

REPORT ON THE TECHNICAL FUNCTIONING OF CENTRAL SIS II 2017-2018 FACTSHEET. OCTOBER 2019



European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale
IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA)

SIS II

The Schengen Information System – SIS II – has since its establishment been the main compensatory measure for the abolition of internal border checks in the Schengen Area. The system plays an important role maintaining and safeguarding security, as well as facilitating the free movement of people within the Schengen area.

In 2018, there were 30 countries connected to SIS II: 26 EU Member States and 4 Associated Countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland). The authorities of Cyprus and Ireland are preparing their technical connection to SIS II. In addition, Europol and Eurojust are also able to search SIS II.

In 2018, Member States performed an average **more than 16.8 million searches per day in SIS II**; whereas those were on average 14.1 million per day in 2017. On average, in 2017 and 2018, 11% of the total searches performed in SIS II were performed against the central system.

eu-LISA guarantees an effective and uninterrupted operational management of SIS II critical infrastructure.

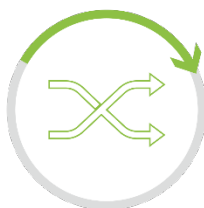


THE REPORT on the TECHNICAL FUNCTIONING 2017-2018



MONITORING

eu-LISA ensures that central SIS II and its infrastructure are **24/7 monitored**, along with the operational status of the exchange between central SIS II and the national copies (the bridge). **The central SIS II had very high availability during the reporting period.**



CHANGE MANAGEMENT

Developments and changes are discussed and formalised within the **Change Management Group**, thus ensuring agreement and coordination with Member States. Once agreed, the changes are implemented in production. During the reporting period, the Change Management Group agreed on the **technical solution to align SIS II with the latest ICAO specifications** of Machine-Readable Travel Document (MRTD).



TEST/RELEASE

In 2017 and 2018, several **test campaigns** were conducted to validate the releases, while **ensuring integrity of the central SIS II**. In addition to technical releases, in July 2017 the functional Release 8.2.0 including the **NIST checker** as part of the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) was deployed; and in March 2018 the Release 9.0.0 for the **deployment of SIS II AFIS** was implemented.

HIGHLIGHTS of the REPORT



The **central SIS II was highly available** in the reporting period: in 2017, the overall availability including the associated connectivity network was over 99.82%, in 2018, the overall availability was over 99.75%. The availability is calculated against the critical SIS II functionalities, such as searching the central system or properly processing and broadcasting the alerts inserted by the Member States

Between February 2017 September 2017, the TESTA-ng roll out took place at central level. This activity concluded the **complex and long migration of the network from the old sTESTA communication infrastructure to the new TESTA-ng**. The migration brought higher throughput for SIS II allowing increase of SIS II transaction capacity.



The **Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) in SIS II** entered into operation on 5 March 2018. Close cooperation with the Member States and the European Commission was instrumental in successfully delivering such complex and interdependent project.

This represents a major development for SIS II proving biometric searching capacity to Member States, **allowing a person to be identified based on fingerprints stored in SIS II**. By the end of 2018, 11 Member States were performing fingerprint searches in SIS II.

The first **end-to-end business continuity and disaster recovery exercise** on SIS II was executed in October 2018 with the participation of 9 Member States as participants, 7 Member States as observers, ENISA providing support, and the European Commission. The exercise, conceived as a technical end-to-end cyber-exercise, aimed at testing the security, the business continuity and the disaster recovery capabilities of the SIS at central and national levels.



eu-LISA's ROLE IN SIS II

eu-LISA is in charge of the operational management and further development of SIS II. The Agency ensures the continuous, uninterrupted exchange of data between national authorities 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. eu-LISA is also responsible for monitoring the performance of the system as well as providing training on SIS II to national operators, SIRENE staff and Schengen evaluators.

eu-LISA is in charge of publishing SIS II annual statistics. In addition to that, every two years the Agency is requested to publish a report on the technical functioning of central SIS II and the communication infrastructure, including the security thereof, as per Article 50(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1987/2006 and Article 66(4) of Council Decision 2007/533/JHA.

On 28 December 2018, the new SIS Regulations - Regulation (EU) 2018/1860, Regulation (EU) 2018/1861 and Regulation (EU) 2018/1862 - entered into force, and will be applicable in stages.

ABOUT EU-LISA

eu-LISA is the European Union Agency ensuring 24/7 operational management of the European Union's large-scale IT systems and their respective communication infrastructure in the area of freedom, security and justice: Eurodac, SIS and VIS. The Agency is also developing future systems namely EES, ETIAS, ECRIS-TCN and the interoperability components and will manage them once they enter into operation. www.eulisa.europa.eu