2022

eu-LISA **10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

eu-LISA 10 YEARS

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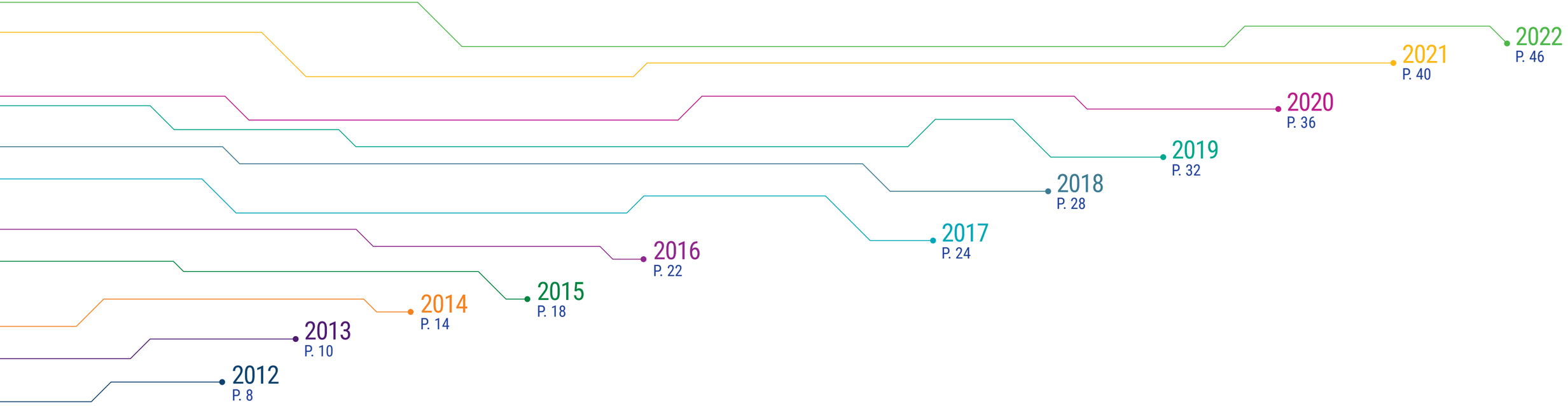


eu-LISA in short

The European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA) was established in 2011 and became operational on 1 December 2012. The Agency is responsible for the operational management and development of the EU's large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice. eu-LISA's revised establishing Regulation entered into force on 11 December 2018, expanding the Agency's mandate to improve, design and develop information systems in the context of internal security, border management and judicial cooperation. The revised mandate broadens the scope of the Agency's work on research, innovation and testing, and foresees the possibility to support the delivery of pilot projects and proofs of concept.

Today, eu-LISA manages the Schengen Information System (SIS), the Visa Information System (VIS) and the European Asylum Dactyloscopy Database (Eurodac). These systems are the fundamental cornerstones for the smooth functioning of the Schengen Area. At the EU's external borders, these IT systems are critical to ensure the efficiency of border management and the implementation of the EU's common asylum, migration and visa policies. Within the Schengen Area, the continuous availability of these systems is essential in allowing the freedom of movement of EU citizens and residents, while also ensuring the security of the EU.

The Agency is also developing the Entry/Exit System (EES), the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), the centralised system for the identification of Member States holding conviction information on third-country nationals and stateless persons (ECRIS-TCN), and new components that will shape the framework for the interoperability of the systems under eu-LISA's purview.

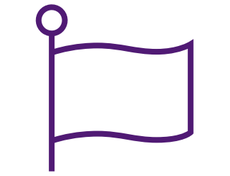
Throughout all operations, the Agency enforces a high level of data protection and appropriate high level of data and physical security, in accordance with applicable rules and provisions.

Mission, vision and core values

The mission of eu-LISA is to support, through technology, the efforts of the EU and the Member States to keep Europe open and secure.

