How is personal data protected?

Data is safeguarded at every step. The authorities in every Schengen country using SIS II check the quality of the information they enter into the system. In addition, both eu-LISA and the European Commission have taken all necessary measures to guarantee the physical protection of SIS II data.

Any person has the right to be informed about his/her data stored in SIS II and any person may request that inaccurate data about him/her be corrected or that unlawfully recorded data be deleted. This process is managed by the appointed national authority and all requests have to go through them.

SIS II does not hold sensitive information (e.g. a person's racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs or trade-union membership and data concerning health or sex life).

Both national authorities and the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) also oversee the protection of personal data.

Fast facts

- 28 countries use SIS II
- Over 50 000 000 alerts in 2013
- On average   4 000 entries created, updated or deleted per hour
- 87 000 hits, approximately, on foreign alerts in 2013

eu-LISA: supporting safe free movement

eu-LISA is the European Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice. We manage IT systems that help make free and safe movement of people in the EU a reality.

The agency provides 24/7 operational management not only for SIS II, the largest information system for public security and law enforcement cooperation in Europe, but also for:

- the **Visa Information System** (VIS) - a system that allows Schengen states to share visa data for those who visit or move throughout the Schengen area; and

- **Eurodac** - a centralised EU database that collects and processes the digitalised fingerprints of asylum seekers.

eu-LISA has offices in Tallinn, Estonia and Strasbourg, France.

Find out more

Visit: *www.eulisa.europa.eu*

SIS II
Schengen Information System II

eu-LISA: supporting safety and security in the Schengen area

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Publications Office

What is SIS II?

The Schengen Information System (SIS II) is a large-scale IT system that supports public security, border control and law enforcement cooperation in Europe.

The Schengen area has no internal border controls, making free movement at the heart of Europe a reality. It covers all EU countries except the UK, Ireland, Romania, Bulgaria, Cyprus and Croatia. It also covers non-EU countries Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

All countries in the Schengen area, as well as Bulgaria and Romania, have access to SIS II.

SIS II helps national authorities to share information and cooperate with their EU counterparts on cross-border crime in order to preserve internal security and keep citizens safe.

How it works

How it works is simple. A national authority in one country may issue an 'alert' into the system which describes a person or an object being sought. For on-the-ground officers who consult the system, this tells them about:

1) the situation they are facing (e.g. an arrest for extradition or a vulnerable missing person);

2) the action to take (e.g. arrest the person or take appropriate steps to protect the person);

3) who to contact for support.

What eu-LISA does

eu-LISA is the European agency that manages large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice. The agency provides the technical and operational expertise to ensure that European citizens and non-EU citizens have the freedom to live, work and travel across the EU.

The agency runs SIS II and keeps it operational 24/7, allowing national authorities to constantly exchange and share information. In 2013, approximately 87 000 hits were reported on foreign alerts, which represents the number of wanted persons and objects that were found thanks to SIS II.
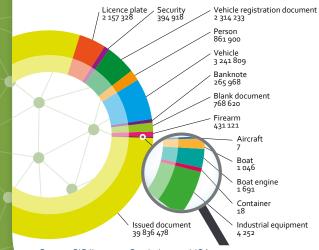
eu-LISA is responsible for carrying out security measures, training on the technical use of the systems, producing statistics and reports, and monitoring relevant research.

SIS II's added value

Building on its forerunner SIS1, the second generation of the Schengen Information System offers even more benefits:

- increased security for travellers by improving information exchange between national authorities such as the police and border guards;

- increased transparency through the publication of statistics on the use of the system;

- strengthened individual rights through improved data quality and security, as well as appropriate access provisions and retention of alerts.

Recorded Alerts on the SIS II Database — status 31/12/2013

Licence plate 2 157 328
Security 394 918
Vehicle registration document 2 314 233
Person 861 900
Vehicle 3 241 809
Banknote 265 968
Blank document 768 620
Firearm 431 121
Aircraft 7
Boat 1 046
Boat engine 1 691
Container 18
Industrial equipment 4 252
Issued document 39 836 478

Source: SIS II — 2013 Statistics, eu-LISA, 2014

Who can access SIS II?

- Law enforcement authorities such as the police.

- National border control authorities.

- Customs authorities.

- Judicial, visa and vehicle registration authorities.

- European Agencies Europol and Eurojust (access is limited to data related to their work and only accessible to authorised personnel).

What information is stored?

Following a search with a positive result, SIS II provides national authorities with information on people who may have been involved in a serious crime, may not have the right to enter or stay in the EU or whose identity has been misused. It also contains data on missing persons, in particular children, as well as information on certain property, such as banknotes, vehicles, aircrafts, boats, firearms and identity documents, that may have been lost or stolen.

SIS II in action

Anne's car was stolen from outside her office in Brussels, Belgium. In the Czech Republic the police stopped the car for speeding. When checking the car's details officers carried out a routine check on the SIS II system. Thanks to the alert issued by the Belgian police their Czech colleagues knew the car was stolen, confiscated it and returned it to Anne.