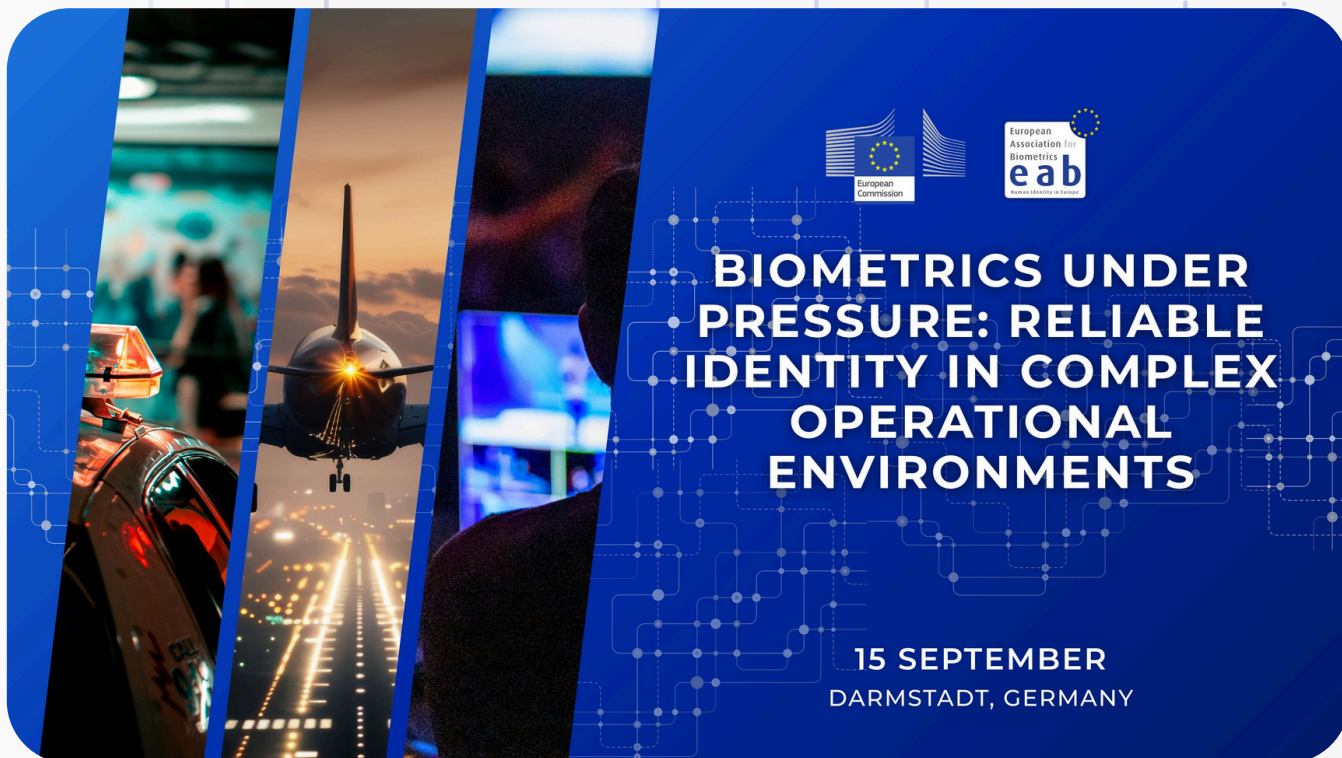




EABx CERIS Event Guide

This is the official programme of the EABx CERIS Event. Here you will find the finalised agenda for the event as well as a project and session information.

