



SIS



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

The most widely used IT system
for security and border management
in Europe

What is SIS?

The Schengen Information System (SIS) is a large-scale IT system, managed by eu-LISA, which supports internal security and the exchange of information on persons and objects between national police, border control, customs, visa and judicial authorities. Since the Schengen area has no internal borders, SIS assists national authorities in sharing information with their European counterparts whilst performing border checks, and in the fight against cross-border crime and terrorism, all of which with respect to the latest EU data protection requirements. In 2018, eu-LISA launched the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), which introduced a biometric search capability in SIS, allowing for the identification of persons of interest solely using fingerprints.

Future developments

The latest legislation foresees improvements within SIS to better address counter-terrorism and irregular migration. A more extensive use of biometric data and the creation of new categories of alerts, as well as the inclusion of more items in the already existing categories, is also foreseen. Wider access to Europol and access for Frontex hotspot teams is also a part of the legislation.

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help the move away from outdated silo solutions towards new holistic approaches that still fully respect the original objectives and data protection guarantees of the individual systems.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).

