SIS

2023 ANNUAL STATISTICS
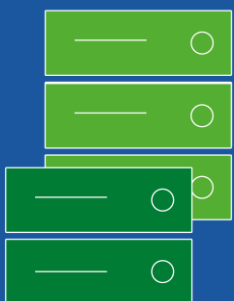## MAY 2024

eU-LISA | SIS

Contents

Executive summary

The **Schengen Information System (SIS)** is a large-scale IT system that supports internal security in Europe, allowing the **exchange and consultation of information on people of interest (e.g., wanted or missing person) and objects (e.g., a stolen car)** between national law enforcement, border control, customs, visa and judicial authorities.

SIS supports authorities to ensure Europe's internal security, while respecting data protection requirements. It is used by security officials to help keep people safe and counter cross-border crime.

In 2023:

91 million alerts stored

15 billion searches performed

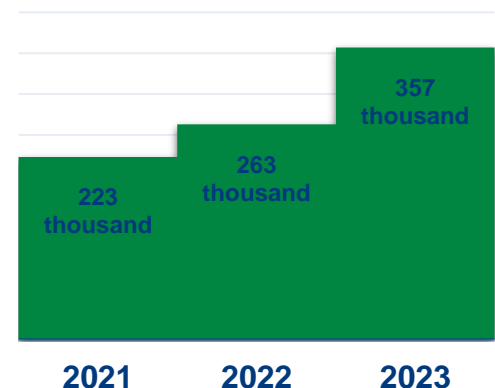**357 thousand** reported hits

ALERTS

- 90 million (2021)
- 86 million (2022)
- 91 million (2023)

SEARCHES

- 7 billion (2021)
- 13 billion (2022)
- 15 billion (2023)

HITS

- 223 thousand (2021)
- 263 thousand (2022)
- 357 thousand (2023)
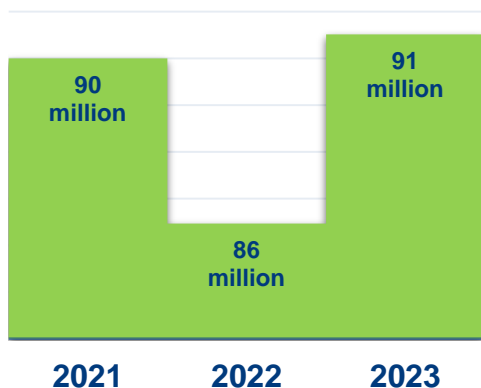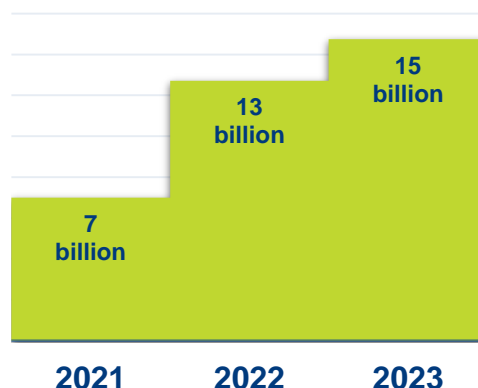
Introduction

This report contains statistical information on the use of the Schengen Information System (SIS) for the year 2023.

On 7 March 2023, the new reinforced SIS entered into operation taking over from SIS II. The data compiled for 2023 comes from two different systems:

- From 01 January until 6 March, data comes from SIS II. Data was collected from Member States, the relevant EU Agencies and the Central SIS using the same templates as in the past exercises, in accordance with Article 50(3) of Regulation (EC) No 1987/2006 and Article 66(3) of Council Decision 2007/533/JHA;

- From 7 March until 31 December, data comes from the new reinforced SIS. Data was collected from Member States, the relevant EU Agencies and the Central SIS based on the new templates, in accordance with Article 16 Regulation (EU) 2018/1860, Article 60(3) Regulation (EU) 2018/1861 and Article 74(3) Regulation (EU) 2018/1862.

There are several changes between the two systems, including extended access rights, additional categories of alerts stored, categories of data with changed or expanded scope, and also extended reporting obligations. All of the above made the collection of data for 2023 more complex in comparison to the past. Based on the changes introduced by the new SIS legal framework, any comparison with the past years' data sets should not be considered straightforward.

1 ACCESS TO SIS
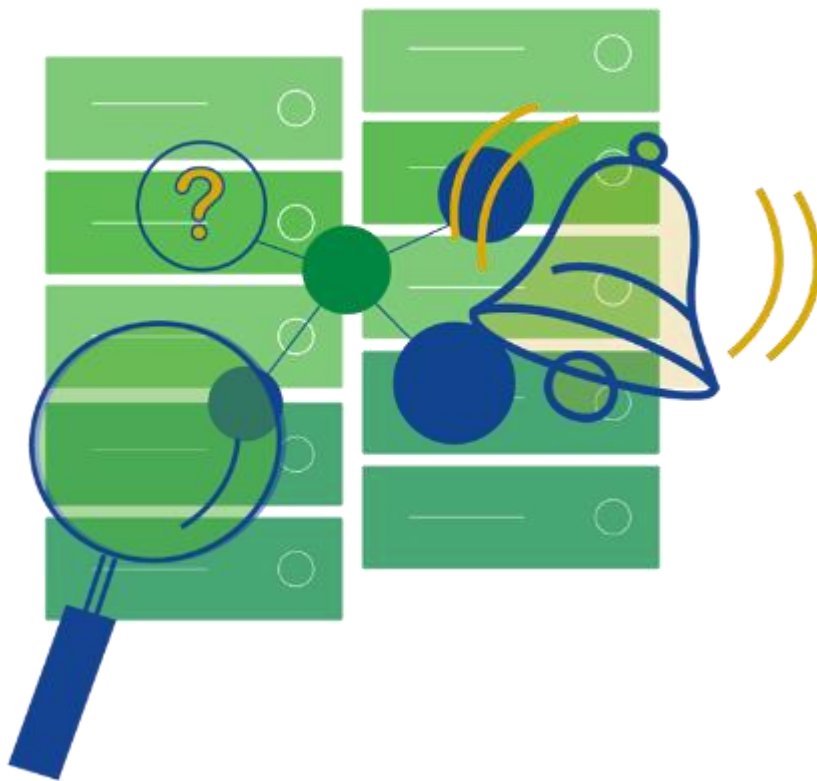
1. Access to SIS

In 2023, there were a total of **14,762,710,821 accesses to SIS** performed by the Member States and the EU Agencies connected to the system. Two types of accesses are possible in the SIS:

- Searches: alphanumeric and biometric;
- Operations performed in order to create, update and manage alerts (CUD).

The table in Figure 1 shows the total number of accesses, with a breakdown of the searches (alphanumeric and biometric), and operations performed for managing alerts (CUD).

Figure 1 — Total number of accesses in 2023

TOTAL Alphanumeric searches	14,737,521,364
TOTAL Biometric searches	4,203,524
Total Searches in SIS in 2023	**14,741,724,888**
TOTAL CUD in 2023	20,985,933
Total Access to SIS in 2023	**14,762,710,821**

The table in Figure 2 shows the total alphanumeric searches reported and operations performed for managing alerts (CUD), with a breakdown by Member States and EU Agencies.

