

Annual report on the 2015 activities of Eurodac*

November 2016

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

Eurodac

Eurodac is the European Dactyloscopy (fingerprints) database. It facilitates the application of the Dublin Regulation by helping determine the country responsible for the assessment of an asylum claim presented in the European Union or one of the Associated Countries (Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein). The system is used in 32 countries: 28 EU Member States and four Associated Countries.

On 20 July 2015 the recast Eurodac Regulation (EU) No 603/2013 entered into effect repealing Eurodac Regulation (EC) No 2725/2000. Previously Eurodac was used for asylum related purposes only. Since 20 July 2015 data can be searched additionally by national police forces - under strict conditions - for the purpose of prevention, detection and investigation of terrorist offences as well as other serious criminal offences. Europol also has the possibility to perform these type of searches but, at the time of writing the report, was not yet connected to the system.

eu-LISA's role

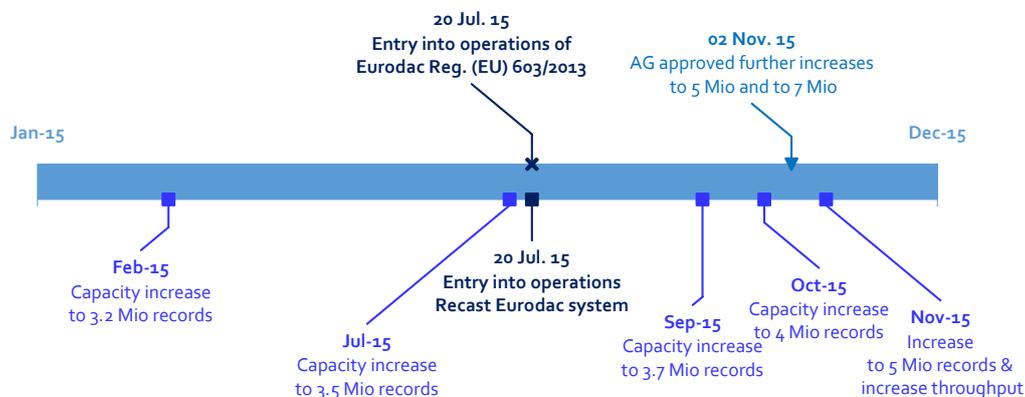
eu-LISA provides 24/7 operational management for Eurodac and is required to submit an annual report on the activities of the central system, including its technical functioning and security, to the European Parliament, the European Council, the European Commission and the European Data Protection Supervisor as per Article 40(1) of Regulation (EU) No 603/2013.



The Report at a glance

2015 was particularly challenging for Eurodac. In order to deal with the significant increase in usage – both in terms of datasets stored and high traffic – subsequent to the migration crisis, immediate capacity upgrades were required. Furthermore, important system evolutions were implemented to bring the central system in line with the new legal base.

In the course of the year several capacity upgrades were planned and implemented to ensure that the system remained able to efficiently handle the increased traffic.



Eurodac's major evolutions in 2015

* This document is provided purely for information purposes, it highlights key points of the accompanying "Annual report on the 2015 activities of the central system of Eurodac, including its technical functioning and security pursuant to Article 40(1) of Regulation (EU) No 603/2013".

The new Eurodac central system entered into operation on 20 July 2015. By that date, 29 Member States had acknowledged their technical readiness to connect to the new system. Three Member States – Belgium, Cyprus and Ireland - faced some delays in implementing the new Eurodac legal framework by 20 July 2015, and were therefore temporarily disconnected from the central system.

The timely rollout of the new central system was possible thanks to the coordination and cooperation of all the stakeholders involved. Technical complexity, coordination between the Agency and the 32 Member States using the system, a number of dependencies (between national and central systems) and the limited timeframe (due to the legal requirement for the entry into operation) all proved to be quite challenging.

In 2015, the Eurodac central system was available 99.9% of the time.

Figures and findings

In the reporting period, the system saw the biggest ever increase in usage over a 12 month period, since its entry into operations. On 31 December 2015, there were 4,076,218 sets of fingerprints, both Category 1 and Category 2 datasets, stored in the Eurodac database. Compared to 2014 this is a 51% increase.

Throughout 2015, the Eurodac central system processed a total of 1,915,838 transactions; an increase of over 153% compared to 2014.

In 2015 almost 1.2 million transactions for **category 1 data** - applicants for international protection, aged 14 or more, who lodged an application in a Member State - were registered showing an increase of 137% compared to 2014.

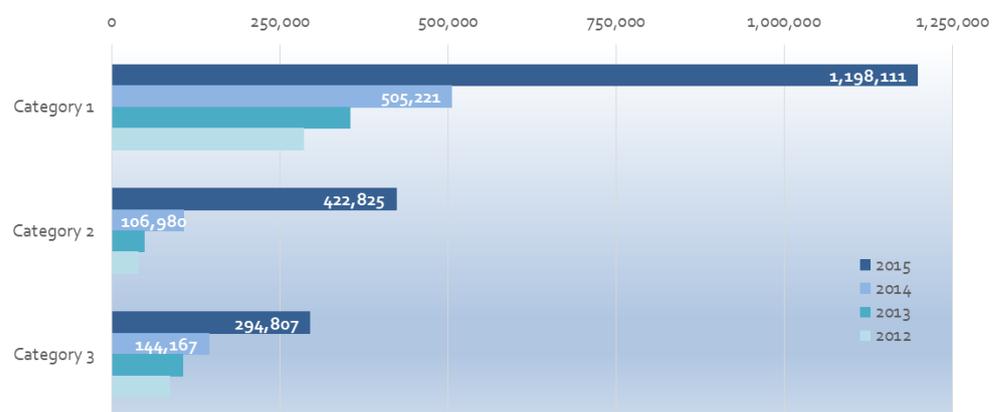
Naturally, the migration crisis

heavily affected **category 2 transactions** - third-country nationals or stateless persons, aged 14 or more, apprehended in connection with irregularly crossing an external border - which counted a massive increase of almost 300% compared to 2014.

Category 3 data - searches performed with a view to checking whether a third country national or a stateless person, aged 14 or more, found illegally staying within the territory of a Member State has previously lodged an application for international protection – showed an increase of 104% compared to 2014.

As of 20 July 2015, Member State law enforcement designated authorities, under certain limited circumstances, are allowed to compare fingerprints - for the purpose of prevention, detection or investigation of terrorist offences or of other serious criminal offences - with datasets already stored in Eurodac. Five Member States used this new transaction type, **category 4**, for a total of 95 searches.

The rejection rate for fingerprints, caused by low quality or a sequence check error, was 3.99% which represents an improvement compared to the 4.49% for the previous year.



Processed transactions for the three main types, from 2012 to 2015

About the Agency

eu-LISA is the European Agency that ensures 24/7 operational management the European Union's (EU) largest IT systems and their respective communication infrastructure in the area of freedom, security and justice: Eurodac, SIS II and VIS. With information technology, eu-LISA safeguards the EU's internal security and supports the implementation of asylum, migration and border management policies for the benefit of citizens. www.eulisa.europa.eu