



*'From preventing terror attacks to missing children, the SIS is the centrepiece of information exchange in the EU, with more than 200 000 criminals tracked down and 50 000 arrests made underlining its importance to cross-border security cooperation.'*

Julian King, Commissioner for the Security Union (2018)

## Online Module: Executive Summary

The Schengen Information System (SIS) is an IT system containing data, in the form of 'alerts', on persons and objects, such as wanted persons, lost and stolen property and stolen cars. SIS is also the main tool supporting the management of migration, principally by storing information on persons who are to be refused entry into the Schengen Area.

SIS is the main 'compensatory measure' developed in order to maintain a high level of security in the Schengen Area, following the removal of border checks at the internal borders. As a compensatory measure, it aims to support cooperation between police authorities and judicial authorities in Schengen states and other countries.

SIS is currently used by 30 European countries. The national authorities entitled to have access to SIS data include police, customs, border guards, judicial authorities, and authorities responsible for vehicle registration and issuing visas and residence permits.

The information held by SIS is very similar to a national policing system, the main difference being that SIS contains no historical data on previous cases or convictions. Indeed, all the information shared in SIS originates from national policing, security and migration systems.

The SIS for End-Users module targets law enforcement or judicial staff, who use SIS for carrying out queries and/or creating alerts. It aims to support them in their understanding and use of SIS in the performance of their daily tasks. This includes: data entry, data quality, queries, the functionalities of the system, the availability of support and assistance (the SIRENE Bureaux), and the relationship between SIS and other tools available for cross-border cooperation.

The module consists of an introduction, 12 topic chapters and a glossary of SIS-related terms and abbreviations. In the My Progress section, users can assess their levels of understanding of each of the topics by considering a selection of true/false statements.

The individual chapters are:

1. **Overview of the Module – SIS for End-Users**
2. **An introduction to SIS:** This chapter describes SIS, sets out what it is for and who has access to it.
3. **The information shown on the End-User's screen and its significance:** This chapter describes the information displayed to SIS End-Users. It includes sections on the components of an alert, the management of alerts, the creation of a new alert, and an example of an end-user's screen.

Chapters 4-9 are each dedicated to one of the different categories of information in SIS – that is, the alerts. Each chapter covers the alert from the point of view of an end-user carrying out a query or an end-user creating an alert and puts these into an operational context with examples of cases where the use of SIS is especially relevant. These chapters also show how the extensive use of SIS in a given case can achieve results and provide operational hints based on good practice.

4. **The Alerts in context – Alerts for Arrest**
5. **The Alerts in context – Alerts on Missing Persons**
6. **The Alerts in context – Alerts on Persons Sought to Assist with a Judicial Procedure**
7. **The Alerts in context – Alerts for Discreet and Specific Checks**
8. **The Alerts in context – Alerts for Refusal of Entry or Stay**
9. **The Alerts in context – Object Alerts**
10. **Queries in SIS:** This extensive chapter describes the various options available to an end-user when carrying out a query.
11. **The relationship between SIS and other tools used for cross-border cooperation:** This chapter summarises the relationship between the tools for cross-border cooperation within the EU and how to use them to achieve the best results.
12. **SIRENE – Single Point of Contact:** This chapter covers this support network for SIS end-users provided by the SIRENE Bureaux.
13. **Data Security and Data Protection:** This chapter summarises issues relating to the security and protection of data stored on SIS.