



EU INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Security and Borders

December 2017

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 vital for security cooperation, as well as for the management of external borders and migration in the EU. The Commission is now proposing to make these information systems at EU level interoperable — that is, able to exchange data and share information so that authorities and competent officials have the information they need, when and where they need it, and to ensure that this information is complete, accurate and reliable

EXISTING INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Schengen Information System (SIS)

EU-wide database for controls at external Schengen borders, and law enforcement and judicial cooperation

SIS is an EU-wide, large-scale information system that stores alerts and provides information on certain categories of wanted or missing 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, to protect a vulnerable missing person or to seize an object, such as an invalid passport or stolen car. Consulted 3.9 billion times in 2016, SIS is the most widely used information-sharing system for border management and security in Europe.

Participating countries

26 EU Member States



4 Schengen Associated Countries



Switzerland



Norway



Iceland



Liechtenstein

To whom does it apply?

EU and
non-EU
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 even more efficient information exchange between Member States and with EU Agencies such as Europol, Eurojust and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency.

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 over 50 million visa applications and 37.5 million fingerprint sets registered as of November 2017.

Participating countries

22 EU Member States



4 Schengen Associated Countries



Switzerland



Norway



Iceland



Liechtenstein

To whom does it apply?

Non-EU
nationals
requiring
an EU visa



Upcoming improvements

A revision of VIS is planned for 2018 to improve its functionalities and to ensure its interoperability with the other EU large scale information systems.

Eurodac

EU asylum fingerprint database

Eurodac is a database with fingerprint data of asylum applicants and third-country nationals who have crossed the external borders irregularly or who are irregularly staying in a Member State.

Participating countries

28 EU Member States



4 Schengen Associated Countries



Switzerland



Norway



Iceland



Liechtenstein

To whom does it apply?

Non-EU 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 non-EU nationals.

European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS)

Exchange of information on criminal convictions

ECRIS is a decentralised electronic system to exchange criminal record information between EU Member States. The system provides judges, prosecutors and other relevant authorities with easy access to comprehensive information on an individual's criminal history, no matter in which Member State that person has been convicted in the past. Member States sent around 364,751 requests through ECRIS in 2016.

Participating countries

28 EU Member States



To whom does it apply?

All persons convicted in the EU and whose conviction appears in national criminal records registers.

Proposed improvements

Two new instruments were proposed in 2016 and 2017 to create the ECRIS-Third Country National system, which will make ECRIS more efficient when it comes to the exchange of criminal records information about non-EU nationals.

FUTURE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Entry/Exit System (EES)

Recording crossing of the EU's external borders

The Entry/Exit System will collect the data of non-EU nationals (identity and travel documents) and register their 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 Member States



Denmark to decide



4 Schengen Associated Countries



Switzerland



Norway



Iceland



Liechtenstein

To whom does it apply?

All **non-EU** nationals



(for short stay visits only)

Next Steps

- Presented by the Commission: 6 April 2016
- Adoption: November 2017
- Scheduled operation: 2020

ECRIS-TCN system

Criminal records information about non-EU nationals

The ECRIS-Third Country National system will be a centralised hit/no-hit system to supplement the existing EU criminal records database in relation to non-EU nationals convicted in the European Union. It will allow Member States to quickly find out in which other Member State(s) information on previous convictions of a non-EU national is stored, so that the ECRIS system can then be used to exchange this information.

Participating countries

26 EU Member States



Ireland to decide



To whom does it apply?

All non-EU nationals and **stateless persons** convicted in the EU and whose convictions are stored in the national registers of criminal records.

Next Steps

- Proposals by the Commission:
Directive - 19 January 2016
Regulation - 29 June 2017
- Expected adoption: mid-2018
- Scheduled operation: 2020/2021

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. This will contribute to a more efficient management of the EU's external borders, improving internal security and facilitating a better management of 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
non-EU nationals

Next Steps

- Presented by the Commission: 16 November 2016
- Expected adoption: early 2018
- Scheduled operational: 2020

WHO CAN ACCESS WHICH DATABASE?

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

* As proposed in the Commission's December 2016 legislative proposals