



Accurate, timely, interoperable? Data management in the asylum procedure

Common Template for the EMN Study 2020

Final version: 16 March 2020 (updated 14 April 2020)

1 BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE FOR THE STUDY

A smooth and fast registration and identification procedure and ensuring the accuracy of the information collected, are **essential aspects of a functioning asylum procedure**. Several Member States have recently taken a wider range of measures to also improve interoperability to assist operational efficiency.¹ An **effective** asylum system relies on the collection of timely information that could appropriately channel asylum applicants into the right track, as well as on accurate and reliable information that could inform subsequent asylum decisions. Similarly, the smooth transmission of information to relevant authorities as well as the interoperability of databases where this information is collected avoid duplication and contribute to the **efficiency** of the asylum system. Finally, the use of information collected during different phases of the asylum procedure to inform further related steps of the process (including the Dublin procedure) reception conditions, and to inform future planning for the migration system (including integration and possibly return) increase the **preparedness** of the migration system overall.

Changing circumstances in asylum applications in recent years, including increases and decreases in the volume and types of applications, has led to several procedural changes in how Member States manage the asylum process. In many Member States this has also impacted on how data is collected, managed and shared throughout the process. In particular, the following policy developments have been registered.

1. In the years of high influx of asylum seekers in the EU (2015–2016) several Member States experienced major **challenges with regard to their capacities to register asylum seekers as well as with subsequent data management** across different databases within their respective asylum authorities and with regard to other authorities linked to the asylum procedure and reception of asylum applicants.² In several Member States there were backlogs and delays in the asylum procedure. Asylum applicants were not always able to make their application upon arrival and once their application was registered, it sometimes took months before they could finally lodge the asylum application.³ Furthermore, multiple registrations occurred in some Member States due to a lack of interoperability of databases and a lack of technologies to digitalise the individual information and make it accessible to the different authorities. With regard to the high numbers of asylum applicants, several Member States experienced a need for automation, digitisation and innovation (such as the implementation of artificial intelligence) of various processes within the asylum

¹ MPI, Chasing Efficiency: Can Operational Changes Fix European Asylum Systems? March 2020:

<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/MPIE-ChasingEfficiency-EuropeAsylum-Final.pdf>

² EMN, Synthesis Report, Changing Influx of Asylum Seekers 2014–2016, August 2018: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/00_eu_changing_influx_study_synthesis_final_en.pdf

³ ECRE, Access to protection in Europe. The registration of asylum applications, 2018:

http://www.asylumineurope.org/sites/default/files/shadow-reports/aida_accessii_registration.pdf; EMN, Annual Report on Migration and Asylum 2017, May 2018: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/00_annual_report_on_migration_2017_highres_en.pdf

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procedure in order cope with the large numbers by saving resources, to limit double work, to ensure accuracy and transferability of individual information among different data systems.

2. With regard to the making, registering and lodging of an asylum application, a **trend towards shifting the collection of additional information of asylum seekers forward** (frontloading) in the asylum procedure may be observed in several EU Member States in recent years.⁴ One reason is another development in several Member States, namely the introduction of channelling systems in their asylum procedures. Based on different pre-defined profiles, asylum applicants are channelled into different "first-instance procedures (prioritised procedures; accelerated procedures; border procedure; admissibility procedure".⁵ In many cases, this had an impact on the asylum process as relevant information on asylum seekers needed to be collected at an earlier phase in order to allocate them to these different channels. In some Member States, information collection was also frontloaded for other reasons. Amongst other things, in order to shorten lengthy processing times in the asylum procedure (e.g. by limiting the need for paper and double work by digitising the collected information and implementing data quality assessments from the very beginning). A frontloaded information collection in some Member States again serves to better plan and coordinate reception facilities, estimate the need for integration and language courses for asylum seekers (e.g. number and types of courses needed in different regions) as well as other integration measures (e.g. labour market integration by asking for information on individual qualifications of the asylum seekers).
3. Last but not least, by further interlinking processes, actors and IT systems, **challenges occurred with regard to the interoperability of data systems and databases**, as well as with regard to data protection. However, several Member States introduced a range of measures to enhance interoperability on a federal and regional level or implemented larger reforms with regard to their data management, raising questions again with regard to safeguards of the individual data and 'legal' limitations of the data collection and processing mechanisms. The question of interoperability has also been discussed at EU-level in recent years with regard to the EU large scale IT systems. The Interoperability Regulation provides for future tools to enhance intra-EU data sharing and has as one of its aims to assist in the assessment of international protection applications.

Against this backdrop, the objective of this study is to examine how data is managed in the different phases of the asylum procedure and to identify any recent trends. In particular, it will (i) map Member States' data management approaches in the asylum procedure, (ii) examine whether there have been any procedural changes to enhance data sharing within the asylum authorities and beyond and how these have impacted on data management in these processes, and (iii) challenges and good practices that have arisen in relation to data management.

Scope

As for its **scope**, the study will cover different phases of the asylum procedure, beginning from the moment a person makes his or her asylum application until the first instance decision is made. It will focus, on the one hand, on data collected by various actors involved in the asylum procedure (e.g. border police registering an asylum application upon arrival; main authority for the asylum procedure; authorities responsible for unaccompanied minors etc.). On the other hand, the study will also cover data collected in the context of the asylum procedure but meant for other purposes than the asylum procedure itself (e.g. information on language skills used to better plan and coordinate integration and language courses; information on previous qualifications in order to smoothen labour market integration etcetera).

2 EU LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Directives and regulations

The functioning of the Common European Asylum System is based upon a series of EU legal instruments governing the asylum procedure. However, the management of personal data is only marginally regulated. With the exception of the **recast Eurodac Regulation (Regulation No 603/2013**, analysed below) that concerns the processing of biometric data of applicants of international protection for Dublin-related purposes, the registration of personal data in the asylum process is governed by national law. The **recast Asylum Procedures Directive (Directive 2013/32/EU)** sets out some rules in that respect, namely that the applicants must inform the

⁴ EASO, Workshop Discussion Paper, Workshop 2: Registration procedure, 9th Consultative Forum, 12th November 2019, Brussels: <https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Workshop2-Discussion-Paper.pdf>

⁵ EASO, Workshop Discussion Paper, Workshop 3: channelling based on the profile of the applicant and the identification of special needs, 9th Consultative Forum, 12th November 2019, Brussels: <https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Workshop3-Discussion-Paper.pdf>

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competent authorities of their current place of residence and of any changes thereof as soon as possible, which suggests that this information is collected by the competent authorities. Competent authorities are also allowed to take a photograph of the applicant; however, this is not compulsory under EU law. Crucially, Article 30 of that Regulation proscribes national authorities from disclosing information regarding individual applications or the fact that an application has been made to the alleged actor(s) of persecution or serious harm.

From a privacy and personal data protection perspective, the **General Data Protection Regulation (EU) No 2016/679** is applicable to the processing of personal data in the asylum procedure. This entails the application of a series of data protection safeguards in the collection and further processing of personal data, such as the principles of lawfulness, purpose limitation, data minimisation, accuracy, storage limitation and integrity and confidentiality. The data protection regime specific to the handling of personal data in the Eurodac system is covered in the Eurodac Regulation 603/2013.

EU centralised information systems

The abolition of internal borders in the Schengen area has required strong and reliable management of the movement of persons across the external borders, including through robust identity management. In that respect, three centralised information systems have been developed by the EU, which are currently operational: the Schengen Information System (SIS), Visa Information System (VIS) and Eurodac, all of which assist in verifying or identifying third-country nationals falling in different categories and who are on the move. SIS, VIS and Eurodac were originally envisaged to operate independently, without the possibility of interacting with one another. Progressively, the need has emerged to provide technical and legal solutions that would enable EU information systems to complement each other. To that end, the **Interoperability Regulations 2019/817 and 2019/818** adopted on 20 May 2019 prescribe four main components to be implemented: a European Search Portal (ESP), a shared Biometric Matching Service (BMS), a Common Identity Repository (CIR) and a Multiple Identity Detector (MID). An EU agency, eu-LISA, is responsible for the operational management of these three systems.⁶

The most relevant EU information system in this regard is **Eurodac**, a biometric database storing fingerprints of applicants for international protection and irregular immigrants found on EU territory. Its primary objective is to serve the implementation of Regulation (EU) No. 604/2013 ('the Dublin Regulation'). Eurodac may also be accessed by national law enforcement authorities and Europol for the purposes of preventing, detecting and investigating terrorist offences and serious crimes. A recast proposal⁷ tabled since May 2016 is currently negotiated as part of the revised Common European Asylum System (CEAS), with the aim of expanding the purpose, scope and categories of personal data stored in the system.

