Checks

• Art. 7 SBC: THOROUGH Checks for Third Country Nationals
  1. Verify valid/authentic travel docs (+ visa if needed)
  2. Verify docs belong to person (identity): 1:1
  3. Verify eligibility
  4. Justified purpose of intended stay
  5. Sufficient means of subsistence
  6. Not likely to jeopardize the public policy, internal security, public health or international relations
     - SIS/other databases check

• Art. 7(3)ab SBC (2009) Derogation to the obligation of verifying fingerprints (VIS)(biometric identity): “an assessment has been made that there is no risk related to internal security and illegal immigration” (also: no queues, sufficient human resources)
• Art. 13 SBC: A visa may be cancelled at entry if, apart from SIS alerts, “there are serious grounds to believe that the visa was obtained in a fraudulent way”
5. Challenges/risks for identity verification

- **Traditional**
  - Counterfeit documents
  - Forged documents (page substitution, photo substitution, text abrasion etc.)

- **Increasing phenomena**
  - Impersonation ( imposters, look-alikes)
  - Fraudulently acquired genuine documents (including breeder documents)

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6. One of the solutions: The trend towards biometrics

- Large scale IT systems based on biometrics – read fingerprints (for third country nationals)
  - EURODAC (asylum seekers)
  - VIS and BMS (live since 11 October 2011 – 3 yrs roll out)
  - SIS II (2013?)
  - Potential check of other law enforcement biometric registers – national IAFIS, Pruem etc.

- Electronic biometric passports/ID cards (for EU/EEA/CH nationals)
  - Face: see e-gates but no other use of automated face recognition (?) – issue of PKI
  - Fingerprint (FR only FR passports; DE only DE ID – issue of certificates) – issue of EAC

- Electronic biometric EU resident permits (third country nationals – by 20 May 2012)

- Registered Travelers Programs (only national or even simply local for the moment) – EU RTD?
  - Iris (ex. UK, DE)
  - Fingerprints (FR)

- EU E/E?
7. Biometrics in the First Line? The Operational Challenge

- Schengen security:
  - Face and Fingerprints need to be verified consistently at ALL BCPs (if not – weakest link)
- The border check process: demands from different stakeholders (time/speed - security)
  - Impact on workflow (extra step in examination process; equipments problems and delays – ex. Fingerprint reader, ergonomic issues; slow database response; error handling)
  - Different impact depending on type of BCP (land most worrisome but also airports)
  - Different national ‘realities’ (human resources, equipments, procedures)
- The border guard (border control as risk based)
  - The ‘whole package’
  - Over-reliance on technology in general and biometrics in particular? Human in the loop. How to insure that the human is in full control of the decision he/she needs to take?
  - Too much responsibility given to non-experts? (see error handling and lack of dactyloscopic central service) – motivation problem
- The passenger
  - Information and education. Need for active cooperation
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