



Fingerprints and Eurodac

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Information for third country nationals or stateless persons apprehended in connection with the irregular crossing of an external border, pursuant to article 29(3) of Regulation (EU) No 603/2013

If you are 14 years of age or older and you are apprehended irregularly crossing a border, your fingerprints will be taken and transmitted to a fingerprint database called “Eurodac”. You must cooperate in this procedure – you are obliged by law to have your fingerprints taken.

If your fingerprints are not of a clear quality, including if you have deliberately damaged your fingers, the fingerprints may be taken again in the future.

If at some point in the future you apply for asylum again, your fingerprints will be taken again. If you apply for asylum in a different country than in the one where you were first fingerprinted, you could be sent back to the first country where you were fingerprinted.

Your fingerprint data will be stored for 18 months – after 18 months, they will be deleted automatically from the database. Only your fingerprints and your gender will be stored in Eurodac – your name, photograph, date of birth and nationality are not sent to the database or stored.

You may at any time in the future request to obtain communication of the data relating to you that are recorded in Eurodac from the country that is taking your fingerprints. You may ask that data be corrected or erased – they should be erased, for example, if you become a citizen of an EU or associated country or if you obtain a residence permit for one of those countries and you did not apply for asylum.

Eurodac is operated by an Agency of the European Union called eu-LISA. Your data can only be used for the purposes defined by law. Only the Eurodac Central System will receive your data. If you request asylum in the future in another EU or associated country¹⁾, your fingerprints will be sent to that country for verification. The data stored in Eurodac will not be shared with any other country or organisation outside the EU and the associated countries.

1) Your fingerprint data may be shared where the law allows between the 27 EU Member States plus the 4 Associated Countries – Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

As of 20 July 2015, your fingerprints may be searched by authorities such as the police and the European police office (Europol) who may request access to the Eurodac database for the purpose of preventing, detecting and investigating serious crimes and terrorism

Contact information

Identity of the Eurodac controller
and of his/her representative;

X
X
X

Details of the National Supervisory
Authority (Data Protection);

X
X
X

Contact details of the office of the
controller;

X
X
X

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