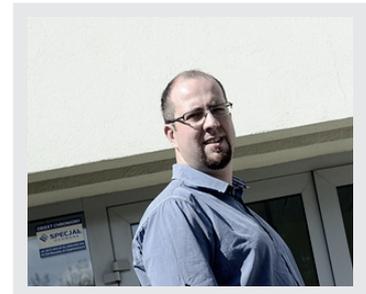


Foreword about Mikolaj Leszczuk, Assistant Professor, Department of Telecommunications, AGH University of Science and Technology, Krakow, Poland:

Mikolaj Leszczuk, Ph.D., is an assistant professor at the Department of Telecommunications, AGH University of Science and Technology (AGH-UST), Krakow, Poland). He received his M.Sc. in Electronics and Telecommunications in 2000 and Ph.D. degree in Telecommunications in 2006, both from AGH-UST. He is currently teaching Digital Video Libraries, Information Technology and Basics of Telecommunications. In 2000 he visited Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (Madrid, Spain) for a scientific scholarship. During 1997-1999 he was employed by several Comarch holding companies as a Manager of Research and Development Department, President of the Management and Manager of the Multimedia Technologies Department. He has participated actively as a steering committee member or researcher in several national and European projects, including: INDECT, BRONCHOVID, GAMA, e-Health ERA, PRO-ACCESS, Krakow Centre of Telemedicine, CONTENT, E-NEXT, OASIS Archive, and BTI. He is a member of the VQEG (Video Quality Experts Group) Board and a co-chair of VQEG QART (Quality Assessment for Recognition Tasks) Group and VQEG MOAVI (Monitoring Of Audio-visual Quality by Key Indicators). His current activities are focused on e-Health, multimedia for security purposes, P2P, image/video processing (for general purposes as well as for medicine), the development of digital video libraries, particularly video summarization, indexing, compression and streaming subsystems. He has been a chairman of several conference sessions. He is a member of The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Society since 2000. He has served as an expert for the European Framework Programme and the Polish State Foresight Programme as well as a reviewer for several conferences publications and journals.



Mikolaj Leszczuk

Dear readers,

My professional carrier in last five years is closely connected with INDECT project. The purpose of the INDECT project is to involve European scientists and researchers in the development of solutions to and tools for automatic threat detection.

The primary objective is to develop advanced and innovative algorithms for human decision support in combating terrorism and other criminal activities, such as human trafficking, child pornography, detection of dangerous situations (e.g. robberies) and the use of dangerous objects (e.g. knives or guns) in public spaces. Efficient tools for dealing with such situations are crucial to ensuring the safety of citizens. A significant part of the project is dedicated to the development of tools and methods for data and privacy protection. The processed information is protected before its transmission or storage to prevent any attempts at unauthorized access. Dedicated tools are being developed to protect citizens' privacy in areas covered by visual monitoring systems.

Efforts to develop storage and transmission techniques are showing the great potential of digital platforms in accessing video surveillance recordings. Video compression and transmission, however, cause the majority of common problems during the construction and use of these platforms. Video surveillance require a new dimension in quality requirements, as lossy compression techniques for video resources must be both efficient and reliable from the viewpoint of public safety. Video service characterized by blurred images may result in serious consequences for a police officer. Therefore, the aim of the INDECT project is to develop the quality assessment of video sequences in user applications by cooperating in the drawing up of research methods including any amendments to the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) specifications and standards such as predictive models based on appropriate network parameters.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Advances in Electrical and Electronic Engineering team. I am convinced that this journal Advances in Electrical and Electronic Engineering can become a world of sharing ideas and thoughts.