

eu-LISA Press Release

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Delivering Security in the Modern World also depends on Technology and Information-sharing

On 7 April the European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice (eu-LISA) briefed Tallinn-based journalists and media channels on eu-LISA's role in supporting the management of migratory crisis and on the priorities of the Agency for 2016 and beyond.

The briefing focused on eu-LISA role in *hotspots*, the EC Communication on Stronger and Smarter Information Systems for Borders and Security, launched on the previous day, and the related tasks for eu-LISA, the evolution of Eurodac and the state-of-play of the other two IT systems under eu-LISA responsibility.

eu-LISA in the *hotspots*

The Executive Director of eu-LISA, Krum GARKOV, explained that together with the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders (Frontex) and the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) eu-LISA has been contributing in the hotspots helping to solve the current migratory crisis. The focus of eu-LISA has been on assessing the technological capacity in place, in order to identify what has to be further developed to comply with the Eurodac requirements as well as the processes and expertise needed to facilitate and run the registration smoothly. eu-LISA has also explored a number of related areas, such as physical and IT-security, monitoring data collection and statistics. Mr Garkov reminded all present that Frontex deployed the physical and technical infrastructure as well as the qualified human resources to run the screening processes on the spot. EASO's focus has been on providing information on the asylum and on the relocation procedures and in relevant cases on the international protection that has been needed.

Migratory crisis and the IT systems

Mr Garkov noted that following the migratory crisis, the number of records stored in the **Eurodac** system increased dramatically in the second half of 2015. In 2015 the total volume of transactions increased by 182% (compared to 2014). The main increase was registered for irregular migrants apprehended when crossing external borders (+328% compared to 2014) and the applicants for international protection (increase of +173% compared to 2014). eu-LISA has worked closely with Member States in order to size the system accordingly, both in terms of storage capacity and transaction capabilities. *"The Agency will continue to increase the processing and storage capacity and capabilities of the Eurodac system to facilitate improved migration management, building upon measures already undertaken in light of the crisis,"* explained Mr Garkov.

Stronger and Smarter information systems

The Executive Director highlighted the main aspects of the EC-launched discussion on the future framework for stronger and smarter information systems for borders management and internal security and focused on the important role foreseen for eu-LISA in this context. There are three main centralised information systems developed, namely SIS, VIS and Eurodac that are all managed by eu-LISA. The Communication includes clear tasks for the Agency related to further improvements by adding new functionalities to existing information systems but also examining, together with the

EC, the potential for interoperability and interconnectivity of information systems at EU level. eu-LISA and the EC will also analyse whether establishing a shared biometric matching service for all relevant information systems is necessary and technically feasible. The Agency will support Member States in installing a single search interface to query central systems, develop a central monitoring capacity for data quality checks for all the three IT systems under its responsibility in order to improve the quality of data inserted by Member States.

Another area that requires eu-LISA's direct involvement is the development and implementation of the Entry-Exit System (EES) in cooperation with the Schengen Member States. Mr Garkov recalled the Smart Borders Pilot project, the testing-phase of which eu-LISA carried out last year in cooperation with 12 volunteering Member States, to assess a limited set of technical options and define the best technical solutions for faster and more secure border-control processes whilst respecting the highest principles on data protection and fundamental rights. The Commission presented the proposal for the EES to be adopted as a matter of urgency.

eu-LISA cooperation with other Agencies

eu-LISA's Head of General Coordination Unit, Mailis Pukonen, elaborated on the existing cooperation initiatives and highlighted the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding with Europol. The formalised partnership identifies areas where the two agencies can provide added value to achieve the best results possible and be highly efficient. These areas include information technology, training and expertise.

Background:

The European Agency, **eu-LISA**, was established to manage large scale information systems in the area of freedom, security and justice. It fulfils the operational management tasks for the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II), Visa Information System (VIS) and Eurodac. The Agency therewith supports the implementation of the EU's border management, asylum and migration policies. eu-LISA is responsible for keeping all the IT systems under its control permanently functional in order to allow continuous and uninterrupted exchange of data between national authorities. eu-LISA ensures that it applies the highest levels of information security and data protection to the information entrusted to it. The seat of the Agency is in Tallinn (Estonia), the operational management is carried out in Strasbourg (France) with the business continuity technical site in Sankt Johann im Pongau (Austria). In 2015 eu-LISA carried out, in close cooperation with Member States, the Smart Borders Pilot testing phase to test new technologies on the EU borders and provide the decision-makers with information about the feasibility of deploying biometric identifiers at the Schengen external borders.

Links:

- eulisa.europa.eu
- [Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: Stronger and Smarter Information Systems for Borders and Security](#)

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