Figure 2 — Alphanumeric searches and CUD

Member State	Total alphanumeric searches	Total CUD	Alphanumeric searches + CUD
AT	236,546,825	559,611	237,106,436
BE	3,599,079,250	893,479	3,599,972,729
BG	184,912,278	593,990	185,506,268
HR	567,070,971	252,696	567,323,667
CY	21,138,994	13,440	21,152,434
CZ	201,759,341	1,003,739	202,763,080
DK	41,745,698	116,323	41,862,021
EE	53,758,013	40,900	53,798,913
FI	62,492,426	62,164	62,554,590
FR	1,356,479,423	3,790,738	1,360,270,161
DE	722,913,060	5,161,440	728,074,500
EL	105,725,916	567,751	106,293,667
HU	103,486,712	378,851	103,865,563
IS	43,123,512	3,863	43,127,375
IE	18,839,795	72,537	18,912,332
IT	589,374,917	2,516,879	591,891,796
LV	36,159,842	66,689	36,226,531
LI	490,715	2,313	493,028
LT	47,431,156	181,897	47,613,053
LU	17,123,905	13,395	17,137,300
MT	93,741,570	31,783	93,773,353
NL	3,923,545,732	653,537	3,924,199,269
NO	110,673,612	164,744	110,838,356
PL	540,711,490	648,640	541,360,130
PT	97,678,883	189,523	97,868,406
RO	426,399,197	316,167	426,715,364
SK	53,839,089	859,690	54,698,779
SI	50,208,807	76,115	50,284,922
ES	1,177,669,700	1,230,639	1,178,900,339
SE	70,268,102	301,122	70,569,224
CH	182,830,663	221,278	183,051,941
TOTAL MS	14,737,219,594	20,985,933	14,758,205,527
Eurojust	0		0
Europol	301,770		301,770
Frontex	0		n/a
TOTAL	14,737,521,364		14,758,507,297

Cyprus started using SIS in July 2023. In a bit more than 5 months, Cyprus performed 0.14% of the total accesses to SIS performed by all Member States.

The EU Agencies currently connected to the SIS are Europol and Eurojust, the latter did not report any searches in the system in 2023. Frontex is not yet using the SIS. There is an on-going project with the objective of connecting Frontex to the SIS.

1.1. Searches in SIS

In 2023, there were a total of **14,741,724,888 searches performed against the SIS**. The table in Figure 3 shows the 2023 alphanumeric searches with breakdown per Member States and EU Agencies.

Two types of searches are possible in SIS:

- **Alphanumeric searches** made against the central SIS or a national copy of the SIS, regardless of whether or not there was a match. Member States without a national copy, and therefore searching only in the Central SIS are Denmark, Finland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Slovenia. In 2023, in addition to those countries and to Europol, there were also 17 Member States which partially used the Central SIS for alphanumeric searches. Those countries were Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czechia, Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, and Switzerland. This data is reported by Member States and EU Agencies on a yearly basis.

  Over 14.7 billion alphanumeric searches were reported in 2023.

- **Biometric searches** are performed against the Central SIS with the aim of identifying a person of interest solely based on fingerprints. All Member States were required to enable SIS-AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) searches at national level by the end of December 2020. In 2023, 28 Member States regularly used this functionality. This data is available in the Central SIS, hence not reported by Member States and/or EU Agencies.

  Over 4 million biometric searches were registered in 2023.

Alphanumeric searches can be performed[1] in two ways:

- **Manually processed searches** are defined as searches involving human intervention, e.g., searches by staff using radios, telephones, computer terminals and, document scanners or other forms of traditional checks where a human user makes the decision to carry out a check.

- **Automatically processed searches** take place without human intervention. Commonly, these will be searches carried out by automatic number plate recognition systems (ANPR) or other forms of automated bulk searches such as the processing of passenger name records. If a Member State or EU Agency does not possess such technology or does not access the SIS in this way, this field is left blank.

Not all Member States provided a breakdown between manually and automatically processed searches. Estonia, Germany, Portugal, Romania and Switzerland reported not being able to separate automatic and manual searches.

As from 7 March 2023, the alphanumeric searches reported by Member States include also all searches done by or on behalf of the services responsible for issuing registration certificates for vehicles, for boats, for aircrafts, and for firearms.

In absolute terms, the Member States that searched the SIS the most in 2023 were the Netherlands (with 27% of the total searches by the Member States), similar to the trend of the last couple of years, followed by Belgium (24%), France (9%) and Spain (8%).

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[1] Some Member States did not provide a breakdown of the way alphanumeric searches are performed. This implies that the total number of manual searches and total of automated searches for all Member States are only partial (and their sum does not equate to the total number of searches reported).

Figure 3 — SIS alphanumeric searches

Member State	Manual searches	Automated searches	Searches reported
AT	236,546,825	0	236,546,825
BE	26,476,113	3,572,603,137	3,599,079,250
BG	2,379,140	182,533,138	184,912,278
HR	339,771,276	227,299,695	567,070,971
CY	21,138,994	0	21,138,994
CZ	56,589,297	145,170,044	201,759,341
DK	41,745,698		41,745,698
EE	53,758,013		53,758,013
FI	30,443,348	32,049,078	62,492,426
FR	422,652,856	933,826,567	1,356,479,423
DE			722,913,060
EL	97,649,384	8,076,532	105,725,916
HU	127,792	103,358,920	103,486,712
IS	41,561	43,081,951	43,123,512
IE	14,897,131	3,942,664	18,839,795
IT	131,487,876	457,887,041	589,374,917
LV	36,159,842		36,159,842
LI	259,813	230,902	490,715
LT	47,431,156		47,431,156
LU	6,773,651	10,350,254	17,123,905
MT	12,987,710	80,753,860	93,741,570
NL	290,822,026	3,632,723,706	3,923,545,732
NO	83,989,792	26,683,820	110,673,612
PL	540,711,490		540,711,490
PT			97,678,883
RO			426,399,197
SK	34,918,622	18,920,467	53,839,089
SI	50,208,807	0	50,208,807
ES	471,049,880	706,619,820	1,177,669,700
SE	70,268,102		70,268,102
CH			182,830,663
TOTAL MS	3,121,286,195	10,186,111,596	14,737,219,594
Eurojust			0
Europol	301,770		301,770
Frontex	n/a	n/a	n/a
TOTAL			14,737,521,364

The systematic use of automatically processed searches - as for example by ANPR systems or similar - by an increasing number of Member States is clearly visible. In 2023, automated searches amounted to almost 70% of the total searches reported. Automatic searches totalled 4 billion in 2021, increasing to 8.3 billion in 2022, and reaching 10.1 billion in 2023.

It is complex to compare Member States when it comes to the use of the SIS. The use depends on many factors, including the definition at national level of business processes and workflows. Furthermore, each Member State has its own crime rate and different geographical location determining the number of border crossing points and the length of the external land borders, thus impacting the use of the system. The map in Figure 4 is an attempt to show SIS total searches per Member State per 1 million inhabitants[2].

