

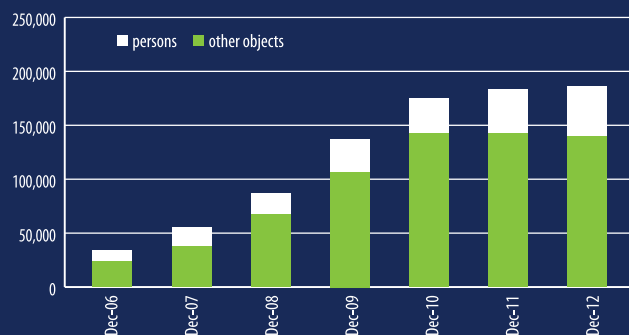
LOOKING AHEAD...

The number of records stored in the EIS has grown remarkably since the launch of the system back in 2005. All Member States have contributed data to it. It is foreseen that at least 16 Member States will be able to connect their national databases to the EIS and upload data automatically. This will keep on increasing the EIS content and consequently the hit rate.

Interoperability/ UMF

The future development of the EIS will include enhanced search capabilities, integration with other Europol information management tools, and the possibility to query the EIS using national systems. The latter functionality will allow front line investigators to run a search in their national police record systems while the EIS search will be conducted automatically in the background thus offering possibilities to discover international criminal links without any additional effort. Universal Message Format (UMF) will be used as the standard for this structured information exchange.

Progression of EIS content since December 2006



The EIS is available in all EU Member States. For further information please contact your Europol National Unit

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EIS
EUROPOL INFORMATION SYSTEM

Crime reference system for EU law enforcement and cooperation partners



Publications Office

Within the framework of EU law enforcement cooperation Europol supports the EU Member States in preventing and combating all forms of serious international crime and terrorism by means of **information exchange**, operational and strategic analysis, expertise and operational support.

The combination of its legal framework, its analysis capacity and its liaison network, representing all Member States and a wide range of cooperation partners, enables Europol to deliver a unique added value to international law enforcement cooperation. The main goal of Europol is to help achieve a safer Europe for the benefit of all EU citizens.

EUROPOL INFORMATION SYSTEM

What is the EIS?

The Europol Information System (EIS) is Europol's central **criminal information and intelligence database** covering all Europol's mandated crime areas. It contains serious international crime related information on suspected and convicted persons, criminal structures, offences and means used to commit them. It is a **reference system** which can be used to verify whether information on a certain person or another object (such as car, telephone, email) of interest is available beyond national or organisational jurisdictions.

The EIS was developed by Europol's in-house software development unit. Hosted at Europol's Headquarters in The Hague (NL), it is **available in 22 languages** to the law enforcement agencies of all EU Member States

USERS AND FUNCTIONALITY

Who are the users?

Europol and all EU Member States may use the EIS to **store and query data** on serious international crime and terrorism. The EIS user community consists of Europol officials, Member State liaison officers and seconded national experts stationed at Europol Headquarters, as well as staff in the Europol National Units and in competent authorities in the Member States. In addition, Europol's cooperation partners may have indirect access to store and query data via Europol's Operational Centre.

DNA & cyber crime

The data in the EIS is stored within different objects (such as persons, cars, identity documents, etc.), which can be linked to each other in different ways to create a structured picture of a criminal case. The newest version of the EIS, deployed in 2013, can also store and automatically cross-check biometrics (DNA) and cybercrime related data.

Data can be inserted into the EIS in a manual or automated way. The data inserted into the EIS remains under the full control of the inputting entity (data owner); it cannot be altered in any way by Europol or another Member State. The owner is responsible for data accuracy and reliability, verification of storage time limits, and for ensuring that the data is kept up-to-date.



Security and access to data

Security and data protection are of paramount importance for the EIS. The EIS user's right of access to the data stored in the EIS is dependent on his/her user profile and the restrictions defined by the data owner. As a general rule, users at Europol and in the Member State Europol National Units may directly access all data stored in the EIS, but this right may be limited by the owner of the information on a case by case basis.

EXAMPLE

An investigator in country X wishes to share data via the EIS but due to the sensitivity of the case wants to limit the direct access to it. The investigator applies the restriction by means of a handling code H2 which makes the data invisible for users of other countries while the data still remains searchable. In practice this means that a user whose search hits such data receives a hit/no hit response but cannot see the details of the data, and the owner of the data receives a notification of the search run and can contact the searching user for further information exchange. Such functionality provides maximum security and necessary coordination.

Hit/no hit access

Users in designated competent authorities in the Member States may run searches in the system to establish whether or not information matching their search criteria is available. In case of a positive search, more information may then be requested through the user's Europol National Unit. The EIS interfaces with Europol's message exchange system SIENA for the follow-up to searches and hits found.

SIENA integration

WHY SHOULD YOU USE THE EIS?

The EIS is there to help you to quickly identify whether or not information you are looking for is available in one of the EU Member States, cooperation partners or at Europol.

Automatic cross checking against AWFs

The data you insert in the EIS will be automatically cross-checked against data already available in the system and against any future input by your Member State, other Member States and Europol. Also, your data will be regularly cross-checked against data held by Europol in other systems such as the Analytical Work Files (AWFs) or 10.4 repository, and Europol's Operational Centre will inform you of any positive results.