The 6th edition of the EAB Research Projects Conference (EAB-RPC) took place on the 16, 17, and 18 September 2019 at the premises of Fraunhofer IGD in Darmstadt, Germany.

In 2019 for the first time the EAB Max Snijder Award was announced in memory of the EAB founder and managing director. The Max Snijder Award is granted to a researcher, who through his work expressed a wider perspective to get a broader picture on biometric applications.

On 17 September 2019 the General Assembly of EAB took place. The assembly was very productive and generated new ideas to bring EAB forward.

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Special reports:
EAB Newsletter September 30, 2019

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EAB Research Projects Conference 2019

The 6th edition of the EAB Research Projects Conference (EAB–RPC) took place on the 16, 17, and 18 September 2019 at the premises of Fraunhofer IGD in Darmstadt, Germany.

The conference was organized by the European Association of Biometrics (EAB) in cooperation with the Joint Research Centre (DG JRC) of the European Commission, through its Cyber and Digital Citizens’ security Unit.

This year’s edition featured presentations by 19 European funded projects in the fields of biometrics, border management and identity management: RHUMBO, TReSPAsS (ITN), PriMa, H-Unique, PROTECT, BODEGA, LIGHTest, SMILE, FOLDOUT, TRESSPASS, SWAN, PYCSEL, Stellar i-ris, QUARDCARD, SpeechXrays, SOTAMD, AMBER, PERSONA, D4FLY, RESPECT.

You can find the EAB–RPC conference report here: http://z.eab.org/RPC19report

Photos from the conference are available here:

https://cloud.zeitform.de/s/kPLC3gCUYeDo3K

For information on EAB–RPC 2020 please visit: https://www.eab.org/events/program/195

EAB Awards 2019

In 2019 for the first time the EAB Max Snijder Award was announced in memory of the EAB founder and managing director. The Max Snijder Award is granted to a researcher, who through his work expressed a wider perspective to get a broader picture on biometric applications.

The very first winner of this award is Dr Klemen Grm from the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), who presented his PhD thesis Super-resolution for automated face recognition from low-resolution imagery.

This year the European Biometrics Industry Award goes to Dr Patrick Schuch from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Gjøvik)/Dermalog (Hamburg) for the thesis titled Deep Learning for Fingerprint Recognition Systems.

The European Biometrics Research Award 2019 was granted to Tiago de Freitas Pereira from Idiap (Martigny)/EPFL (Lausanne) for his PhD-thesis Learning How to Recognize Faces in Heterogeneous Environments.

The European Biometric Research and Industry Awards 2019 were kindly sponsored by IDEMIA and mymarq.

You can read more about the awards at: https://www.eab.org/award/reports/report2019.html

For the history of the EAB awards and more details about the winners, please visit: https://www.eab.org/award/hall_of_fame.html
EAB Biometric News, September 30, 2019

**EAB General Assembly**

On 17 September 2019 the General Assembly of EAB took place. The assembly was very productive and generated new ideas to bring EAB forward.

The minutes of the 9th GA are filed and approved and can be found on our website: [https://www.eab.org/events/program/178](https://www.eab.org/events/program/178)

In order to access the documents, you will need to login (see login button at the very top of the site) with the credentials you received when having become a member.

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**Monitoring Bachelor, Master and PhD Theses**

**Call for Contributions**

During the EAB general assembly it was proposed to compose an annual academic graduation monitoring report, which should provide information about academic theses that are completed in EAB member institutions.

Such report will be composed early January 2020 and will contain Bachelor-, Master- or PhD-theses. Please contribute to this report and submit the work of your students in the following format

- Name of the student (optional with photo)
- Title of the thesis
- Level (Bachelor, Master, PhD)
- Institution
- Supervisor
- Contact email
- Abstract

We kindly ask for your support and participation of this initiative and to submit your contribution by December 15th.