• Sept 15, 2026 •



EVENT AGENDA

Tuesday, 15 September 2026

Registrations & Welcome Coffee

08:30			
09:15	Dinusha Frings Giulio Mancini	Welcome Speech	EAB European Commission DG Home
09:25	John Riemen	Keynote MH17	Dutch National Police
10:25	COMMUNICATION BREAK MEET THE PROJECTS AROUND THE LOBBY		
10:50	Giulio Mancini Javier Galbally	Independent Evaluation of Biometric Technology in the EU Presentation & open discussion	DG Home eu-LISA
	Project Session I: ARIEN, IMPROV-EU, BORDERLINK		
11:20		When Biometrics Meet Reality: Shared Challenges across domains 3 “Reality Check” interventions centred around the three workshop domains: • Border Management • Figting Crime and Terrorism • Disaster Resilient Societies	ARIEN IMPROV-EU BORDERLINK
11:50	James Ferryman	Panel Discussion: When Biometrics Meet Reality	University of Reading
12:30	LUNCH BREAK		
	Project Session II: Interactive Short-Presentations		
14:00		Short dynamic EU Project presentations focused on the problems they address, the operational context and early lessons learnt.	DEFORM ORBIS ARIEN AutoBorder SafeTravellers
	Project Session III: Deep-dive Sessions		
15:00		Deep-dive Session: Constraints to Biometrics Systems Participants split into 4 break-out rooms to carry a co-creation session, where they explore key challenges identified throughout the workshop. Room 1: Biometrics in Degraded Environments Chaired by: Javier Galbally (eu-LISA) Room 2: Speed vs Accuracy vs Legal Constraints Chaired by: Catherine Jasserand, Julia de Bresser (IOM), and Marta Gómez-Barrero (UniBw München) Room 3: Multisource and multimodal identity Chaired by: Kiran Raja (NTNU) and Jakub Sochor (Innovatrics) Room 4: Human factors & Trust Chaired by: Didier Godard (FRONTEX) and Dinusha Frings (EAB)	
16:00	COMMUNICATION BREAK AND NETWORKING		
16:30		Deep-dive Session Synthesis	
16:50		Concluding remarks	
17:00	NETWORKING AND DEMO SESSION		
19:00	DINNER- <u>RESTAURANT SITTE</u>		

SESSION DETAILS

Keynote MH17



John Riemen
Dutch National Police

John A.J.M. Riemen is lead specialist to the Dutch Police and is the manager and custodian of the national criminal ABIS and DNA elimination database. He oversees the Center for Biometrics as part of the National Forensic Service Centre of the national Police and is nationally responsible for the Fingerprint and Face identifications by the police. He serves as the expert witness in court for these fields and is the strategic advisor to the office of the national Police Commissioner.

He has experience in the use of forensic fingerprint technologies, face recognition, disaster victim identification, identity management, identity fraud and process design in the field of biometrics. Mr Riemen is for more than 40 years active in law enforcement and for more than 24 years in forensic science.

He currently serves as a member of the INTERPOL Disaster Victim Identification Working Group and the international IDEMIA International Justice and Public security Executive Users Board.

He is guest lecturer at the University of Amsterdam and the national Police Academy.



Independent Evaluation of Biometric Technology in the EU



Javier Galbally
eu-LISA

Javier Galbally received the M.Sc. degree in Electrical Engineering from the Universidad de Cantabria, Spain, in 2005, and the Ph.D. degree in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering from the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain, in 2009, where he was an Assistant Professor until 2012. In 2013, he joined the European Commission at DG Joint Research Centre, where he worked for nine years as Scientific/Technical Officer. Since May 2022 he is a Senior Capability Building Officer at the European Agency eu-LISA. His research interests are mainly focused on the security and performance evaluation of biometric systems, pattern and biometric recognition. He is actively involved in different projects dealing with biometrics and their use in large scale IT systems. He is the Chair of the EAB Research Projects Conference since 2017. He has authored over 100 publications which have produced over 6000 citations, mainly focused on the biometrics field. Javier has received several awards and distinctions for the quality of his work.



Giulio Mancini
Policy Officer, DGHOM.F2

Giulio is a Policy Officer coordinating the EU border management innovation policy, in the Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission. Previously he was Programme Manager for the European Union Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. Before the European Commission, Giulio worked in the engineering programme of the Centre on Global Security and Cooperation of Sandia National Laboratories in the United States; and as Programme Manager on Science and Technology for Non-Proliferation in the non-governmental sector in Italy. He has a PhD in Peace Studies from the University of Bradford in the UK.