The Agency's vision aims at growing the Agency as an organisation that is committed to providing high-quality efficient services and solutions, systematically aligning the capabilities of technology with the evolving needs of the EU and the Member States, and maturing as a trusted partner in driving digital transformation in the domain of Justice and Home Affairs.

The Agency translates its mission and vision into operational activities by applying eu-LISA's core values of accountability, transparency, excellence, continuity, teamwork, and customer focus to underpin and drive all operational activities and the Agency's strategic development.



MISSION

VISION

CORE VALUES

eu-LISA in Figures in 2022

3

Different locations in which eu-LISA operates: Tallinn, Strasbourg and Sankt Johann im Pongau

310

Number of staff

6

Large-scale IT systems managed and developed by the Agency

6

Advisory Groups composed by national project managers from 27 Member States, 4 Associated Countries, EU institutions and Agencies

24/7/365

Application management services provided to the Member States

5

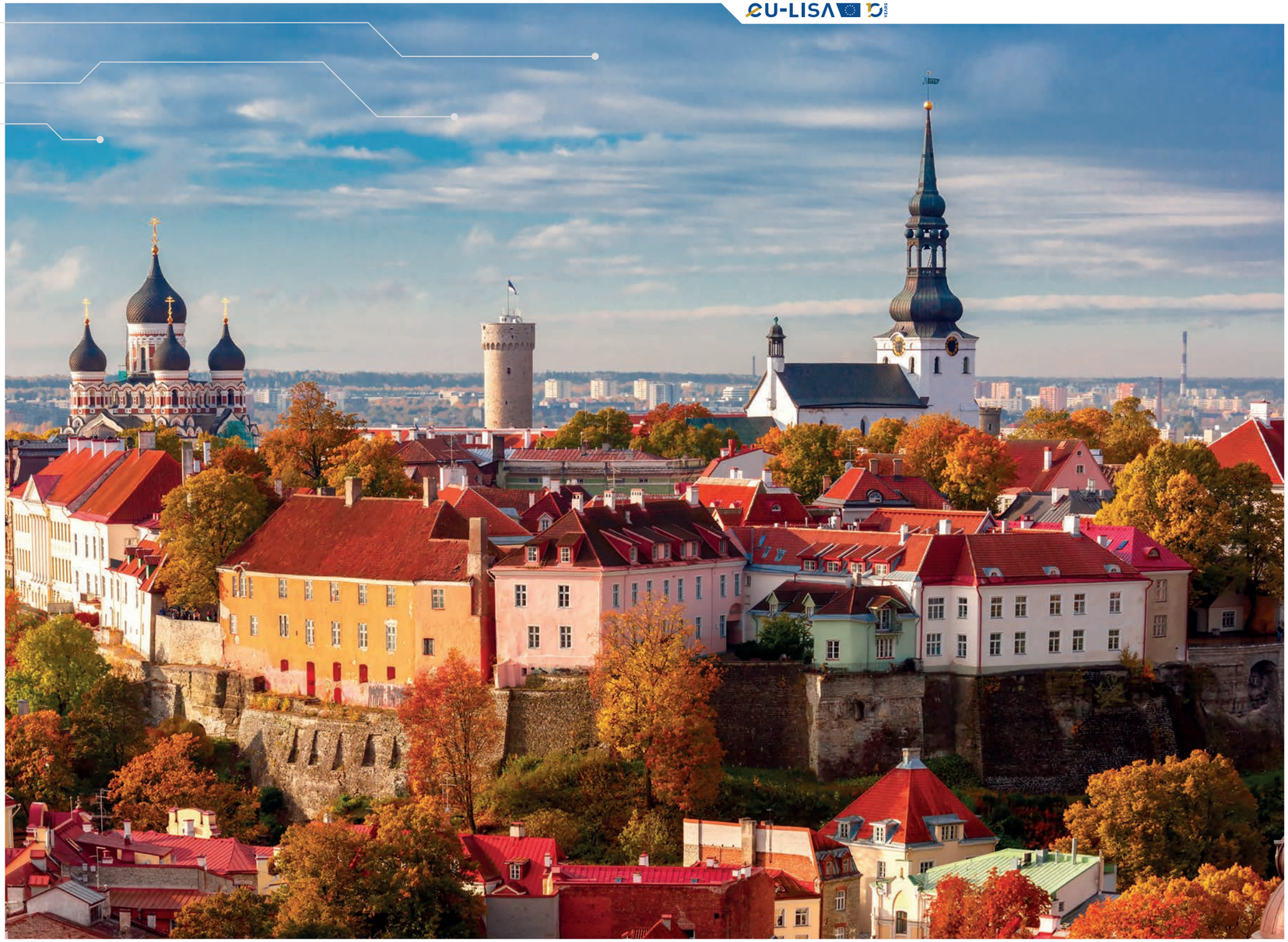
Permanent Working Groups on Cooperation, Biometrics, AI, Carriers and Testing