Please contact Christoph Busch at email: christoph.busch@eab.org
EAB Biometric News, September 30, 2019

**EAB Biometric Training – We need your input!**

At the recent EAB General Assembly in Darmstadt held on the 17th September 2019, the Association committed itself to exploring the development and support of biometric training initiatives.

Across the stakeholders represented at the Assembly, there was evidence to support the development of training programmes on biometric systems and technologies that may be i) delivered both to end-users and students, ii) that may include both advanced and introductory-level material iii) across a range of subjects (including, but *certainly* not limited to, technical, legal, ethics, practical usage and testing issues).

Our initial ideas relate to Training Schools. At this stage we need input from EAB members at two levels:

1. A group of people to define a framework for training events – this may look at novel opportunities to complement existing biometric training programmes. We foresee that this group will meet electronically almost once a month with the initial aim of defining the platform for the first pilot event by the end of the year. Work will also continue into the New Year monitoring the progress of the initiative.
2. The wider EAB membership can provide inputs as to i) what are the training requirements of the community that you represent (and at what level); ii) what training you may be able to provide; iii) what kind of financial support you believe can be provided to ensure the sustainability of training initiatives. We are particularly interested in hearing also from end-users of biometric systems to your training requirements to match the training events to EAB expertise.

We are looking to act quite quickly on this so I’d be grateful if you could provide your inputs by sending an email to r.m.guest@kent.ac.uk by Friday 11th October.

Richard Guest Chair, EAB Training and Education Committee.

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EAB Biometric News, September 30, 2019

**Monitoring Open Source Activities**

**Call for Participation**

During the EAB General Assembly it was proposed to start an EAB team in order to monitor Open Source activities, which are of relevance for industry and academia.

This initiative was proposed in order to improve the benefit of an EAB membership. For this reason we will re-activate the Industry Special Interest Group (or establish a new group) that is tasked to monitor Open Source activities.

As we all know, Open Source Software is empowered by the community and delivers transparent and reliable algorithms for research and industries. If you look at your toolbox, you will realize that you are using already open source in the one or the other form. GitHub, as one of the most common platforms, contains currently approx. 2500 projects, which are tagged with the keyword biometrics.

Have you ever been able to follow up with the community? For this simple reason, we like to establish a special interest group in EAB, which will monitor Open Source repositories and will provide a content list of Open Source projects, which are known to be useful for the field of biometrics.

We kindly ask for your support and participation in this special interest group to keep track on interesting biometric open source projects. The collected data will be presented at a closed section of the EAB website, only accessible for members.

Please contact Ralph Lessmann at email: ralph.lessmann@crossmatch.com
Open Post-Doc Position

EU JRC Announcement

The EU Joint Research Centre is looking for a post-doc for a new position as "Image Analytics Expert", ideally skilled in pattern recognition, computer vision, signal processing, image processing, biometrics and machine learning.

The research is sought for the EU-JRC unit E.3 "Cyber and Digital Citizens’ Security". A forensic background of the candidate would present a huge added value. For more details please refer to the link below:

https://recruitment.jrc.ec.europa.eu/?type=AX&site=IPR

FG IV -Scientific Project Officer – Image analytics Scientist

BIOSIG 2019 – Conference Report

The 18th edition of the International Conference of the Biometrics Special Interest Group (BIOSIG) from September 18 to 20, 2019 and attracted 84 registered participants.

The program was composed of scientific research contributions and three keynote talks.

You can read the conference report at:
http://z.eab.org/BIOSIG2019-report

The 2019 BIOSIG conference was jointly organized by the EAB, the Competence Center for Applied Security Technology (CAST) and the special interest group BIOSIG of the Gesellschaft für Informatik e.V. (GI).

The conference was technically co-sponsored by IEEE Biometric Council and the papers will be added to IEEE Xplore.

Next year the BIOSIG conference will take place between September 16 to 18, 2020 in Darmstadt, Germany. See: www.biosig.org

International Identity Day

September 16th is the International Identity Day. International days of observance are an effective and practical way to raise awareness and generate momentum around an issue.

