

# SIS II – Report on the technical functioning\*

June 2015

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

## 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 in ensuring a high level of security within the area of freedom, security and justice of the EU through maintaining and safeguarding security in the Member States, as well as facilitating the free movement of people within the Schengen area.

SIS II allows competent national authorities to issue and consult alerts on persons who may have been involved in a serious crime or may not have the right to enter or stay in the Schengen area. It also contains alerts on missing persons, in particular children, as well as information on certain property, such as banknotes, aircraft, boats, cars, vans, containers, firearms and identity documents, that may have been stolen, misappropriated or lost.

The EU Member States connected to SIS II are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the UK. Associated Countries connected to SIS II are Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein. The authorities of Ireland, Cyprus and Croatia are currently preparing for technical connection to SIS II.

## eu-LISA's role

eu-LISA ensures the operational management of SIS II thus guaranteeing the continuous, uninterrupted exchange of data between national authorities 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. eu-LISA is also responsible for providing training in specific fields to national SIS II operators, SIRENE staff and Schengen evaluators. Publishing statistics as well as producing lists of authorities accessing the system on an annual basis is also a part of the Agency's mandate. Moreover, eu-LISA is tasked with managing the accession of new Member States and organisations to SIS II.



Two years after SIS II was brought into operation, eu-LISA is required to submit a report on the technical functioning of Central SIS II and the Communication Infrastructure, including aspects related to security and the exchange of supplementary information between Member States, to the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission as per Article 50(4) of Regulation (EC) No 1987/2006 and Article 66(4) of Council Decision 2007/533/JHA.

The report, the first of its type for Central SIS II, should be read in conjunction with the published annual statistics and the list of competent authorities authorised to access and search the data contained in SIS II. The report aims to support the goals of enhanced transparency and visibility sought by the SIS II legislator compared with the previous reporting provisions.

## The Report at a glance

Since its establishment, the Agency has closely worked together with all stakeholders involved in the SIS II community in order to ensure a high quality operational management of Central SIS II. The governance of SIS II comprises:

- the Agency, which has been responsible for the operational management of Central SIS II since 8 May 2013,
- the Commission retains responsibility for any legislative initiatives and implementations of the legal framework,
- the Member States are the main drivers in the Advisory Group, the Change Management Group, the Security

\* This document is provided purely for information purposes, it highlights key points of the accompanying "Report on the technical functioning of Central SIS II and the Communication Infrastructure, including the security thereof and the bilateral and multilateral exchange of supplementary information between Member States".

Officers Network supporting the work of the Agency as well as assisting the Commission in the SISVIS Committee.

eu-LISA is tasked with managing the evolution of SIS II, technologically and functionally, in order to ensure that the system utilises state-of-the-art technologies and fulfils Member States' needs while safeguarding compliance with the legal provisions. This is achieved via several activities in the framework of the defined change management process, the testing phase and the release plans. During the reporting period five releases were deployed and several test campaigns – including internal ones, with Member States and SIRENE testing – were conducted.

Tasks regarding the Communication Infrastructure, the dedicated network linking the central system and the national interfaces, are shared between the Agency and the Commission. eu-LISA is responsible for the supervision, security and coordination of relations between the Member States and the network provider whereas the Commission implements the budget and deals with contractual matters. The Agency is also responsible for security measures related to the exchange of supplementary information through the communication infrastructure of SIS II.

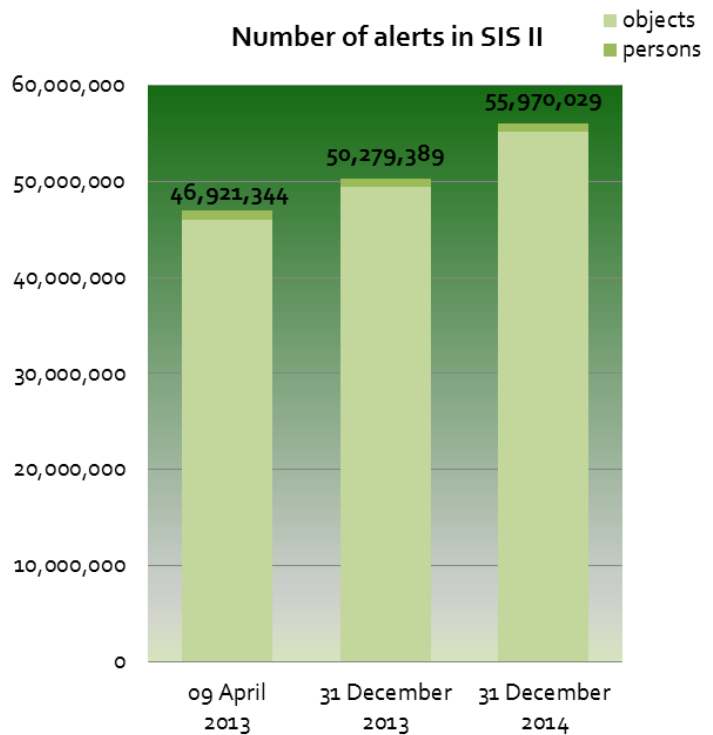
The overall security framework for SIS II and its Communication Infrastructure provides assurance that, at central level, the system will protect the information it stores and will function as and when it needs to, under the control of designated authorities, relying on the core principles of information security, namely confidentiality, integrity and availability.

At the end of the reporting period, 31 December 2014, the system contained almost **56 million alerts**, which makes it the largest database for public security in Europe.

In 2014 the number of alerts increased by over 11% compared to the number of alerts available in the system on 31 December 2013, when there were over 50 million alerts. Since its entry into operation on 9 April 2013, when there were almost 47 million alerts, the increase is over 19%.

SIS II is a hit/no hit system based upon searches. A hit occurs in SIS II when a search is conducted by a user and the search reveals a foreign alert, i.e. the alert in SIS II matches the searched data. According to the legal provisions, further actions are requested as a result of the hit. From 9 April until 31 December 2013, a total of **86,822 hits** on foreign alerts were registered by all countries connected to SIS II. In 2014, for the entire calendar year, **127,935 hits** on foreign alerts were reported by all Member States.

Number of alerts in SIS II



The Central SIS II has been designed and optimised for a specific usage, search distribution, load and maximum volume. In the entire reporting period the average load over 24 hours was well below the planned capacity. Since its entry into operation SIS II has maintained excellent levels of performance and availability.

### About the Agency

eu-LISA is the European Agency for the operational management of the Schengen Information System (SIS II), the Visa Information System (VIS) and Eurodac. The Agency operates IT systems that are the most important existing tools for managing EU borders and help make free and safe movement of people in the EU a reality. The headquarters of eu-LISA are in Tallinn (Estonia) whilst the operational management is carried out in Strasbourg (France). The Agency also has a backup site in Sankt Johann im Pongau (Austria). [www.eulisa.europa.eu](http://www.eulisa.europa.eu)

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