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[2] Population figures are taken from 2023 public Eurostat data. **https://europa.eu/!PyBrjW**

Searches per million inhabitants

Total = 14,7 billion

1M

< 10 M
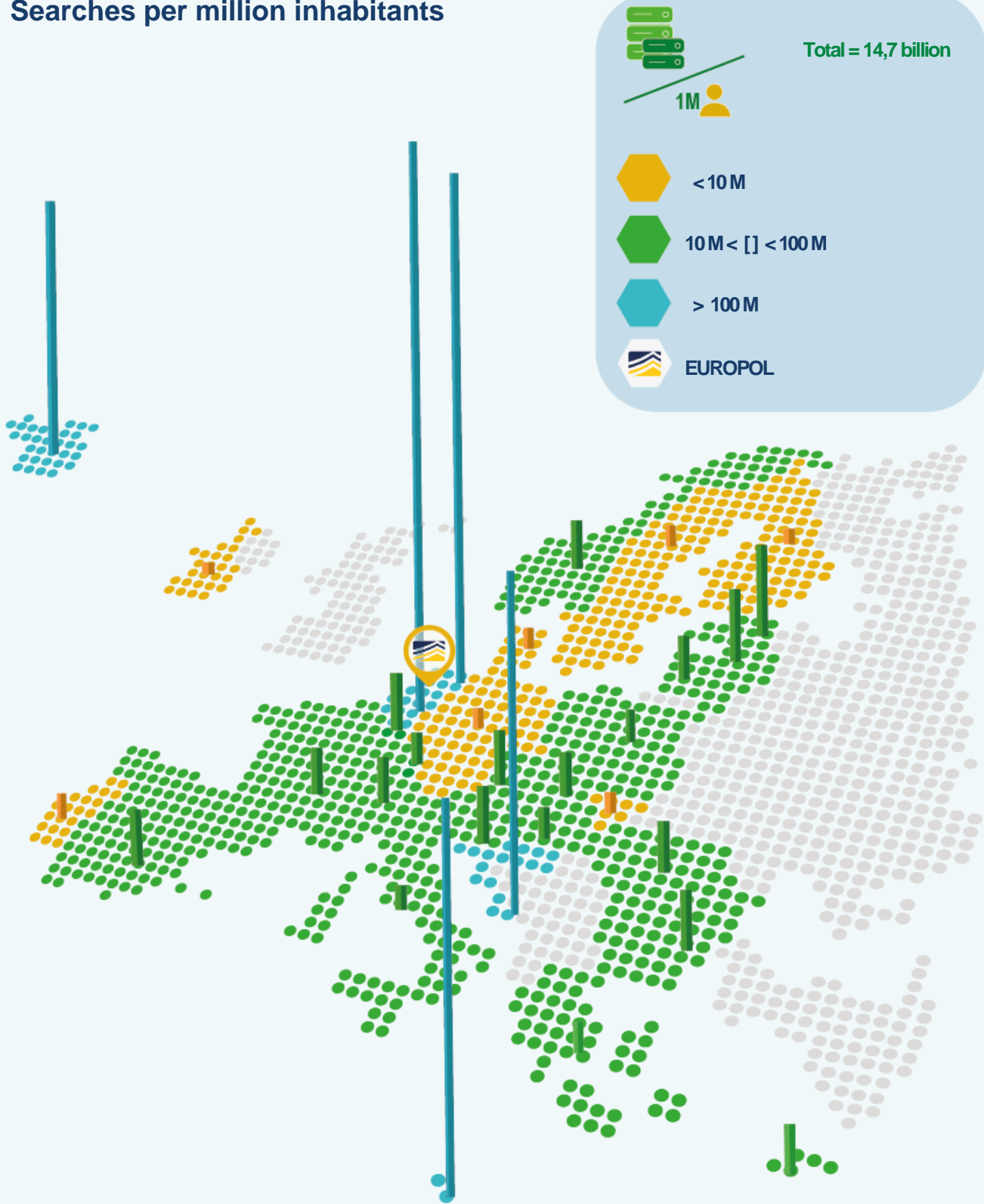
10 M < [ ] < 100 M

> 100 M

EUROPOL

Figure 4 - SIS total searches per Member State per 1 million inhabitants **in 2023**

1.2. Operations for alert management

Accesses for alert management encompass operations performed in order to create and manage alerts. Those are: creation, update, deletion, change of expiry date, change of action to be taken (ATBT), and change of reason for request for action to be taken (RFR/ATBT). This data is retrieved from the Central SIS.

The table in Figure 5 shows the breakdown per Member States` operations for alert management. In the *Update* are counted operation for updating alerts including the new types of change of action to be taken (ATBT), and change of reason for request for action to be taken (RFR/ATBT).

In 2023, there were **20,985,933 operations for alert management**.

Figure 5 — Alert management operations

Member State	Create	Update*	Delete	Change expiry date	Total CUD
AT	211,084	63,386	275,561	9,580	**559,611**
BE	637,140	44,729	128,414	83,196	**893,479**
BG	357,934	148,141	59,412	28,503	**593,990**
HR	179,720	52,993	18,698	1,285	**252,696**
CY	12,498	467	410	65	**13,440**
CZ	443,004	263,822	177,547	119,366	**1,003,739**
DK	90,216	18,854	5,240	2,013	**116,323**
EE	38,727	1,198	725	250	**40,900**
FI	47,623	10,778	3,438	325	**62,164**
FR	2,163,662	453,884	958,691	214,501	**3,790,738**
DE	2,122,752	568,636	1,510,298	959,754	**5,161,440**
EL	265,350	39,188	31,750	231,463	**567,751**
HU	254,505	61,743	24,467	38,136	**378,851**
IS	3,301	52	479	31	**3,863**
IE	51,209	14,319	6,906	103	**72,537**
IT	2,129,373	334,627	19,387	33,492	**2,516,879**
LV	59,104	5,353	2,101	131	**66,689**
LI	1,263	238	740	72	**2,313**
LT	149,950	21,364	10,449	134	**181,897**
LU	7,640	3,878	1,591	286	**13,395**
MT	22,825	4,374	4,408	176	**31,783**
NL	589,585	32,649	23,559	7,744	**653,537**
NO	115,150	22,351	23,255	3,988	**164,744**
PL	511,492	78,011	50,164	8,973	**648,640**
PT	156,509	29,857	1,603	1,554	**189,523**
RO	274,149	24,578	13,195	4,245	**316,167**
SK	161,018	53,841	58,511	586,320	**859,690**
SI	28,807	4,240	40,069	2,999	**76,115**
ES	917,592	133,859	142,513	36,675	**1,230,639**
SE	210,616	15,642	51,004	23,860	**301,122**
CH	150,360	12,343	46,663	11,912	**221,278**
TOTAL	**12,364,158**	**2,519,395**	**3,691,248**	**2,411,132**	**20,985,933**

This represents an increase compared to 2022, in line with the trend observed since 2021. On the other hand, the level of operations for alert management is still far from the record level of 28.8 million registered just prior the COVID-19 crisis in 2019. In order to compare data with previous years, changes implemented as from March 2023 need to be taken into account (see chapter 1.3).

1.3. Accesses compared to previous years

Comparing 2023 data with 2022 data is a complex exercise. Several changes were implemented in the system when it comes to access to the SIS as well as in the reporting with the new reinforced SIS. Novelties encompass:

- The Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) searches performed by Member States and EU Agencies allowing the identification of a person based on fingerprints, are now reported, which was not the case in previous reporting periods;

- Alphanumeric searches reported by Member States now, comprise also the searches done by or on behalf of the services responsible for issuing registration certificates for vehicles[3], services responsible for issuing registration certificates or ensuring traffic management for boats and for aircrafts[4], services responsible for issuing registration certificates for firearms[5];

- The new SIS legal base[6] allows two new operations in terms of data management (not present previously), respectively *change of action to be taken*, and *change of reason for request for action to be taken*, as these are now included in the alert management operations;

- Searches performed by the EU Agencies with access to the SIS are now reported, namely Europol based on Article 48 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1862, Eurojust based on Article 49 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1862, and Frontex based on Article 36 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1861[7];

- Last but not least, Cyprus started searching the SIS as from 25 July 2023.