The choice of the date is in recognition of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.9 which calls for legal identity for all including birth registration by 2030.

You can read more at: https://www.id-day.org/
Biometric Recognition at Altitude and Range

The U.S. based Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity (IARPA) is seeking information on research efforts and datasets that may be useful in planning a program focused on advancing the state-of-the-art of biometric recognition and identification at altitude and range.

The request for information (RFI) is issued solely for planning purposes and does not constitute a formal solicitation for proposals. You can more about the background and scope of the RFI at: https://www.fbo.gov/?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=f4cf47511798b50191158438f23882c3&tab=core&cview=0

In memoriam: European Data Protection Supervisor Giovanni Buttarelli

The EAB wants to inform its members with sadness that one of the most leading figures in data protection law and policy, Giovanni Buttarelli, passed away August 20, 2019, surrounded by his family.

Giovanni was the European Data Protection Supervisor and had a unique role in aiming at a balanced privacy and data protection approach. He had so many qualities of a leader and person, as testified by many, including friends, professionals and data protection commissioners from all over the world, on different fora (see for example, at IAPP).

Giovanni Buttarelli is also important for our biometric community as he was always on the forefront of innovation. In February 2011, he signed a positive opinion on behalf of the EDPS for the use of biometric pseudo identities in the framework of the TURBINE Project.

Typical for Giovanni was also his keenness to engage with and to explain to young persons such as students how data protection should work and is important. Notwithstanding his very busy schedule, he taught students about the ever-remaining challenges in this field in master classes in Brussels over several years. Even in the year that his devastating illness was omnipresent, he relentlessly kept on giving his views and was talking on events and conferences, was engaging with captains of industry, such as Tim Cook last October 2018 in Brussels, and was showing present for speeches. This is far from meaningless; or as others twittered: “with his brilliant legal mind, he dedicated his professional life to upholding the values on which the EU was founded” (Juncker).

Passing away too early, tributes are pouring and sent to his private office. His leadership and vision, as well as his personality, will be missed by many. Thank you, Giovanni.

Els Kindt on behalf of the
EAB Supervisory Board
**Face Recognition tracking Animals**

The Technology Review journal has reported on an unexpected use for face recognition: tracking chimpanzees.

The application is based on a deep-learning face recognition system and was training hours of video footage. The trained model is reliably determine the identity and the sex of the capture subjects.


The full scientific paper about this experiment is published in the *Science Advances*.

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**EU Limits for Facial Recognition Technology**

According to the Irish Times the EU plans limits on the use of face recognition technology.

The article is stating that the European Commission is planning a regulation that will give EU citizens explicit rights over the use of their facial data. This seems to be discussed in the upcoming regulation of artificial intelligence.

Read the original artical at: [https://www.irishtimes.com/business/technology/eu-plans-strict-limits-for-facial-recognition-technology-1.3993782](https://www.irishtimes.com/business/technology/eu-plans-strict-limits-for-facial-recognition-technology-1.3993782)

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**CEN/TS on Robustness against Biometric Presentation Attacks published**

A new Technical Specification (TS) has been published as CEN/TS 17262, which deals with personal identification and robustness of European Automated Border Control against Biometric Presentation Attacks.

While more and more border crossings in Europe are equiped with Automated Border Control (ABC) systems, the potential vulnerability of such systems against Presentation Attacks (a.k.a spoofing attacks) is a concern. For this reason, techniques for Presentation Attack Detection (PAD) mechanisms are essential. CEN/TS 17262:2018 focusses on them, providing recommendations for the implementation of PAD mechanisms in Europe.


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**EU LISA is launching Framework Contract for EES**

The European Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA) has launched the Framework Contract for the implementation and maintenance of the the Entry/Exit System (EES).

