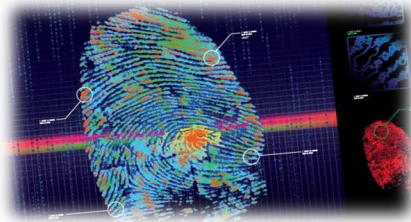


Report on the technical functioning of the VIS

March 2014

eu-LISA • European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice

The Visa Information System (VIS)



The EU has been developing large-scale IT systems for collecting, processing and sharing information relevant to external border management. The Visa Information System (VIS) is one such system.

The VIS allows data exchange on short stay visas between Schengen States and supports the implementation of the common EU visa policy by preventing "visa shopping", assisting in the fight against irregular migration, contributing to the prevention of threats to the internal security of Member States and bringing transparent and faster procedures for bona fide travellers.

The Schengen States are: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

The Schengen candidate countries Romania, Bulgaria, Cyprus and Croatia are not yet connected to the VIS system but preparatory works are on-going. Connection is expected to occur as soon as these countries join the Schengen area and the relevant legal requirements are in place.

eu-LISA role

The European Agency **eu-LISA** has been established to manage large scale information systems in the area of freedom, security and justice. On 1 December 2012, eu-LISA commenced operations and became responsible for the operational management of VIS.

Since then, the Agency is ensuring continuous, uninterrupted and cost effective operational management of the VIS system 24 hours a day and seven days a week in line with the business needs of Member States.



eu-LISA is currently working on the VIS evolutions project which will bring further improvements to the system. Further evolution of the system to ensure full system availability and stability and improved service delivery going forward will form the basis of eu-LISA's own operational development.

The obligation to regularly report to the European Parliament, European Council and European Commission on the technical functioning of VIS is foreseen in:

- the system's legal basis, Article 50(3) VIS Regulation (EC) No 767/2008
- the Agency's founding Regulation, Article 12(1)(t) eu-LISA Regulation (EU) No 1077/2011

The Report

The Report issued in March 2014 is the first one under the direct responsibility of eu-LISA. It describes the technical functioning of the system between 11 October 2011 and 31 August 2013 and presents statistics regarding system usage.



The Report shows that VIS fully and satisfactorily serves the objectives for which it was created. The overall reliability, performance, security and functioning of the system during the reporting period have been adequate in relation of the world-wide VIS roll-out and have met the expectations of Member States.

Roll out

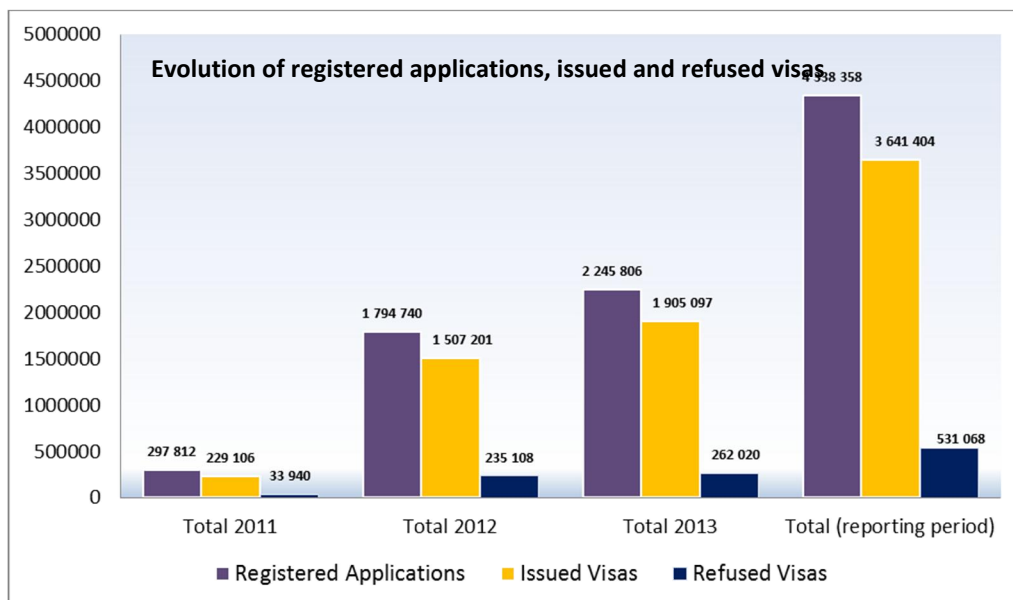
VIS started operations on 11 October 2011 and has been progressively rolled out in defined regions. By the end of the reporting period 31 August 2013, VIS had been rolled out in 7 out of 23 planned regions and had more than 215 000 end-users.

	Regions	Entry into operations
1	North Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia	11/10/2011
2	The Near East: Israel, Jordan, the Lebanon, Syria	10/05/2012
3	The Gulf region: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen	02/10/2012
4	West Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo	14/03/2013
5	Central Africa: Burundi, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Cameroon, Central African Republic and Chad	14/03/2013
6	East Africa: Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tanzania, Uganda, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan	06/06/2013
7	Southern Africa; Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe	06/06/2013

The deployment will progressively continue to cover the entire world.

Number of VISA

Between 11 October 2011 and 31 August 2013, the VIS processed more than 4.3 million visa applications of which more than 3.6 million resulted in the issue of a short-stay visa.



About the Agency

eu-LISA, with its seat in Tallinn, fulfils the operational management tasks for the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II), Visa Information System (VIS) and EURODAC. The Agency started its operations on 1 December 2012.

The headquarters of the Agency is in Tallinn (Estonia), while the operational management of the large-scale systems is carried out in Strasbourg (France) with a backup site in Sankt Johann im Pongau (Austria).

www.eulisa.europa.eu