



Summary

NO EMN Open Summary AHQ on use of biometrics to reveal false identity

Requested by NO EMN NCP on 21st January 2016

Miscellaneous

Based on the responses from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and Norway (23)

Disclaimer:

The responses were provided primarily for the purpose of information exchange among EMN NCPs in the framework of the EMN. The contributing EMN NCPs did provide, to the best of their knowledge, information that was up-to-date, objective and reliable. Note, however, that the information provided did not necessarily represent the official policy of an EMN NCPs' Member State.

Background information:

Fingerprints in Eurodac are automatically deleted when a person is granted a residence permit or citizenship in an MS. Norway is concerned that if someone has been granted a residence permit/citizenship in one MS, they may nevertheless apply for asylum in another MS later under another identity. Greater exchange of biometrics within and between the MS would provide better control possibilities for identifying such abuse of the asylum system. If this were made possible, biometrics from e.g. the national passport databases could be part of the controls made use of with new asylum applications.

The Norwegian National Police Immigration Service (NPIS) has observed cases where (i) Norwegian 'look-alike' passports has been used by an asylum seeker to enter the Schengen area; (ii) a person with a residence permit or citizenship in Norway or another Schengen country has applied for protection in Norway, or applied for protection in another Schengen country under another identity than that originally used.

Questions were asked whether the MS has:

1. the possibility of identifying whether a person who applies for protection previously was granted a residence permit or citizenship in any MS
2. access to biometric information for this: if 'yes', from which source; if 'no': describe briefly the procedures used to establish whether or not an asylum seeker has been granted a residence permit or citizenship in another Schengen MS:
3. the biometrics incorporated into the national passport stored in a central register, and if 'yes' whether were used for making comparisons when you do a search on biometrics for new asylum applicants

Summary of Responses:

17 of the 23 responses indicate the possibility of identifying whether a person who applies for citizenship has been granted a resident permit or citizenship in any (Member) State. Some of these responses signal that Eurodac may be used for this purpose. However, it is not quite evident how the (non-)matching to Eurodac is to be interpreted given the provisions in article 11 (concerning the entry of fingerprints and related information into Eurodac for persons applying for protection), as well as the provisions in articles 12 – 13 (on the erasure (deletion) of such information by the Member State of a person's origin – either after 10 years or upon acquiring citizenship). A few responses indicated that bilateral contacts with other countries may be used.

Two of the 12 responses signalling that biometrics included in passports are stored in a central register, signalled that this register could be accessed to verify the information submitted with the application for citizenship.