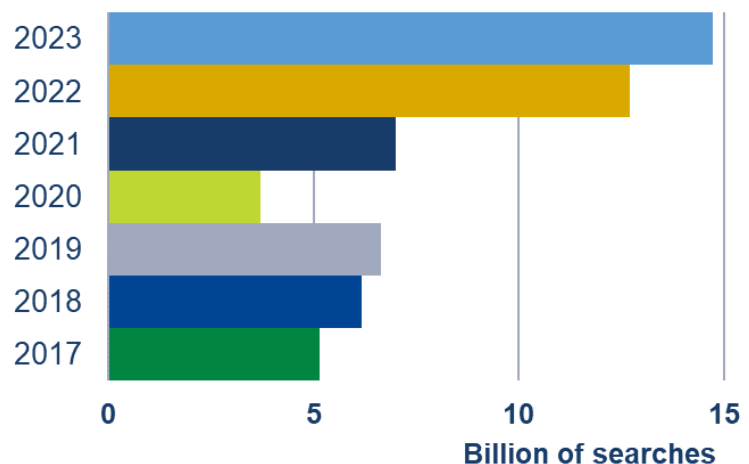**Figure 6 — Searches in SIS, 2017-2023**

Figure 6 shows the trend in searches performed by Member States in SIS in the last 7 years. In the first 3 years reported, the increase was steady. In 2020, the sharp drop caused by the COVID-19 crisis stands out.

In 2021 and 2022, a major increase in searches reported was observed, with respectively an increase of 82% in 2022 compared to 2021, and 88% in 2021 compared to the previous year. The rising trend continued in 2023, when searches augmented by 16% compared to the previous year.

The important increase of automated searches (ANPR systems and similar) observed in the last couple of years shall be taken into account while analysing the use of the system.

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[3] As per Article 45 Regulation (EU) 2018/1862
[4] As per Article 46 Regulation (EU) 2018/1862
[5] As per Article 47 Regulation (EU) 2018/1862
[6] Regulation (EU) 2018/1860, Regulation (EU) 2018/1861, Regulation (EU) 2018/1862 published on OJ of the EU L 312 07.12.2018
[7] As mentioned above in the report, Europol and Eurojust are at the moment connected to SIS, and the latter did not perform any search in 2023. Frontex is not yet using the SIS. A project is on-going with the aim of connecting Frontex to the SIS.

2 DATA STORED IN SIS
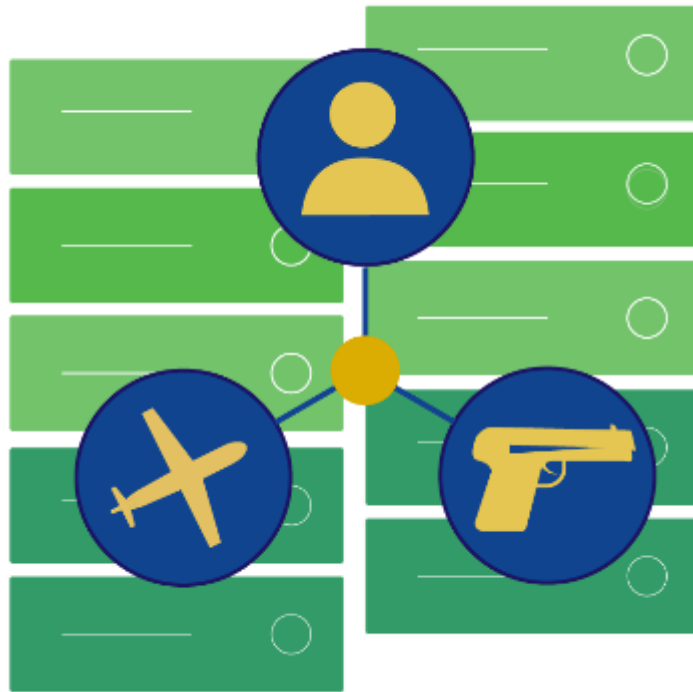
2. Data stored in SIS

By 31 December 2023, **90,512,255 alerts were stored in the SIS**. The table in Figure 7 provides the breakdown of alerts per Member State and per data categories.

Figure 7 — Data stored in SIS on 31 December 2023

Member State	Person	Unknown Person	Vehicle	Aircraft	Banknote	Blank document	Boat	Boat engine	Container	Firearm	Industrial equipment	Industrial equipment part	Issued document	Licence plate	Information technology item	Vehicle registration document	Non-cash means of payment	Vehicle part	Aircraft engine
AT	81,280	0	13,845	1	438	2,157	8	104	7	5822	15,056	86	356,073	42,789	1469	874	0	63	0
BE	17,663	0	33,947	2	1830	372	86	280	245	34346	46,695	0	3,977,213	282,155	7	475,191	0	0	1
BG	18,090	0	25,551	0	0	12	13	1		439	481	6	941,780	146,195	9	354,303	0	1	0
HR	14,377	0	36,609	8	6775	20,975	731	1,787	6	71079	4,886	3	809,518	416,779	54	174,811	0	1	0
CY	1,060	1	3,951	0	0	1	1	0	0	200	0	0	6,763	0	0	0	0	0	0
CZ	17,448	0	43,388	2	5	4,056	12	47	0	16560	7,714	0	1,352,763	345,587	41	1,799,651	0	115	0
DK	6,815	0	19,316	0	0	1,533	704	2,837	3	5806	4,951	0	706,721	26,474	0	1	0	9	0
EE	2,554	0	917	0	0	55	21	5	0	115	1	0	226,687	12	0	1	0	0	0
FI	3,869	0	5,362	0	0	27	153	779	1	9344	71	11	249,334	7,322	1	42	0	0	0
FR	446,405	0	475,380	90	9328	7,764	3,274	4,709	413	44168	37,812	0	15,687,602	118,147	28957	758,830	0	0	0
DE	172,780	10	295,145	542	56602	315,165	1,775	11,233	160	208408	173,182	20	9,910,793	1,005,915	138049	516,722	2	10,181	0
EL	44,040	0	235,994	0	50	133,241	1,098	2,801	2	29432	292	6	1,560,661	355,480	1332	49,543	0	0	0
HU	20,397	0	2,707	0	69	71	12	70	2	314	406	1	588,231	32,388	0	23,437	0	0	0
IS	172	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	4	7	0	22,424	1	0	0	0	0	0
IE	1,386	0	2,625	2	1	880	2	60	0	234	91	1	88,795	9	702	57	0	2	0
IT	212,543	0	851,128	3	6235	470,360	866	390	50	70033	6,745	122	14,144,043	1,411,602	6277	1,170,970	1	1,612	2
LV	1,803	0	2,784	0	0	0	17	19	0	9	120	0	282,246	1,401	0	187	0	0	0
LI	310	7	7	0	6	1	0	0	0	80	125	0	8,011	217	40	6	0	1	0
LT	17,713	0	3,468	0	22	8	65	23	0	525	324	0	591,979	52,901	0	256,186	0	0	0
LU	2,153	0	1,095	0	18	200	5	1	0	235	159	0	24,777	209	0	477	0	0	0
MT	2,727	0	1,410	0	47	119	105	85	0	190	0	0	117,669	157	96	2,116	0	0	0
NL	51,328	0	70,343	0	0	753	681	1,572	13	2602	1,352	0	4,808,827	67	0	4	0	0	0
NO	16,569	0	7,878	0	0	52,174	1,172	3,426	1	4052	210	0	719,323	82,830	0	529	0	0	0
PL	39,780	0	92,082	13	412	9,061	595	534	140	10731	5,020	0	3,881,620	53,804	0	416,626	0	0	0
PT	14,543	0	46,173	0	2	1,807	63	269	1	10474	41	0	577,077	21	0	19,404	0	0	0
RO	24,090	0	8,272	0	16	3	1	0	0	30	0	0	1,136,891	0	0	183,318	0	0	0
SK	5,431	0	34,663	1	201	372	23	22	15	5463	42	0	1,844,158	167,157	4	290	0	109	0
SI	3,904	0	9,885	0	183	648	66	235	2	763	37	0	206,996	28,135	0	2,379	0	0	0
ES	76,872	0	498,365	15	1033	14,047	1,218	203	22	54382	25,688	1	6,856,340	3,848	0	5,217	0	0	0
SE	22,931	0	47,288	0	336	1,820	866	4,535	19	32450	33,967	0	400,595	511	22476	0	0	20	0
CH	45,561	0	17,172	0	624	68	197	1,410	0	5777	22,075	63	961,068	0	6	14	0	2	1
Total	**1,386,594**	**18**	**2,886,752**	**679**	**84,233**	**1,037,738**	**13,829**	**37,452**	**1,103**	**624,067**	**387,550**	**320**	**73,046,978**	**4,582,113**	**199,520**	**6,211,186**	**3**	**12,116**	**4**