The **Visa Information System (VIS)** is also relevant for the purposes of the study not only in the context of further interoperability but also because it is used in the asylum procedure. The VIS processes personal data (both biographical and biometric) of short-stay (Schengen) visa applicants and to allows immigration, border control and asylum authorities to exchange such data for various purposes, including the implementation of the common EU visa policy and the assistance in the identification of the Member State responsible for an asylum claim in line with the Dublin rules. The current legal framework consists of Regulation 767/2008⁸ governing the use of the system for immigration control purposes, and Council Decision 2008/633/JHA⁹ on law enforcement access. A proposal is currently negotiated¹⁰ that among other things, lowers the threshold age for fingerprinting (six years).

As for the **Schengen Information System (SIS)**, it aims at ensuring a high level of security in the Schengen area by facilitating both border control and police investigations. To those ends, the SIS registers alerts on various categories of persons including third-country nationals to be refused entry or stay in the Schengen area, as well as alerts on objects, such as banknotes and identity documents. Failed asylum seekers may be registered

⁶ Regulation (EU) 2018/1726 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 November 2018 on the European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-LISA), and amending Regulation (EC) No 1987/2006 and Council Decision 2007/533/JHA and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1077/2011, OJ L 295, 21.11.2018.

⁷ COM (2016) 272final.

⁸ Regulation (EC) 767/2008 concerning the Visa Information System (VIS) and the exchange of data between Member States on short-stay visas, OJ L 218, 13.8.2008, as amended by Regulation (EC) 810/2009, OJ L 243, 15.9.2009..

⁹ Council Decision 2008/633/JHA concerning access for consultation of the Visa Information System (VIS) by designated authorities of Member States and by Europol for the purposes of the prevention, detection and investigation of terrorist offences and of other serious criminal offences, OJ L 218,13.8.2008.

¹⁰ COM (2018) 302final.

in the SIS in accordance with the SIS rules. In 2018, the SIS legal framework was revised with a view to adding certain categories of alerts.¹¹

The aforementioned information systems will be complemented in the future by three new ones that are currently under development: **the Entry/Exit System (EES)** that will register the border crossings, both at entry and exit, of all third-country nationals admitted for a short stay, irrespective of whether they are required to obtain a Schengen visa or not;¹² **the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS)** that will enable to identify whether the presence of a visa-free traveller in the territory of the Member States would pose a security, irregular migration or high epidemic risk;¹³ **the European Criminal Record Information System for third-country nationals (ECRIS-TCN)** that will enable the exchange of criminal records on convicted third-country nationals and stateless persons.¹⁴ All six information systems will be part of the interoperable data processing environment.

3 PRIMARY QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE STUDY

This study will focus on the following primary questions:

- Which information is collected in the context of the asylum procedure at which point of time by whom?
- How is the information collected, fed into different data systems and further managed and shared with relevant actors?
- How is data quality assessed, and which data protection safeguards are in place for asylum applicants during the asylum procedure?
- Which changes did Member States introduce in recent years with regard to data management in the asylum procedure and why?
- What challenges do Member States face with regard to data management in the asylum procedure, how have these been overcome, and what good practices can be shared?

The asylum procedure is divided in different phases in all Member States. First, an asylum applicant needs to make an asylum application which then needs to be registered and/or lodged by the competent authorities before the asylum interview may take place. Subsequently, a first-instance decision is made on the basis of an examination of the application. While the competent authorities responsible for the single phases may be different in some Member States, in others it may be a single competent authority covering all phases. In addition, in some Member States some of the phases mentioned above may in practice be conducted concurrently which is why there might not be the need for some Member States to differentiate between (some of) the phases. However, the asylum procedure will be subdivided into at least two phases in all Member States.

The Study will cover four main phases, based on EASO's guidance on asylum procedure:¹⁵

¹¹ Regulation (EU) 2018/1860 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 November 2018 on the use of the Schengen Information System for the return of illegally staying third-country nationals, OJ L 312, 7.12.2018, p. 1–13; Regulation (EU) 2018/1861 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 November 2018 on the establishment, operation and use of the Schengen Information System (SIS) in the field of border checks, and amending the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement, and amending and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1987/2006, OJ L 312, 7.12.2018, p. 14–55; Regulation (EU) 2018/1862 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 November 2018 on the establishment, operation and use of the Schengen Information System (SIS) in the field of police cooperation and judicial cooperation in criminal matters, amending and repealing Council Decision 2007/533/JHA, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1986/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Commission Decision 2010/261/EU. OJ L 312, 7.12.2018, p. 56–106.

¹² Regulation (EU) 2017/2226 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2017 establishing an Entry/Exit System (EES) to register entry and exit data and refusal of entry data of third-country nationals crossing the external borders of the Member States and determining the conditions for access to the EES for law enforcement purposes, and amending the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement and Regulations (EC) No 767/2008 and (EU) No 1077/2011, OJ L 327, 9.12.2017.

¹³ Regulation (EU) 2018/1240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 September 2018 establishing a European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) and amending Regulations (EU) No 1077/2011, (EU) No 515/2014, (EU) 2016/399, (EU) 2016/1624 and (EU) 2017/2226, OJ L 236, 19.9.2018.

¹⁴ Regulation (EU) 2019/816 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 establishing a centralised system for the identification of Member States holding conviction information on third-country nationals and stateless persons (ECRIS-TCN) to supplement the European Criminal Records Information System and amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1726, OJ L 135, 22.5.2019.

¹⁵ Available at:

https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/Guidance_on_asylum_procedure_operational_standards_and_indicators_EN.pdf

- 1 **Making an application:** during this phase the person expresses the intention to apply for international protection;
- 2 **Registering an application:** the applicant's intention to seek protection is registered, which may be done by an authority not competent for the asylum procedure itself, such as the border police;
- 3 **Lodging an application:** the asylum application is formally lodged at the competent authority for the asylum procedure;
- 4 **Examination of the application.**

4 RELEVANT CASE LAW FROM THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EU

CJEU, Case C-670/16 *Mengesteab*, Judgment of 26 July 2017: One of the questions referred to the CJEU involved the relationship between the two-time limits for take charge requests set out in Article 21 of the Dublin III Regulation. The Court clarified that the two months allowed to notify a Member State after a Eurodac hit may not result in a take charge request being issued more than three months after the application is lodged.

EU centralised systems have not generated any relevant case law before the CJEU in relation to their substance. However, more generally, case law on centralised storage of personal data for immigration-related purposes in the broader sense that may be relevant for the present study is the following:

- **CJEU, Opinion 1/15 of 26 July 2017:** In this case, the Grand Chamber of the CJEU evaluated the draft PNR Agreement between the EU and Canada. The Court elaborated on a series of safeguards as regards to data management, in particular: the need for clarity in specifying the scope of the data to be processed; the transfer of sensitive data requires a precise and solid justification; automated processing of personal data should take place under pre-established models and criteria that are specific and reliable; the authorities accessing the personal data are specified; any transfer of personal data to third countries must take place only if that third country ensures an essentially equivalent level of personal data protection; and the exercise of individual rights by persons whose personal data is processed is ensured.
- **CJEU, Case C-70/18, *Staatssecretaris van Justitie en Veiligheid v A and Others*, Judgment of 3 October 2019:** This case involves the processing of personal data of residence permit holders in a Dutch centralised database. The CJEU highlighted that the processing of 10 fingerprints and a facial image, besides providing a reliable way of identifying the person concerned, is not of an intimate nature and does not cause any particular physical or mental discomfort for the person concerned.

Since the objective of the retention of data is to prevent and combat identity and document fraud, a five-year retention period establishes a satisfactory connection between the personal data to be retained and the objective pursued and thus is proportionate.

