

# Annual report on the 2014 activities of Eurodac\*

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*eu-LISA • European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice*

## Eurodac

Eurodac is the European Dactyloscopy (fingerprints) database. It facilitates the application of the Dublin Regulation by helping to determine the country responsible for the assessment of an asylum claim presented in the European Union or the Associated Dublin States (Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein). The system is used in 32 countries: 28 EU Member States and four Associated Dublin States.

Since its creation in 2003, Eurodac has been used for asylum related purposes only. From 20 July 2015 Eurodac Recast Regulation (No 603/2013) will take effect and national police forces as well as Europol will have access to the system. Access possibilities will be given to law enforcement authorities, subject to strict conditions, for the purpose of prevention, detection and investigation of terrorist offences as well as other serious criminal offences.

## eu-LISA's role

eu-LISA provides 24/7 operational management for Eurodac and is required to submit an annual report on the activities of the Central System to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission as per Article 24(1) EURODAC Regulation (EC) No 2725/2000 and Article 12(1)(u) eu-LISA Regulation (EU) No 1077/2011.



## The Report at a glance

The 2014 Report presents the main Eurodac Central System developments as well as figures and findings related to its activities for the concerned reporting period.

In 2014, the Central System was successfully relocated from Luxembourg to the eu-LISA data centre in Strasbourg (France). Whilst relocating the Central System to Strasbourg, recommendations made in the past by the European Data Protection Supervisor – to optimize the compliance of Eurodac with data protection requirements - were implemented.

Throughout the reporting period, the Eurodac Recast project focussed on planning and implementing the necessary technical changes to comply with the Recast Regulation. A Framework Contract for the development of the new functionalities and the provision of maintenance services was signed on 02 July 2014.

A new Interface Control Document, which will regulate communication between Eurodac Central System and national systems from the entry into operations of Recast, was agreed upon. To better coordinate the implementation efforts at central and national levels, a Project Management Forum has met monthly since October 2014.

## Figures and findings

In the reporting period, the system was available **99.99%** of the time. The Eurodac Central System processed a total of **756,368** transaction requests. This represents an increase of **49%** compared to the traffic observed in 2013, when the total was 508,565.

Eurodac processes, stores and/or allows the comparison of three categories of data.

**Category 1** data refers to fingerprints of every applicant for asylum that is at least 14 years old. Transactions for this type of data increased by 43% compared to 2013.

**Category 2** data refers to fingerprints of every alien aged 14 or older that is apprehended when irregularly crossing an external border of a participating country. Transactions for this type of data increased 122% compared to 2013.

**Category 3** data refers to fingerprints that a participating country may transmit to Eurodac with a view to checking whether an alien aged 14 or older, found illegally present within its territory, has previously lodged an application for asylum in another country. Transactions for this type of data increased 36% compared to 2013.

A hit occurs when a search is conducted, and the search returns one or more matches.

- Hits generated from the comparison of pre-existing Category 1 data and new Category 1 data highlight cases of a person applying for asylum more than once. From a total of **550,221** asylum applications recorded in Eurodac in 2014, **24.02%** were recorded as multiple asylum applications (second or more applications). This proportion decreased compared to the previous reporting period.
- A total of **52,391** “foreign” hits, identifying cases of persons apprehended in connection with an irregular border crossing who later decided to lodge an asylum claim in another participating country, were observed in 2014. This represents **53.9%** of the total hits triggered when comparing category 1 data against category 2 data. A slight decrease is observed compared to 2013.
- Of the **144,167** category 3 transactions made, **72,120 (50% of the total)** yielded hits against category 1 data. This means that half of the irregular migrants who were apprehended when illegally present in a participating country were found via a Eurodac search to have previously claimed asylum in another country.

The rejection rate for fingerprints, caused by low quality or a sequence check error, was **4.49%** which represents an improvement compared to 5.49% the previous year.

## About the Agency

eu-LISA is the European Agency for the operational management of the Schengen Information System (SIS II), the Visa Information System (VIS) and Eurodac. The Agency operates IT systems that are the most important existing tools for managing EU borders and help make free and safe movement of people in the EU a reality. The headquarters of eu-LISA is in Tallinn (Estonia) whilst the operational management is carried out in Strasbourg (France). The Agency also has a backup site in Sankt Johann im Pongau (Austria). [www.eulisa.europa.eu](http://www.eulisa.europa.eu)

*\* This document is provided purely for information purposes, it highlights key points of the accompanying "Annual report on the 2014 activities of Eurodac".*

