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Eurodac



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Information on European Asylum Applications

What is Eurodac?

Eurodac is the European Asylum Dactyloscopy Database, managed by eu-LISA, which assists in the processing of European asylum applications. It is a centralised database that collects and handles the digitalised fingerprints of asylum seekers and irregular migrants. It helps determine the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application. National asylum authorities use Eurodac to store new fingerprints and compare existing records on asylum seekers. This aids the detection of multiple asylum applications and thus reduces “asylum shopping”. Law enforcement authorities and Europol can also access the system – under strict conditions – to prevent, detect and investigate terrorist and other serious criminal offences.

Future developments

New legislative proposals foresee extending the scope of Eurodac to allow for the storage of, and the possibility to search by, biometric data of irregular migrants found illegally staying in the EU, thus facilitating returns. Reinforcing Eurodac will ensure the system will continue to be a valuable tool for officers deployed at borders and hotspots.

eu-LISA and the JHA Information Systems

Since 2012, eu-LISA has played an integral role in the operational management of large-scale IT systems and databases that are crucial for the security of the European Union. These include the already existing Eurodac, SIS and VIS systems, as well as systems currently under development, such as ECRIS-TCN, EES and ETIAS.

These systems, and the interoperability foreseen between them, will be game-changers in the European Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) area. The technologies being developed by eu-LISA will help the move away from outdated silo solutions towards new holistic approaches that still fully respect the original objectives and data protection guarantees of the individual systems. eu-LISA works closely with Member States, the European Institutions and other JHA Agencies to

ensure that the technical and procedural solutions applied optimally cover business requirements while remaining technically feasible.

eu-LISA ensures that Europe’s freedom, security and justice management systems are safeguarded for generations to come.

The headquarters of eu-LISA are in Tallinn (Estonia), the operational management is carried out in Strasbourg (France) and a backup site is located in Sankt Johann im Pongau (Austria). eu-LISA also has a liaison office in Brussels (Belgium).