The EU LISA agency has launched a contract with the winning tendere, a consortium let by IBM Belgium. This is the beginning of an implementation, which will impact EU border management and internal security.
EAB Biometric News, September 30, 2019

**Prüm starts in the Next Generation**

The Focus Groups of DNA, Fingerprints, Vehicle Registration and Facial Recognition have started their work.

Following the entry into force in 2007 of the Treaty of Prüm between the Kingdom of Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Kingdom of Spain, the French Republic, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Republic of Austria on the stepping up of cross-border cooperation, particularly in combating terrorism, cross-border crime and illegal migration, this initiative is submitted with the aim of incorporating the substance of the provisions of the Prüm Treaty into the legal framework of the European Union as regulated in the EU Council Decisions 2008/615/JHA and 2008/616/JHA.

In accordance with these EU Council Prüm Decisions, the data of DNA, Fingerprints and Vehicle Registration should be exchanged among the police and justice authorities of all EU member states in an automated procedure. In the first DNA data exchange between Austria and Germany in December 2007, more than 1,500 hits have been achieved. A substantial contingent of unsolved cases by the police authorities in both countries have received significant clues and traces leading to further investigations. Although the unsolved criminal cases were more than a few decades ago, the genetic traits have helped the investigators in finding out the criminals who have committed the crimes, especially in rape, homicide and murder cases, and even a few decades ago.

Since the transposition of the Prüm Treaty into the EU legal framework in 2008, almost all EU member states have joined daily operations of data exchange on these three data categories with more or less other EU member states. For the time being, Germany is exchanging DNA data with other 22 EU member states (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and UK) in daily operations. It is anticipated, that Germany could start daily operations on DNA data exchange with Italy and Croatia still in this year.

By the end of 2018 the four Focus Groups (DNA, Facial Recognition, Fingerprints and Vehicle Registration) for the Next Generation Prüm have been established under the Austrian EU Presidency with the aim of optimizing daily operations and developing new mechanisms of data exchange in line with the international standards. In order to verify a DNA hit achieved in an automated procedure more effectively, the other biometric features and traits, e.g. fingerprints, may be taken into consideration. The notion of “Multiple Biometrics” may find its significant use in EU data exchange of the next generation of Prüm. The ISO Standardization series of 19794 and 39794 could be served as a reference interchange format among the EU member states. Resource Description Framework (RDF) is a standard model of W3C for data interchange on the Web. RDF has features that facilitate data merging even if the underlying XML Schemas differ, and it specially supports the evolution of XML Schemas over time without requiring all users’ data to be changed. On its merit, RDF extends the linking structure of the Web to use URIs to name the relationship between things as well as the two ends of the link. By using this simple model, it allows structured and semi-structured data to be mixed, exposed and shared across different applications. This linking mechanism forms a directed, labeled graph, where the edges represent the named link between two resources represented by the graph nodes.

Germany chairs the Focus Group of DNA. Austria, the Netherlands and Portugal hold the Chairman’s position respectively for the Focus Group Fingerprints, Vehicle Registration and Facial Recognition. All these four Focus Groups have started their work since April 2019. The voluntary delegates of the member states in the Focus Groups are working on four different Living Documents which will be forwarded to the EU community for approval by all EU member states.
ISO/IEC JT1 SC37 Conference in Darmstadt, Germany

The international standardisation committee on Biometrics ISO/IEC JTC1 SC37 met for its Summer 2019 Working Group meetings in Darmstadt from 08th July to 12th July.

During the week Working Group 3 discussed the comments on the Draft International Standards (DIS) for Extensible biometric data interchange formats:

- ISO/IEC 39794-4 Finger image data
- ISO/IEC 39794-5 Face image data

These two standards are now promoted to Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) and will be published in December 2019.

Further during the July meeting Working Group 5 discussed revision of ISO/IEC 19795-1 and promoted the document to DIS level.

The next committee meeting will take place in the U.S. on January 20–24, 2020. In order to participate in the July conference contact your national standardisation body (and the respective mirror-committee of SC37) – see: https://www.iso.org/members.html