

Misleading information about INDECT

Here is a list of misleading information about INDECT with clarifications

„Main documents are not published. A project that is funded by EU taxpayers is subject to secrecy and censorship.”

This is definitively NOT true! No new information policy has been applied to the INDECT project. All relevant information of the INDECT project has been, is and will continue to be made publicly available on the project's website (<http://www.indect-project.eu/>). The project makes more than average effort in making the information available. The project is definitively interested in exposing research of the project to a broad public debate.

There are numerous ways of dissemination. For example, project results are presented at conferences, in scientific journals and in standardization activities. Furthermore, in May last year INDECT organized a two days' international conference where project results were presented in details: <http://mcss2010.indect-project.eu/>. In June this year, INDECT will organize another international conference where current project results will be presented in details: <http://mcss2011.indect-project.eu/>.

The INDECT Project Consortium certainly agrees that transparency is a prerequisite for avoiding misunderstandings. It is for exactly this reason that all relevant documents of the INDECT project are publicly available on the project's website (<http://www.indect-project.eu/>). In order to make project information more user friendly and more complete, INDECT has just revamped and updated its website.

INDECT is funded under the Seventh Framework Program (FP7); grant agreement 218086, as a "Collaborative Project". INDECT research area is defined by the FP7 call "Increasing the Security of citizens" (SEC-1). INDECT is one out of 60 EU projects related to security call in the framework of FP7. For all funded under FP7 projects, and their reports, there are dissemination levels that are indicated by one of the following codes:

- PU = Public
- PP = Restricted to other program participants (including the Commission Services).
- RE = Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services).
- CO = Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services).

The vast majority of FP7 reports (including INDECT deliverables) are "PU" (public). Exemptions to public disclosure consider cases which contain financial statements or could impact negatively on law enforcement capabilities or business competitiveness. FP7 Security Programme projects do not contain classified information, but publishing police operational documents means making the police weaker what would be against the idea of increasing security.

„Partners are developing an infrastructure for linking existing surveillance technologies to form one mighty instrument for controlling the people.”

This is definitively NOT true! INDECT is a research project. The list of objectives DOES NOT include ANY kind of global monitoring of ANY society.

The INDECT methodology imposes:

1. First, detecting specific crimes (like: Internet child pornography, promotion of totalitarian symbols, trafficking in human organs, spread of botnets, viruses, malware as well as terrorism, hooliganism and thievery), and, only then,
2. Second, detecting specific criminals standing behind the detected crimes.

„The INDECT project is to be tested on the visitors to the 2012 European Football Championship in Ukraine and Poland.”

This is definitively NOT true! The INDECT project is working on tools for a monitoring system to detect threats such as throwing objects in stadiums, in particular hazardous items (knives, fire crackers). The main purpose of this research is to develop new technology for automatic threat detection and privacy protection. Anyway, there are no plans to carry out tests during the 2012 championship at stadiums in Poland and Ukraine. At this stage the project builds the experimental setups inside the university campuses and in direct surroundings of

some universities. It should be underlined that only individuals that have given written consent will participate in the research. By doing this, predefined procedures are followed, comprising letters for permissions to administer and collect consent from the people involved in the experiments. The examinations are conducted exclusively within the universities and immediately adjacent lands, in the wake of obtaining all the possible approvals and permits, from people whose image and voice is recorded and stored.

Tests during 2012 European Football Championship are over-interpretation as in the INDECT Work Plan, the INDECT Consortium has only stated that "scenarios for proceeding in the event of terrorist threats during European Football Championships 2012 (Euro 2012) in Poland and Ukraine will be prepared as a part of INDECT realization".

„INDECT has known plans of test of technologies during the Olympic Games in 2012 London, rebellions, civil wars and flash mobs. Data are collected without the data subject's knowledge. Mass surveillance is carried out of people who are no danger. Data are collected without designation of purpose. Data economy or the subject's right to access or erasure are ignored. Preventive without cause collection and processing of information is possible without tangible suspicion.”

This is definitively NOT true! The INDECT project will never involve processing of any personal data without the prior written consent of individuals. Should any personal data of individuals be used during the project, this will be done on the basis of "informed consent" of individuals participating in the tests. INDECT will not make any personal data processed in connection with the project available to third parties. The project will not give any personal data available processed in connection with the project to third parties.

The INDECT Project Coordinator has designated an Ethics Board. The Ethics Board supervises the ethical aspects of the project's activities. The Ethics Board ensures strict fulfillment of the EU ethical rules on privacy, data protection, prevention of dual use, etc. The Ethics Board ensures strict fulfillment of the ethical rules set to deal with privacy, data protection, prevent dual use and guarantee informed consent of users in the project.

