



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



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



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)

Decentralised system for exchange of information on criminal convictions in EU

ECRIS allows for an efficient information exchange between Member States regarding criminal convictions in the European Union. The information can be exchanged for criminal proceedings or for other purposes, such as pre-employment screening in sensitive sectors, e.g. positions involving contacts with children or security-related positions. The system is operational since 2012, with 28 Member States currently interconnected, and two million messages exchanged during 2016.

Participating countries

28 EU Member States



To whom does it apply?

Persons convicted on the EU territory



Proposed improvements

In 2016 and 2017, the Commission proposed to improve the exchange of information on non-EU nationals convicted in EU by supplementing ECRIS with a centralised system to identify which Member State(s) hold conviction information on these persons.

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



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 Schengen Members



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	ECRIS	ECRIS-TCN
Exclusively accessible to authorised users within the competent national authorities and under certain conditions/limitations:							
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				●	●		
Under certain conditions:							
National authorities		●		●	●		
Central authorities designated in each Member State						●	●
Europol	●	●		●	●		●
Eurojust	●						●
European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO)							●
European Border and Coast Guard Agency	●				●		