5 RELEVANT SOURCES AND LITERATURE

UNHCR

- UNHCR, Discussion Paper Fair and Fast – Accelerated and Simplified Procedures in the European Union, July 2018¹⁶

EU Agencies

- EASO, Practical Guidance Series, EASO Guidance on asylum procedures: operational standards and indicators, September 2019¹⁷
- EASO Online-Tool 'Identification of persons with special needs'(IPSN)¹⁸

EMN Studies

- EMN, Synthesis Report, Changing Influx of Asylum Seekers 2014-2016, August 2018¹⁹

¹⁶ Available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b589eef4.html>

¹⁷ Available at: https://www.easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2019.1882_EN.pdf

¹⁸ Available at: <https://ipsn.easo.europa.eu/european-asylum-support-office>

¹⁹ Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/00_eu_changing_influx_study_synthesis_final_en.pdf

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- EMN, Synthesis Report, Challenges and practices for establishing the identity of third-country nationals in migration procedures, December 2017²⁰

EMN Ad-Hoc Queries

- 2019.49 - Processing times first instance asylum cases. Requested on 8 April 2019.
- 2018.1348 - Member States' practice regarding the storage of photographs and fingerprints in national systems/databases. Requested on 5 December 2018
- 2018.1335 - Equipment to collect biometric data. Requested on 17 September 2018.
- 2018.1262 - Use of Cloud Services for Processing Personal Data in Immigration Cases. Requested on 17 January 2018.
- 2017.1191 - Biometric information for legal migration cases. Requested on 30 May, 2017.
- 2017.1180 - Mobile device information. Requested on 9 May, 2017

Other studies and reports

- ECRE - European Council on Refugees and Exiles, Report, Access to protection in Europe. The registration of asylum applications, Asylum Information Database (AIDA), June 2018²¹
- MPI - Migration Policy Institute, Cracked Foundation, Uncertain Future: Structural Weaknesses in the Common European Asylum System, March 2018²²
- FRA - European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Biometric data in large EU IT systems in the areas of borders, visa and asylum - fundamental rights implications. Data protection, privacy and new technologies; Asylum, migration and borders²³

6 AVAILABLE STATISTICS

The following statistics are available through **Eurostat**:

Number of first-time asylum applications (lodging; migr_asyappctza) -- compare with number of first-time decisions (migr_asydcfsta)

The following statistics may be available through national statistics:

Number of registrations of asylum applications

The following statistics are available through **EU databases**:

Number of lodged asylum applications

Number of Eurodac hits 2014 - 2019

Use of VIS and n of hits 2014 - 2019

Use of SIS and n of hits 2014 - 2019

7 DEFINITIONS

The following key terms are used in the Common Template. The definitions are taken from the EMN Glossary v6.0²⁴ unless specified otherwise in footnotes.

²⁰ Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/00_eu_synthesis_report_identity_study_final_en_v2.pdf

²¹ Available at: http://asylumineurope.org/sites/default/files/shadow-reports/aida_accessii_registration.pdf

²² Available at: https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/CEAS-StructuralWeaknesses_Final.pdf

²³ Available at: <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2015/fundamental-rights-implications-obligation-provide-fingerprints-eurodac>

²⁴ Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/european_migration_network/docs/interactive_glossary_6.0_final_version.pdf

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'Application for international protection' is defined as a request made by a third-country national or a stateless person for protection from a Member State, who can be understood to seek refugee status or subsidiary protection status, and who does not explicitly request another kind of protection, outside the scope of Directive 2011/95/EU (Recast Qualification Directive), that can be applied for separately.

'Asylum procedure': see definition for 'Procedure for international protection'.

'Beneficiary of international protection' is defined as a person who has been granted refugee status or subsidiary protection status.

'Channelling' of the asylum procedure (also 'triaging'): "The core premise of accelerated and simplified procedures is the differentiation between caseloads for their channelling into distinct case processing modalities. The triaging process is therefore the central tenet of the process. [...] Depending on the results of the analysis, claims will be channelled into appropriate case processing modalities, or as is already done in several Members States [...] into different streams or 'tracks'. Groups, as well as any specific profiles, with high and very low protection rates would be channelled into accelerated and/or simplified procedures, while other cases would be adjudicated under the regular procedure."²⁵

'Country of origin' is the country or countries of nationality or, for stateless persons, of former habitual residence.

'Data management' is understood as the administrative process that includes all operations that are performed on data or on sets of data, through automated or other means, such as collection, recording, storage, retrieval, use, disclosure by transmission, dissemination or erasure.²⁶

'Examination of an asylum application': see definition for 'Examination of an application for international protection'.

'Examination of an application for international protection': Any examination of, or decision or ruling concerning, an application for international protection by the competent authorities in accordance with Directive 2013/32/EU (Recast Asylum Procedures Directive) and Directive 2011/95/EU (Recast Qualification Directive) except for procedures for determining the EU Member State responsible in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 (Dublin III Regulation).

'Lodging an asylum application': An application for international protection shall be deemed to have been lodged once a form submitted by the applicant or, where provided for in national law, an official report, has reached the competent authorities of the Member State concerned. Member States may require that applications for international protection be lodged in person and/or at a designated place.²⁷

'Making an asylum application': see definition for "Making application for international protection".

'Making application for international protection': The expression of intent to apply for international protection.

'Refugee status' is defined as the recognition by a Member State of a third-country national or a stateless person as a refugee.²⁸

'Registering an asylum application': Record the applicant's intention to seek protection.²⁹ When a person makes an application for international protection to an authority competent under national law for registering such applications, the registration shall take place no later than three working days after the application is made. If the application for international protection is made to other authorities which are likely to receive such applications, but not competent for the registration under national law, Member States shall ensure that the registration shall take place no later than six working days after the application is made.³⁰

'Procedure for international protection': Set of measures described in the Directive 2013/32/EU (Recast Asylum Procedures Directive) which encompasses all necessary steps for granting and

²⁵ UNHCR, Discussion Paper *Fair and Fast – Accelerated and Simplified Procedures in the European Union*, July 2018, pp. 8f. Available at: <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5b589eef4.pdf>

²⁶ Definition for the purposes of this study.

²⁷ Article 6(2, 3, 4) of Directive 2013/32/EU (Recast Asylum Procedure Directive).

²⁸ Article 2 of Directive 2011/95/EU (Recast Qualification Directive).

²⁹ EASO, presentation, 9th Consultative Forum, 12th November 2019, Brussels.

³⁰ Article 6(1) of Directive 2013/32/EU (Recast Asylum Procedure Directive).

withdrawing international protection starting with making an application for international protection to the final decision in appeals procedures.

8 ADVISORY GROUP (Core Group and Wider Group)

An 'Advisory Group' (AG) has been established within the context of this Study for the purpose of (i) developing the (common) specifications for the study, (ii) providing support to EMN NCPs during the development of the national contributions to the Study, as well as (iii) providing support to the drafting of the Synthesis Report. In addition to COM (DG HOME and JRC) and the EMN Service Provider (ICF-Odysseus), Frontex and EASO, the members of the AG for the Study include EMN NCPs from AT, BE, CY, DE, FI, HR, IE, IT, LU, NO, PL, SI, UK. Furthermore, the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) was included as an external expert.

In addition, the AG was split into a Core Group and a Wider Group, introducing a new structure of an AG within the EMN. Core Group members agreed to take more responsibility for the revision and to invest more time in all the follow-up processes (including a 2nd AG meeting). Wider Group members gave their input at the 1st AG meeting and agreed to comment on the 2nd draft of the common template before a 2nd AG meeting of the Core Group.

EMN NCPs are invited to send any requests for clarification or further information on the Study to the representatives of the Core Group.

Advisory Group (core AG members are in **bold**)

- **DE EMN NCP (Chair, Janne Grote and Anja Kuntscher)**
- **COM (Marion Finke, DG HOME)**
- COM (Anna Kadar, DG HOME)
- **COM (Martina Belmonte, DG JRC)**
- EASO (Karolina Lukaszczyk)
- **Frontex (Ilze Perczaka)**
- **AT EMN NCP (Julia Lendorfer, Martin Stiller)**
- BE NCP (Jessy Carton, Peter van Costenoble)
- CY EMN NCP (Michalis Beys)
- **IE EMN NCP (Anne Sheridan)**
- IT EMN NCP (Stefania Nasso, Francesco Giunta, Giulia Mezzetti)
- FI NCP (Tuukka Lampi)
- LU EMN NCP (Ralph Petry)
- NO EMN NCP (Stina Schulstock Holth)
- PL NCP (Patrycja Turska, Ewelina Zabardast)
- SI EMN NCP (Helena Korosec)
- UK EMN NCP (Zoe Pellatt)
- MPI (Timo Schmidt)
- **Odysseus network expert (Niovi Vavoula, Queen Mary, University of London)**
- **ICF (Nina Mavrogeorgou, Rocio Naranjo Sandalio EMN Service Provider)**

9 TIMETABLE

The following timetable is proposed for the next steps of the Study:

Date	Action
16 March 2020	Official <u>launch of the study</u>
3 July 2020	<u>Submission of national reports</u> by EMN NCPs
14 August 2020	First synthesis report (SR) to COM & AG members (1 week to provide comments)
21 August 2020	Deadline for comments (1 week to address comment and finalise)
28 August 2020	Circulation of the first SR to all NCPs (2 weeks to comment)
11 September 2020	Deadline for comments

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Date	Action
25 September 2020	Circulation of the second draft to all NCPs (2 weeks to comment)
9 October 2020	Deadline for comments
16 October 2020	Circulation of the third (final) draft to all NCPs (2 weeks to comment)
30 October 2020	Deadline for comments
End of November 2020	Finalisation of the synthesis report, publication and dissemination

10 TEMPLATE FOR NATIONAL REPORTS

The template provided below outlines the information that should be included in the National Contributions of EMN NCPs and Switzerland to this Study. The indicative number of pages to be covered by each section is provided in the guidance note. For national reports, the total number of pages should ideally not exceed **50 pages** (excluding the Annex). A limit of **25 pages** (excluding the Annex) will also apply to the synthesis report, in order to ensure that it remains concise and accessible.

