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RISE: An International Platform Devoted to Ethics of Biometrics and Security Technologies

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The European Commission has decided to fund an international dialogue platform devoted to the ethics of biometrics and security technologies. A new project, RISE (Rising pan-European and International Awareness on Biometrics and Security Ethics), has been officially launched in March 2009 within the scope of the Seventh Framework Programme (7FP), Science in Society, with the aim of setting up such a platform.

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RISE's mission is to create an internationally recognized ethical framework to be used while planning and managing security policies, notably biometrics. Ethical implications of biometric identification technologies directly concern respect for body integrity and dignity, protection of weaker communities and their privacy rights.

RISE will set up an international initiative to monitor ethical and policy issues raised by biometrics and security technologies - the project aims to involve key European and international actors in an ongoing, policy-related, non-official, dialogue on privacy and ethics of biometrics and security technologies. RISE will ensure continuity of the international conversation already instigated by two previous projects, BITE (www.biteproject.org) and HIDE (www.hideproject.org) and by two international conferences on biometrics organized by the European Commission (1st International Conference, Brussels Dec 2005) and the US DHS Privacy Office (2nd International Conference, Washington DC Nov 2006).

The RISE consortium brings together 9 European and non-European partners, located in 8 different countries (5 EU Member States, US, China and India). Partners include 3 universities, 2 private research centers, 2 stakeholder associations, 1 public research institution and 1 consultancy. The RISE website will be available from May 2009 at the following link: www.riseproject.eu. In the meantime, for more details on the project or to enlist on the RISE mailing list, please contact the project coordinator, emilio.mordini@cssc.eu

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