Project Session I:

When Biometrics Meet Reality: Shared Challenges Across Domains

11:15–12:30

Moderator: Prof. James Ferryman, University of Reading

Participating projects: ARIEN (fighting crime and terrorism), BORDERLINK (border management), and IMPROV-EU (disaster-resilient societies)

What this session is

Three EU-funded projects, each rooted in a different domain, open the day with candid "Reality Check" accounts of what happens when biometric systems meet real operational conditions. Followed by a moderated panel discussion that draws out what is genuinely shared across these very different fields.

Added value

This is the only session in the programme built specifically to surface cross-domain patterns before any solutions are proposed. Rather than showcasing what works, it deliberately focuses on friction: degraded environments, uncertain results, trade-offs between speed and rights, and the practical limits of current systems. The panel format allows direct, live comparison between border, security, and disaster-response perspectives.

ARIEN



Artificial Intelligence in fighting illicit drugs production and trafficking aims to build an AI-powered intelligence picture of drug trafficking networks by integrating criminal-records data and online-activity detection to reveal modus operandi and emerging threats. It promotes international cooperation among EU and non-EU law enforcement, customs and border-guard authorities and policymakers, coordinated by Engineering – Ingegneria Informatica SpA under Horizon Europe's fight against illicit drugs call.

IMPROV-EU



Innovating to respect the fundamental rights of persons in vulnerable situations crossing the EU's external borders, IMPROV-EU conducts research to streamline implementation of the European Border and Coast Guard's Fundamental Rights Strategy across several Member States. It develops an implementation protocol grounded in best practices and disseminates its findings to support authorities dealing with vulnerable migrants and travellers.

BORDERLINK



Border Control Agencies for Interlinked and Interoperable Future tackles interoperability gaps in European customs and border control by building reference databases for risk assessment, threat-material identification and equipment interoperability. It advances standardisation across multi-vendor, multi-agency customs operations and promotes Green Customs practices, including circularity of seized materials, coordinated by CBRA Services with partners from 10 countries.

Project Session II:

When Biometrics Meet Reality: Shared Challenges Across Domains

14:00–15:00

Interactive Short-Presentations

Presenters: EU-funded project representatives
across all three workshop domains

What this session is

A fast-paced sequence of short presentations from a wider set of Horizon Europe projects, each addressing the problem it responds to, the operational context in which it applies, and the early lessons learnt so far.

Added value

Session II widens the picture beyond the three projects featured in the morning panel, giving the audience a broader, comparative view of the current EU project landscape across border management, fight against crime and terrorism, and disaster resilient societies. Because each slot is short, the session works as an efficient way to get acquainted with a large amount of ongoing work and identify which projects are most relevant to individual interests, including which afternoon deep-dive room to prioritise.

DATAACROS III

The logo for DataAcros III, featuring the word "data" in a dark red serif font, a vertical line separator, and the word "cros" in a bold, dark red sans-serif font, followed by a superscript "3". The entire logo is contained within a white hexagonal shape with blue circuit-like lines extending from its corners.

data | cros³

Developing an ethical AI-driven toolbox for boosting cross-border financial investigations on organised crime networks, DATAACROS III expands the DATAACROS platform (used since 2019 by law enforcement, asset recovery offices, anti-corruption bodies and investigative journalists) with new machine-learning anomaly and risk-detection models, NLP analysis of unstructured data, and satellite imagery processing.

ORBIS

The Orbis logo, featuring the word "orbis" in a lowercase, rounded, blue sans-serif font. The logo is set against a white hexagonal background with blue circuit-like lines extending from its corners.

orbis

Optimized Real-time maritime Border Surveillance with Intelligent satellite-drone Systems delivers an AI-powered, cost-effective solution fusing satellite constellations (SAR and optical VHR) with autonomous UAVs for continuous, high-accuracy maritime monitoring. It uses machine learning to anticipate threats in high-risk zones, optimise drone flight plans, and accelerate search-and-rescue response, coordinated by Acceligen Ltd with partners including the Hellenic Coast Guard.