31

European countries connected to the Large-Scale IT systems developed and managed centrally by eu-LISA

2012

In December 2012 eu-LISA starts its operations with 39 people on board.



Tallinn, Estonia

2013

What is Eurodac?

What is VIS?

What is SIS?

- The Agency recruits its first teams and quickly increases the pace of work.
- The Agency undertakes the operational management of Eurodac, SIS and VIS.

eu-LISA | Eurodac

eu-LISA | VIS

eu-LISA | SIS

- eu-LISA signs a Site Agreement with Austria for its back-up site in Sankt Johann im Pongau.
- eu-LISA signs Site Agreement with France for the Operational site in Strasbourg.

Sankt Johann im Pongau, Austria

Strasbourg, France

2014

- Large system updates go live.
- EU consulates in North America, Central America, the Caribbean and Australasia start to use the Visa Information System (VIS).

- eu-LISA completes the procedure of transferring all IT systems managed by the Agency to its data centres.
- eu-LISA kicks off its flagship event the Annual Conference. The 1st conference, "Smart Borders: Faster and Safer Way to Europe", focuses on practical aspects of the implementation of the 'Smart Border' systems at both national and European levels.

- eu-LISA hosts its first roundtable event with industry stakeholders to discuss the future of automated border management.
- eu-LISA delivers its first training to the EU Member States and Associated Countries on the technical use of large-scale IT systems (SIS), (VIS) and (Eurodac).
- Europol connected to the Schengen Information System (SIS). It was one of the milestones in the inter-agency cooperation, followed by Europol's accession to Eurodac and the Visa Information System (VIS) in the coming years.

2015

What is the Smart Border package?

- eu-LISA delivers a Smart Borders Pilot project – deploying biometric technology at Schengen external borders to increase the efficiency of border management processes.
- eu-LISA launches the Biometric Matching System (BMS).
- Eurodac Recast system becomes operational. The capacity and functionality of the system are increased significantly.
- EU consulates in the Western Balkans and Turkey start using the Visa Information System (VIS).

- The Agency hosts an Industry Roundtable, “Future of Secure and Efficient IT Service Provision”, focusing on border control technologies and cutting-edge developments in IT security, software, service provision and hardware infrastructure.
- eu-LISA hosts its 2nd Annual Conference, “The future tested: Towards a Smart Borders reality”, to discuss the general outcome of the Smart Borders Pilot project.

2016

What is EES?

What is the Dublin Regulation?

What is the European Search Portal?

- The Agency starts EES related preparatory works.

eu-LISA | EES

- eu-LISA performs a comprehensive technical impact assessment and assists the European Commission with introducing the Dublin Regulation Reform Package.
- eu-LISA performs an in-depth exploration of the different dimensions of interoperability between IT systems.
- The Agency delivers studies on technical options for the development of the European Search Portal (ESP) and shared BMS.
- Industry Workshop "Increasing Efficiency of Hotspots: Handling Migratory Pressure with Practical Technological Solutions".
- eu-LISA hosts its 3rd Annual Conference, "JHATech 2016 – Aligning the capabilities of technology with policy priorities in the areas of migration and internal security".

eu-LISA Annual Conference 2016

2017

What is ETIAS?

