Annual report on the 2016 activities of Eurodac *

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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 operational since 2003. The system provides fingerprint evidence, by comparing fingerprint datasets, to help determine the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application made in the EU. Its primary objective has always been to serve the implementation of the Dublin Regulation, thus being one of the building blocks of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). A recast has been in operation since 20 July 2015, providing new functionalities mainly for granting access, under strict conditions, to law enforcement.

Eurodac is used in 32 countries: 28 EU Member States and 4 Associated Schengen Countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland).

eu-LISA's role

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

Eurodac forward looking

In May 2016, the Commission proposed substantial amendments to the Dublin Regulation and, at the same time, proposed a recast of the Eurodac Regulation as part of the first package of reforms for the third phase of the Common European Asylum System. A revision of the Eurodac Regulation was necessary to ensure that the Dublin mechanism continued to receive the fingerprint evidence it requires to determine which Member State is responsible for examining each asylum application.

Targeted amendments to the Eurodac Regulation were presented in the form of a recast proposal. The proposal widens the scope of the current Eurodac Regulation and extends the purpose of the system to allow Member States to monitor irregular migration involving those who have not sought asylum and to use the information to facilitate re-documentation and return procedures.

The Report at a glance

Eurodac's overall levels of performance and availability remained high in 2016. Eurodac is a living system that must adapt and grow in line with a changing business reality and eu-LISA ensures continuous evolutions. In the last two years, the system underwent a series of successful developments so that the growing number of datasets and volume of traffic could fulfil quality and performance requirements. In 2016, the Eurodac central system was available 99.88 % of the time.
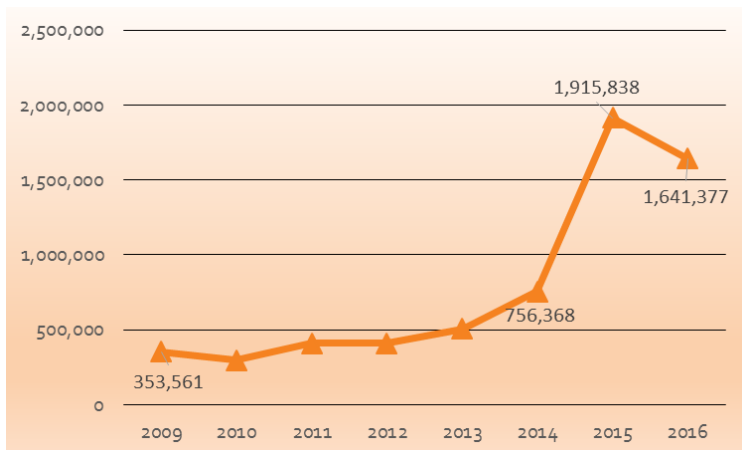
In 2016, the volume of traffic was lower than the record figures of 2015. It was also the first full year of operations for the system, which began operation in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 603/2013. For the first time, a full year of reports on the new functionalities is available.

In 2016, the system processed over 1.6 million transactions. This represents a decrease of 14.3 % compared with the record volume of traffic registered in 2015, when the system processed over 1.9 million transactions, the highest volume of traffic registered since its entry into operation in 2003.
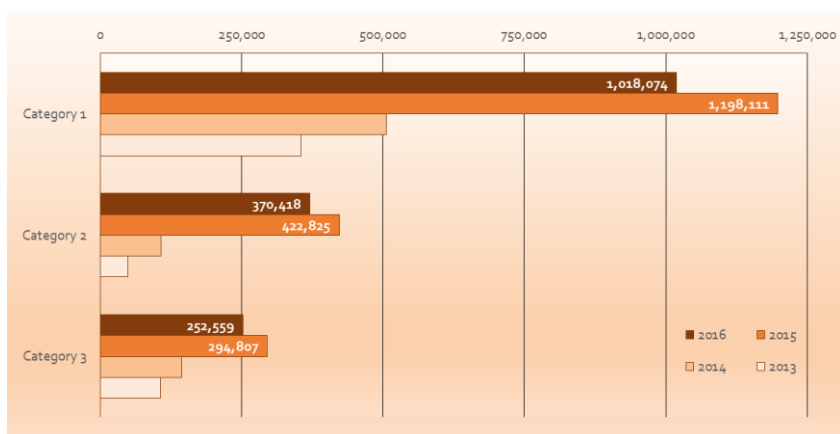

By the end of 2016, the number of fingerprint datasets stored in the Eurodac central system exceeded 5 million, a 25 % increase in relation to the 4 million records stored over the previous reporting period. In terms of quality, the average rejection rate for fingerprint datasets was 3.72 % overall across the Member States, which was lower than in 2015, thus continuing the positive trend observed over recent years.

Figures

In 2016, the total number of transactions for:

- Applicant for international protection, aged 14 or older, who lodges an application in a Member State, category 1 data was 1 018 074, representing a decrease of 15 % compared with 2015;

- Third-country national or stateless person, aged 14 or older, who was apprehended by competent control authorities in connection with irregularly crossing by land, sea or air the external border of a Member State, having come from a third country, and who is not turned back, category 2 was 370 418. A decrease of 12 % was observed in comparison to 2015, in line with the overall decrease in traffic observed over the period;

- Fingerprint datasets that a Member State may transmit to Eurodac to check whether a third-country national or stateless person aged 14 or older who is found staying illegally within its territory has previously lodged an application for international protection, category 3 data showed a decrease of 14% compared to 2015.

About eu-LISA

eu-LISA is the European Agency that ensures 24/7 operational management of the European Union's (EU) largest IT systems and their respective communication infrastructures 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