

VIS



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Vesilennuki 5
10415 Tallinn
Estonia
info@eulisa.europa.eu

Exchanging visa data between Schengen States

What is VIS?

The Visa Information System (VIS) is a large-scale IT system, managed by eu-LISA, which supports the implementation of the European Union's common visa policy and facilitates border checks and consular cooperation in Europe. The system enables dedicated national authorities to enter and consult data, including biometrics, for short-stay visas for the Schengen Area. The system helps reduce "visa shopping" and irregular migration and contributes to the prevention of threats to the internal security of Member States. VIS provides quicker and clearer procedures for travellers requiring a visa to enter the Schengen Area. The system assists authorities in processing asylum applications and identifying persons who may not, or may no longer, fulfil the conditions to enter or stay in the Schengen area.

Future developments

The European Commission has proposed changes to legislation that will expand the scope of VIS by adding long stay-visas and residence permits to the system. Said proposals will also allow for more thorough background checks on visa applicants, thus closing security information gaps through better information exchange between Member States.

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 The technologies being developed by eu-LISA will help the move away from outdated silo solutions towards new holistic approaches that still fully respect the original objectives and data protection guarantees of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).