With the entry into operation of the renewed SIS in March 2023, as per Article 3 Regulation (EU) 2018/1860, a **new alert category for persons** was created: *Third country nationals subject to a return decision*.

In addition, as per Article 40 Regulation (EU) 2018/1862, a **new alert category** was created for *Unknown wanted persons*.

Few **new alert categories for objects**, as per Article 38 Regulation (EU) 2018/1862, were created:

- Non-cash means of payment
- Aircraft engine
- High-value object
- Industrial equipment part
- Information technology item
- Vehicle part

By the end of the year, Member States started using all new categories of alerts for persons and for objects, except for the *High-value object* alert type[8].

In the new reinforced SIS, **Alerts on persons** may be issued for:

- Third country nationals subject to a return decision, based on Article 3 Regulation (EU) 2018/1860;

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[8] For this reason, the type of alert *High-value object* is not included in the table Figure 6. In order to be used, the alert on *High Value Objects*, a delegated act (secondary legislation) is needed.

- Third country nationals to be refused entry or stay into the Schengen Area, based on Article 24 and 25 Regulation (EU) 2018/1861;

- Persons wanted for arrest for surrender purposes on the basis of a European Arrest Warrant, or alerts on persons wanted for arrest for extradition purposes, based on Article 26 Regulation (EU) 2018/1862;

- Missing persons, including children, and vulnerable persons who need to be prevented from travelling based on Article 32 Regulation (EU) 2018/1862;

- Persons sought to assist with a judicial procedure, based on Article 34 Regulation (EU) 2018/1862;

- Persons for discreet checks, inquiry checks or specific checks, based on Article 36 Regulation (EU) 2018/1862;

- Unknown wanted persons for the purposes of identification under national law, based on Article 40 Regulation (EU) 2018/1862.

Alerts on objects may be issued for:

- Object for discreet checks, inquiry checks or specific checks, based on Article 36 Regulation (EU) 2018/1862;

- Objects for seizure or use as evidence in criminal proceedings, based on Article 38 Regulation (EU) 2018/1862.

By the end of 2023, alerts on objects represented 98.5% of the total alerts stored in the SIS database, whereas alerts on persons represented 1.53%. In line with the trend of the last couple of years, the biggest category was *Issue document*, accounting for almost 81% of the entire SIS database.

2.1. Data stored compared to previous years

The new SIS entered into operation in March 2023 has additional data categories compared to the previous version of the system. In addition, a few categories changed or expanded their purpose. This should be taken into account while comparing 2023 data stored with data from previous years.

By end of 2023, the data stored in the system increased by 5% compared to the end of 2022. Figure 8 shows the total number of alerts stored in the system in the last seven years (2017-2023).

Figure 8 — Alerts stored in SIS, 2017-2023
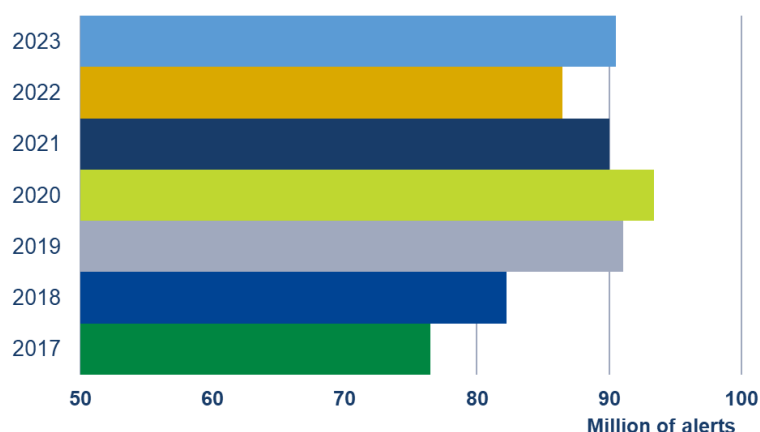
The record number of alerts was reached in the end of 2020, when the SIS database stored 93.4 million alerts. Following that, the number of alerts stored in the SIS decreased for two consecutive years due to data deletion. Data was deleted respectively due to the Brexit in 2021 (5.7million alerts owned by the UK were deleted), and the change in the legal base for SIS requiring deletion of the securities and non-cash means of payment alerts in 2022 (6.5 million alerts were deleted)[9].

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[9] For more information, please see previous years` reports at **https://eulisa.europa.eu/our-publications/reports**

In 2023, the total amount of alerts stored restarted increasing and reaching 90.5 million alerts stored.