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National Contribution from *Sweden*^{*31}

Disclaimer: The following information has been provided primarily for the purpose of contributing to a synthesis report for this EMN study. The EMN NCP has provided information that is, to the best of its knowledge, up-to-date, objective and reliable within the context and confines of this study. The information may thus not provide a complete description and may not represent the entirety of the official policy of the EMN NCPs' Member State.

Top-line factsheet [max. 2 pages]

*The top-line factsheet will serve as an overview of the **national reports** introducing the study and drawing out key facts and figures from across all sections, with a particular emphasis on elements that will be of relevance to (national) policy-makers.*

³¹ Replace highlighted text with your **Member State** name here.

Please provide a concise summary of the main findings of Sections 0-7:

The Swedish Migration Agency's work concerning data management focuses on fulfilling the necessary regulatory steps in a safe and efficient manner and at the same time to share information efficiently between the essential authorities.

The aim of the asylum process is to ensure that necessary data is collected as early as possible, and registered properly into the agency's systems, in order to ensure that no lagging concerning information availability is at risk. Since the Swedish Migration Agency conducts the making, registration and lodging of an application at the same time, the required information will be available in the databases from the moment an application is made, which is preferable from both a security and case-handling standpoint.

A number of new regulations, especially the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), have been incorporated and affected the data management work in the recent years. The agency and Sweden as a whole have made several improvements to ensure that these regulations are met, and enhanced the efficiency and security concerning data management.

In case of high influx the Swedish Migration Agency has a modified process where the initial stages (making, registration and lodging an application) are focused on gathering the most necessary data in order to fulfil these steps and make the appropriate cross-checks. A more thorough investigation into the individual case will be conducted during the examination phase. The goal of this is to ensure that no asylum applicant goes unregistered and that the minimum condition are met.

In regards to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic several actions have been adopted to ensure the safety of both the applicant, staff and other participants, such as all meetings with applicants should be conducted through digital channels or phone wherever possible. A routine for conducting interviews via Skype has been adopted, which for data security reasons require that both the applicant and agency staff are present at the agency office, but in separate rooms. In these cases the legal counsel and the interpreter are present via phone. Because of limitations regarding the amount of space, a prioritization has been made prior to planning the interviews according to the national prioritization. No cases where information is classified as security level 3 or higher (national security, sabotage, terrorism, national interests in regards to third countries etc.) are conducted via Skype. Consideration is also taken to the applicants' individual needs. A temporary routine regarding the processing of "flat" fingerprints rather than rolled ones has been adopted to minimize physical contact between staff and applicants.

Section 0: Impact of COVID-19

Did your (Member) State introduce any major change(s)/reform(s) related to data management due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes / No

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- In regards to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic several actions have been adopted to ensure the safety of both the applicant, staff and other participants, such as legal counsels and interpreters. The following is a list of these measures:
- All meetings with applicants should be conducted through digital channels or phone wherever possible.
- A routine for conducting interviews via Skype has been adopted, which for data security reasons require that both the applicant and agency staff are present at the agency office, but in separate rooms. In these cases the legal counsel and the interpreter are present via phone. Because of limitations regarding the amount of space, a prioritization has been made prior to planning the interviews according to the national prioritization. No cases where information is classified as security level 3 or higher (national security, sabotage, terrorism, national interests in regards to third countries etc.) are conducted via Skype. Consideration is also taken to the applicants' individual needs.
- A temporary routine regarding the processing of "flat" fingerprints rather than rolled ones has been adopted to minimize physical contact between staff and applicants.

Section 1: The asylum procedure

Please note that the data management aspects of each phase of making, registering, lodging and examining an asylum claim will need to be described in more detail in the following Sections. This introductory section shall serve as a first overview to better understand the following sections on data management within each phase. If your (Member) State has implemented specific procedures (e.g. 'airport procedure') that deviate from the usual procedure(s), please point this out. However, (Member) States may decide on their own, into how much depth they want to go with regard to such specific or more exceptional procedures. In case (Member) States decide not to elaborate in more detail on specific procedures but focus more on their 'general asylum procedure', a reference can be made to the fact that the specific procedure will not be further elaborated in order to reduce the complexity of the study.

1.1 Overview of the asylum procedure

Please provide an overview on the regular asylum procedure in your (Member) State by answering the following questions.

1. Does your (Member) State clearly distinguish in national legislation among the abovementioned phases of **making, registering** and **lodging** of an application? (clear distinction – see the background section 7 - Definitions)

Yes / No

An application is made, and simultaneously lodged, when an applicant states his/her will to apply for asylum at the Swedish Migration Agency or at the Swedish Police Authority. The necessary information is gathered when the application is made and is being registered into the migration agency's case management system. After this, biometric data such as fingerprints is gathered from the applicant, and a short preliminary hearing is conducted in order to identify basic claims regarding identity, health, travel history, reasons for asylum and special needs.

2. a) Does your (Member) State clearly distinguish in practice among the abovementioned phases of **making, registering** and **lodging** of an application? (clear distinction – see background section 7 - Definitions)

Yes / No

See answer above regarding the procedure of making, registering and lodging of an application.

b) in practice, are there any differences in the division of the phases based on the different types of entry routes (i.e. land, sea, air)? For Member States implementing the **hotspot approach**, does this distinction hold in the hotspots?

If an application is made at a border control or through the police department, the police will document the application and refer the case to the Swedish migration agency for further handling of the case, including the complete application procedure as mentioned above.

3. a) Does 'channelling' of specific caseloads take place in the asylum procedure of your (Member) State?

Channelling: Yes / No

If yes, please elaborate how the asylum procedure is organised, in relation to the single channels/tracks.

There are five different "tracks" that incoming asylum applications are being channelled in:

1. Cases where the presumption is that the application will be granted.
2. Cases where the presumption is that the application will be denied.
3. Cases where the time for handling the case exceeds four months.
4. A) Cases where the application is being deemed unfounded and the applicant is subject to immediate return.

B) Cases where the applicant is from a country where the denial rate is high and no other indications in the specific case suggests that the outcome will not be a denial.
5. Cases subject to a Dublin procedure.

b) Did your (Member) State introduce any changes on 'channelling' since 2014?

If so, please describe the change(s) and intended purpose. If applicable and feasible, please also refer to findings of studies or evaluations on these changes made.

Yes, the track 4B (as described above) was added after 2014 in order to distinguish and rapidly handle cases where the applicant is from a country with high denial rate.

4. a) Are there any national time frames/limits for each of the single phases (making, registering, lodging and examining a claim) in the context of Article 6 of the recast Asylum Procedures Directive?³²

Yes / No

If yes, please describe and specify the time frames/limits for the phases applicable in your (Member) State.

The national timeframe for making, registering and lodging an application is three days, with the goal of two days.

The national timeframe for examining a claim is between 14 and 43 days depending on the track, with 7 days being the goal.

³² Directive 2013/32/EU (NB Denmark and Ireland do not participate in the recast Asylum Procedures Directive).

There is a legal limit of 6 months for handling an application. If this is exceeded the applicant can demand a decision from the agency.

b) Did your (Member) State introduce any changes in the national timeframes / limits in the years since 2014?

If so, please describe the change(s) and intended purpose. If applicable and feasible, please also refer to findings of studies or evaluations on these changes made.

The abovementioned timeframes, legal limits and goals were introduced after 2014.

5. a) In practice, how long does the procedure take from an asylum applicant making an application to lodging the application (average days)?

Table 1

Year	Average duration (days) from making to lodging a claim ³³
2014	N/A
2015	N/A
2016	N/A
2017	N/A
2018	N/A
2019	N/A

b) In practice, how long does the procedure take from lodging the application until a first instance decision is made (average days)? If information is not available, please indicate legal time limits and an indication that these are legal limits.

