



КОМИСИЯ ЗА ЗАЩИТА
НА ЛИЧНИТЕ ДАННИ

Large-scale IT systems of the European Union



The current informative document aims to assist the practical understanding of the various large-scale IT systems of the European Union and the exercising of rights of individuals who may be seen as data subjects in accordance with the EU personal data protection legislation. The document is not obligatory or comprehensive.

The large-scale IT systems of the EU are information systems, which aim to ensure citizens' protection, fight and prevent crime and ensure border security. The main goal of the systems is to help ensure the security of EU countries.

The current documents presents the following large-scale IT systems of the EU:

- [The Schengen Information System II \(SIS II\);](#)
- [The Visa Information System \(VIS\)](#)
- [The EURODAC information system \(EURODAC\);](#)
- [The system for cooperation in the area of law enforcement in the EUROPOL Agency \(EUROPOL\);](#)
- [The Customs Information System \(CIS\)](#)
- [The Entry/Exit System \(EES\)](#)
- [The European Travel Information and Authorisation System \(ETIAS\)](#)
- [The European system for information regarding convictions of third-country nationals or stateless persons \(ECRIS-TCN\);](#)
- [The system of EU for cooperation in criminal justice \(EUROJUST\).](#)

On an EU-level, the central components of the systems are administrated by the *European Union Agency for the Operational*

Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA). The national components of the systems are administrated by the competent authority in the relevant member state.

All individuals are free to exercise the following rights in regards to their personal data before the national competent authorities:

- Right for information;
- Right for access to their own personal data;
- Right to rectification of data (inaccurate or incomplete);
- Right to erasure („right to be forgotten“);
- Right to restriction of processing (when applicable);
- Right to data portability (when applicable);
- Right to object.

Individuals who have decided to exercise any of their rights are to receive a written answer from the competent authorities regarding the actions that have been taken by said authority. Should an individual consider that their rights falling under the scope of the EU and national data protection legal framework have not been respected, they can appeal the actions of the competent authority before the CPDP or the court.

The supervision of the processing of personal data on an EU level is executed by the European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS) in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725. Currently, the supervision is executed by the SIS II, VIS, CIS and EURODAC

Supervision Coordination Groups, as well as by the EUROPOL Cooperation Council. It is anticipated that supervision would be executed by the Supervision Coordination Committee.

Supervision on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria in the area of personal data protection is executed by the Commission for Personal Data Protection (CPDP). Contact details for every competent authority regarding the large-scale IT systems of the EU on a national level are available on the official website of CPDP ([here](#)).



Schengen Information System (SIS II)

The Schengen Information System II is a tool of significant importance in regards to the application of the Schengen acquis. SIS II contributes to maintaining a high level of security by supporting operational cooperation between national competent authorities - border guards, police, customs, immigration and authorities responsible for the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of crime or the execution of penalties and authorities on data protection.

The current legal framework of SIS II consists of *Regulation 2018/1860, Regulation 2018/1861 and Regulation 2018/1862 of the European Parliament and of the Council.*

The National Schengen information system (N.SIS) is established, maintained and operated in the Ministry of Interior and is connected to the Central SIS. The SIRENE Bureau within the International Operational Cooperation Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior is the competent unit for the exchange of information on SIS II alerts. The administrator of the system on a national level is the Minister of the Ministry of Interior.

The N.SIS processes alerts for the following categories of individuals:

- Wanted persons;
- Third-country individuals, who are object to an entry ban in compliance with the Foreigners in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, as well as third-country individuals, for which restrictive measures regarding their entry or transit through member states have been imposed;
- Missing persons who are to be placed under special protection and/or need to be located;
- Persons summoned or persons sought to be summoned to appear before the judicial authorities in connection with criminal proceedings;
- Persons, who are subject to discreet supervision or specific control due to a request by the competent authorities in order to ensure national security, public order or a judicial body.
- Information regarding third-country individuals who may be connected to terrorist activity.

Alerts for individuals in N.SIS consist of the following data:

- Surnames, forenames, names at birth, previously used names and aliases;
- any specific, objective, physical characteristics not subject to change
- Date and place of birth;
- gender;
- photographs;
- fingerprints;
- Any nationalities held;
- Whether the person concerned is armed, violent or has absconded or escaped
- Reason for alert;
- The authority which created the alert;
- a reference to the decision giving rise to the alert;
- the action to be taken in the case of a hit;
- Links to other alerts in SIS II.

The Visa Information System (VIS)

The Visa Information System of the European Union (VIS) is an automated information system for processing data from visa application and the decisions regarding the applications, which have been submitted in the the consular offices of the foreign missions of the Schengen Member States, as well as the issuance of visas at border crossing points at the EU's external border.

Currently, the Republic of Bulgaria is not an active user of the VIS. Bulgaria will have access to and will be able to use and enter data in the VIS following the adoption of a decision of the Council of the EU on the full implementation of the Schengen acquis in the Republic of Bulgaria.

VIS operates in accordance with Regulation (EC) 767/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council from 9 July 2008 concerning the Visa Information System and the exchange of data between Member States on short-stay visas.

