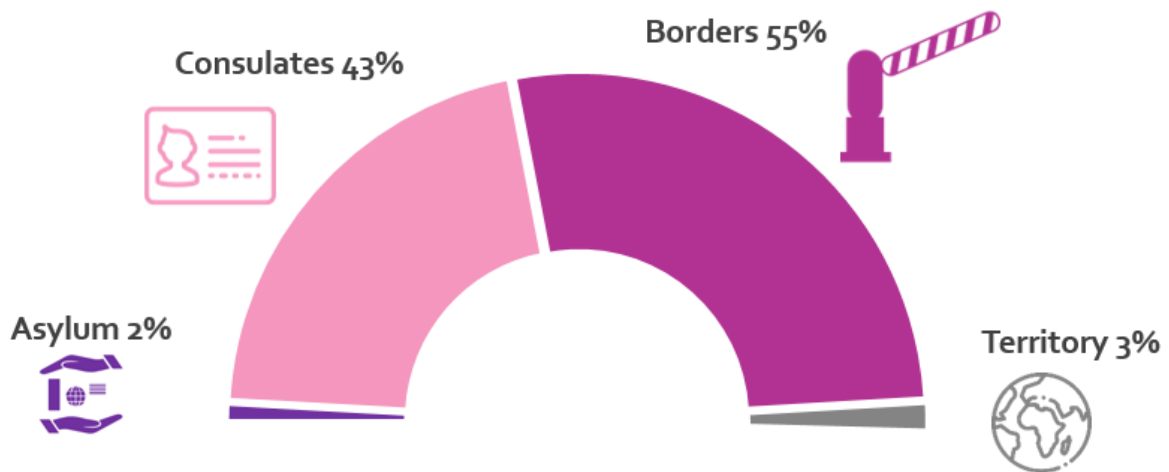# VIS TECHNICAL REPORT 2017-2019 FACTSHEET. AUGUST 2020

VIS is at the core of the Schengen Area, connecting Member State consulates in non-EU countries and all external border crossing points. It supports Member States` consular authorities in the management of applications for short-stay visas to visit, or to transit through, the Schengen Area. Thanks to its Biometric Matching System (BMS) - the subsystem responsible for biometric operations - VIS allows Member State border authorities to perform identification and verification of third country nationals who travel to the EU.

The system first started operations in 2011 and, from February 2016, is deployed worldwide. eu-LISA took charge of the day-to-day management and further development of the central system on the 1st of December 2012. Operational management entails the application of management services, supervision, and the implementation of corrective, adaptive and evolutionary maintenance.

The report provides an overview of the activities carried out on the VIS central system from October 2017 to September 2019, and its usage based on data provided by the Member States. In September 2019 VIS was in use in 26 countries: 22 EU Member States and 4 Associated Schengen Countries (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland).

Graph 1: VIS usage per user group during the reporting period 2017-2019

Consulates 43%
Borders 55%
Asylum 2%
Territory 3%

Source: eu-LISA

ABOUT eu-LISA

eu-LISA is the European Union Agency which ensures the 24/7 operational management of the European Union's large-scale IT systems -as well as their respective communication infrastructure- in the area of freedom, security and justice. Apart from the systems currently under management (*Eurodac, SIS* and *VIS*), the Agency is also in the process of developing three new systems (*EES, ETIAS* and *ECRIS-TCN)*, along with their interoperability components.
For further information, please visit our website: www.eulisa.europa.eu

OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT

69 million
fingerprint sets stored

end-2019

- During the reporting period, VIS storage capacity increased from 60 million to 100 million records.
- The first phase of the BMS virtualization project was implemented.

USAGE TRENDS

25 million alphanumeric searches

2019

7 million biometric searches

2019

- The number of fingerprints stored rose from 41 million sets in autumn 2017 to 69 million two years later.
- In 2019, 25 million alphanumeric searches and 7 million biometric searches were performed.

SYSTEM OPERATIONS

- Operations per hour observed (peak/hour) were 123,393 in 2018 and 138,827 in 2019.
- The busiest months in terms of operations were July both in 2018 and 2019.

138 827
observed **peak operations** per hour

2019

AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME IN 2019

1.87s
average processing time for fingerprint verification

2019

2.24s
average processing time for create/ update/ delete operations

2019

- Less than 0.8 seconds on average for alphanumeric searches (SLA 30 seconds).
- Less than 2 seconds on average for fingerprint verification (SLA 3 seconds).
- For create/update/delete operations- 2.24 seconds (SLA 30 minutes).