In case your (Member) State applies 'channelling', please specify the average time for each channel (average days; and please add additional columns in case more Channels apply). If (Member) State rather differentiates between special procedures in place (such as fast track procedures) and/or if these are interconnected with the 'channelling' please add additional columns and elaborate in a footnote what the special procedure is about – if not yet done so in Chapter 1.1)

Table 2

Year	From lodging until first time decision				
	Average days	Channel 1 (please specify)	Channel 2 (please specify)	Channel 3 (please specify)	Channel 4 (please specify)
2014	142				
2015	229				
2016	328				
2017	496				
2018	507				
2019	288				

1.2 Authorities involved in the asylum procedure

6. Which authorities are involved in and responsible for the asylum procedure from making an application to first instance decision?

³³ In case there is no information on the exact average duration, please include estimates about the average duration.

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Please indicate whether those authorities are legally competent for registering an asylum application or not. For those authorities which are not, please also see Section 2.1

Table 3

Type of Authority	Specify name of the authority involved in making an application	Legally competent for registering an asylum application (please indicate type of authority and specify name)	Legally competent for lodging an asylum application (please indicate type of authority and specify name)	Legally competent for examining an asylum application (please indicate type of authority and specify name)
Border Police	X	X		
Local Police	X	X		
(Branch) office for Refugees	Swedish Migration Agency	Swedish Migration Agency		Swedish Migration Agency
Ministries (Interior, Justice, etc.)				
Local Citizen's Office/Mayor of a local city/town				
(Local) immigration office				
(Shared) accommodation for refugees	Swedish Migration Agency			
EU Agency				
International Organisation				
Detention facility	Swedish Migration Agency	Swedish Migration Agency		
Reception centre	Swedish Migration Agency	Swedish Migration Agency		
Others (please specify)				

1.3 Data collected during the asylum procedure

7. Which information is gathered during the asylum procedure at the different phases and by whom? Please, fill Table 4 below.

Table 4

<p>1.Categories of data collected</p>	<p>2. In which phase(s) is this information collected? (including self-registration)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Registering (1) - self-registration (1.1) - lodging (2) - examination (3) <p><i>Please use the numbers provided for each phase to indicate the phase the data is collected. In case phases are combined in your state, please indicate it accordingly by using a dash (see example below).</i></p> <p><i>If data is re-used but not re-collected in a following phase, data is not collected in that phase. Therefore, if data is not collected in a specific phase but only re-used or not used at all, please do not add any number for that phase.</i></p>	<p>3. Which organization collects this information in each of the different phases? (whenever possible please refer to the authorities listed in section 1.2)</p>	<p>4. How is this particular category of data /biometric data collected?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - online self-registration - written questionnaire (in paper) - oral (interview, face-to-face) - oral (interview via phone/ videocall) - open source (e.g. social media) - analysing documents - analysing content of mobile devices (e.g. phones, laptops) - using automated or artificial intelligence for analysis of data - other: please specify (multiple answers possible) <p><i>If different data collection tools are used in the different phases, please specify it. If possible, please indicate if any specific technology is used in the process.</i></p>	<p>5. Where is this particular category of data /biometric data stored?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in an electronic file - in a database - on paper 	<p>6. If applicable, please specify the name of the database(s)</p>
<p>Name</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - current name 	<p>1/2</p>	<p><i>Border police</i></p> <p><i>Local Police</i></p> <p><i>Branch office for refugees</i></p> <p><i>Local immigration office</i></p> <p><i>Shared accommodation for refugees</i></p> <p><i>EU agency</i></p>	<p><i>Written questionnaire</i></p> <p><i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i></p> <p><i>Analysing documents</i></p>	<p><i>In a database</i></p>	<p><i>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</i></p> <p><i>Eurodac</i></p> <p><i>SIS</i></p>

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		<i>International organisation</i> <i>Detention facility</i> <i>Reception facility</i>			
- <i>birth name</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Border police</i> <i>Local Police</i> <i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i> <i>Shared accommodation for refugees</i> <i>EU agency</i> <i>International organisation</i> <i>Detention facility</i> <i>Reception facility</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	<i>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</i> <i>Eurodac</i> <i>SIS</i>
- <i>previous name(s)</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Border police</i> <i>Local Police</i> <i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	<i>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</i> <i>Eurodac</i> <i>SIS</i>

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		<p><i>Shared accommodation for refugees</i></p> <p><i>EU agency</i></p> <p><i>International organisation</i></p> <p><i>Detention facility</i></p> <p><i>Reception facility</i></p>			
- <i>pen name (alias)</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<p><i>Border police</i></p> <p><i>Local Police</i></p> <p><i>Branch office for refugees</i></p> <p><i>Local immigration office</i></p> <p><i>Shared accommodation for refugees</i></p> <p><i>EU agency</i></p> <p><i>International organisation</i></p> <p><i>Detention facility</i></p> <p><i>Reception facility</i></p>	<p><i>Written questionnaire</i></p> <p><i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i></p> <p><i>Analysing documents</i></p>	<i>In a database</i>	<p>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</p> <p>Eurodac</p> <p>SIS</p>
- <i>religious names</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<p><i>Border police</i></p> <p><i>Local Police</i></p>	<p><i>Written questionnaire</i></p> <p><i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i></p>	<i>In a database</i>	<p>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</p> <p>Eurodac</p>

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		<p><i>Branch office for refugees</i></p> <p><i>Local immigration office</i></p> <p><i>Shared accommodation for refugees</i></p> <p><i>EU agency</i></p> <p><i>International organisation</i></p> <p><i>Detention facility</i></p> <p><i>Reception facility</i></p>	<p><i>Analysing documents</i></p>		<p>SIS</p>
<p>- other names</p>	<p>1/2</p>	<p><i>Border police</i></p> <p><i>Local Police</i></p> <p><i>Branch office for refugees</i></p> <p><i>Local immigration office</i></p> <p><i>Shared accommodation for refugees</i></p> <p><i>EU agency</i></p> <p><i>International organisation</i></p> <p><i>Detention facility</i></p> <p><i>Reception facility</i></p>	<p><i>Written questionnaire</i></p> <p><i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i></p> <p><i>Analysing documents</i></p>	<p><i>In a database</i></p>	<p>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</p> <p>Eurodac</p> <p>SIS</p>

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Sex	1/2	<p><i>Border police</i></p> <p><i>Local Police</i></p> <p><i>Branch office for refugees</i></p> <p><i>Local immigration office</i></p> <p><i>Shared accommodation for refugees</i></p> <p><i>EU agency</i></p> <p><i>International organisation</i></p> <p><i>Detention facility</i></p> <p><i>Reception facility</i></p>	<p><i>Written questionnaire</i></p> <p><i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i></p> <p><i>Analysing documents</i></p>	<i>In a database</i>	<p>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</p> <p>Eurodac</p> <p>SIS</p>
Biometric data					
- photo	1/2	<p><i>Border police</i></p> <p><i>Local Police</i></p> <p><i>Branch office for refugees</i></p> <p><i>Local immigration office</i></p>	Uptake through use of dactyloscopy machine	<i>In a database</i>	<p>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</p> <p>Eurodac</p> <p>VIS</p> <p>SIS</p>
- fingerprints (which fingers, rolled or pressed fingerprints)	1/2	<p><i>Branch office for refugees</i></p> <p><i>Local immigration office</i></p>	Uptake through use of dactyloscopy machine	<i>In a database</i>	<p>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</p> <p>Eurodac</p>
- iris scan					

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- other	1/2	Branch office for refugees Local immigration office	Uptake through use of dactyloscopy machine	In a database	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden Eurodac SIS
Eye colour	1/2	Branch office for refugees Local immigration office	Uptake through use of dactyloscopy machine	In a database	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden Eurodac SIS
Height	1/2	Branch office for refugees Local immigration office	Physical measurement	In a database	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden Eurodac SIS
Date of birth	1/2	Border police Local Police Branch office for refugees Local immigration office	Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents	In a database	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden Eurodac SIS
Citizenship(s)	1/2	Border police Local Police Branch office for refugees Local immigration office	Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents	In a database	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden Eurodac SIS
Country of origin	1/2	Border police Local Police	Written questionnaire	In a database	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden

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		<i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>		Eurodac SIS
Place of birth					
- <i>town</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden Eurodac SIS
- <i>region</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden Eurodac SIS
- <i>country</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden Eurodac SIS
- <i>other</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden Eurodac SIS
Date of arrival in the (Member) State	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Border police</i> <i>Local Police</i> <i>Branch office for refugees</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden Eurodac SIS