The National Visa Information System (N.VIS) is an automated information system for processing and storing data from visa applications, as well as visa issuing at border crossing points on the Bulgarian border. N.VIS provides storage and processing of data from applications for issuance of Bulgarian identity documents received by the consular offices of the Bulgarian foreign missions.

N.VIS is established, maintained and operated in the National Visa Centre with the “Consular relations” Directorate in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. N.VIS is connected with the EU VIS with a specialised connection interface.

A controller for the system at national level is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

N.VIS stores personal data, which include biometric data (photographs and fingerprints) of visa applicants, as well as issued, rejected, annulled, revoked or extended visas and the following data:

- surname, surname at birth (former surname(s)); first name(s); sex; date, place and country of birth;
- current nationality and nationality at birth;
- type and number of the travel document, the authority which issued it and the date of issue and of expiry;
- place and date of the application;
- type of visa requested;
- details of the person issuing an invitation and/or liable to pay the applicant's subsistence costs during the stay;
- main destination and duration of the intended stay;
- intended date of arrival and departure;
- intended border of first entry or transit route;
- residence;

- current occupation and employer; for students: name of school;
- in the case of minors, surname and first name(s) of the applicant's father and mother.



EURODAC information system (EURODAC)

The Eurodac information system is a computer system, which manages a database for fingerprints with electronic measures for transferring data between the member states and the central system.

The main purpose of the system is to assist with the determination of the Member State which is responsible for an application for international protection in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 604/2013 (the Dublin III Regulation) as well as to reduce the so-called secondary movements - cases in which third country individual or stateless person lodges several applications for international protection in different member states.

The system operates in accordance with *Regulation 603/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (EURODAC Regulation)*.

On a national level the system is maintained by the National Institute of Forensics with the Ministry of interior in the Republic of Bulgaria. The competent authorities, which can use the system are the State Agency for Refugees with the Council of Ministers and the

bodies of Mol - NCI, "Migration" Directorate, "Border Police" General Directorate and others.

A controller for the system at national level is the Minister of Interior.

EURODAC data can also be compared by Member States' law enforcement agencies and EUROPOL for the purposes of law enforcement and countering organised crime networks in third countries that seek to take advantage of the asylum system to introduce network members to EU Member State as a contact for its criminal activity.

Sensitive personal data are processed at EURODAC, incl. fingerprints of third-country nationals and stateless persons mainly on three criteria - whether the person has applied for international protection, whether the person has been detained at a border crossing point of a Member State or has been detained inland.

Depending on which of the three categories the foreigner falls into, the biometric data is stored for a different period of time and additional information shall be added - names, gender, date of birth, citizenship, date, time and place of which the fingerprints were taken, date of application for international protection, date of departure from the EU, etc.



The system for cooperation in the area of law enforcement in the EUROPOL Agency (EUROPOL)

The European Police Office (EUROPOL) is established as an intergovernmental body based in The Hague (Netherlands), in accordance with the provisions of the current *Regulation (EU) 2016/794 on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol)*.

Europol's role is to support the work of national law enforcement agencies and their cooperation in preventing and combating serious crime and terrorism. Europol facilitates the exchange of information between Member States' law enforcement authorities and provides criminal analysis to assist national police authorities in conducting cross-border investigations. According to the current provisions of European legislation in the field of migration, law enforcement and the movement of persons in the EU, EUROPOL has access to all large-scale EU information systems.

The Europol National Unit on the territory of the country is in the International Operational Cooperation Directorate at the Ministry of Interior, fulfilling the commitments of the Republic of Bulgaria for organizing and coordinating the international exchange of operational information.

The administrator of the system at the national level is the Minister of Interior.

BEUROPOL processes personal data related to the activities for the protection of national security, the fight against crime, the protection of public order and the conduct of criminal proceedings, such as names and any pseudonyms and accepted names; Date and place of birth; citizenship; gender; place of residence; social residence number, etc.

According to the current legislation, Europol has access to the data processed in all large-scale EU information systems in order to perform the tasks within the competence of the Office.



Customs Information System (CIS)

The Customs information system (“CIS”) is a centralised platform created to prevent, investigate and prosecute violations of customs and agricultural legislation.

The system operates in accordance with the current *Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/414 of 8 March 2021*. The IIA and FIDE are governed by Council Regulation (EC) No 515/97, as last amended by Regulation (EU) No 2015/1525, and Council Decision 2009/917 / JHA (“IIA Legal Framework”).

The CIS on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria is administered by the Customs Agency. A centralized database of the system is accessible through terminals in each EU Member State.

The administrator of the system at the national level is the Customs Agency.

The data entered in the CIS relate to goods, means of transport, enterprises and people related to such infringements. The personal data that are processed in the CIS are: name, surname, maiden name, pseudonyms, date and place of birth, citizenship, gender and others.

The Fichier d'Identification des Dossiers d'Enquêtes Douanières ('FIDE') database consists of investigative protocols generated by the customs and other investigative bodies of the EU Member States for administrative and administrative purposes. criminal investigations.



