



EU INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Security and Borders

April 2019

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. In December 2017, the Commission proposed to make these information systems at EU level interoperable — that is, able to exchange data and share information so that authorities and officials responsible 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 them, protect a vulnerable missing person or to seize an object, such as an invalid passport or stolen car. Checked over **6.2 billion times in 2018**, 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



Recent improvements

A revision of SIS entered into force in December 2018. It will bring about important technical and operational improvements including new alert categories and ensure 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 on 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 60 million visa applications and 40 million fingerprint datasets registered as of August 2018.

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



Proposed improvements

A revision of VIS was proposed in May 2018 to include records on long-stay documents and ensure its interoperability with other EU large-scale information systems. Negotiations on this proposal will start in late 2019, after the elections to the European Parliament.

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 staying irregularly in a Member State.

<p>Participating countries</p> <p>28 EU Member States</p>  <p>4 Schengen Associated Countries</p>     <p>Switzerland Norway Iceland Liechtenstein</p>	<p>To whom does it apply?</p> <p>Non-EU nationals applying for asylum in the EU</p> 	<p>Proposed improvements</p> <p>A revision of Eurodac was proposed in May 2016 to expand the scope of the database to include irregular crossings and identification of illegally-staying non-EU nationals.</p>
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European Criminal Records Information System (ECRIS)

Exchange of information on criminal convictions

ECRIS is a decentralised electronic system to exchange information on criminal records 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 **680,000 requests through ECRIS in 2018**.

<p>Participating countries</p> <p>28 EU Member States</p> 	<p>To whom does it apply?</p> <p>All persons convicted in the EU and whose conviction appears in national criminal records registers.</p>	<p>Proposed improvements</p> <p>Two proposals agreed in April 2019 will strengthen ECRIS and create the ECRIS-Third Country National system (ECRIS-TCN). It will make the system more efficient when it comes to the exchange of information on criminal records held on non-EU nationals.</p>
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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 border-crossing at entry and exit (date and place) to facilitate border crossing of bona fide travellers and to identify over-stayers. It will replace the current process of manual stamping of passports.

<p>Participating countries</p> <p>24 EU Member States</p>  <p>4 Schengen Associated Countries</p>     <p>Switzerland Norway Iceland Liechtenstein</p>	<p>To whom does it apply?</p> <p>All non-EU nationals</p>  <p>(for short-stay visits only)</p>	<p>Next Steps</p> <p>The system is currently being designed and implemented by eu-LISA. It is expected to be operational in 2021.</p>
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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 and exchange that information with each other.

<p>Participating countries</p> <p>26 EU Member States</p>  <p>Ireland to decide</p> 	<p>To whom does it apply?</p> <p>All non-EU nationals and stateless persons convicted in the EU and whose convictions are stored in the national registers of criminal records.</p>	<p>Next Steps</p> <p>The system is being designed and implemented by eu-LISA. It is expected to be operational in 2022.</p>
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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 non-EU nationals travelling visa-free to Europe for a short stay and ensure that possible security and irregular migration concerns are identified prior to their travel to the Schengen area. This will contribute to a more efficient management of the EU's external borders and strengthen internal security.

<p>Participating countries</p> <p>25 EU Member States</p>  <p>Denmark to decide</p>  <p>4 Schengen Associated Countries</p>     <p>Switzerland Norway Iceland Liechtenstein</p>	<p>To whom does it apply?</p>  <p>EU visa-exempt non-EU nationals</p>	<p>Next Steps</p> <p>The system is being designed and implemented by eu-LISA. It is expected to be operational in 2022.</p>
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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*		●		● ⁽¹⁾	● ⁽²⁾
Under certain conditions:					
Other national authorities		●		●	●
Europol	●	●	●	●	●
Eurojust	●				
European Border and Coast Guard Agency	●	●	●		●
European Asylum Support Office			●		

* Carriers will only have access to a limited web service in order to confirm that the traveller holds a valid visa⁽¹⁾ or ETIAS⁽²⁾ authorisation