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		<i>Local immigration office</i>			
Last place of residence in the country of origin	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	<i>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden Eurodac SIS</i>
Last place of residence before entry in the (Member) State	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	<i>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden Eurodac SIS</i>
Contact details					
<i>- phone number</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	<i>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</i>
<i>- email address</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	<i>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</i>
<i>- current address</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	<i>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</i>
<i>- other</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i>	<i>In a database</i>	<i>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</i>

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		<i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>		
Civil status	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden
Accompanied by:					
- <i>spouse or civil partner</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden
- <i>children</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden
- <i>parents</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden
- <i>other relatives</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden
Family members in the (Member) State					

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- <i>name</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden
- <i>residency</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden
- <i>citizenship</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden
- <i>other</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden
Family members in another (Member) State	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden
Close relatives in the (Member) State	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden

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Close relatives in another (Member) State	1/2	Branch office for refugees Local immigration office	Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents	In a database	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden
Health status					
- specifics on health status	1/2	Branch office for refugees Local immigration office	Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents	In a database	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden
- reference that a general health check has been carried out	1/2	Branch office for refugees Local immigration office	Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents	In a database	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden
- other	1/2	Branch office for refugees Local immigration office	Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents	In a database	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden
Education					
- school attendance	1/2	Branch office for refugees Local immigration office	Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents	In a database	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden
- academic studies	1/2	Branch office for refugees	Written questionnaire	In a database	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden

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		<i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>		
- <i>trainings</i>					
- <i>apprenticeships</i>					
- <i>non-formal work experience</i>					
- <i>other</i>					
Language skills	1/2	<i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden
Profession	1/2	<i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden
Criminal record	3	<i>Border police</i> <i>Local police</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i> <i>Control measurements through different databases both international and national</i>	<i>In a database</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden SIS Swedish Police database
Financial resources	1/2	<i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden

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Supporting documents					
- passport	1/2	<i>Border police</i> <i>Local Police</i> <i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database (scanned copy)</i> <i>Physical folder</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden
- travel document	1/2	<i>Border police</i> <i>Local Police</i> <i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database (scanned copy)</i> <i>Physical folder</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden
- other	1/2	<i>Border police</i> <i>Local Police</i> <i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database (scanned copy)</i> <i>Physical folder</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden
Reasons for fleeing	3	<i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden
Reasons for not wanting to be returned to the competent Member State	1/2	<i>Branch office for refugees</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i>	<i>In a database</i>	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden

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as part of a Dublin procedure		<i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>		
Previous applications	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i> <i>Control measurements through different databases both international and national</i>	<i>In a database</i>	<i>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</i> <i>Eurodac</i> <i>SIS</i>
Information on the route taken	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	<i>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</i>
Information on exclusion grounds	<i>3</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i> <i>Open source</i>	<i>In a database</i>	<i>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</i>
Religious affiliation	<i>3</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	<i>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</i>
Vulnerabilities					
<i>- Unaccompanied minor</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i>	<i>In a database</i>	<i>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</i>

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		<i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Analysing documents</i>		
- <i>Pregnant</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	<i>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</i>
- <i>Disabilities (which?)</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	<i>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</i>
- <i>Elderly</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	<i>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</i>
- <i>Single parent with minor child(ren)</i>	<i>1/2</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	<i>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</i>
- <i>Victims of human trafficking</i>	<i>1/2/3</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call) Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	<i>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</i>
- <i>Mental disorders</i>	<i>1/2/3</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees</i>	<i>Written questionnaire Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i>	<i>In a database</i>	<i>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</i>

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		<i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Analysing documents</i>		
- <i>Victims of torture, physical or sexual violence (female genital mutilation)</i>	<i>1/2/3</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i> <i>In a database</i>	<i>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</i>
- <i>other</i>	<i>1/2/3</i>	<i>Branch office for refugees</i> <i>Local immigration office</i>	<i>Written questionnaire</i> <i>Oral (both face-to-face and interview via phone/video call)</i> <i>Analysing documents</i>	<i>In a database</i>	<i>Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden</i>
Other (please specify)					

8. Has your (Member) State identified any good practice in frontloading information collected by other authorities not directly connected to the asylum procedure? If yes, please elaborate and specify in which phase does the frontloading take place. N/A

For each good practice mentioned, please describe a) for whom it is a good practice, b) why it is considered a good practice and c) what is the source of the statement – (please indicate sources)

1.4 Data management during the asylum procedure

9. Please fill Table 5 based on the information given in column 6 of Table 4 (filling as many rows as the databases indicated that Table).

Table 5

Database	Overview/definition of the database (please indicate whether it is a regional, national or European database).	National authorities that have access to the databases or access to its data ³⁴			Data shared with other Member States (apart from the data that (Member) States share through EU databases e.g. Eurostat, VIS, SIS)	
		Name of authority/organisation	In which phase of the asylum procedure	For what purpose	Type of data	For what purpose
(Database 1)	Central Database for Aliens Affairs in Sweden	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Swedish Migration Agency 2. Swedish police authority 3. Swedish security service 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Throughout the asylum procedure 2. At special request when suspicion or allegation of criminal activity arise. 3. When cases regarding national security, terrorism, sabotage etc. is suspected 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Managing the application 2. Prevent and act on criminal charges 3. Investigating cases where there's indication of a national security interest, terrorism etc. 	...	
(Database 2)	SIS					

³⁴ Please differentiate between access to database and access to data. 'Access to database' is understood as a national authority being authorised to have direct access to a database without the need to request data to be transmitted to them via other authorities or intermediaries. 'Access to data' is reserved to cases where an authority has access to data contained to a database, through transmission or sharing by another authority.

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(Database 3)	Eurodac	1. Swedish Migration Agency	1. Throughout the asylum procedure	1. Managing the application, especially concerning Dublin cases		
(Database 4)	VIS	1. Swedish Migration Agency	1. Throughout the asylum procedure	1. Managing the application, especially concerning Dublin cases		
(Database 5)	Swedish police database	1. Swedish Migration Agency 2. Swedish Police Authority 3. Swedish Security Service	1. Security check at the time of decision regarding the case. 2. When suspicion or allegation of criminal activity arise. 3. When suspicion of activity pertaining to national security, terrorism etc. arise	1. Making sure that no obstacles are present to granting a residence permit. 2. Taking necessary actions towards criminal activity. 3. Taking necessary actions towards specific criminal activity.		
(Database 6)	Eurostat	1. Swedish Migration Agency 2. Swedish Police Authority	1. Not pertaining to case management 2. Not pertaining to case management	1. In order to gain and provide correct relevant statistical data 2. In order to gain and provide correct relevant statistical data		

Section 2: Making an asylum application -

N/A for Sweden

This section requests information on asylum seekers making an asylum application to an authority that is not competent to register an asylum application.

'Making an application': The expression of intent to apply for international protection.

2.1 Making an application to an authority not competent to register the asylum application

If your (Member) State does not differentiate between "making an application" and "registering an application", or if these two phases are conducted concurrently, as referred to in Section 1.1, please skip and go to Section 3.

10. What information do authorities who are not competent to register an asylum application provide to the asylum applicants on where to go and what to do?

These authorities provide information on how to make a visit to the Swedish Migration Agency in order to get there application registered and lodged, including visiting hours and location.

11. Do the authorities who are not competent to register any asylum application collect any data on the asylum applicant?

Yes / No

If yes, please specify which type of data is collected.

If yes, is this data further transferred to the competent authorities?

Section 3: Registering an asylum application

N/A for Sweden

'Registering an asylum application': Record the applicant's intention to seek protection.

This section requests information on the registration of asylum applications.

If the process of registering and lodging of the asylum application are conducted concurrently (according to the law or in practice) in your (Member) State, please make this clear in Section 1 and proceed by skipping this Section and going directly to Section 4. If however, registering and lodging of an asylum application are conducted separately in your (Member) State (e.g. in crisis times or regionally with regard to islands vs. main land, cities vs. rural areas, centralised vs decentralised) please proceed by answering the following questions in Sections 3 and 4.

If the process of registering, lodging and examination of the asylum application are conducted concurrently (according to the law or in practice) in your (Member) State, please make this clear in Section 1 and proceed by skipping this Section and going directly to Section 5.

For Member States implementing the hotspot approach, please highlight whether there are differences in the processes applied in hotspots with regard to the standard/general asylum procedure.