ARIEN

The Arien logo, featuring a stylized orange sun-like icon above the word "ARIEN" in a bold, dark blue serif font. Below "ARIEN" is a small tagline in a smaller, dark blue sans-serif font. The logo is set against a white hexagonal background with blue circuit-like lines extending from its corners.

ARIEN
intelligence in fighting illicit drugs production and

Border Control Agencies for Interlinked and Interoperable Future tackles interoperability gaps in European customs and border control by building reference databases for risk assessment, threat-material identification and equipment interoperability. It advances standardisation across multi-vendor, multi-agency customs operations and promotes Green Customs practices, including circularity of seized materials, coordinated by CBRA Services with partners from 10 countries.

DEFORM



DEFORM

Deepfake detection and Explainability using FOundation Representation Models addresses the growing threat of AI-generated or manipulated audio, video and images by building a modular, practitioner-driven AI framework with multi-level explainability for multimodal deepfake detection and source tracing. It unites scientific, legal and forensic partners from six European countries, twinning researchers with police authorities and forensic institutes, coordinated by the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).

SafeTravellers

SAFE
TRAVELLERS

Identity theft and attacks against security documents and related processes are rapidly expanding, causing substantial financial loss and a growing number of citizens affected by sophisticated fraudulent attacks each year. SafeTravellers covers identity and document verification in different border crossing scenarios, incorporating new technologies and enhanced biometric analysis to combat the security concerns related to identity management, the identity and travel documents, and the biometric identity verification.

AUTOBORDER



AutoBorder

AutoBorder connects biometrics experts, car manufacturers, technology providers and border authorities to co-develop and rigorously field-test vehicle-integrated solutions for next-generation land border management.

Land border crossing points suffer from traffic and long waiting times, especially during peak periods such as summer months. AutoBorder investigates how identity verification can happen seamlessly - without stopping and disembarking - but also without compromising security or fundamental rights.

BSM

Biometric Secure Module

BSM generates cryptographic keys directly from a person's live facial and palm biometric features during authentication, rather than storing passwords, keys or biometric templates. The key exists only ephemerally during the authentication process and is never stored, shifting the security model from protecting stored secrets to eliminating the need to store them at all. Built on Trust Stamp's proprietary Stable IT2 algorithm.

PopEye

The logo for PopEye, featuring the word "POPEYE" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letter "O" is replaced by a stylized red eye with a black pupil and concentric red circles around it, suggesting motion or a scanning beam.

PopEye aims to strengthen security at EU external borders by fusing robust, unobtrusive biometric technologies for identification and verification of travellers on the move, at distances of up to 200 metres, without requiring them to stop. It combines novel modalities such as gait recognition with 3D face, iris, and contactless fingerprint recognition to improve accuracy and throughput while safeguarding traveller experience.

Project Session III:

Deep-Dive Co-Creation Sessions

15:00–16:00

Parallel Breakout Rooms

Format: Four themed rooms, each facilitated by a chair and rapporteur, with input from an EU agency representative and a project field expert

What this session is

Participants split into four themed rooms: Biometrics in Degraded Environments; Speed, Accuracy and Legal Constraints; Multisource and Multimodal Identity; and Human Factors and Trust. The aim of each room is to work through the operational, legal, technical, and human dimensions of biometric deployment in depth. Each room produces three concrete outputs: top challenges, top research and innovation needs, and key recommendations for future programmes.

Added value

This is the most participatory and consequential session of the day. Unlike Sessions I and II, which are primarily presentation-led, Session III is genuinely co-created: its outputs can feed directly into future EU research and innovation priorities, including upcoming Horizon Europe programming. The small-group format also allows a depth of cross-sector dialogue between end-users, law enforcement, policymakers, researchers, and industry. This is a unique exchange of ideas and expertise, not possible in a plenary setting.

Room 1 — Biometrics in Degraded Environments

Chair: Javier Galbally (eu-LISA)

Biometric systems are typically built and tested under conditions far better than the ones they eventually face in the field: poor lighting, damaged documents, non-cooperative subjects, patchy connectivity, disaster zones, checkpoints under pressure. This room asks a direct question: “what happens when the environment itself is the obstacle, and what does it take for a system, and the people relying on it, to remain safe and useful when nothing can be controlled?”

