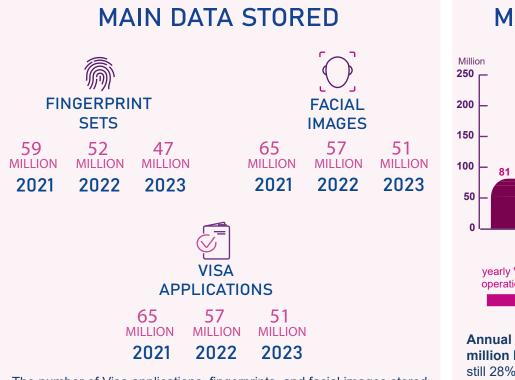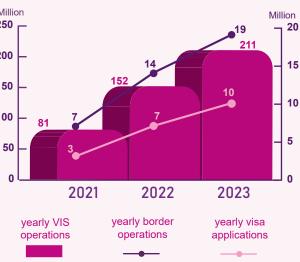**eu-LISA**

VIS Technical Report (2021-2023)

FACTSHEET AUGUST 2024

The Visa Information System (VIS) connects Member States and consulates in non-EU countries and all external Schengen border crossing points. The VIS process visa applications and biometrics data (**fingerprints and facial images**). The Biometric Matching Service (BMS) allows biometric identification and biometric verification thanks to the fingerprints stored. The system is being updated to ensure **Interoperability** with Entry/Exit System (EES) and integration within the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) area large-scale IT systems. The BMS will be replaced by the **shared Biometric Matching Services (sBMS)** upon EES entry into operation, representing the first step toward implementation of interoperability.

eu-LISA is the European Union Agency that ensures 24/7 operational management of the European Union's large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice.

MAIN DATA STORED

FINGERPRINT SETS

59 MILLION	52 MILLION	47 MILLION
2021	2022	2023

FACIAL IMAGES

65 MILLION	57 MILLION	51 MILLION
2021	2022	2023

VISA APPLICATIONS

65 MILLION	57 MILLION	51 MILLION
2021	2022	2023

The number of Visa applications, fingerprints, and facial images stored in the system reflect the pandemic's impact due to limited new applications and **automatic deletion following the retention policy**.

MAIN OPERATIONS

yearly VIS operations — yearly border operations — yearly visa applications

Annual operations reached almost 211 million by the end of the reporting period still 28% below pre-pandemic levels, but showing progress compared to 2021 and 2022.

New regulations

In July 2021 the European Parliament and the Council Adopted new VIS regulations (Regulation (EU) 2021/1133 & Regulation (EU) 2021/1134). Entry into operation of the Revised VIS is **set to be completed in 2026**.

New Users

Jul 2021 (read only)
Mar 2024 full acquis

Dec 2022 full acquis

Oct 2022 connection

For the full report