3.1 Cross checking of data collected at the registration phase

12. Against which databases at i. local/regional, ii. national, iii. European and iv. international levels is the information collected during registration cross-checked³⁵ (please elaborate, what the purpose is of the cross-checking and if only specific categories of data are cross-checked)?

13. Does systematic cross-checking against (i) VIS and (ii) SIS take place?

Yes / No

14. What issues has your (Member) State encountered in cross-checking data collected at registration phase?

For each issue mentioned, please describe a) for whom it is an issue, b) why it is considered an issue and c) whether the assessment that this issue based on input from experts (please indicate sources)

³⁵ Purpose of cross-checking: Previous asylum applications, Prior legal residence/stay, Illegal border crossing, Illegal stay (overstay), Criminal record, Security risks, Detect counterfeit identity/travel documents, Other (please specify).

3.2 Information provided to asylum applicants in the registration phase

15. Are asylum applicants provided with a processing/privacy notice³⁶ about the personal data collected from them during the registration phase?

Yes / No

If yes, please describe which information is provided (i.e. the purpose for which personal data from the asylum applicant is collected and on what basis, who has access to the information, data protection rights etc).

16. a) Who provides the information mentioned above (under Q15) (public authorities, international organisations, CSO – civil society organisations)?

b) How is this information provided (orally, digitally, in writing or all three)?

Please describe.

c) Where information is provided orally, is interpretation available?

Yes / No

d) Where information is provided digitally, is translation available?

Yes / No

If yes, who provides the digital information (e.g. national authorities, NGOs etc)?

e) Where information is provided in writing is translation available?

Yes / No

If yes, who provides the translation service (e.g. national authorities, NGOs etc)?

17. Is any specific training or guidance (i.e. guidelines) provided for staff responsible for data management with regard to information collected at the registration phase?

3.3 Where self-registration procedures apply, (Member) States are asked to elaborate more on the framework and experiences.

18. Does your (Member) State have any self-registration procedures in place?

Yes / No

If yes, please answer questions 19-23.

If not, please move to section 4.

19. When was the self-registration procedure introduced and why?

20. Where do asylum seekers self-register (e.g. website, by phone)?

21. Are asylum seekers provided with any guidance/assistance/information on how to self-register?

³⁶ The obligation to take appropriate measures to provide data subjects with a processing or privacy notice stems from Article 12 GDPR which obliges data controllers to provide “any information referred to in Articles 13 and 14 and any communication under Articles 15 to 22 and 34 relating to processing to the data subject in a concise, transparent, intelligible and easily accessible form, using clear and plain language.” The information referred to in Articles 13 sets out the information to be provided where data has been collected from the data subject. It includes setting out the purpose of the data collected and legal basis; legitimate interests of the data controller (where this is used as the legal base); recipients of the data or categories of data; and if the data will be transferred to a third country or international organisation. Articles 15 to 22 refer to the data subject’s rights including the rights to access, rectification and erasure; the right to object (if data is being collected for certain purposes including for a task carried out in the public interest or an official function vested in the data controller or in pursuit of legitimate interests of the data controller); right to data portability etc.

If yes, please elaborate and indicate who provides this information

22. In which languages is the self-registration procedure available?

23. Is self-registration mandatory or optional?

Please elaborate.

Section 4: Lodging an asylum application N/A to Sweden

This section requests information on asylum applicants lodging an asylum application.

4.1 Cross checking of data collected at the lodging phase

24. Against which databases at i. local/regional, ii. national, iii. European and iv. international levels is the information collected during the lodging phase cross-checked (please elaborate, what the purpose is of the cross-checking and if only specific categories of data are cross-checked)?

1. The purpose of this is to make sure that the applicant isn't already registered in the database, whether or not there's an open application pending, or if the applicant is legally allowed to apply for asylum e.g. hasn't received a negative decision within the last four years or have an open Dublin request pending.

25. Does systematic cross-checking against (a) VIS and (b) SIS take place?

Yes / No

26. What issues have you encountered in cross checking data collected at the lodging phase?

For each issue mentioned, please describe a) for whom it is an issue, b) why it is considered an issue and c) whether the assessment that this issue based on input from experts - please indicate sources)

4.2 Information provided to asylum applicants at the lodging phase

28. Are asylum applicants provided with a processing/privacy notice³⁷ about the personal data collected from them during the lodging phase?

Yes / No

If yes, please describe which information is provided (i.e. the purpose for which personal data from the asylum applicant is collected and on what basis, who has access to the information, data protection rights etc).

29. a) Who provides the information mentioned above (under Q 28) (public authorities, international organisations, CSO - civil society organisations)?

b) How is this information provided (orally, digitally, in writing or all three)?

c) Where information is provided orally, is interpretation available?

Yes / No

If yes, who provides the interpretation services (e.g. national authorities, NGOs etc)?

³⁷ The obligation to take appropriate measures to provide data subjects with a processing or privacy notice stems from Article 12 GDPR which obliges data controllers to provide "any information referred to in Articles 13 and 14 and any communication under Articles 15 to 22 and 34 relating to processing to the data subject in a concise, transparent, intelligible and easily accessible form, using clear and plain language." The information referred to in Articles 13 sets out the information to be provided where data has been collected from the data subject. It includes setting out the purpose of the data collected and legal basis; legitimate interests of the data controller (where this is used as the legal base); recipients of the data or categories of data; and if the data will be transferred to a third country or international organisation. Articles 15 to 22 refer to the data subject's rights including the rights to access, rectification and erasure; the right to object (if data is being collected for certain purposes including for a task carried out in the public interest or an official function vested in the data controller or in pursuit of legitimate interests of the data controller); right to data portability etc.

d) Where information is provided digitally, is translation available?

Yes / No

If yes, who provides the digital information (e.g. national authorities, NGOs etc)?

e) Where information is provided in writing is translation available?

Yes / No

If yes, who provides the translation service (e.g. national authorities, NGOs etc)?

30. Is any specific training or guidance provided for staff responsible for data management with regard to information collected at the lodging phase?

Section 5: Examining an asylum application

The following sections request information on any additional data collected after an asylum application is deemed to have been lodged and before a first instance decision is issued.

5.1 Cross checking of data collected at the examination phase

31. Against which databases at i. local/regional, ii. national, iii. European and iv. international levels is the information collected during the examination phase cross-checked (please elaborate, what the purpose is of the cross-checking and if only specific categories of data are cross-checked)?

Beside databases mentioned below there is also cross checking against The Swedish Police Authority's database.

32. Does systematic cross-checking against (a) VIS and (b) SIS take place?

Yes / No

33. What issues has your (Member) State encountered in cross checking data collected at the examination phase?

For each issue mentioned, please describe a) for whom it is an issue, b) why it is considered an issue and c) whether the assessment that this issue based on input from experts (please indicate sources).'

Issues regarding transcription of names and false identities arise in the cross checking of the data. An applicant using different names, whether through mistake (transcription mainly) or by the use of false identities, is at risk of being registered multiple times in the system. These risks lead to issues in processing the application and to incorrect statistical data both at a national and international level. In most cases, these risks are detected during the application process, mainly by biometrical data.

5.2 Information provided to asylum applicants at the examination phase

34. Are asylum applicants provided with a processing/privacy note³⁸ about the personal data collected from them during the examination phase?

³⁸ The obligation to take appropriate measures to provide data subjects with a processing or privacy notice stems from Article 12 GDPR which obliges data controllers to provide "any information referred to in Articles 13 and 14 and any communication under Articles 15 to 22 and 34 relating to processing to the data subject in a concise, transparent, intelligible and easily accessible form, using clear and plain language." The information referred to in Articles 13 sets out the information to be provided where data has been collected from the data subject. It includes setting out the purpose of the data collected and legal basis; legitimate interests of the data controller (where this is used as the legal base); recipients of the data or categories of data; and if the data will be transferred to a third country or international organisation. Articles 15 to 22 refer to

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X Yes / No

35. If yes, please describe which information is provided (i.e. the purpose for which personal data from the asylum applicant is collected and on what basis, who has access to the information, data protection rights etc). a) Who provides the information mentioned above (under Q 34) (public authorities, international organisations, CSO - civil society organisations)?

Standardized information regarding General Data Protection Regulation.

- b) How is this information provided (orally, digitally, in writing or all three)?

Written information and if necessary orally.

- c) Where information is provided orally, is interpretation available?

X Yes / No

If yes, who provides the interpretation services (e.g. national authorities, NGOs etc)?

Independent interpretation providers that has a central framework arrangement with Swedish governmental agencies.

- d) Where information is provided digitally, is translation available?