The discussion will draw on experience from border management, law enforcement, disaster response, victim identification, and related fields, alongside scientific and technical perspectives. Expect the conversation to move through:

- The conditions that most affect capture, matching, and reliability, from environmental factors to human ones
- What practitioners actually do when a biometric result is inconclusive, unreliable, or simply unavailable
- Whether current testing and validation reflect real field conditions, or only ideal ones
- What would genuinely improve performance and decision-making when conditions cannot be fixed

Contributions are welcome from anyone with a direct stake in this problem — border and coast guard authorities, disaster responders, law enforcement, researchers studying system performance under stress, and industry designing for conditions no lab can fully replicate. Come with a real situation in mind: a moment when the environment, not the technology in principle, made a process fail or become unreliable. The room will close with three priority challenges, three research and innovation needs, and concrete recommendations for making biometric systems credible under real-world pressure.

Room 2— Speed vs. Accuracy vs. Legal Constraints

Co-chairs: Catherine Jasserand (LawTech Research), Julia de Bresser (IOM), Marta Gómez-Barrero (UniBw München)

Some decisions cannot wait. Yet biometric results are rarely certain, and the legal and rights safeguards around their use do not pause for operational urgency either. This room takes on that tension directly, not by treating law as an afterthought embedded in technology, but by asking how speed, reliability, and legal safeguards can be designed as connected requirements from the start.

Expect the discussion to work through:

- What "speed" actually means in practice. Immediate decisions, high-throughput checkpoints, rapid triage, and who bears the cost when a decision is wrong or delayed
- How uncertainty is communicated to practitioners, and what meaningful human oversight looks like when there is no time to pause
- Which legal and rights requirements are hardest to translate into a workable procedure under pressure, and what safeguards can survive real operational conditions
- What evidence is actually needed to show a system is fit for a specific operational use, not just technically capable

This room depends on genuine dialogue between people who rarely sit at the same table: operational end-users making split-second calls, law enforcement working within evidentiary standards, policymakers responsible for legal and rights frameworks, researchers testing real-world reliability, and industry building what is technically and financially deliverable. If time pressure has ever forced you into a trade-off you would rather not have made, or you recognise this as a major deficiency in biometrics systems, your opinion belongs in this room. The room's output will be a short set of trade-offs and recommendations that hold up operationally, legally, and technically not just in theory.

Room 3— Multisource and Multimodal Identity

Co-chairs: Kiran Raja (NTNU) and Jakub Sochor (Innovatrics)

More data and more biometric modalities can strengthen an identity decision, or introduce more noise, more risk, and more places for something to go wrong. This room examines when combining sources genuinely helps, and what it actually takes, technically, organisationally, and legally, to do so responsibly.

The conversation will explore:

- When a single biometric signal or data source is not enough, and what an additional one genuinely contributes
- The real obstacles to interoperability between systems, databases, and organisations— and how conflicting or unreliable records get resolved
- Who is accountable when a decision draws on multiple systems or agencies that were never designed to work together
- What a practitioner actually needs to see in order to use a combined result appropriately, without being overwhelmed or misled by false confidence

Because this topic is technically dense, the room will actively seek out operational and legal perspectives alongside technical ones; end-users, law enforcement handling multi-agency information, policymakers navigating purpose limitation and data protection, researchers testing whether combination genuinely improves decisions, and industry confronting real interoperability barriers. Bring an example of a moment when an extra piece of information changed a decision, or when more data created more confusion than clarity.

The room will produce three priority challenges, three research needs, and recommendations on making multisource identity decisions both useful and accountable.

Room 4— Human Factors and Trust

Co-chairs: Didier Godard (FRONTEX) and Dinusha Frings (EAB)

A biometric system is only as reliable as the judgement of the person using it, and only as legitimate as it feels to the person it is used on. This room puts people, not technology, at the centre of the conversation: what practitioners need to use a result appropriately, what oversight looks like in practice rather than on paper, and what actually builds or destroys trust on both sides of the process.