SIS 2023 Alerts

98.5%
ON OBJECTS

1.5%
ON PERSONS

Breakdown of Alets per category

- ■ **Issued document**
- ■ **Vehicle registration document**
- ■ **Licence plate**
- ■ **Vehicle**
- ■ **Person**
- ■ **Blank document**
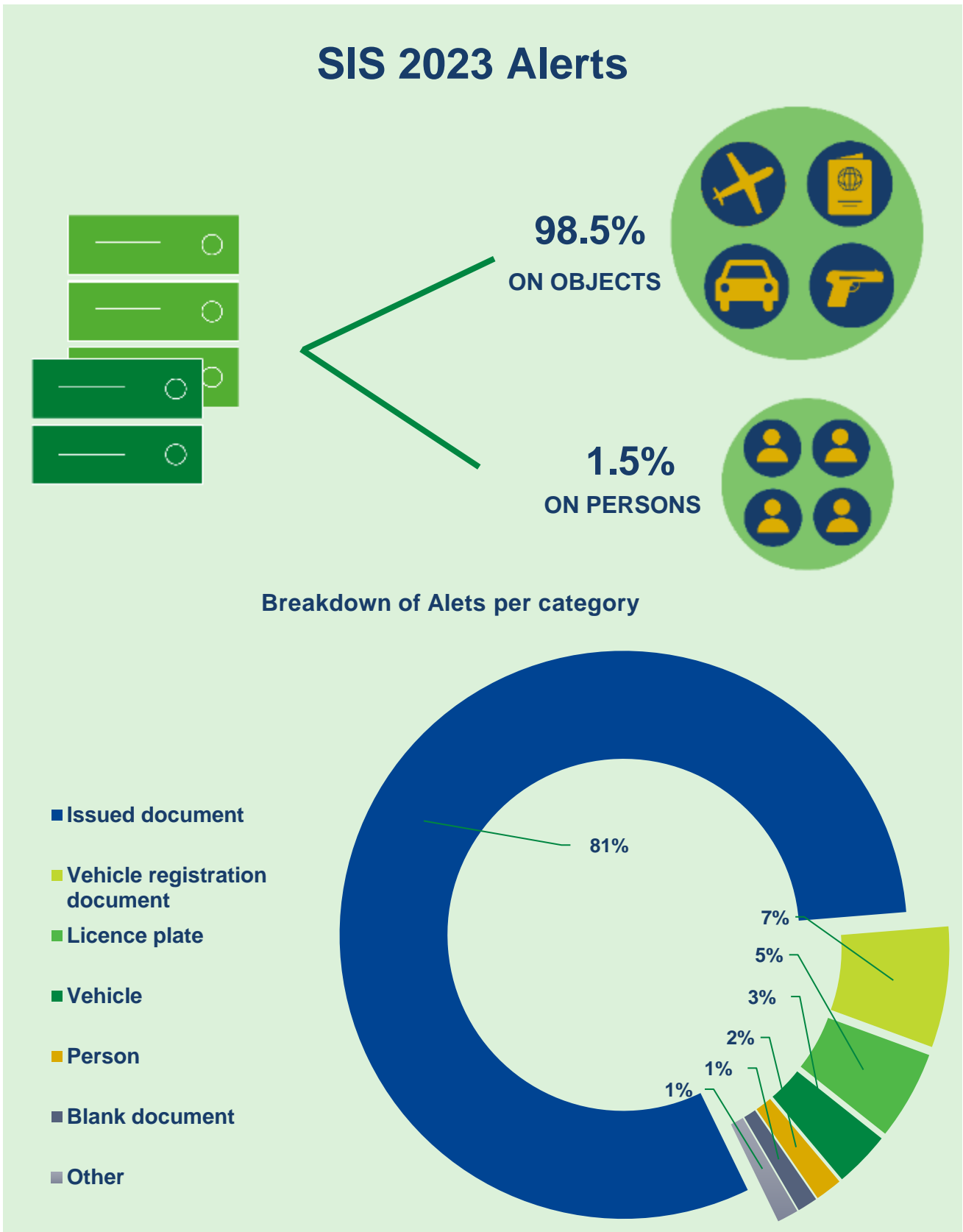- ■ **Other**

81%

7%

5%

3%

2%

1%

1%

Figure 9 – SIS alerts stored by category in 2023

2.2. Data per Member State

In terms of data stored per Member State, the main contributors to the system remain the same as in previous years. By the end of 2023, Italy was still the Member State providing the majority of SIS alerts, with over 20% of the total, closely followed by France (19%), Germany (14%) and Spain (8%).

The table in Figure 10 provides the total amount of alerts stored by each country by the end of 2023.

Cyprus connected to SIS in July 2023, and by the end of the year had almost 12,000 alerts, representing 0.013% of the total alerts stored.

When comparing data per Member States in 2023 with the previous year, it needs to be taken into account the fact that as from March 2023 new types of alerts are introduced, as well as some alerts have changed or increased their scope. In terms of stored data, if we compare data stored at the end of 2022 with data stored at the end of 2023, 20 Member States increased their amount of data stored in the system. The biggest increases were registered by Ireland (63%), Latvia (17%), and Portugal (16%).

Five Member States – Czechia, Denmark, Italy, Liechtenstein and Luxembourg - had a minor increase, below 1%, or a stable contribution compared to the end of 2022.

Five Member States - Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Slovenia and Spain – slightly decreased their contribution.

Figure 10 — Total alerts per Member State - December 2023

Member State	Total
AT	520,072
BE	4,870,033
BG	1,486,881
HR	1,558,399
CY	11,977
CZ	3,587,389
DK	775,170
EE	230,368
FI	276,316
FR	17,622,879
DE	12,816,684
EL	2,413,972
HU	668,105
IS	22,613
IE	94,847
IT	18,352,982
LV	288,586
LI	8,811
LT	923,214
LU	29,329
MT	124,721
NL	4,937,542
NO	888,164
PL	4,510,418
PT	669,875
RO	1,352,621
SK	2,057,951
SI	253,233
ES	7,537,251
SE	567,814
CH	1,054,038
Total	90,512,255

Similar than for the searches, it is complex to compare Member States also when it comes to the amount of data stored. This depends on many factors, including the definition of business processes at national level, workflow, national legislation and different geographical position. The map in Figure 11 is an attempt to show SIS alerts per Member State per 1 million inhabitants.
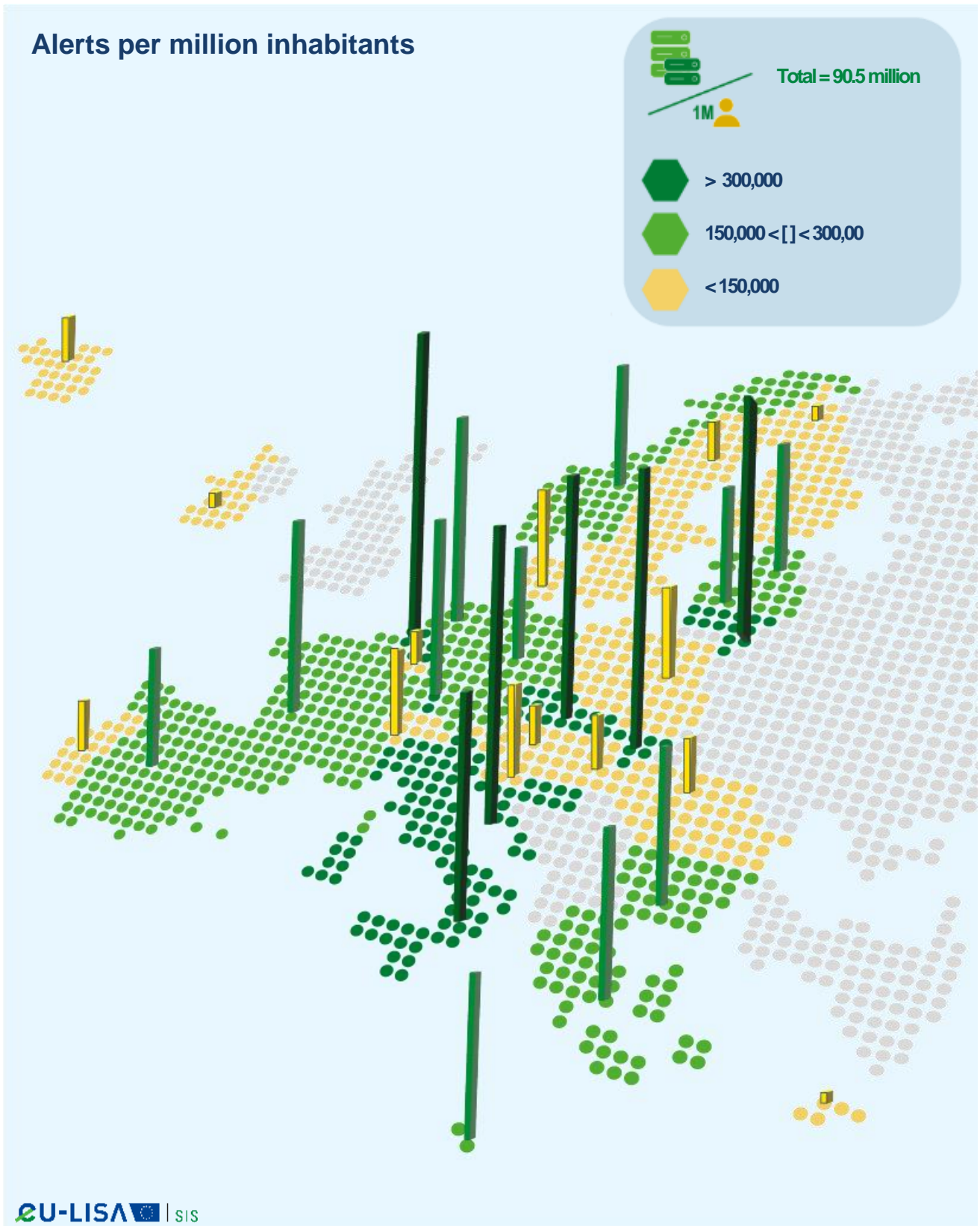

