Annual report on the 2017 activities of Eurodac *

June 2018

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 ensures the operational management of the Eurodac Central System 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 technical training to Member State national Eurodac operators.

The *Annual report on the 2017 activities of the Eurodac central system* is part of the legal reporting obligations of the Agency. The report, encompassing information on the activities of the central system, including its technical functioning and security, is submitted 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).

The Report at a glance

All through 2017, the Eurodac central system was stable and performed as expected. Incoming traffic levels remained significant even though lower compared to previous years. Eurodac, being a living system, has to adapt and grow in line with changing business realities and eu-LISA is ensuring continuous evolutions and operational maintenance.

The system was available for 99.96 % of the time and the average response time in 2017 was around 28 seconds, decreasing from around 48 seconds in 2016. The decrease in the processing time was possible thanks to the capacity upgrade to 7 million records together with a throughput increase to the system (from 1000 transactions/h to 1500 transactions/h) deployed with the release in March 2017.

2017 saw several projects implemented. In particular, a project to enhance a two-way synchronisation between the Eurodac Central unit and the Back-up Central unit was successfully completed in November 2017. This allowed the execution of the first ever Eurodac switch-over and switch-back maintenance exercise in real life conditions, which was performed in December 2017.

In October 2017, the new Eurodac Maintenance in Working Order framework contract (MWO) was signed. The takeover from the previous contractor started on 17 November 2017 and the corrective maintenance work package was activated on 1 January 2018.
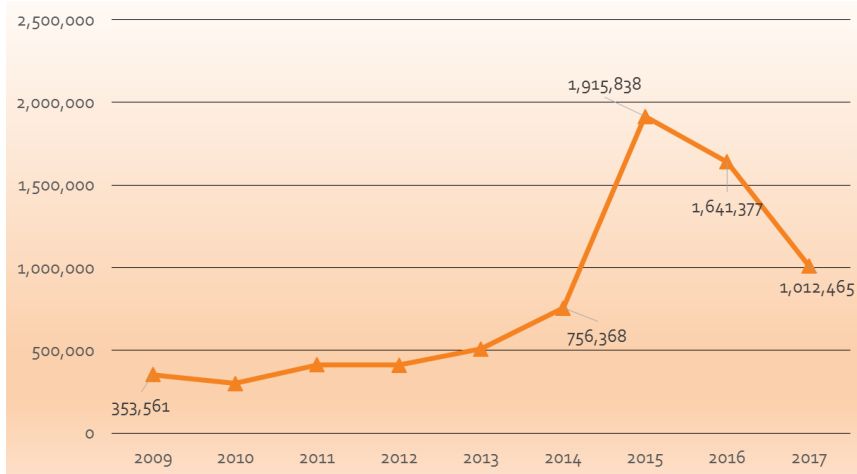
In 2017, the system processed 1 012 465 transactions. This represents a decrease of 38 % compared with the volume of traffic registered in 2016. At the end of 2017, the number of fingerprint datasets stored in the Eurodac central system were 5 161 635, representing an increase of 1.3% compared to 2016.

In terms of quality, the average rejection rate for fingerprint datasets was 2.57 % overall across the Member States, which was lower than in 2016, thus continuing the positive trend observed over recent years.

Figures

In 2017, 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 633 324, representing a decrease of 38 % compared with 2016;
- Third-country national or stateless person, aged 14 or older, 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 not turned back, category 2 was 160 816. A decrease of 57 % was observed in comparison to 2016;
- Fingerprint datasets that a Member State may transmit to Eurodac to check whether a third-country national or stateless person aged 14 or older found staying illegally within its
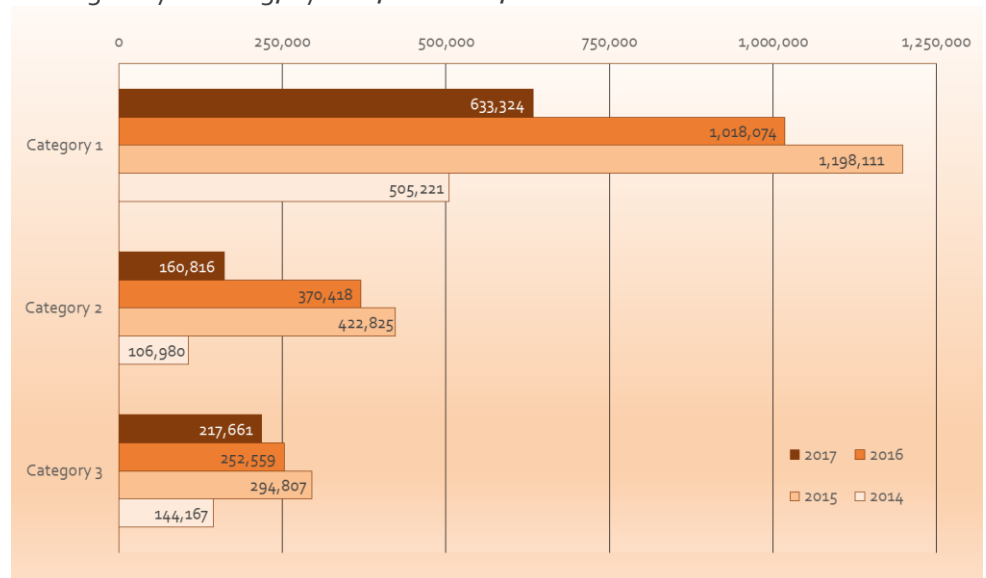
territory, having previously lodged an application for international protection, there were 217 661 category 3 transactions representing a decrease of 14% compared to 2016.

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