Yes / No

If yes, who provides the digital information (e.g. national authorities, NGOs etc)?

- e) Where information is provided in writing is translation available?

X Yes / No

If yes, who provides the translation service (e.g. national authorities, NGOs etc)?

Independent interpretation providers that has a central framework arrangement with Swedish governmental agencies.

36. Is any specific training or guidance provided for staff responsible for data management with regard to information collected at the examination phase?

Yes, general training regarding the General Data Protection Regulation is provided to all staff.

Section 6: Data quality and safeguards [max 4 pages]

The following sections request information on how data quality is managed and the safeguards that (Member) States apply.

6.1 Data quality management

37. Is the quality of (at least some categories of) data (alphanumeric and biometric) collected during the asylum procedure assessed (e.g. with regard to accuracy, timeliness, completeness, consistency, duplication and validity of the data)?

X Yes / No

If yes, please elaborate on some contrasting³⁹ examples of data quality assessment and indicate:

the data subject's rights including the rights to access, rectification and erasure; the right to object (if data is being collected for certain purposes including for a task carried out in the public interest or an official function vested in the data controller or in pursuit of legitimate interests of the data controller); right to data portability etc.

³⁹ It will not be feasible to elaborate on all data quality assessment measures for each type of data collected which is why we are asking for contrasting examples where different types of quality assessment measure (e.g. tools, technical equipment, data analytics etc.) apply.

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- a) In which phase(s) of the asylum procedure is the quality of data assessed (quality assessment)?

There are regularly scheduled quality assessments carried out of the data quality within the asylum procedure, often thematic, such as focusing on specific areas for example, registration, interviews, the quality of how the data is applied when making decisions in cases etc. These assessments are carried out on a randomized sample of asylum cases, and the method of the assessment is specific in regards to what data is being assessed.

- b) How (specific tools)⁴⁰ and by whom (centralised/decentralised) is the quality assessment carried out?

The assessments of data quality is usually carried out by a group consisting of centralized departments, most commonly the legal department and the digitalization- and development department at the Swedish Migration Agency.

- c) If decentralised, how is it ensured that the other actors get to know about data amendments and changes?

38. Do quality assessment measures only apply retroactively? Yes/No.

Yes.

39. Are any preventative measures in place to get the information right at the very beginning? Yes/No. If yes, which safeguards are in place?

There has been several major studies carried out to assess the data quality in the Central Database for Aliens' Affairs in Sweden with the objective of "cleaning up" and to assess the overall quality. Based on the findings some preventive measures were introduced ranging from education of staff to reconfiguration of the system that has the aim of preventing the possibility of unreliable registrations.

6.2 Safeguard

40. Describe the supervision mechanism for data protection supervision of the personal data collected during the asylum procedure in your Member State.⁴¹

The inner control is performed by the Data Protection Officers of the Swedish Migration Agency, and the Swedish Data Protection Authority performs the outer control. There is no specific process for an asylum process; instead, the supervision mechanism is conducted in the same manner for all types of processing of personal information.

41. Have (national) data protection authorities or similar entities assessed any of the databases described above?

Yes / No

If yes, please specify the relevant authorities, briefly describe what conclusions have they drawn, including whether such conclusions have led to changes in data management. *Please indicate sources and whether there are any published reports or audits available on these inspections.*

⁴⁰ E.g. name transliteration, screening for duplicates against data already stored in the database, automated data quality checks, data analytics, artificial intelligence.

⁴¹ The question does not refer to the legal framework but to how a data protection authority in a Member State supervises the implementation of that legal framework (what are the structures in place in your Member State to ensure the data subject's data protection rights are being ensured).

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The Swedish Protection Authority has done audits at the Swedish Migration Agency, for instance concerning access control and logs.

As an example of changes in data management, the Swedish Migration Agency has improved the processing of protective personal data, for instance when a person needs to have its home address protected.

42. How is it arranged in practice the manner in which the rights of asylum applicants in relation to access, rectification and erasure of their data stored in the national systems are exercised? *Please provide available statistics concerning the number of requests made by asylum applicants, if any.*

The Swedish Migration Agency has an appointed function within the organization that handles request of rights such as rectification and access to personal data.

No statistics available

Section 7: Responding to challenges in data management: recent reforms to the asylum procedure

7.1 Challenges and changes/reforms in data management

43. Has your (Member) State experienced any of the following challenges related to data management in the past years (since 2014)?

Please elaborate **on each of the selected challenges**, mentioning: a) for whom it is a challenge (policy-maker, organisation, other stakeholders); b) why it is considered a challenge; and c) how was it identified as a challenge (e.g. surveys, evaluation reports, focus groups, experts opinions etc).

- Self-registration
- Legal obstacles
- Cooperation between national authorities
- Interoperability of databases
- Technical limitations in data processing

As an agency, the Swedish Migration Agency has a large technical debt, meaning that our case-management systems and databases are fairly old and lacking in technical capacity. This is a challenge for each stakeholder as it limits our capacity to achieve efficient case handling, affects the quality of data in our systems, and therefore affects the ability to deliver correct and comprehensive statistical data.

- Implementation of Eurodac and/or GDPR regulation
- Lack of training/information
- Transliteration (e.g. Arabic to Latin or other alphabets)

As mentioned before, the lack of efficient transliteration methods can lead to poor data quality and multiple registrations for a single applicant.

- Other (please specify):

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44. Did your (Member) State introduce any major change(s)/reform(s) related to data management in the past years (since 2014)?

Yes / No

The most substantial changes is in regards to GDPR and aligning our data management and processes with this regulation.

45. Have any of the abovementioned changes become standard operating procedure in your (Member) State?

Yes / No

46. Were any of these changes/reforms related to data management introduced due to the introduction of 'channelling'?

Yes / No

47. Did the reforms introduced achieve the intended results? Why?

Please elaborate and explain why the reform(s) achieved/did not achieve the intended results.

Yes, since the changes, our data management is aligned with GDPR provisions.

48. Would your (Member) State consider this reform (s) as a good practice?

Please elaborate and explain why your (Member) State considers/ does not consider the reform(s) a good practice. In particular, please mention whether any of those reform(s) are believed to have improved the quality of the asylum procedure.

Yes, since the Agency now have a data management that lives up to the regulatory standards.

49. Have any on-going (unaddressed) challenges related to data management in the asylum procedure been identified in your (Member) State?

Yes / No

If yes, please elaborate.

The Swedish Migration Agency has identified an issue with third party involvement in the data management, specifically considering linguistical analysis. In this regard, the previous process required the third party (linguistical analytics company) to collect and store the data. With the new system that is set to be operational shortly, the collection and storage of the data will be made by the Swedish Migration Agency and made available to third parties for analysis.

If yes, is your (Member) State taking any steps to address these challenges?

7.2 Contingency measures

50. Are there any contingency measures in place to accelerate and/or ease the process in times of high influx of asylum seekers with regard to data management?

If yes, please describe those measures.

In case of high influx the Swedish Migration Agency has a modified process where the initial stages (making, registration and lodging an application) are focused on gathering the most necessary data in order to fulfil these steps and make the appropriate cross-checks. A more thorough investigation into the individual case will be conducted during the examination phase. The goal of this is to ensure that no asylum applicant goes unregistered and that the minimum condition are met.

Section 8: Conclusions [max 2 pages]

This section of the Synthesis Report will draw conclusions as to the (Member) States' existing policies, practices and case law related to the registration and data management in the asylum procedure.

With regard to the aims of this study, what conclusions would you draw from your findings reached in elaborating your national contribution? In particular, what is the relevance of your findings to (national and/or EU level) policymakers?

The Swedish Migration Agency's work concerning data management focuses on fulfilling the necessary regulatory steps in a safe and efficient manner at the same time as information is shared efficiently between the necessary authorities.

The aim of the asylum process is to ensure that necessary data is collected as early as possible and registered properly into the Swedish Migration Agency's systems in order to ensure that no lagging concerning information availability is at risk. Since the Agency conducts the making, registration and lodging of an application at the same time, the necessary information will be available in the databases from the moment an application is made, which is preferable from both a security and case-handling standpoint.

A number of new regulations, especially the General Data Protection Regulation, have been incorporated and affected the data management work in the last number of years. The Agency and Sweden as a whole have made several developments to ensure that these regulations are fulfilled and enhance the efficiency and security concerning data management.

Annex 1 National statistics

Please fill in the attached excel sheet with the respective statistics for your (Member) State – provided in a separate Excel file. The Statistical Annex consists of the following:

Annex 1.1. Number of registrations of asylum applications



data
management_statistic