For more details, you may want to consult the project's website: <http://www.indect-project.eu/>, for example tests, please refer to: <http://www.indect-project.eu/events/wp1/car-plate-recognition-tests>.

Ethics Board reports to the Commission on potential improper use of research results. This requires inter alia that Article 8 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights be complied with, which gives everyone the right to the protection of their own personal data. It should be noted that personal data processing is limited by human rights, and voluntary acts are guaranteed on informed consent forms signed by persons whose data is being processed.

For more details, you may wish to consult the ethics section of the project's website: <http://www.indect-project.eu/approach-to-ethical-issues>.

„There is no independent control over INDECT research.”

This is definitively NOT true! First of all, the independent Ethics Review panel of the European Commission made a check of the ethical issues raised by the project. All the steps of the evaluation procedure including expert opinions, hearing procedure, have been passed successfully. Only then the project was selected for financial support.

Furthermore, Ethics Board is an independent body. The Board does not view its role as ensuring compliance as a minimalist task, solely designed to ensure legal compliance. Rather, it sees its function as broader, including overseeing scientific and societal issues related to the research activities conducted within the project. Ethics Board performs reviews of project Deliverables. The reviews consider such aspects as: indication and assessment of ethics related content of project reports, indication of legal framework relevant to the Deliverables, providing recommendations and proposals for possible implementation of tools elaborated in INDECT.

Finally, the INDECT Project was a subject to scrutiny carried out by Polish General Inspector of Personal Data Protection (pol. Główny Inspektor Ochrony Danych Osobowych – GIODO). Following the scrutiny a letter was issued by the Office of GIODO signed by The Director of Inspection Department. The letter states that the scrutiny that was performed at AGH University of Science and Technology had for the scope compliance with regulations concerning protection of personal data (law from 29th August 1997 on Protection of Personal Data) and regulation of the Minister of Interior Affairs and Administration, dated to 29th April 2004 with respect to processing of personal data and technical and organizational conditions that equipment and information systems used to process personal data should be conformant to. During control, no negative comments were received.

As all projects realized in the scope of EU 7th Framework Program INDECT is a subject to periodic reviews. This year the project will undergo a mid-term review. Independent experts will evaluate the work progress of INDECT, compliance of the research performed with objectives defined before the project was accepted for financing.

„INDECT technology gather information from, and fills up central/government data bases such as passports, Schengen Information System (SIS), border control system, dangerous people databases, movement databases (flight information records, toll, rail tickets), social security data, telephone tapping, cell phone tracking (e.g. via GSM/GPS), customer databases, financial transactions, RFID sensors, satellite cameras, banking information, DNA-related information, and VISA Information System (VIS). INDECT technically and organizationally supports the EU border protection agency FRONTEX.“

This is just ridiculous and an obvious example of incompetence when speaking about the project's application. INDECT has absolutely nothing to do with this type of data. INDECT will NOT use highly sensitive material, such as telephone intercept, VoIP, images in passports, etc. Researchers from the INDECT consortium do not have access to nonpublic personal information stored in databases, such as the Schengen Information System (SIS), a system of border control.

„INDECT researches EU Trojan Horses which record users' private computer activity.“

INDECT does not involve the creation of any technology, which uses software tools remotely installed on users' computer systems. This is misinterpretation of INACT Content-Based Search System (INDECT Advanced Image Catalogue Tool) that is researched by INDECT in order to target child pornography. INACT consists of two units: INACT Indexer and INACT Searcher. Using INACT Indexer, police officers are able to convert child pornography evidence files into a hash/descriptor database. Using INACT Searcher and the previously generated database, suspect file systems of individual, arrested computers, can be searched for similar/identical images (proofs). "Arrested" – which means put into custody according to the country regulations. For example in Poland the Police in order to do a search of a suspect's computer has to obtain a legal warrant, which is issued only in cases when a justified suspicion of commitment of crime exists. Currently, the first version of INACT is tested by Polish Police. In the next steps the INACT search engine will be developed with respect for more efficient searching. Consequently, the statement about EU Trojan Horses is, again, absolutely not true!

„Until Sep. 2010 neither civil rights activists nor privacy officers are members of the Ethics Board.“

This is definitively NOT true! At the very beginning of the project (Jan. 2009), the INDECT Project Coordinator designated an Ethics Board which was accepted by Project Board. The initial composition of the Ethics Board has already included, among others, a human rights lawyer, a professor of law and a professor of human computer interaction. In Dec. 2009, the project has decided to add a new member, a professor of ethics, as an additional external expert to the project's Ethics Board. Because of the strong emphasis on the ethical issues, on Jan./Feb. 2011 yet another new external member joins the Ethics Board (a professor of ethics and philosophy).