ECRIS (European Criminal Records Information Exchange System) was created in April 2012 to facilitate the exchange of information on criminal records throughout the EU. It establishes electronic interconnections between Member States and puts rules into place to ensure that information on convictions as contained in the criminal records system of the Member States can be exchanged through standardised electronic formats, in a uniform and speedy way, and within short legal deadlines.

Background

The Fourniret case of 2004 and numerous subsequent studies have demonstrated that national courts frequently passed sentences without any knowledge of possible previous convictions in other Member States. Lack of information led to inadequate judgments not taking into account the criminal history of a person and prevented that measures were taken to avoid that the same sort of crime was committed again.

Since 2008, criminal records information must be exchanged for the purposes of new criminal proceedings against a person, in implementation of Council Framework Decision 2008/675 on taking account of previous convictions in new criminal proceedings against the same person.

ECRIS

ECRIS was created in response to the need to improve and facilitate the exchange of information on criminal records at European level. Information contained in national criminal records registers can be electronically exchanged through a secure information infrastructure, speedily, in a uniform and easy way. It provides judges, prosecutors and relevant administrative authorities with easy access (through a designated "central authority" in each Member State) to comprehensive information on the criminal history of any EU citizen, no matter in which Member State that person has been convicted in the past.

Information can be exchanged for a wide range of purposes according to the Framework Decision and national law:

- Information must be exchanged for the purposes of new criminal proceedings against a person, in implementation of Council Framework Decision 2008/675 on taking account of previous convictions in new criminal proceedings against the same person.
- Information must be exchanged if requested for recruitment procedures with regard to posts involving direct and regular contact with children, as required by Art. 10 of Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on combating sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children, and child pornography.
- Information through ECRIS may also be exchanged for any other purpose according to national law (such as recruitment procedures, naturalisation procedures, asylum procedures, fire arm licence procedures, child adoption procedures etc.).

General principles

- ECRIS is based on a decentralised IT architecture, where criminal records data are stored solely in national databases of the Member States and are exchanged electronically between the Central Authorities of Member States, upon request.
- The Member State of nationality of a person becomes the central repository of all convictions handed down against that person. It is obliged to store and update all information received, and to transmit this information to other Member States when requested. As a result, each Member State should be in the position to provide complete and up-to-date information on its own nationals' convictions, regardless of where those convictions were handed down.
- A Member State convicting a non-national is obliged to send as soon as possible information, including updates, on this conviction to the Member State(s) of nationality of the convicted person.
- The transmission of information on convictions is done electronically, through a standardised European format, using two reference tables of categories of offences and categories of penalties. These tables facilitate automatic translation and mutual understanding of the information transmitted. When transmitting information on a conviction, Member States have to
use the crime category of the offence and the penalty or sanction. The codes enable automated translation into the language of the recipient, putting him/her in a position to react immediately upon receipt of the information.

**Legislative instruments**

The principles governing the exchange of information and the functioning of the system are regulated in the Framework Decision on exchange of information on criminal records and in the ECRIS Council Decision.

**Implementation**

A number of technical and financial measures have been taken in order to help Member States to prepare the technical infrastructure to connect their criminal records systems by April 2012 (the legal implementation deadline) and beyond. The Commission has put special software ('reference implementation' software) at the disposal of the Member States to facilitate interconnection between them. Member States have also been able to request financial support from the EU in the form of grants to modernise their national criminal records systems under the Criminal Justice Programme.

In 2017, all Member States were connected to ECRIS. However, not all Member States are connected to all other Member States. For more details, please see the Commission's first statistical report on the use of ECRIS, which was published on 29 June 2017.

**Extract of criminal record for other purposes than criminal proceedings**

In line with provisions laid down in the European Framework Decision 2009/315/JHA, European Council Decision 2009/316/JHA and national provisions, the exchange of criminal record information can take place for other purposes than criminal proceedings. Further information on how to get an extract of a criminal record for such other purposes can be found on the Member State page by clicking on the respective flag elsewhere on this page.

**Commission proposal to improve the exchange of information on third country nationals and stateless persons (TCN)**

ECRIS works efficiently with regard to EU-nationals based on the principle of the Member State of nationality as the single repository of all conviction information. However, ECRIS does not equally support the exchange of conviction information on TCN, since a single repository for information TCN does not exist. It is therefore currently not possible to determine whether and in which Member State a particular TCN was convicted without consulting them all.

To remedy the situation, on 19 January 2016, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Directive amending Framework Decision 2009/315/JHA on ECRIS and – on 29 June 2017 – a complementing proposal for a Regulation, to establish a centralised ECRIS TCN system to efficiently identify the Member State(s) that have convicted a particular TCN.

In the proposed Regulation, the establishment of a centralised ECRIS TCN system at eu-LISA is regulated. The system consists of identity data (alphanumeric data and fingerprints) of all TCN convicted in the Member States. A search mechanism allows Member States to search the index on-line. A "hit" identifies the Member State(s) that have convicted a particular TCN. The identified Member State(s) can then be requested to provide full criminal records information through the established ECRIS.