Expect the discussion to cover:

- What practitioners need to see, understand, or challenge before relying on, or overriding, a biometric result in real conditions
- What meaningful human oversight requires in practice, not just as a formal safeguard
- How accessibility, fairness, and dignity are affected when someone is difficult to enrol or recognise;
- What genuinely earns public and institutional trust, beyond technical performance alone

Trust means something different depending on where you sit, so this room deliberately welcomes a full mix of voices: operational end-users, law enforcement dealing with contested evidence, policymakers responsible for legitimacy and fundamental rights, researchers studying automation bias and over-reliance, and industry building interfaces that support — rather than replace — human judgement.

The room will also explicitly consider people affected by these systems who may not be in the room: travellers, suspects, disaster survivors, and other members of the public. If you have seen trust in a biometric system tested, gained, or lost, that perspective belongs in this discussion. The session will conclude with three challenges, three research and innovation needs, and recommendations for building systems that are both usable and worthy of trust.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE



Marcela Hernandez
European Association for
Biometrics

Marcela Hernández joined EAB in 2022 and currently leads initiatives such as the Martigny Biometrics Workshop and the EAB Academy, while managing stakeholder partnerships.

She received her Master's in Economics, Data, and Policy from the Central European University in Vienna, Austria. Originally from El Salvador, her academic and professional career has taken her across diverse international environments, allowing her to operate effectively across European tech and policy sectors. Her passion lies at the intersection of technology, sustainability, and development.



Carla Radice
European Association for
Biometrics

Carla joined the European Association of Biometrics in 2024 and has served as project & policy intern and Junior Project Manager and Junior Event Manager. She graduated with a Politics & International Relations BSc from the University College London (United Kingdom) in 2025.

With a background in sustainable consulting and non-profit organisations, she also has an extensive volunteering experience and is passionate about topics of criminal justice, biometrics and human rights.



Dinusha Frings
European Association for
Biometrics

Dinusha Frings is Chief Executive Officer of the European Association for Biometrics (EAB), where she leads the organisation's strategic and operational activities in support of the biometrics and digital ID community.

She also works as Coordinator International Affairs at the National Office for Identity Data, part of the Netherlands' Ministry of Interior and Kingdom Relations, and is one of the Netherlands' representatives on the European Commission's Article 6 committee. Previously, as Research & Development Advisor, she was responsible for developing ID documents and biometric technology. Before that, she coordinated a range of innovative projects in biometrics, digital identity, and secure ID documents — first on behalf of the Ministry, and earlier still at the technology company IDEMIA



Giulio Mancini
Policy Officer, DGHOME.F2

Giulio is a Policy Officer coordinating the EU border management innovation policy, in the Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission. Previously he was Programme Manager for the European Union Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. Before the European Commission, Giulio worked in the engineering programme of the Centre on Global Security and Cooperation of Sandia National Laboratories in the United States; and as Programme Manager on Science and Technology for Non-Proliferation in the non-governmental sector in Italy. He has a PhD in Peace Studies from the University of Bradford in the UK.

PARTNERS

Our Partners

The 2nd edition of the EABxCERIS Event, is organised by the European Association for Biometrics (EAB) in cooperation with the European Commission, under the Community for European Research and Innovation for Security (CERIS). Additionally, and DG HOME of the European Commission and Fraunhofer IGD contributed to the success of this event.



Supported by our Media Partner





Scan the QR code or click
on the form on the right to
access the Conference
Feedback form. We
appreciate your input!





ABOUT EAB

The leading voice for Biometrics and Digital ID, for Europe.

The EAB is the leading voice for biometrics and digital identity, for Europe. As a non-profit organisation, EAB represents and connects a growing community of biometrics and digital ID stakeholders from across Europe. Our purpose is to foster innovation, support networking across markets and stakeholders, and provide trusted and impartial advice. The EAB's membership includes the European Commission, business leaders, governments, institutes and academia. Members meet regularly at EAB hosted and partnered events and networking opportunities, across Europe.