Figure 11 – Alerts per Member State and population in 2023

2.3. Alerts on person

The category of alert on person observed a net increase of 38% compared to end of 2022, increasing to almost 1.4 million from the 1 million at the end of 2023. In that respect, it needs to be taken into account that two types of alerts expanded their purpose as per March 2023 – alert on *missing persons, including children, and vulnerable persons* and alert on *persons for discreet, specific or inquiry checks.*

In addition, a new type of alert on person was created, alert on *third country national subject to a return decision.* The latter accounted for 23% of the total alert on person stored by end of 2023.

The alerts on *third country national to be refused entry and stay into Schengen* saw a net increase of 6% compared to the previous year, whereas the alerts on *person for discreet, specific or inquiry checks* increased by 16%. The other three types of alerts on person observed a rather stable trend, with slight increase or decrease (in the range of 1%).
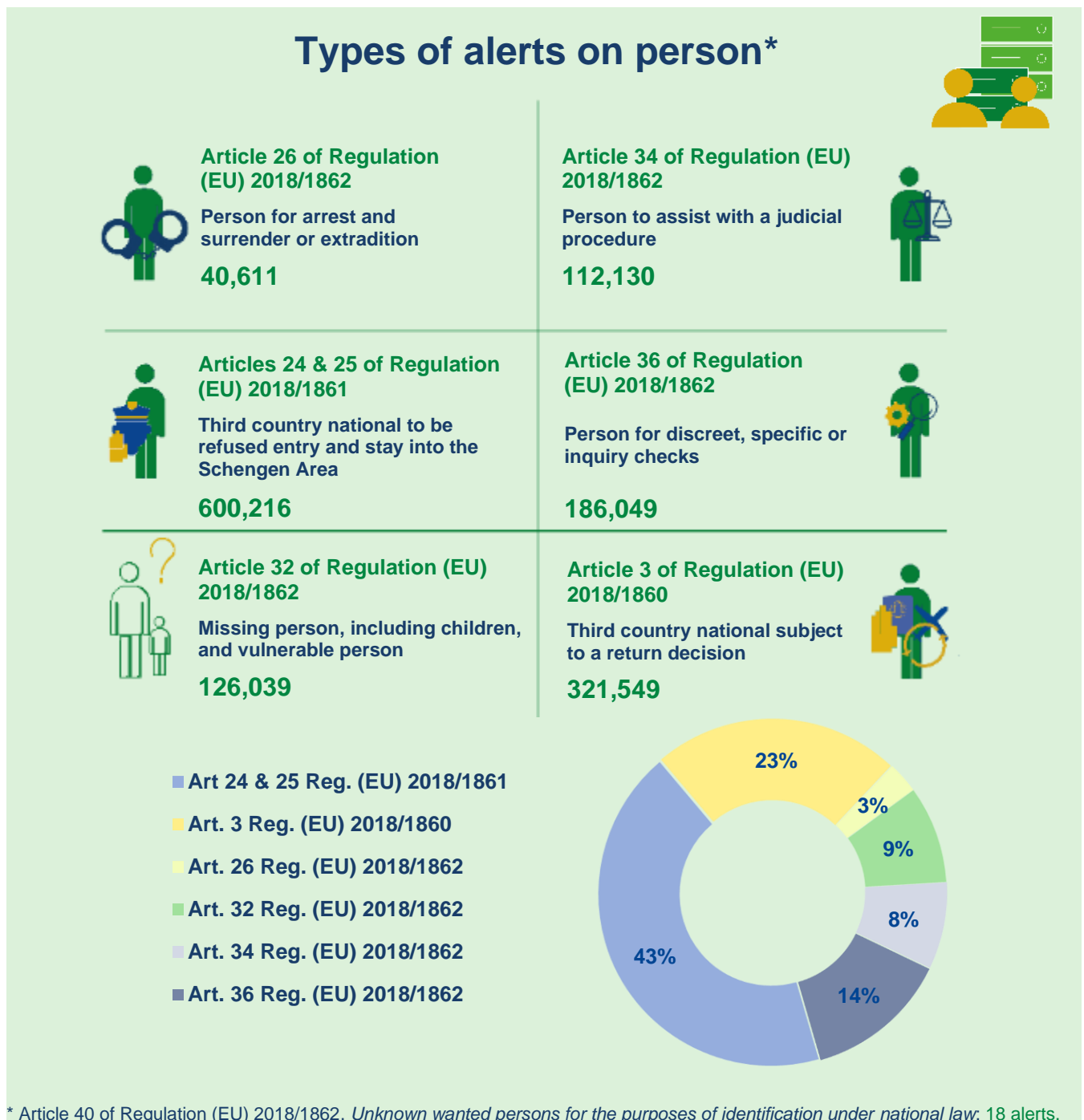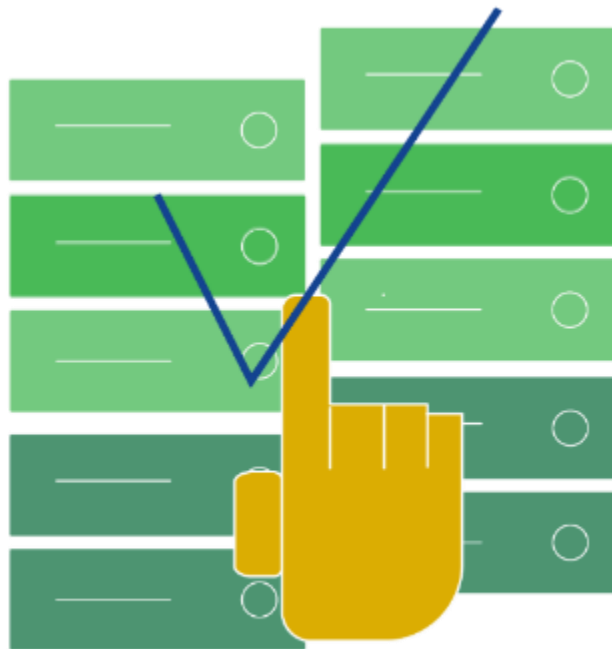

