Identity in a Globalized World

- **IDENTITY**
  - A prerequisite of any inter-personal and social interactions
  - A basic fundamental human right

- **PERSONAL RECOGNITION**
  - The action of associating a PERSON with an IDENTITY
  - An important social practice which changes over time and across different cultures
PERSONAL RECOGNITION depends on the complexity of human interactions and on the technologies available at a certain time:

- **1st recognition scheme** in small scale urban societies based on body modifications and analogical identifiers

- **2nd recognition scheme** in large scale industrial societies based on passports and ID cards issued by States

- **3rd recognition scheme** introduced by globalization
GLOBALIZATION and IDENTITY

Removal of fixed boundaries, mobility of people, goods and information

Recognition of identities possible through:

- Birth registration, ID cards and passports
- From the 1960’s, Automatic Identification and Data Capture Technologies (Auto-ID)
BIOMETRICS

BIOS (Life) and METRON (Measure)
measurement of any living entity
Automated recognition of individuals based on the measurement of their biological or behavioural characteristics.

Intense evolution in last decades chiefly due to digitalization and advances in informatics.

1st generation (e.g. fingerprinting, iris scanning)
2nd generation (e.g. neural wave analysis, body odour)
Ethical Aspects of Biometrics

1. Respect for human dignity
2. “Informatization” of the human body
3. Data protection and Privacy
4. Respect for intimacy and body integrity
1) Respect for Human Dignity

By substituting names with codes, might biometrics degrade the human condition to that of animals or things?
2) Informatization of the body

Is there any risk linked to the digitalization of human attributes and their distribution across the global information network?
3) Data Protection and Privacy

What level of protection do biometric data deserve?
Is there any risk related to the possible linkage of several biometric databases?
4) Respect for body integrity and intimacy

Is there any risk that biometrics may be felt as heavily intrusive technologies?
Multiculturalism introduces further complexities:

1. Can ethnicity be derived from biometric data?
2. Do different ethnic types find it more or less difficult to use a particular biometric technique?
3. Is there any risk of discrimination against minorities?
4. Is there any risk of categorization through profiling groups of people?
1) Can ethnicity be derived from biometric data?

In certain cases, yes (e.g.: face recognition)

However, no sufficient research has yet been conducted on this subject.
2) Do different ethnic types find it more or less difficult to use biometrics?

Still pending question (e.g. oriental people seem to find more difficulties towards face recognition)
3) Is there any risk of discrimination?

Maybe
(e.g. short people may find it difficult to use the iris scan device)
4) Is there any risk of categorization through group profiling?

Big question

One of the issues to be discussed in the future
RISE (Rising pan-European and International Awareness on Biometric and Security Ethics) is a 3 year project funded by the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Commission.

www.riseproject.eu
BACKGROUND

Two previous conferences on ethics and biometrics (Brussels, 2005 – Washington, 2006) and two linked projects (BITE and HIDE)

VISION

Promoting global conversation between the main actors is essential in order to establish effective security policies, particularly in the field of biometrics

MISSION

Ensure continuity and enlarge the international dialogue to Asia
The RISE project (3)

- **PROJECT PARTNERS**
  - **CSSC** (Italy) – Project Coordinator
  - **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki** (Greece)
  - **Biometric Research Centre, HK University** (China)
  - **Centre for Policy on Emerging Technologies** (US)
  - **Data Security Council of India** (India)
  - **European Biometric Forum** (Ireland)
  - **Global Security Intelligence** (US)
  - **Lancaster University** (UK)
  - **University of Tartu** (EE)
The RISE project (4)

- EVENTS

India Meeting – New Delhi, 24&25 Sept 2009

3° International Conference – Hong Kong, 4&5 Jan 2010

3 Workshops in Brussels

Multistakeholder Conference – Brussels, 9&10 Dec 2010

Washington Meeting – Washington, 5&6 May 2011

4° International Conference – Brussels, 1&2 Dec 2011
Thanks!

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RISE PROJECT

www.riseproject.eu

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EACME ANNUAL MEETING, Venice 10-11 September 2009