

Annual report on the 2013 activities of EURODAC*

May 2014

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. It helps to determine the country responsible for examining applications for asylum and for looking after asylum seekers. The countries using the system are the EU Member States together with Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

Since its creation in 2003, EURODAC has been used for asylum purposes only. In 2015 following the new EURODAC Recast Regulation (No 603/2013) national police forces and Europol will have access to the system. This will take place under strictly controlled circumstances and only for the purposes of prevention, detection and investigation of serious crimes and terrorism.

eu-LISA role

eu-LISA took over the daily operational management of EURODAC on 1 June 2013 after a successful handover from the European Commission.



The transition of management responsibilities was delivered on time and with no interruption or degradation of the service levels and availability of the system to participating countries.

Planning activities for a significant evolution of the system were started in 2013 in order to implement the functional changes in the system foreseen in the Recast EURODAC Regulation.

The obligation of regularly reporting to the European Parliament, European Council and the European Commission on the activities of the Central Unit is foreseen in:

- The system's legal basis, Article 24(1) EURODAC Regulation (EC) No 2725/2000
- The Agency's founding Regulation, Article 12(1)(u) eu-LISA Regulation (EU) No 1077/2011

The Report

The Annual Report 2013, is the first annual report prepared by eu-LISA but the eleventh annual report on the activities of the EURODAC Central Unit. Reports were previously drafted by the European Commission.

The report includes information on the management and the performance of the system in 2013. It assesses the output and the cost-effectiveness of EURODAC, the quality of its Central Unit's service and presents statistics regarding system usage.

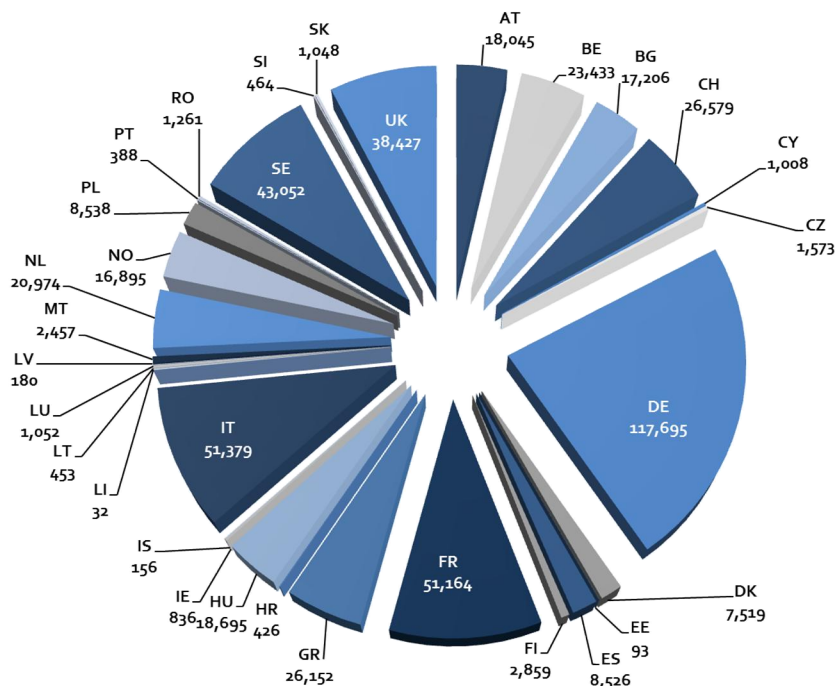
The report touches upon the results and actions taken by participating countries following a questionnaire launched by the European Commission in summer 2013 to investigate the application of the current EURODAC Regulation.

Figures and finding

In 2013 the EURODAC Central Unit received a total of **508,565** successful transaction requests. This represents an increase of **23.7%** on the data from 2012 (when the total was **411,235**).

The overall availability of the system observed in 2013 was **99.99%**.

Total successful transactions in EURODAC in 2013



EURODAC processes (stores and/or allows comparison of) three categories of data. Category 1 data refers to fingerprints of every applicant for asylum who is at least 14 years old. Category 2 data refers to fingerprints of every alien of at least 14 years of age who is apprehended when irregularly crossing the external border of a participating country. Category 3 data refers to fingerprints that a participating country may transmit to Eurodac with a view to checking whether an alien of at least 14 years of age, found illegally present within its territory, has previously lodged an application for asylum in another country.

- Hits generated from comparison of Category 1 data already stored against new Category 1 data indicates cases where a person applies for asylum more than once. From a total of **354,276** asylum applications recorded in EURODAC in 2013, **29.2%** were recorded as multiple asylum applications (second or more applications). The percentage of multiple asylum applications is increasing over the last three years.
- A total of **26,145** foreign hits, identifying cases of persons apprehended in connection with an irregular border crossing who later decide to lodge an asylum claim in another participating country, were observed in 2013. This represents **54.7%** of the total hits triggered when comparing category 1 data against category 2 data. A slight decrease is observed compared to 2012.
- Of the **106,013** category 3 transactions made, **62,124** (**58.6%** of the total) yielded hits against category 1 data. This means that more than half of the irregular migrants who were apprehended when illegally present in a participating country were found via a Eurodac search to have previously claimed asylum.

The rejection rate for fingerprints - caused by low quality or a sequence check error - was **5.49%**, a slight improvement compared to the previous year.

About the Agency

eu-LISA, with its seat in Tallinn, fulfils the operational management tasks for the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II), Visa Information System (VIS) and EURODAC. The Agency started its operations on 1 December 2012. The headquarters of the Agency is in Tallinn (Estonia), while the operational management of the large-scale systems is carried out in Strasbourg (France) with a backup site in Sankt Johann im Pongau (Austria). www.eulisa.europa.eu

** This document is meant purely as a documentation tool and it highlights key points in the accompanying "Annual report on the 2013 activities of EURODAC"*