



enhAnced Mobile BiomEtRics

DELIVERABLE: D1.3

1st Network Periodic Report

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AMBER: enhanced Mobile BiomEtRics ETN

Deliverable D1.3 - 1st Network Periodic Report

December 2017

Introduction

This report outlines the activities of the AMBER ETN network during 2017. AMBER officially commenced on the 1st January 2017 - this report highlights its first year of operation up to and including December 2017. The Network will run until December 2020.

Activities

Our central activities in 2017 has been the recruitment of Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) to the 10 sub-projects within AMBER. Our original plans included a phased starting pattern of ESRs between July (M7) and October (M10). Advertising, recruitment and (where necessary) residence/employment documentation was successfully completed on time for seven of the 10 ESRs projects. One of the ESRs at UC3M started in November (M11) rather than July (M7); this was caused by the last-minute withdrawal of the initially appointed ESR. The two ESRs hosted by WUT are also delayed to November (M11) and December (M12) due to recruitment problems. With the agreement of our EC Project Officer we have shifted the deadlines for the deliverables associated with these three ESRs to reflect their revised start and secondment dates.

By the middle of December 2017 (M12) all ESRs were in post.

We have held three consortium meetings during 2017. At each meeting, a formal Steering Board was held:

- Launch Meeting hosted by UC3M in Brussels, January 2017.

This meeting was attending by representatives of each of the Beneficiaries and the EC Project Officer. The primary topics were the agreement of financial responsibilities concerning meetings and secondments and plans for recruitment.

- Kick-off Meeting in Magdeburg, July 2017.

This meeting gathered together the Beneficiary and Industrial partners. The purpose of the meeting was to ensure that Industrial Partners were briefed on the operation of the Network, their responsibilities and the opportunities that are afforded to them.

- AMBER Workshop 1 – in Canterbury, November 2017.

The first formal training meeting where all ESRs and Beneficiary academics were present. The workshop provided an outline of the AMBER Network, transferable skills on the state-of-the-art in biometric systems, standardisation, publications, industrial vs academic research and social media. Importantly it provided an outlet for students to interact, plan research and activities, and assess future possibilities within the Network for collaboration and exploitation.

In addition to these physical meetings, we have also held monthly Skype meetings for the lead academic researchers at each site.

AMBER has already organised and supported a European Workshop in Mobile Biometrics in association with the European Association of Biometrics. This was held in Canterbury in November 2017 attracting over 30 participants. As well as learning about recent developments from multiple participants, we were able to update the community as to the aims and objectives of the AMBER network.

AMBER has also been represented at the following events:

- Invited talk at the University of York, UK
- Invited talk at OMNISECURE 2017, Berlin, Germany
- Invited talk at the European Association of Biometrics Research Projects Conference 2017
- Invited talk at Norwegian Biometrics Laboratory Workshop 2017

We have also organised a Special Session in EUSIPCO 2018 (<http://www.eusipco2018.org/>) on mobile biometrics. This conference will take place in Rome during September 2018. The programme will include a mix of AMBER-based presentations and projects external to the ITN.

Progress

Key progress indicators include:

- All ESRs recruited as noted above.
- We have appointed Jeanne Pia Mifsud Bonnici, Professor in European Technology Law and Human Rights at the University of Groningen, as Ethics Advisor to the Network.
- We have recruited four members of our Advisory Board: Stephen Elliott (Purdue University, US), Tony Mansfield (NPL, UK), Sambit Bakshi, (National Institute of Technology Rourkela, India) and Young-Bin Kwon (Chung-Ang University, South Korea). The Advisory Board will first meet in Rome next May.
- We are currently planning for a series of secondments scheduled to take place during 2018. We have encountered some issues regarding visa requirements for non-EU ESRs but we are confident that all secondments will take place as scheduled.
- The majority of Deliverables have been uploaded on schedule. We have had to make some rearrangements to a series of SoA reports caused by the late starting of two of the ESRs. All ethics deliverables, website construction, dissemination and training plans have been delivered on time.
- AMBER is proceeding on budget.