SIS II – 2018 Statistics

February 2019
This report has been produced pursuant to Article 50(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1987/2006 and Article 66(3) of Council Decision 2007/533/JHA with the purpose of publishing statistics on SIS II.

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Introduction

Pursuant to Article 50(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1987/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council\(^1\) (hereafter referred to as the “SIS II Regulation”) and, Article 66(3) of Council Decision 2007/533/JHA\(^2\) (hereafter referred to as the “SIS II Decision”), each year the Management Authority shall publish statistics on the number of records per category of alert, the number of hits per category of alert, how many times SIS II was accessed, in total and by each Member State\(^3\).

Article 3 of Regulation (EU) No 2018/1726\(^4\) on the European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice states that eu-LISA shall perform the tasks conferred on the Management Authority by the SIS II Regulation and the SIS II Decision.

On 28 December 2018, the new SIS Regulations\(^5\) entered into force. Said regulations (Regulation (EU) 2018/1860, Regulation (EU) 2018/1861 and Regulation (EU) 2018/1862) foresee different reporting obligations. However, the new obligations will only be reflected in this report once the Regulations become fully applicable.

This document provides the above-mentioned statistics from 01 January until 31 December 2018. Previous years’ collections of statistics, and revised versions thereof, are available on the eu-LISA website\(^6\).

Methodology

This report contains data:

- Reported by Member States connected to SIS II: queries and hits
- Generated by the Central System SIS: accesses for alert management and number of alerts

Europol\(^7\) and Eurojust\(^8\) have the right, within their respective mandates, to access and search data directly in SIS II. However, the statistics on accesses to SIS II of the mentioned EU Agencies are not in the scope of this document, as the document covers only accesses by Member States.

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\(^3\) Under the term “Member States” the current document refers to the Member States of the EU and Associated Countries, which are bound under Union law by the legislative instruments governing SIS II, if not further explained. Member States of the EU currently connected to SIS II are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Associated Countries connected to SIS II are: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

\(^4\) OJ L 295, 14.11.2018


\(^6\) https://www.eulisa.europa.eu/our-publications/reports

\(^7\) Article 41 SIS II Decision.

\(^8\) Article 42 SIS II Decision.
1. Accesses to SIS II

Access to SIS II is intended as:

- any query, regardless of whether it is made against the Central System or a national copy of SIS II, regardless of whether a hit is achieved or not
- any transaction for alert management (create, update, delete or change of expiry date) performed

Every access is counted, even if an access resulted in an error and an error message was returned from the system.

In the whole of 2018, SIS II was accessed a total of 6,185,199,597 times by the sum of all Member States.

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Total 2,819,006,496 | 1,871,050,290 | 6,185,199,597

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1 Member States without a national copy, and therefore querying only the Central System are Denmark, Finland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Slovenia. In addition, in 2018 also Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden and Switzerland partially used the Central System for alphanumeric queries.


3 BE, DE, PT, SE and CH provided only the total of queries (without breakdown of manual and automated). The sum of the total manual queries and the total of the automated queries are the sum of breakdown provided by MS (if provided).
The table above provides the breakdown, per Member State, of the queries and accesses for alert management (create, update, delete and change of expiry date).

Manually processed queries are considered queries involving human intervention, e.g. queries by staff using radios, telephones, computer terminals, document scanners and other forms of “traditional query” where a user makes the decision to carry out a query. On the other hand, automatically processed queries happen when there is no human intervention, e.g. queries carried out by automatic number plate recognition systems (ANPR) or other forms of automated bulk queries.

In 2018, as over the past few years, France was the heaviest SIS II user as far as total accesses were concerned with almost 17.3% of the total accesses. France performed 17.3% of the queries reported for 2018 and 20.9% of the alert management accesses. The second main user, in terms of total accesses, was Spain with 11% of the total accesses (reporting 11% of the queries and 10.6% of the alerts management traffic). Spain was followed by Germany with over 9.8% of the accesses (9.8% for queries and 15.5% for accesses for alert management purposes) and the UK with 9.8% of the total accesses (reporting 9.8% of the queries and 9.8% of the alerts management traffic).

The chart below provides the breakdown of Member States’ total accesses in 2018.

2. Number of alerts in SISII

Alerts in SIS II can relate to:

- Persons as referred to in Articles 26, 32, 34, 36 of the SIS II Decision and Article 24 of the SIS II Regulation
- Objects as referred to in Articles 36 and 38 of the SIS II Decision
On 31 December 2018 there were a total of **82,236,846 alerts** in SIS II. The table below provides the breakdown per Member State for the different categories of alerts.

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</tbody>
</table>

Alerts on **Persons** represented 1.14% of the total amount of alerts in the SIS II database. The biggest categories of alerts were **Issued document** counting for 74.7% of the total volume of alerts, followed by **Security** with 7.4% of the total. The following graph provides the breakdown of alerts per category.

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11 Issued identity papers such as passports, identity cards, driving licenses, residence permits and travel documents, which have been stolen, misappropriated, lost or invalidated.

12 Securities and means of payment such as cheques, credit cards, bonds, stocks and shares which have been stolen, misappropriated, lost or invalidated.
At the end of 2018, similar to previous year’s reports, Italy was the Member State owning the majority of alerts; 25.5% of the total volume of alerts, including 24.6% of the alerts on persons. France was the second biggest owner of data with 14.1% of the alerts (including 22.9% of the alerts on persons), followed by Germany owning 13.6% of the total alerts (including 9.2% of the alerts on persons).

