

REPORT ON THE TECHNICAL FUNCTIONING OF CENTRAL SIS II 2019-2020 - FACTSHEET

MAY 2022

The Schengen Information System (SIS II) being at the heart of Schengen, plays a crucial role as the most widely used IT system in the area of freedom, security and justice in the EU. It facilitates the free movement of people within the Schengen Area, supports border controls at external Schengen borders, law enforcement and judicial cooperation, ensuring a high level of security throughout Europe.

SIS has been available for over two decades and 2020 marked the 25th anniversary of SIS II's entry into operation

Operational management

In 2020, SIS II was accessed **3.7 billion** times by the Member States. Compared with 2019, the annual number of searches in SIS II fell by **44%**. 28 Member States reported a substantial reduction in the number of searches, as a result of travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



The number of alerts issued by Member States and stored in the SIS II central system, has **grown steadily** over the years.

- In December 2018: over **82.2 million** alerts.
- In December 2019: over **91 million** alerts.
- In December 2020: over **93.4 million** alerts.

In 2020, eu-LISA increased the central system's storage capacity to **130 million** alerts, which represented a major evolution of the SIS II central system.



Performance and availability

Central SIS II was **highly available** in 2019 and 2020 and in line with the **service level agreement (SLA)**, confirming the trend seen in previous reporting periods.



- 2019: **99.95%** of the time.
- 2020: **99.94%** of the time.

Availability is calculated against the critical SIS II functionalities, such as searching the central system or properly processing and broadcasting alerts received from Member States. **Unavailability** is defined as when all Member States cannot use critical functionalities.



The yearly **Customer Satisfaction Survey**, which evaluates **eu-LISA Service Desk** (the entry point for users' reports of incidents as well as for requests), shows that the majority of Member States were **very satisfied** or **satisfied** with the services provided.

New and previous SIS II users

SIS II integration progressed in **Ireland** and **Cyprus** (IE connected in March 2021). The central system was made ready for the integration of **Frontex**, while **Europol** was granted extended access.



The United Kingdom was disconnected from SIS II on 1 January 2021 and its data was consequently deleted; minus 6% of the volume stored in the system.

Testing and releases

From mid-March 2020, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, **priority was given to keep test and pre-production environments highly available for the Member States** and to support the execution of planned test and qualification campaigns.



Training activities

eu-LISA delivered 25 training activities in 2019;

- **15 focused on SIS II** (i.e. 60% of the total).

In 2020 30 training activities were delivered;

- **8 focused on SIS II** (i.e. 27% of the total).



In both years, **the general satisfaction rate was very high.**

SIS recast project

eu-LISA made significant progress on the implementation of the **SIS Recast** during 2019 and 2020. The updated system, once in operation, will represent a **major enhancement**, with the main changes providing for **new categories of data and alerts, and wider access to SIS alerts** at national and European level.

Implementation of AFIS for SIS II



By the end of December 2020, according to the SIS recast regulations, all Member States were required to enable SIS–**Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) searches at national level.**

Exchange of SIRENE forms

SIRENE forms are exchanged bilaterally or multilaterally between Member States (and Europol as of March 2021) in order to provide supplementary information in a structured way related to the data available in the system (alert).



In 2019, there were a total of;

- **2 302 818 SIRENE forms** (671 689 outgoing forms and 1 631 138 incoming forms) exchanged bilaterally or multilaterally between Member States.

In 2020, this number **fell by 14%**, to:

- **1 988 517 SIRENE forms** (550 289 outgoing forms and 1 438 288 incoming forms) exchanged.

Hits on foreign Alerts

The Member States reported **283 713 hits** on foreign alerts in 2019, compared with **209 178 hits** in 2020, representing a **decrease of almost 27%** between 2019 and 2020. This was due to travel restrictions imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 1 — Hits on foreign alerts



eu-LISA is the European Union Agency that ensures 24/7 operational management of the European Union's large-scale IT systems - as well as their respective communication infrastructure - in the area of freedom, security and justice. Further to the systems currently managed (Eurodac, SIS and VIS), the Agency is also in the process of developing three new systems (EES, ETIAS and ECRIS-TCN), along with their interoperability components.

Public reports and statistics can be accessed on eu-LISA's [website](#).