Case Study

Mostar prison implements TAB Systems access control system based on facial recognition

The Customer

The construction of this prison in Mostar began in mid-1891, along with the building of the District Court, which was located near the prison, and where the cantonal court is today. The building of the prison was surrounded by high walls (as they are today) that do not allow any visual contact with the outside world. The prison received electric lighting in 1922, during the Kingdom of SHS. The Mostar prison, today Half Open Type Penal Correctional Facility - Mostar, basically retained its exterior look.

During the last war from 1992 to 1995 the prison building was located on the front line of the war, so it was destroyed and rebuilt and placed back into operation in 1995. In the period since 2001 till today essential reconstruction of toilets, living rooms for the convicted persons, bedrooms etc. were carried out in order to improve the lives and living conditions of the convicts. In 2008 the
renovation and upgrade of the administration building was carried out. This also resulted in the expansion of accommodation facilities for convicts. The prison also implemented technical improvements in order to monitor the behavior of convicts through video surveillance. The premises for religious services, sports and recreational facilities and the clinic were renovated. A cinema was also built.

As part of an ongoing renovation and modernization of the prison, the access control system and door locking systems at the entrance to the facility, also needed an upgrade.

The Solution

To meet Mostar Prison’s challenging requirements on access control security in its facility, TAB Systems facial recognition access control system based on TCP/IP was selected.

The entrance is basically an air lock with the main door on the outside of the facility and a secondary door on the inside. So a person wishing to enter must go through two doors.

The latest dedicated electronic locking mechanism for prisons was installed in both doors. A smarti® Diadem unit was installed on the outside of the main door and connected to both door locking mechanisms through special relay controllers located in the inside of the building. A second unit the smarti® Diadem unit was mounted beside the secondary door on the inside of the premises. It is also connected to the same relay controller as the first, so it can control both of the doors. The third unit is a smarti® Felix which is located in the main guard house beside the entrance. The guards on duty are stationed here.

All three of the units are connected to the same network through TCP/IP connection; additionally a desktop computer is also a part of the system/network. The computer is used by the system administrator for administration and is located in a secured control room.

The system is used by both the prison employees and the police men stationed in the prison who work in three shifts.

A member of staff wishing to enter the prison is identified on the smarti® Diadem unit using PIN + facial identification (1:1 identification). The system unlocks the main door and after the door is closed the second door is unlocked. The same process is applied when exiting the building but this time the
identification is done on the Diadem unit inside.

Visitors to the prison can use the Diadem unit at the main entry door. They are connected through video intercom connection to the guard who is on duty in the main guard house. The guard uses the smarti® Felix unit to talk to the visitor and he can let the visitors in by unlocking the first door. The second door is opened when the first door is closed and everything is OK. The visitor is than searched entered in to the visitors book etc.

With the smarti® system The Mostar prison gained a modern biometric access control system for their main entrance which prevents abuse and is highly secure. And the system also enables them to manage visitors easily. If the need arises they also have the ability to gain more control over staffing with the integrated time & attendance solution which is present in the smarti® system.