The chart below provides the breakdown of alerts per Member State at the end of 2018.

### 2.1 Alerts on persons

Alerts on persons can be issued for the purposes of identifying the following people:

- Persons subject to arrest for surrender or extradition pursuant to Article 26 of the SIS II Decision
- Third country nationals to be refused entry into or stay within the Schengen area pursuant to Article 24 of the SIS II Regulation
- Missing persons (adults and minors) pursuant to Article 32 of the SIS II Decision
- Persons to assist with a judicial procedure pursuant to Article 34 of the SIS II Decision
- Persons for discreet or specific checks pursuant to Article 36 of the SIS II Decision

At the end of 2018, SIS II contained 935,497 alerts on persons as per the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alerts on persons</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alert for the purpose of arrest and surrender or extradition Art. 26 SIS II Dec</td>
<td>39,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third country nationals to be refused entry or stay into the Schengen Area Art. 24 SIS II Reg</td>
<td>504,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing person (Adults) Art. 32 SIS II Dec</td>
<td>38,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing person (Minors) Art. 32 SIS II Dec</td>
<td>77,478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person to assist with a judicial procedure Art. 34 SIS II Dec</td>
<td>119,219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person for discreet and specific check Art. 36 SIS II Dec</td>
<td>156,534</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total alerts on persons</strong></td>
<td><strong>935,497</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The majority of alerts on persons, with over 54% of the total, were alerts pursuant to Article 24 of the SIS Regulation (i.e. to refuse entry into or stay in the Schengen area); followed by the alerts pursuant to Article 36 of the SIS II Decision (i.e. person for discreet and specific check), accounting for 17% of the total alerts on persons.

The following chart provides the breakdown of alerts on persons per article.

3. Number of hits

As per the SIRENE Manual\(^\text{13}\) a hit occurs in SIS II when all of the following criteria are met:

- a search is conducted by a user
- the search reveals a foreign alert (alert issued by a Member State other than the one undertaking the search) in SIS II
- data concerning the alert in SIS II matches the search data
- further actions are requested as a result of the hit

In 2018 a total of \textbf{267,239 hits on foreign alerts} were reported. The breakdown is available in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hits on foreign alerts</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art 26 SIS II Dec</td>
<td>12,564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art 24 SIS II Reg</td>
<td>47,740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art 32 SIS II Dec</td>
<td>9,658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art 34 SIS II Dec</td>
<td>54,744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art 36 SIS II Dec</td>
<td>89,763</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art 38 SIS II Dec</td>
<td>52,770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>267,239</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The highest number of hits, 89,159 representing 33.6% of the total hits, were triggered by alerts pursuant to Article 36 of the SIS II Decision (persons and objects for discreet or specific checks). The second highest category of hits were the ones reported on alerts pursuant to Article 34 of the SIS II Decision (person to assist with a judicial procedure) 20.6% of this subset, closely followed by hits on Article 38 SIS II Decision (objects for seizure or use as evidence in criminal proceedings) 19.6% of the total.

The chart below provides the breakdown of hits per article.

The following table provides the breakdown on hits for Article 38 of SIS II Decision per category of object.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakdown hits Article 38 Dec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vehicles, trailers, caravans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aircraft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>industrial equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>boat engines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>containers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>firearms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blank docs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vehicle registration certificates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>number plates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>issued docs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>banknotes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>securities &amp; means of payment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusion

The Schengen Information System enables mandated national authorities, such as law enforcement, judicial authorities and border guards, to enter and query alerts on persons or objects. The usage of SIS II in Member States differs largely due to the influence of several factors. In particular, on the national implementation of the system\textsuperscript{14}, on how business processes and workflows are defined but also on the demographic, criminality and geographical situation. In addition, the number of border crossing points (air, sea and land borders) and the length of the external land borders also have a big impact. Comparisons among countries should not be based on numerical data alone, but take into account other factors too.

The statistics for 2018 confirm that SIS II remains the largest information sharing system for security and border management in Europe, and its usage is steadily increasing\textsuperscript{15}. In 2018, SIS II was accessed more than 6.1 billion times by Member States. On the 31 December 2018, SIS II stored more than 82 million alerts. The biggest category of alerts was Issued document, which represented almost 75% of the total number of alerts. Alerts on persons represented 1.14% of the total number of alerts, but still they were the main trigger for hits (generating 77% of the total hits).

In 2018, an important development was implemented in SIS II to further enhance the internal security of the Schengen area. On 5 March 2018, the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), enabling end-users to search SIS II on the basis of fingerprint data, entered into operations at the Central level. One third of the Member States implemented AFIS at national level in the course of the year, resulting in an additional usage of the system. The remaining Member States should join at the latest in 2020, as set by the new SIS legal framework.

Further enhancements are foreseen for SIS in the coming years. The entry into operations of the new legal base and the probable implementation of interoperability\textsuperscript{16}, are evolutions that will have an undoubtable impact on its usage.

\textsuperscript{14} For example the integration to national systems (e.g. ANPR).
\textsuperscript{15} For previous years statistical data, see https://www.eulisa.europa.eu/our-publications/reports.
\textsuperscript{16} Proposals currently under negotiations.