

# Rising pan-European and International Awareness of Biometrics and Security Ethics

## RISE

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Security is an area where ethics and fundamental values have been hardly considered relevant. The nature of security has led to arguments about a particular need for secrecy and efficiency of decisions, which by many is considered difficult to reconcile with the requirements for democratic accountability and respect for ethical principles. The assumption that security policies, as well as international agreements relevant to them, have to be consistent with EU values demands a paradigm shift. Europe's strategy stresses that the nature and uncertainty of new threats, their pathways and potential effects requires a global approach, which involves not only transatlantic actors but also other continental players. Asia encompasses nearly 60% of the world's population and 60% of world trade. The international dialogue started with the two previous conferences on ethics of biometrics in Brussels (2005) and Washington DC (2006) should then continue and enlarge to Asia.



*RISE is a 36 month project funded in the scope of FP7, which aims to promote pan-European and International Awareness on Ethical Aspects of Biometrics and Security Technologies. In particular the project aims to deepen, enlarge, and ensure continuity to international dialogue already instigated by the international conferences on ethics and biometrics organised by the EC DG Research and the US DHS Privacy Office respectively in Brussels and Washington DC in 2005 and 2006.*

*RISE's framing point is the new political landscape created by the Treaty of Lisbon of the European Union. The EU is now on the verge of a multifaceted reform of its decision-making rules for security, which may have deep ethical and political implications. RISE will address these issues.*

## RISE CONSORTIUM

Centre for Science, Society and Citizenship (Italy)  
Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece)  
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Biometric Research Center (China)  
Centre for Policy on Emerging Technologies (United States)  
Lancaster University (United Kingdom)  
European Biometric Forum (Ireland)  
Global Security Intelligence LLC (United States)  
Data Security Council of India (India)  
University of Tartu (Estonia)



## RISE WORKPLAN

The RISE project aims to raise pan-European and International Awareness of Biometrics and Security Ethics. The project is based on three main concepts:

1. Dialogue must be global
2. Policy must be ethically informed
3. Conversation must be ongoing

THESE IDEAS GENERATED THREE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

**O1:** preparing and convening a third international conference in China

**O2:** preparing and convening a European multi-stakeholder meeting;

**O3:** preparing and convening a fourth international conference and launching a dialogue initiative

RISE's strategy is based on the involvement of the wider community of stakeholders and a careful design of its meetings and workshops. A crucial lesson that we have learned from previous conferences is the importance of a multi-disciplinary, multi-sectors, multi-level, cross-borders participation. A pluralist environment is the most suited to stimulate thinking out of the box and search for innovative, win-win, solutions. It avoids "specialists" entering into a vicious circle, and allows participants to reframe issues.



RISE will set up an international dialogue initiative, which will be presented at the project's completion. The initiative aims to strengthen the relationship and increase mutual understanding, in a spirit of mutual respect and equal partnership. It will provide an informal, open forum to discuss ethical, privacy and social issue raised by biometrics and security technologies. In this way it will complement work carried out in bilateral and multilateral forums sponsored at governmental level. It will be also responsible for promoting a biennial conference, which should give the overall political impetus to the dialogue.

## RISE TIMELINE

<b>March 12-13 2009</b>	Rome	<i>Kick off Meeting</i>
<b>September 24-25 2009</b>	Delhi	<i>Meeting on Privacy and Data Protection in India</i>
<b>November 5 -6 2009</b>	Brussels	<i>Workshop of Individual Identification</i>
<b>January 4-5 2010</b>	Hong Kong	<i>3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference of Ethics and Policy of Biometrics</i>
<b>March 25 -26 2010</b>	Brussels	<i>Workshop on Global Mobility</i>
<b>September 23-24 2010</b>	Brussels	<i>Workshop on Cyber Security</i>
<b>December 9 -10 2010</b>	Brussels	<i>Stakeholder Conference</i>
<b>May 5 -6 2011</b>	Washington DC	<i>Meeting on Transatlantic Data Sharing</i>
<b>December 1-2 2011</b>	Brussels	<i>4<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Ethics and Policy of Biometrics</i>
<b>February 2012</b>	Rome	<i>Conclusion of the project and launching of an international dialogue initiative</i>