

Do You Want to ...

... continue discussing topics in the Internet and freely voice your opinion in a blog? Do you want to take part in a demonstration without having to cover your face? Do you want to book your travels online and buy sneakers with an EC-card? Do you want to take a stroll whenever you like and loiter at will? And take your mobile along if you wish?

You may want to quit some of those favorite habits if the EC implements the INDECT-project ...

INDECT

The acronym stands for Intelligent Information System Supporting Observation, Searching and Detection for Security of Citizens in Urban Environment.

A total of 17 partners in nine member states are developing an infrastructure for linking existing surveillance technologies to form one mighty instrument for controlling the people. They are laying the foundation of a European police state, since INDECT's results serve to increase the effectiveness of police operation on the national and European level.

INDECT is funded under the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), the security-related research of which provides € 1.4 billion Euro for more than 60 partly interlaced projects.

The intimidating effect itself, however, is extremely dangerous for democratic societies. It can easily cause changes in the way citizens act, and sooner or later lead to an overly submissive society. Information and political resistance are needed to prevent these consequences.

What Can You Do?

- Get wise on INDECT and pass on the information.
- There's a list of links and comments at: www.panopticum-europe.eu
- Become connected with other activists ... national and internationally.
- Support our campaign by...
 - ... cooperating
 - ... donating.

Let's join forces – to critically analyze and comment documents, to do research and inquiries, to write open letters to data protection officials or politicians ... Maybe you can suggest additional steps?

Legally responsible for content:
FIff – Forum InformatikerInnen für Frieden und gesellschaftliche Verantwortung e.V.

Geschäftsstelle
Goetheplatz 4
28203 Bremen

Telefon: +49 (0) 421 - 33 65 92 55
Fax: +49 (0) 421 - 33 65 92 56
E-Mail: fiff@fiff.de

Kontakt: sylvia@fiff.de, kai@fiff.de

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Panopticum Europe

Project INDECT or: How the EU Promotes Surveillance Technology



E...I...f...F...

an initiative by
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This Is What the Police Will Work with in the Future:

- Unmanned aerial vehicles/drones with surveillance camera and sensors
- Software (for cameras etc.) to identify supposedly suspicious behavior or hostile intent
- Auto-tracking of mobile objects
- Software (autonomous agents) to monitor virtual spaces such as discussion forums in the Internet or social networks
- Safeguards, such as watermarking, to allow sophisticated controls on recorded images for evidence, and to index, analyse and administer multimedia content (such as video)
- A search engine combining direct search of data from the real and the virtual world

The EU's Current Security Policy

The recent law on Europol provides the legal framework for the effective use of technology developed in the INDECT-project. It foresees the possibility of passing on police information to undefined and very likely unaccountable bodies in third countries. Parliamentary control by the European Parliament as planned is insufficient.

INDECT-technology provides inward protection for the Fortress Europe. It supplements, enhances and connects central databases like the Schengen Information System (SIS) and the VISA

Information System (VIS). It thus provides technical and organizational support for FRONTEX, the EU border management agency which watches the European Union's borders and bars the access for human beings by questionable means.

Does the Project Comply with Legality Principles?

From the point of view of data and privacy protection, INDECT is unhelpful to say the least: Data is collected without the data subjects' knowledge and without purpose limitations, and mass surveillance is carried out of people who are no danger.

INDECT also develops autonomous Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) which up to now are forbidden in most of the member states. How long will it take until laws are modified to permit UAV deployment?

Stakeholders usually have no knowledge of the surveillance and can be denied access to their data with questionable arguments.

Ethically Clean – Censorship in Disguise?

There is an Ethics Board for INDECT. It is chaired by the Assistant Chief Constable of Northern Ireland, Drew Harris. He is supervised by his assistant - of all people. The composition of the ethics board is quite interesting anyhow, and any result emerging from this project has to receive its members' blessing before publication. The board can thus censor these publications, which may contradict the freedom of participating universities of education and to do research.

It is the officially declared purpose of the ethics board to make sure that the project is carried out in accordance with legal standards. However, posterior usage of the research results is of no concern to the board. Technology assessment is not an option, nowhere in this project. So we'd better start doing some right here and now.

Critical Assessment of INDECT-Research

There is a model for automatically recognizing abnormal behavior and violence. It is based exclusively on interviews with approximately 200 Polish policemen who were questioned about what they consider suspicious behavior. It is therefore not empirical findings on the causes of criminal action that were used for the model, but rather it is prejudice with possibly discriminating effects.

These discriminating effects may well add up to self-fulfilling prophecies if the persons they refer to are actually controlled more often and thus become conspicuous.

Real problems will arise once research leaves the pilot project's framework and its technologies are actually applied. This surveillance technology can also be used outside the EU - in totalitarian regimes. There is no real interest of participating firms to support an export prohibition.