Types of alerts on person*

Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1862

Person for arrest and surrender or extradition

40,611

Article 34 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1862

Person to assist with a judicial procedure

112,130

Articles 24 & 25 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1861

Third country national to be refused entry and stay into the Schengen Area

600,216

Article 36 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1862

Person for discreet, specific or inquiry checks

186,049

Article 32 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1862

Missing person, including children, and vulnerable person

126,039

Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1860

Third country national subject to a return decision

321,549

- Art 24 & 25 Reg. (EU) 2018/1861
- Art. 3 Reg. (EU) 2018/1860
- Art. 26 Reg. (EU) 2018/1862
- Art. 32 Reg. (EU) 2018/1862
- Art. 34 Reg. (EU) 2018/1862
- Art. 36 Reg. (EU) 2018/1862

43% | 23% | 3% | 9% | 8% | 14%

* Article 40 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1862, *Unknown wanted persons for the purposes of identification under national law*: 18 alerts.

Figure 12 – Percentage of different types of alerts on persons in 2023

3 HITS REPORTED IN SIS

3. Hits reported in 2023

In 2023, a total of **357,013 hits[10] on foreign alerts** were reported via the SIRENE Bureaux. SIRENE Bureaux are central authorities established in each Member State and at Europol serving as single points of contact for the exchange of supplementary information concerning the alerts in Schengen Information System. The SIRENE Bureaux play a crucial role in facilitating and coordinating operational cooperation between end-users of the Schengen Information System.

A breakdown per type of alert generating the hits is displayed in Figure 13.

Figure 13 — Hits reported on foreign alerts

SIS II - Hits on foreing alerts - 01/01 - 06/03	
Hits on alerts Article 26 SIS II Dec - Persons subject to arrest for surrender or extradiction	2,725
Hits on alerts Article 32 SIS II Dec - Missing persons (adults and minors)	1,846
Hits on alerts Article 34 SIS II Dec- Persons to assist with a judicial procedure	9,228
Hits on alerts Article 36 SIS II Dec - Persons and objects for discreet or specific checks	12,935
Hits on alerts Article 38 SIS II Dec - objects for the purpose of seizure or use as evidence in criminal proceedings	7,769
Hits on alerts Article 24 SIS II Reg - Third-country nationals to be refused entry into or stay within the Schengen area	14,060
TOTAL	**48,563**

SIS - Hits on foreing alerts - 07/03 - 31/12	
Hits on alerts person for arrest and surrender or extradition, Article 26 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1862	11,582
Hits on alerts missing person, vulnerable person at risk (adult & child), Article 32 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1862	12,579
Hits on alerts person to assist with a judicial procedure, Article 34 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1862	48,261
Hits on alerts person and objects for discreet, inquiry and specific check and for national security, Article 36 (3) and (4) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1862	72,206
Hits on alerts object for seizure and use as evidence in criminal proceedings, Article 38 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1862	45,462
Hits on alerts third-country national to be refused entry and stay into the territory of the Member States, Articles 24 and 25 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1861	69,017
Hits on alerts third-country national subject to a return decision, Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1860	49,343
Hits on alerts unknown wanted person for identification, Article 40 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1862	0
TOTAL	**308,450**

Comparison with the previous year is complex due in particular to the changed or expanded scope of some alerts, as well as the additional type of alerts.

The number of reported hits increased by 36% in 2023 compared to 2022.

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[10] As per Regulation (EU) 2018/1862, Article 3(7) "a 'hit' means any match which fulfils the following criteria: (a) it has been confirmed by: (i) the end-user; or (ii) the competent authority in accordance with national procedures, where the match concerned was based on the comparison of biometric data; and (b) further actions are requested."

4 RETURN POLICY

4. Contribution to the Return policy

The new reinforced SIS, entered into operation in March 2023, contributing to a more effective Return policy. As such, the legislator expanded the reporting obligations on SIS including also this policy field.

Data in this section refers to the period from 7 March to 31 December 2023.

As reported above

- by 31 December 2023, there were 321,549 alerts stored in SIS for *Third country national subject to a return decision* based on Article 3 Regulation (EU) 2018/1860;

- those alerts generated a total of 49,343 hits on foreign alerts.

4.1. Confirmed returns

In a bit more than 9 months in 2023, there were 10,005 number of confirmed returns by all the Member States related to reported hits abroad on own alerts on return at the external border at exit, as per Article 6(3) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1860. Out of those confirmed returns, 1,706 were confirmed returns where the third-country national was subject to removal, as displayed in Figure 14.

Figure 14 — Confirmed returns	**Number of confirmed returns**	
	Number of reported hits abroad on own alerts on return at the external borders at exit	10,005
	Number of reported hits abroad on own alerts on return at the external borders at exit where the third-country national concerned was subject to removal	1,706

4.2. Exchange of information

5,114 exchanges of information were reported by the Member States in relation to hits abroad on own alerts on return at the external borders upon entry, as per Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1860 (Figure 15).

Figure 15 — Exchange of information	Number of exchanges of information related to hits abroad on own alerts on return at the external borders upon entry, Article 8 of Regulation 2018/1860	5,114

Conclusion

The SIS is the largest and most widely used information-sharing system for internal security in Europe, representing the cornerstone of the Schengen *acquis*. SIS started operation in 1995, as the major compensatory measure for lifting the internal borders in Schengen. To further strengthen its operational effectiveness and efficiency, as well as to better tackle increasingly complex security challenges, the system was reinforced with the implementation of the recast, sought by the EU legislator in 2018, and ultimately implemented in March 2023.

The new reinforced SIS which entered in operation in March 2023 is even a more powerful tool than before, offering essential support for managing Schengen's external borders, ensuring an even higher level of internal security and contributing to law enforcement, judicial cooperation and migration management across Europe.

As per the data presented in this report, the growth in term of usage is clearly visible, taking into account also the expanded usage, including for return purposes, as per the increased scope in the last 9 months.

To conclude, some 2023 figures to highlight the relevance of the system in enhancing security in the Schengen area:

■ Over 40 million searches were performed on average on a daily basis, across Europe. The systematic usage of ANPR systems by some Member States kept on increasing as already observed in the last couple of years;

■ Over 11,500 searches were performed on average on a daily basis aiming at identifying persons of interest solely based on fingerprints;

■ Almost 980 hits were managed on average on a daily basis by the SIRENE network around Europe.

Figures show that once more, SIS remains at the heart of ensuring a secure Schengen area.

In the near future, with the forthcoming implementation of the interoperability framework for internal security, borders and migration, the use of SIS will continue expanding, thereby increasing its contribution to a secure Schengen area.

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