Entry/Exit System (EES)

Regulation (EU) № 2017/2226 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2017 established an entry / exit system for the purpose of recording entry and exit data and data on refusals of entry of third-country nationals passing through the external borders of the Member States.

The competent authority on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, which is responsible for the system, is the Directorate for International Operational Cooperation at the Ministry of Interior, and the operation of the system as a whole is scheduled to start in September 2022.

The administrator of the system at national level is the Minister of the Interior.

By recording and storing data in the EES and by providing Member States with access to such data, the objectives of the EES are to:

- enhance the efficiency of border checks by calculating and monitoring the duration of the authorised stay on the entry and exit of third-country nationals admitted for a short stay;
 - assist in the identification of third-country nationals who do not or no longer fulfil the conditions for entry to, or for short stay on, the territory of the Member States;
 - allow the identification and detection of overstayers and enable the competent national authorities of the Member States to take appropriate measures;
 - allow refusals of entry in the EES to be checked electronically;
 - enable automation of border checks on third-country nationals;
 - enable visa authorities to have access to information on the lawful use of previous visas;
 - inform third-country nationals of the duration of their authorised stay;
 - gather statistics on the entries and exits, refusals of entry and overstays of third-country nationals in order to improve the assessment of the risk of overstays and support evidence-based Union migration policy making;
 - combat identity fraud and the misuse of travel documents.

Personal data, which is stored in the system is:

- surname (family name); first name or names (given names); date of birth; nationality or nationalities; sex;;
 - the type and number of the travel document or documents and the three letter code of the issuing country of the travel document or documents;

- the date of expiry of the validity of the travel document or documents;
- facial image;
- the date and time of the entry;
- the border crossing point of the entry and the authority that authorised the entry;
- where applicable, the status of that third-country national indicating that he or she is a third-country national;
- the date and time of the exit;
- the border crossing point of the exit..



European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)

Regulation (EU) 2018/1240 of the European Parliament and of the Council from 12 September 2018 establishes the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) for third country nationals who are exempt from the requirement of being in possession of a visa when crossing the external borders and whether such travel poses a security, illegal immigration or high epidemic risk. For this purpose a travel authorization is introduced, as well as conditions and procedures for its issuance or refusal.

The competent authority on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, which is responsible for the system, is the Directorate for International Operational Cooperation at the Ministry of Interior, and

the operation of the system as a whole is scheduled to begin in May 2023.

The administrator of the system at the national level is the Minister of Interior.

The ETIAS Information System consists of a National Unified Interface (NUI) in each Member State, based on common technical specifications, allowing the ETIAS Central System to be securely connected to national border infrastructures and central access points in the Member States.

Personal data stored in the ETIAS Central System shall not be transferred or transmitted to third countries, international organizations or individuals, except for the transfer of data to Interpol for the purpose of automated processing.



The European system for information regarding convictions of third-country nationals or stateless persons (ECRIS-TCN)

Regulation (EU) 2019/816 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 establishes a centralized system for the identification of Member States with information on convictions

against third-country nationals and stateless persons (ECRIS-TCN), in order to complement the European Criminal Records Information System.

The competent authority on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria is the Central Criminal Bureau at the Ministry of Justice, which administers the national central access unit of ECRIS-TCN.

The administrator of the system at the national level is the Ministry of Justice.

For each convicted third-country national, the central authority of the convicting Member State shall create a data record in the Central System. The data record contains:

- Surname (family name), first names (given names), previous names, pseudonyms or aliases;
- Date of birth;
- Place of birth (town and country);
- Nationality or nationalities;
- gender;
- identity number, or the type and number of the person's identification documents, as well as the name of the issuing authority;
- fingerprint data that have been collected in accordance with national law during criminal proceedings.



The system of EU for cooperation in criminal justice (EUROJUST)

The EU Agency for Cooperation in the Field of Criminal Justice (Eurojust) operates on the basis of the current Regulation 2018/1727 of 12 December 2019.

The administrator of the system at the national level is the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Bulgaria.

To the extent necessary for the performance of its tasks, within its competence and for the purpose of carrying out its operational functions, Eurojust may process by automated means or in structured, hand-processed files personal data of operational importance to persons in respect of whom it exists. serious grounds for believing that they have committed or will commit an offence within its competence or have been convicted of such an offence.

Eurojust processes the following personal data:

- surname, given name(s) and any pseudonyms or aliases;
- Date and place of birth;
- citizenship;
- gender;
- place of residence, profession and location of the person concerned;
- social security number or other official numbers used in the Member States to establish the identity of a person, driving licenses, identity documents, passport data, identification numbers for customs and tax purposes;

- information relating to legal persons, if it includes information on designated or identifiable persons who are the subject of a judicial investigation or prosecution;
 - accounts for banks or other financial institutions;
 - description and type of the alleged crimes, date of commission, criminal classification of the crimes and stage of the investigation;
 - the facts indicating the extension of the scope of the case at international level;
 - information in connection with alleged membership in a criminal organization;
 - telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, traffic and location data, as well as any related data necessary to identify the subscriber or user;
 - vehicle registration data;
 - DNA profiles made from the non-coding part of DNA, photographs and fingerprints.





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