

# METICOS - Biometrics Usage in Border Control: Social Acceptance and Ethical Acceptability

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PRESENTATION:

Mohamed Abomhara

Multidisciplinary Research group on Privacy and data protEcTion (MR PET),

Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)



NTNU



METICOS in a nutshell



Overview of social acceptance and ethical acceptability, ethical question of acceptability and criteria of acceptable risk



Moving towards social acceptance and ethical acceptability framework



Conclusion

SLIDES No:

3-4

5-9

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# METICOS in a nutshell



## A Platform for Monitoring and Prediction of Social Impact and Acceptability of Modern Border Control Technology.



### 15 Consortium Partners

5 Universities

2 LE

2 SME

1 NGO

5 End Users -LEAs



### Project Information

#### METICOS

Grant agreement ID: 883075



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10.3030/883075

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31 August 2023

#### Funded under

Secure societies - Protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens

#### Total cost

€ 4 997 481,25

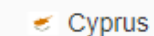
#### EU contribution

€ 4 997 481,25



#### Coordinated by

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY - CYPRUS LTD



# METICOS in short



Introduce **Big Data Analysis** to monitor the **acceptance** and **efficiency** of SBC technologies and join the European initiative for Smart Border



Provide a step-change and a valuable tool for more **modern** and **efficient** border management and for gaining **societal** and **political acceptance** of technologies for “**no gate crossing point solutions**”



Develop a platform able to **simulate** the **technology acceptance** and to estimate the **perception** of no gate crossing point solutions' users (travelers and border authorities)

**Ethical challenges and social acceptance are still not fully considered**



# Social acceptance and ethical acceptability



**Social acceptance** refers to the fact that a new technology is accepted – or merely tolerated – by a society

**Ethical acceptability** refers to a conceptual reflection on the technology that takes into account the moral issues that emerge from the introduction of new technology



# Social acceptance and neglected ethical issues

Integrating **biometrics technology** into to border control brings a great **benefits**:

**Accuracy**

**Integrity**

**Robustness and efficiency**



However, with **limited visibility** of the **benefits**, **heterogeneous society** and **socio-technological complexity** created new and significant **ethical issues**

**Personal privacy**

**Human dignity**

**Social inclusion/exclusion and risk of discrimination**



Evaluating these **risk**, increase the tendency to focus on **social acceptance**. However,

If we solely focus on **social acceptance studies**, we might overlook important **ethical issues**



# Ethical question of acceptability

What matters is “not only acceptance, but the ethical question of acceptability



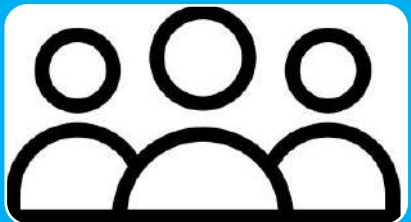
**What if social acceptance could be based on incomplete or faulty information**

- ✓ Society were never well informed about the nature of these technology
- ✓ It was impossible to know, reliably, the actual risks associated with these technology



**What if social acceptance might be achieved based on faulty or unfair procedures**

- ✓ Rules and procedures for decision-making should guarantee **(i)** participation **(ii)** fair information transfer **(iii)** transparency.



**Which publics should accept the technology**

- ✓ local level, nation-wide or/and international
- ✓ Different people uphold different values, and they have different interests (Whose opinion(s) should be decisive?)

# Criteria of acceptable risk



## Some 'ethics of risk acceptance' criteria stem from technology ethics

- ✓ Voluntariness, informed consent
- ✓ Precautionary principle



## Some are stemming from consequentialist ethics

- ✓ Do the benefits justify the risks?
- ✓ Risk cost-benefit analysis



## The availability of alternative technology



# Problems of ethical analysis



## **Moral principles are rather abstract (or vague)**

They need to be specified, before applying them to technology

Analyzing the case, identifying moral dilemmas and assumption etc.



## **Ethical analyses are often conceptual and they lack empirical insights (e.g., stakeholders' opinions)**



# Moving towards social acceptance and ethical acceptability framework



## Principle 1: Multi stakeholder empowerment

Technology stakeholders (e.g., suppliers and users of technology)

Experts (e.g., privacy/data protection professionals)

Public opinion and civil society

### ❑ Research questions and challenges

- ✓ How should we include opinions? Methodological challenges
- ✓ Whose opinion should we consider?
- ✓ How do we decide which opinion to include or to exclude, sufficiently taking into account the plurality of the society?
- ✓ If the stakeholders engagement leads to adjustments – are those changes to the general or specific principles?