- eu-LISA upgrades the Visa Information System (Visa Code Plus) which is the most complex and impactful release ever deployed in VIS.
- eu-LISA starts ETIAS related preparatory works.

eu-LISA | ETIAS

- The Agency launches a new Learning Management System (LMS) for the technical training of the Member States.
- eu-LISA hosts its 4th Annual Conference, "Going Digital for a Safe and Secure Europe" in cooperation with the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU.
- eu-LISA hosts an Industry Roundtable, "A single search portal and shared BMS for Europe: Moving forward with concrete implementation".
- The Agency is mandated to develop and manage EES.

EU2017.EE

eu-LISA Industry Roundtable 2017

2018

What is Interoperability?

- eu-LISA launches the AFIS platform - a biometric search capability within SIS.
- The Agency inaugurates its permanent headquarters' building in Tallinn and operational site's new building in Strasbourg.
- The development and management of ETIAS is mandated to eu-LISA.
- eu-LISA and Frontex co-host the Annual Conference "EU Borders - Getting Smarter Through Technology" in cooperation with the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the EU. IT-supported border management topics are discussed further in an Industry Roundtable the day after the conference.
- The European Commission broadens the mandate of eu-LISA enabling it to develop and roll-out technical solutions to make the EU information systems interoperable.

eu-LISA | Interoperability

Inauguration of the eu-LISA building in Strasbourg

- The Agency launches a transformation programme to deliver a new organisational structure to better-accommodate eu-LISA's expanded mandate. With the organisational transformation, the Agency strives to achieve leaner and faster decision-making processes with more agility within specific tasks; more empowerment and ownership through new centralised functions and harmonised profiles; and a better positioning of the Agency, leading to sustained success for the organisation.

eu-LISA and Frontex joint Annual Conference in 2018

2019

What is ECRIS-TCN?

- The Agency installs the Single Integrated Monitoring System (SiMS) which enables the monitoring of current and future upcoming large-scale IT systems in the same manner, bringing significant gains in efficiency and effectiveness. The solution provides an overview of the functionality of all systems and facilitates the early identification and investigation of irregularities.
- The development and management of ECRIS-TCN are mandated to eu-LISA.

eu-LISA | ECRIS-TCN

- eu-LISA hosts its 6th Annual Conference, "The New Information Architecture as a Driver for Efficiency and Effectiveness in Internal Security" in cooperation with the Finnish Presidency of the Council of the EU.

- eu-LISA hosts an Industry Roundtable, “Making EU land and sea border crossings seamless and secure”.
- The Agency launches a holistic approach for “Application Lifecycle Management” (ALM) to deliver IT components and applications faster and in a more agile way. The reuse of common components and the interconnectivity and interoperability of new systems bring additional complexity to the application lifecycles.

eu-LISA Industry Roundtable 2019

2020

- eu-LISA celebrates the 25th anniversary of the Schengen Information System (SIS) which is the most widely used and largest information sharing system for security and border management in Europe.
- eu-LISA starts working remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.
- The Agency makes major efforts to ensure the implementation of EES according to the planned schedule and to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- eu-LISA steps up its engagement with the EU justice community and takes charge of the maintenance of the ECRIS Reference Implementation.

eu-LISA | ECRIS-TCN

- The Agency launches its first Transversal Engineering Framework (TEF) as a major milestone to move away from the silo approach in the development of large-scale IT systems. The TEF sets up a contractual shell for the design, development, testing and implementation of new IT systems.
- eu-LISA increases its efforts in the area of research and innovation and publishes a report: "Artificial Intelligence in the Operational Management of the Large-Scale IT systems".
- eu-LISA hosts, in cooperation with the German Presidency of the Council of the EU, its 7th Annual Conference, "Interoperability - Building Digital Resilience for the EU Justice and Home Affairs Community" online. The live broadcast reaches a broad audience of over 500 participants.
- An Industry Roundtable, with over 320 participants, was also conducted entirely in a digital format in 2020. The event focused on data quality and interoperability addressing the capability gaps through standardisation.

