

Questionnaire on lowering the fingerprinting age for minors in the visa procedure

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

About you

1. You are welcome to answer the questionnaire in any of the [24 official languages](#) of the EU. Please let us know in which language you are replying.

*2. You are replying

- as an individual in your personal capacity
- in your professional capacity or on behalf of an organisation

*3. First name

*4. Last name

*5. Email address

If you do not have an email address, please write "Not available".

*6. Country of residence

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece

- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- Other

* 7. If other, please specify

* 8. Your contribution

Note that, whatever option chosen, your answers may be subject to a request for public access to documents under [Regulation \(EC\) N° 1049/2001](#)

- can be published with your personal information** (I consent to the publication of all information in my contribution in whole or in part including my name or my organisation's name, and I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent publication)
- can be published provided that you remain anonymous** (I consent to the publication of any information in my contribution in whole or in part (which may include quotes or opinions I express) provided that it is done anonymously. I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent the publication)

* 9. Respondent's first name

* 10. Respondent's last name

* 11. Respondent's professional email address

* 12. Name of the organisation

* 13. Postal address of the organisation

* 14. Type of organisation

Please select the option that fits best

- Private enterprise
- Professional consultancy, law firm, self-employed consultant
- Business or professional association
- Trade union
- Non-governmental organisation, platform or network
- Research and academia
- Churches and religious communities
- Regional or local authority (public or mixed)
- National public authority
- EU institution, body or agency
- Intergovernmental organisation
- Other

* 15. If other, please specify

* 16. Is your organisation included in the Transparency Register?

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

* 17. If so, please indicate your Register ID number

* 18. Country of organisation's headquarters

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France

- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- Other

* 19. If other, please specify

* 20. Your contribution

- can be published with your organisation's information** (I consent the publication of all information in my contribution in whole or in part including the name of my organisation and I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent publication)
- can be published provided that your organisation remains anonymous** (I consent to the publication of any information in my contribution in whole or in part (which may include quotes or opinions I express) provided that it is done anonymously. I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent the publication)

Lowering the fingerprinting age for children in the visa procedure

* 1. Do you consider, as a matter of principle, that children should be submitted to the same procedures when applying for a short-stay ("Schengen") visa as adults?

- Yes
- No
- No opinion

2. Is there any particular age from where fingerprinting should start being applied?

- as of 18, once the person is an adult;
- as of 12, as currently provided by the EU law on short-stay visa procedure;

- as of 6, as currently proposed in EU asylum legislation;
- as of birth, where technically feasible (as per practice in some countries).

3. To what extent do you consider that fingerprinting children applying for a short stay visa, by helping with their identification, is necessary or useful to address or prevent?

a) trafficking;

- Necessary and very useful
- Very useful, but it can be achieved through other means
- Useful
- Not useful

b) child abduction;

- Necessary and very useful
- Very useful, but it can be achieved through other means
- Useful
- Not useful

c) children going missing;

- Necessary and very useful
- Very useful, but it can be achieved through other means
- Useful
- Not useful

d) irregular migration;

- Necessary and very useful
- Very useful, but it can be achieved through other means
- Useful
- Not useful

e) visa fraud;

- Necessary and very useful
- Very useful, but it can be achieved through other means
- Useful
- Not useful

f) identity fraud;

- Necessary and very useful
- Very useful, but it can be achieved through other means
- Useful
- Not useful

* 4. In your view, can any of the purposes mentioned above (prevention of and/or responses to trafficking or children going missing, child abduction, irregular migration, visa fraud, identity fraud) be achieved through other means?

- No

- Yes. If so, please give examples of other means to address or prevent:
- I have no views on this matter.

trafficking:

child abduction:

children going missing:

irregular migration:

visa fraud:

identity fraud:

*5. To what extent do you agree with the following statement: "Fingerprinting of minors/children is an intrusive measure"?

- I fully agree;
- I partially agree;
- I neither agree nor disagree;
- I partially disagree;
- I fully disagree;

*6. Which authorities should, in your view, have access to the personal data of children (including fingerprints) collected in the visa procedure, for the purposes mentioned in question 4 above:

it is possible to tick all possibilities or only some of them

- visa authorities only, when processing the visa application, to combat identity and visa fraud;
- border authorities, to identify cases of visa fraud;
- authorities competent in the field of irregular migration;
- anti-trafficking authorities, if the child is suspected to be or identified as a victim of trafficking;
- child protection authorities for all situations where there are child protection concerns relating to the child;
- I have no views on this matter.

*7. Do you consider that specific or additional protection safeguards need to be in place when collecting, biometric/fingerprint data of third country national children?

- No specific standards need to be in place when collecting biometrics, the usual standards applied to an adult are sufficient to protect children as well
- Specific safeguards should be in place when collecting biometric data from children, such as:
- I have no views on this matter.

Please specify

100 character(s) maximum

*8. What is your estimate of the magnitude of the phenomenon of child trafficking in EU, covering third country nationals?

- Less than 10% of child trafficking victims are third country nationals;
- Less than 10% of child trafficking victims are third country nationals but the rate is increasing;
- Less than 30% of child trafficking victims are third country nationals;
- Less than 30% of child trafficking victims are third country nationals but the rate is increasing;
- More than 50% of child trafficking victims are third country nationals;
- More than 50% of child trafficking victims are third country nationals and the rate is increasing.
- I have no views on this matter.

If you have any figures available on the size of the phenomenon in your specific area of activity or geographical area, please mention it here, defining the geographical and/or sectoral scope and context of your reply, and indicating the year concerned by any figures you include:

100 character(s) maximum

9. Please indicate in order of scale of magnitude the way in which you estimate that third country national child victims of trafficking access the EU territory:

a) Irregularly or as asylum-seekers;

Only values between 1 and 3 are allowed

(1 = most common way, 2 = second most common way, 3 = least used way).

b) Holding a visa;

Only values between 1 and 3 are allowed

(1 = most common way, 2 = second most common way, 3 = least used way).

c) Via legal migration channels (e.g. with a long stay visa, residence document etc).

Only values between 1 and 3 are allowed

(1 = most common way, 2 = second most common way, 3 = least used way).

If you have any figures available to support your view, please mention them here, adding any contextual information you consider relevant.

100 character(s) maximum

* 10. Could technological developments, including on the collection and use of biometrics, contribute to and should be used to enhance the protection of children”?

- Fully agree
- Partly agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Partly disagree
- Fully disagree.