



# EU INFORMATION SYSTEMS

June 2017

Information exchange between Member States is a key tool in strengthening our defences against terrorism and organised crime. Over the past years, the EU has been developing large-scale centralised IT information systems for collecting, processing and sharing information relevant to security, migration and external border management. These systems are key for security cooperation in the EU. Since April 2016, the Commission has been working with experts towards improving the interoperability and interconnection between these systems to maximise their benefits and close existing gaps.

## Existing Information Systems

### Schengen Information System (SIS)

Centralised database for controls at external Schengen borders and law enforcement and judicial cooperation

SIS is a centralised, large-scale information system which stores alerts and provides information on wanted persons or objects. The system also includes instructions to police officers or border guards on the specific action to be taken when a person or object is located, for example to arrest a person, protect a vulnerable missing person or to seize an object, such as an invalid passport or stolen car. Consulted 2.9 billion times in 2015, SIS is the most widely used information sharing system for border management and security in Europe.

#### Participating countries

22 EU Schengen Members



4 Schengen Associated Countries



Switzerland

Norway

Iceland

Liechtenstein

#### To whom does it apply?

All EU and  
**third-country**  
nationals



#### Proposed improvements

A revision of SIS was proposed on 21 December 2016 to bring about important technical and operational improvements to the system, creating new alert categories and ensuring an even more efficient information exchange between Member States and with EU Agencies such as Europol, Eurojust and the European Border and Coast Guard.

### Visa Information System (VIS)

Exchange of information on EU visas between Schengen Members

VIS connects consulates in non-EU countries and all external border crossing points of Schengen States. It collects data and decisions relating to applications for short-stay visas to visit or transit through the Schengen Area. VIS is one of the most advanced systems of its kind, with close to 23 million visa applications and 18.8 million fingerprints registered by the end of March 2016

#### Participating countries

22 EU Schengen Members



4 Schengen Associated Countries



Switzerland

Norway

Iceland

Liechtenstein

#### To whom does it apply?

EU visa-required  
**third-country**  
nationals



#### Upcoming improvements

A revision of VIS is foreseen for 2017 to improve its functionalities and to ensure its interoperability and interconnectivity with EES and ETIAS.

## EURODAC

### EU asylum fingerprint database

Eurodac is a biometric matching database established to facilitate the determination of the Member States responsible for the examination of an asylum application under the Dublin Regulation. It enables Member States to compare the fingerprints of asylum applicants in order to see whether they have previously applied for asylum or entered the EU irregularly via another Member State.

#### Participating countries

28 EU Member States



4 Schengen Associated Countries



Switzerland



Norway



Iceland



Liechtenstein

#### To whom does it apply?

**Third-country** nationals applying for asylum in the EU



#### Proposed improvements

A revision of EURODAC was proposed on 4 May 2016 to expand the scope of the database to include irregular crossings and identification of illegally staying third-country nationals.

## European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS)

### Exchange of information on criminal convictions

ECRIS is a decentralised electronic system to exchange criminal records information between EU Member States. The system provides judges and prosecutors with easy access to comprehensive information on the criminal history of persons concerned, no matter in which Member States that person has been convicted in the past. Member States sent through ECRIS around 364,751 requests in 2016.

#### 28 Members

EU Member States



#### To whom does it apply?

All persons convicted in the EU and whose conviction appears in the national criminal records registers of the Member States

#### Proposed improvements

A new directive was proposed on 19 January 2016 to enable the use of ECRIS for the exchange of criminal records of non-EU nationals.

## Future Information Systems

### Entry / Exit System (EES)

#### System recording crossings of the external EU borders

The Entry-Exit System will collect data (identity and travel documents) and register entry and exit records (date and place of entry and exit) to facilitate border crossing of *bona fide* travellers and to identify visa over-stayers. It will replace the current system of manual stamping of passports.

#### Participating countries

21 EU Schengen Members



Denmark to decide



4 Schengen Associated Countries



Switzerland



Norway



Iceland



Liechtenstein

#### To whom does it apply?

All **third-country** nationals



(for short stay visits only)

#### Next Steps

- Presented by the Commission: 6 April 2016
- Expected adoption: mid-2017
- Operational: in 2020

## European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)

Pre-travel security and irregular migration screening of visa-exempt non-EU nationals

ETIAS will gather information on all travellers who are travelling visa-free to Europe and ensure that possible security and irregular migration concerns are identified prior to travel to the Schengen area, contributing to a more efficient management of the EU's external borders, improving internal security and better managing irregular migration.

### Participating countries

25 EU Member States



Denmark to decide



4 Schengen Associated Countries



Switzerland



Norway



Iceland



Liechtenstein

### To whom does it apply?



EU visa-exempt  
**third-country** nationals

### Next Steps

- Presented by the Commission: 16 November 2016
- Expected adoption: by the end of 2017
- Operational: as early as 2020

## Who can access which database?

	SIS	VIS	EURODAC	EES	ETIAS
<b>Exclusively accessible to authorised users within the competent national authorities and under certain conditions/limitations:</b>					
Visa and immigration authorities (consular posts)	●	●		●	
Border controls authorities (border guards)	●	●		●	●
Asylum authorities	●	●	●		
Police authorities	●				
Customs authorities	●				
Judicial authorities	●				
Vehicle, boat and aircraft registration authorities	●				
Carriers				●	●
<b>Under certain conditions:</b>					
National authorities		●		●	●
Europol	●	●		●	●
Eurojust	●				
European Border and Coast Guard Agency	●				●