



The role of identity verification in the border check process

“What’s in a Name?” Symposium

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What’s in a name?



- Frontex
- Border Security
- Schengen
- Border Checks
- The challenges of identity verification

1. What is Frontex?



- The European Agency for the **Management of the Operational Cooperation** at the External Borders of the Member States of the EU (EU Council Regulation (EC) No 2007/2004 of 26 October 2004)

- 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.

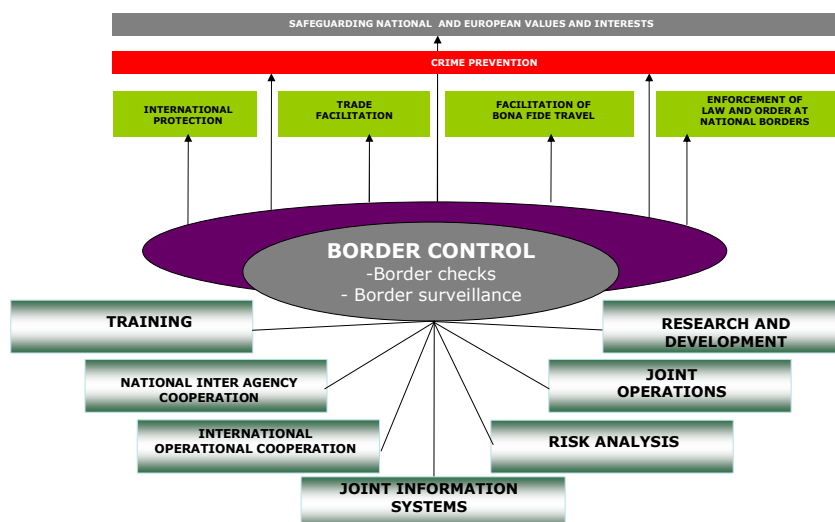
Changes

- Lisbon Treaty and crime prevention;
- Council and EP recently approved new regulation and enlarged mandate (own equipments; limited processing of personal info)

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

- Schengen MS
- SAC
- Other EU MS
- EU MS with some Schengen

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

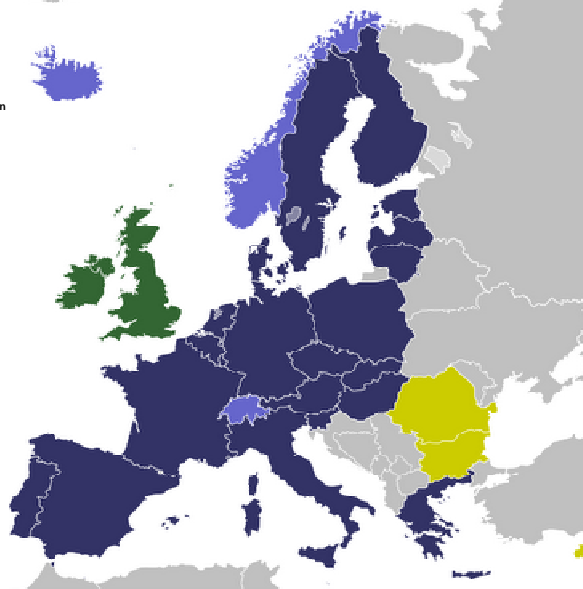
246: land BCPs

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



4. What are BORDER CHECKS? (SBC)

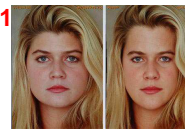
MINIMUM CHECKS FOR EU/EEA/CH:

1. Documents
2. Identity
5. Random SIS



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 physical,
optical, electronic
security

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

Biometrics

Issuance
process
??

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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
 - Fingerprints (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?



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7. Biometrics in the First Line? The Operational Challenge



HUMAN
FACTOR!

- 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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