# Moving towards social acceptance and ethical acceptability framework

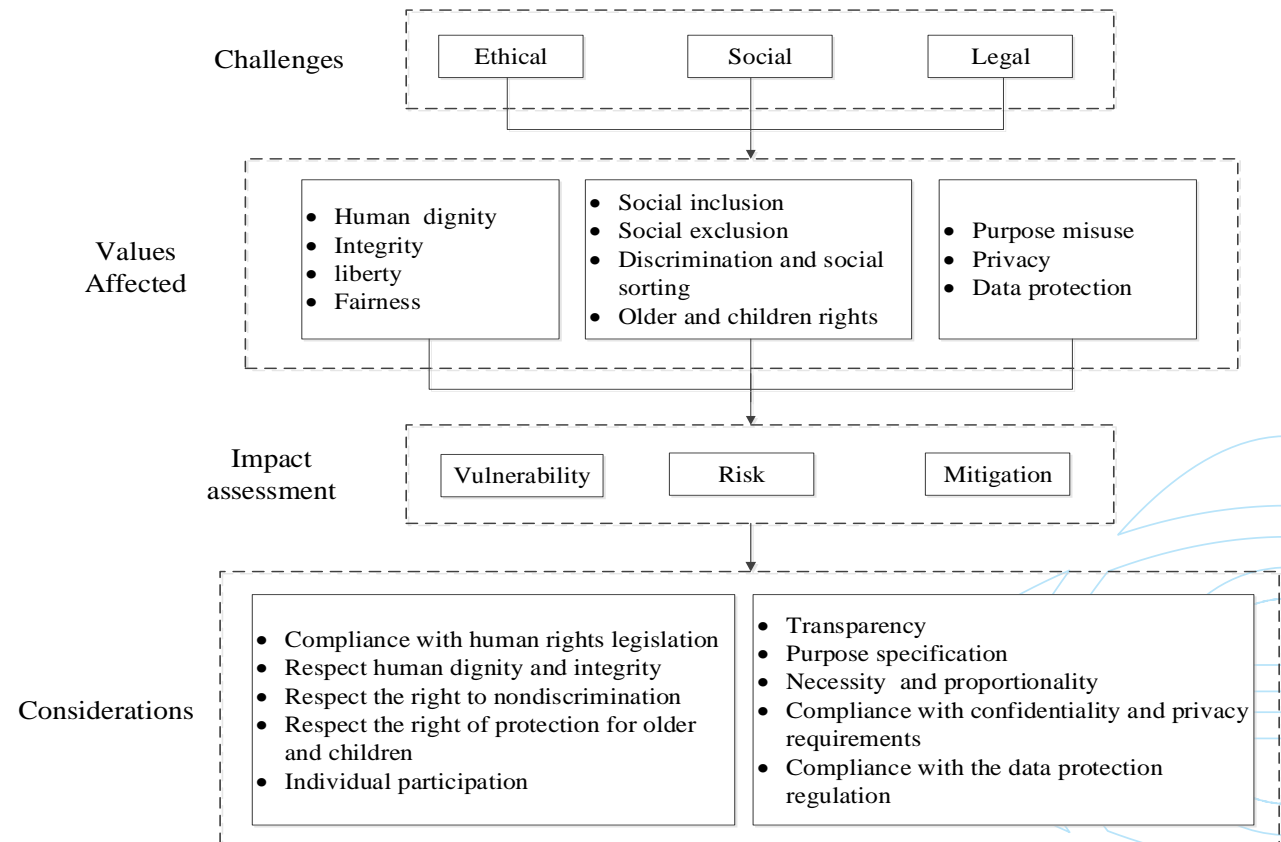


## Principle 2: Concerted approach for impact assessment

Security/data protection impact assessment

Ethical/privacy impact assessment

## Work done --- The "how to do it right" framework



Abomhara, Mohamed, et al. "How to do it right: a framework for biometrics supported border control." *International Conference on e-Democracy*. Springer, Cham, 2019.

# Moving towards social acceptance and ethical acceptability framework



## □ Principle 3: Accountability to create trust

- ✓ Transparency measures
  - ✓ Auditability measures
  - ✓ Documentation measures
- Demonstrate compliance

**Work in progress**



# Conclusion



- We need to move towards broad assessments of new technology, certainly those with high risks
- Good governance of risky technology requires us to assess both the social acceptance and the ethical acceptability of new technology
- We should distinguish between the values, principles and guidelines for re-designing the system of biometrics technology
- Need to increase societal awareness:** The communication of negative and positive impacts is an essential for the public.
- Need for more personalized messages:** People have different interests and levels of knowledge and experience which require different messages.
- Integrating ethics on engineering programming and computer science education and training**



# Thank you!!

Mohamed Abomhara [mohamed.Abomhara@ntnu.no](mailto:mohamed.Abomhara@ntnu.no)