eu-LISA Annual Conference 2020

2021

- eu-LISA launches its new visual identity to promote a clear and modern corporate look, which aligns with its tasks as the promoter of digital solutions for border management and justice.
- The Agency puts in place an internal environmental management system, which complies with the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme for the coming years. This will ensure that Agency activities will follow the EC Green initiative to decrease CO_2 emissions in all business areas.
- eu-LISA hosts its 8th Annual Conference online, "Towards the Digital Schengen Area", in cooperation with the Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU, where new systems development programmes are discussed together with the implication of the COVID-19 pandemic on air travel.

- The Agency completes the eVISA Prototype project, which demonstrates the feasibility of an EU online visa application portal.
- eu-LISA commences the registration of air, land and sea passenger carriers to the Schengen Area in order for them to query the EES and ETIAS systems for the pre-authorisation of travellers.
- The Agency hosts an Industry Roundtable "Artificial Intelligence in Large-scale IT Systems: Opportunities and Challenges" online. Discussions focus on technologies and approaches facilitating seamless and contactless travel and border crossing, and on the use of AI in biometric recognition applications for predictive analytics, and in IT operations.

What is e-CODEX?

- The headquarters building of eu-LISA in Tallinn is awarded second place in the 'Green' category at the European Public Sector Award (EPSA) 2021 competition. Our building, which combines modern and ergonomic collaboration spaces in a green and sustainable infrastructure, serves as an example of greener public administration across Europe.
- eu-LISA trains the highest number of justice and home affairs specialists in the Member States, EU institutions and Agencies on the systems operated and developed by eu-LISA in a single year so far.
- For eu-LISA, partnerships are essential to the successful delivery of its mandate. Over the past decade, the Agency has established close relationships with relevant EU institutions, partner agencies, Member States and expert communities. In 2021, eu-LISA signed agreements, to bolster cooperation, with Eurojust and Frontex. With other EU Justice and Home Affairs Agencies we reinforced the commitment to contribute to a safer environment by jointly undertaking activities ranging from operational to administrative actions.
- The European Commission adopted a 'Proposal for a Regulation on a computerised system for communication in cross-border civil and criminal proceedings' (e-CODEX system). The Regulation entrusts the subsequent development and maintenance of the e-CODEX system to eu-LISA, which will assume responsibility between July and December 2023.

e-CODEX making justice faster.eu

eu-LISA headquarters building in Tallinn

2022

- eu-LISA hosts an Industry Roundtable “Biometric Technologies in Identity Management and Verification” in cooperation with the French Presidency of the Council of the EU.
- Launch of the upgraded SIS Europe’s most widely used and largest information system for security and border management.
- eu-LISA and the Member States are completing preparation for the launch of EES and ETIAS.
- The Agency hosts its 9th Annual Conference “10 years as the Digital Heart of Schengen” in cooperation with the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU.

EU2022.CZ

10th Anniversary

Krum Garkov, Executive Director of eu-LISA (2012-2022):

"10 years have passed, and we are proud to have been working side by side with the Member States to make Europe a safer place and to let the citizens of today and tomorrow live their lives safely in an area of Freedom, Security and Justice.

By developing and managing the large-scale IT systems essential for the implementation of the EU's asylum, border management and migration policies, and thanks to other activities, we have been dedicated on a daily basis.

Guided by our mission, we have been providing high-quality services and solutions, building trust amongst all stakeholders and continuously aligning the capabilities of technology with the evolving needs of the Member States, and finally, growing as a centre of excellence, year by year.

We are eu-LISA, the European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice. Today, we are proudly celebrating 10 years of working for the Europeans of tomorrow. We are making IT happen."

FIND OUT MORE

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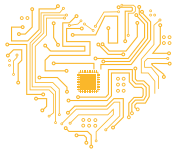
THE DIGITAL  **OF SCHENGEN**

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