The proposed Directive regulates the obligations of the Member States with regard to ECRIS TCN at national level as well as the exchanges between Member States of full conviction information.

The proposed Directive and Regulation are currently being negotiated, adapted and finalised during the legislative process by the European legislator – the Council and the Parliament.
Casier Judiciaire Central/Dienst Centraal Strafregister (Central Criminal Records Department)

Boulevard de Waterloo 115/Waterloolaan 115
1000 Brussels

Telephone: +32 (0)2 552 27 44
Fax: +32 (0)2 552 27 82

Email: cjc-csr@just.fgov.be

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Last update: 14/09/2017

Taking into account previous convictions - Bulgaria

Ministry of Justice, Central Office for Criminal Records

Address:
ul. Aksakov 5
Sofia 1040

Tel.: + 359(2) 9237355
Fax: +359 (2) 9881142

E-mail: CBCC@justice.government.bg, bs_cbs@mjeli.government.bg

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Last update: 09/03/2020

Taking into account previous convictions - Czech Republic

Criminal Record Office of the Czech Republic

Address:
Soudní 1
140 66 Prague 4

Telephone: +420 244 006 111
Fax: +420 244 006 260

E-mail: rejstrik@rejtr.justice.cz
Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic

Address:
Vyšehradská 16
128 10 Prague 2
Telephone: +420 221 997 111
Fax: +420 224 919 927
E-mail: posta@msp.justice.cz

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Last update: 09/07/2019

Taking into account previous convictions - Germany

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Federal Office of Justice

Address:
53094 Bonn
Adenauerallee 99 - 103
53113 Bonn
Germany
Phone: +49 22899410-5454, +49 22899410-5412
Fax: +49 22899410-5603
E-mail: bzr.international@bfj.bund.de

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Last update: 29/08/2019

Taking into account previous convictions - Estonia

Centre of Registers and Information Systems
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Last update: 25/08/2019

Taking into account previous convictions - Ireland

Central Authority for Criminal Records in Ireland

Address:
Racecourse Road
Thurles
Co Tipperary
Telephone: +353 (0)504 27300
Fax: +353 (0)504 27373
E-mail: crimalrecords@garda.ie

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Last update: 25/08/2017

Taking into account previous convictions - Greece

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Independent Criminal Records Department, Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights

Address
Messogeion 96
115 27 Athens
Tel.: +30(0)210 7767300 (switchboard)
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Last update: 27/04/2015

Taking into account previous convictions - Spain

Central Register of Convicted Persons

Address:

Ministerio de Justicia, Subdirección General de registros administrativos
San Bernardo 19
Madrid 28071
Spain

Tel.: +34 913904596
Fax: +34 913904597
Email: registros.administrativos@mjusticia.es

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Last update: 11/03/2020

Taking into account previous convictions - France

National Criminal Records – Ministry of Justice – Directorate for Criminal Matters and Pardons

Address:

107 Rue Du Landreau
BP 11621
44316 Nantes Cedex 3
France

Tel.: +33 251898951
Chief of Police

The following Departments of the Cyprus Police are competent authorities that transmit information on behalf of the Chief of Police:

1. Previous Convictions Office: Criminal

Address:
Department C
Police Headquarters
Antistratigou Evangelou Floraki Street
Postcode 1478
Nicosia

TELEPHONE: +357 (22) 808386
This Department is responsible for transmitting information under Articles 4, 6 and 7 of Council Framework Decision 2009/315/JHA.

Information is exchanged on previous convictions.

2. Previous Convictions Office: Traffic

Address:
Traffic Department
Police Headquarters
Antistratigou Evangelou Floraki Street
Postcode 1478
Nicosia
TELEPHONE: +357 (22) 607540, +357 (22) 607539
FAX: +357 (22) 607596

This Department is responsible for transmitting information under Articles 4, 6 and 7 of Council Framework Decision 2009/315/JHA.

Information is exchanged on previous traffic convictions.

3. European Union and International Police Cooperation Directorate

Address:
Police Headquarters
Antistratigou Evangelou Floraki Street
Postcode 1478
Nicosia
TELEPHONE: +357 (22) 607841/ 2/ 3
FAX: +357 (22) 607898

Email: euipcd@police.gov.cy

This Directorate is responsible for transmitting information under Article 7 of Council Framework Decision 2009/315/JHA.

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Last update: 23/07/2019

Taking into account previous convictions - Latvia

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Information centre of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Latvia

Address:
Taking into account previous convictions - Luxembourg

Public Prosecutor’s Office

Address:
Cité Judiciaire
Bâtiment CR
Plateau du St Esprit
2080 Luxembourg
Tel.: +352 475981393

Taking into account previous convictions - Lithuania

Informatikos ir ryšių departamentas prie Lietuvos Respublikos vidaus reikalų ministerijos [Information Technology and Communications Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania]

Address:
Šventaragio gatvė 2
LT-01510 Vilnius
Telephone: +370 5 271 71 77
Fax: +370 5 271 89 21
E-mail: ird@vrm.lt
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Last update: 10/01/2020

Taking into account previous convictions - Hungary

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Criminal Records Authority (Bűnügyi Nyilvántartó Hatóság)

Address:
Vaskapu utca 30/A
1097 Budapest
Tel.: +36 (0)1 455 21 02
Fax: +36 (0)1 455 21 03
E-mail: bnyo@ahiv.hu
Website: http://www.nyilvantarto.hu/hu/

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Last update: 15/05/2013

Taking into account previous convictions - Malta

Criminal Record Office

Address:
Police General Headquarters
Kalcidonju Square
Floriana
Telephone: +356 22942142
Fax: +356 22942678
E-mail: cro.police@gov.mt
Taking into account previous convictions - Austria

Vienna Regional Police Headquarters, Criminal Records Office

Address:
Fachbereich Strafregisteramt
Schottenring 7 - 9
1010 Wien
Phone: +43 1 3131079231
Fax: +43 1 3131079209
E-mail: lpd-w-sva-2-2-strafregisteramt@polizei.gv.at

The Judicial Documentation System (Justitiële Documentatiesysteem - JDS) records all serious crimes and a large number of less serious offences relating to natural and legal persons, as provided for in the Judicial Data and Criminal Records Act (Wet justitiële en strafvorderlijke gegevens - Wjsg). Because of the confidential nature of such judicial data, the Wjsg adopts a ‘restrictive’ approach to the registration and disclosure of information. In other words, the law specifies who has access to what information and for what explicit purpose.

Judicial Information Service (Justitiële Informatiedienst - JustID)

Contact details:

Egbert Gorterstraat 6
7607 GB Almelo
PO Box 337
7600 AH Almelo
Telephone: +31 88 998 9000
Fax: +31 546 813 003
E-mail: info@justid.nl

Taking into account previous convictions - Netherlands

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Last update: 22/01/2013

Taking into account previous convictions - Austria

Vienna Regional Police Headquarters, Criminal Records Office

Address:
Fachbereich Strafregisteramt
Schottenring 7 - 9
1010 Wien
Phone: +43 1 3131079231
Fax: +43 1 3131079209
E-mail: lpd-w-sva-2-2-strafregisteramt@polizei.gv.at

Last update: 25/02/2020

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Last update: 22/01/2013

Taking into account previous convictions - Netherlands
Under Portuguese law, apart from the judicial and police authorities, only the person himself or someone acting on his behalf and in his interest may obtain an extract from his criminal record.
Anyone requesting an extract must prove that he is the person concerned or someone authorised by him, and substantiate the information provided in the request with valid identification document(s).

The request must be submitted in person to the central authorities, Court secretariats or the network of Citizens’ Shops (Lojas do Cidadão) and Citizens’ Service Counters (Postos de Atendimento ao Cidadão).

Persons residing outside Portugal may submit their request as instructed on the website of the Directorate-General for the Administration of Justice or to Portugal’s diplomatic or consular representations.

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Last update: 18/07/2013

### Taking into account previous convictions - Romania

**Directorate for Criminal Records, Statistics and Operational Information, Inspectorate-General of the Romanian Police (Direcția Cazier Judiciar, Statistică și Evidențe Operative, Inspectoratul General al Poliției Române)**

**Address:**
Șos. Ștefan cel Mare No 13-15
Sector 2 Bucharest
Postcode 020123
Fax: + (4021)/317 87 90
Email: cazier@politiaromana.ro

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Last update: 24/02/2020

### Taking into account previous convictions - Slovenia

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**Ministry of Justice and Public Administration**

Oddelek za kazensko evidenco in evidenco vzgojnih ukrepov
(Department for Criminal Records and Records on Rehabilitation Sentences for Minors)

**Address:**
Župančičeva 3,
1000 Ljubljana
Tel.: + 386 (0)1 369 5342
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Last update: 31/08/2018

Taking into account previous convictions - Finland

Taking into account previous convictions - Slovakia

Register trestov Generálnej Prokuratúry Slovenskej republiky (Criminal Records Bureau, Office of the Public Prosecutor of the Slovak Republic)

Address:
Kvetná 13
814 23 Bratislava

Telephone: +421 2 502 16 134, +421 2 555 66 879, +421 2 502 16 236

Fax: +421 2 502 16 249

E-mail: register.trestov@genpro.gov.sk

Oikeusrekisterikeskus (Legal Register Centre)

Address:
PO BOX 157
FI–13101 Hämeenlinna

Telephone: +358 (0) 295 665 631

Fax: +358 (0) 295 665 770

E-mail: oikeusrekisterikeskus@om.fi

Web: https://www.oikeusrekisterikeskus.fi/fi/index/asiakaspalvelu/rekisteritotteetjatodistukset/rikosrekisteri.html
UK Central Authority for Exchange of Criminal Records

Address:

ACRO
PO BOX 481
Fareham
PO14 9FS

Telephone: +44 (0)1489 569 805

E-mail: ukca@acro.pnn.police.uk

For more information visit the ACRO website

Last update: 30/06/2019