

*Ask*

**ERIC**

*European Request Information Capture*

# European Request Information Capture (ERIC)



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Supported by the Criminal  
Justice Programme of the  
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ACRO Criminal Records Office

## ECRIS

The Council of the European Union put forward the development of criminal conviction exchange back in 2004, the European commission have been developing this and in 2009 the idea of ECRIS was created. The “European Criminal Records Information System” (ECRIS) is a system that aims at interconnecting the national criminal records databases of all 28 EU Member States through the s-TESTA network.

The criminal conviction exchange carried out with EU Member States is governed under EU legislation. It is designed to give EU Member States a full record of the offending history of their citizens and easy access to convictions of other EU nationals committing crime in their country. Conducting this exchange of information prevents people escaping their criminal past despite the freedom of movement across borders. ECRIS facilitates an electronic exchange of information on criminal convictions in a speedy and automatic way.

Each Member State has their own procedures when dealing with a foreign EU national and how they then make the request. It is highly recommended that when dealing with an EU national a previous conviction check in their home country forms part of the investigation process.



## **The benefits**

By having full knowledge of your suspect's previous offending you can make better, more informed decisions on how you deal with that individual and how you assess the risk they pose to you and the public. Helping you to manage and monitor any serious criminals you may have in your communities.

Other benefits include:

- Increasing sentences handed down at court.
- Protecting the public from serious offenders.
- Detecting persons wanted overseas and expedite their extradition.
- Identifying sex offenders who can be registered and managed.
- Assisting bail decisions.
- Exposing persons using false identities.
- Saving time and money by removing persistent foreign national offenders from your community.
- Assisting deportation and removal cases.
- Preventing re-entry at your borders.

## **What can a request reply be used for?**

Due to the constraints of the Council Decision (2009/315/JHA) there are restrictions as to how the data can be handled. The information can only be used for the purpose for which it was requested, unless they represent an immediate and serious threat to public security.

Convictions should not be recorded on any national or local system or data base. To do so would be a breach of Article 9 of the EU Council Framework Decision governing the use of criminal convictions. Once used for the purpose they were requested the information should be disposed of in accordance with local security policies.

# The importance of data capture

As ECRIS has developed and conviction exchange has become routine for each Member State certain issues have been identified. Each country has their own requirements to enable them to search and correctly identify a person on their databases. For example, one country may need the national identity card number but another may need the parent's names. As each country has unique requirements it is difficult for officers/investigators/courts etc to remember the relevant information required by each country, therefore resulting in the request being "rejected" by the receiving Member State.

ERIC (European Request Information Capture) is a reference tool designed to assist and support Law Enforcement across Europe with capturing the correct and relevant data when dealing with an EU suspect and making a request to another EU Member State for one of the reasons permitted under the EU Framework decision e.g. criminal proceedings, employment with children etc.

ERIC is available on all devices with internet connection. There is an interactive version with the facility to send the request data from the device and a non interactive version as an aide memoire or to print off as a hard copy and use along side your current paper or other processes.

ARE YOU DEALING WITH A FOREIGN EU NATIONAL?



This app is for EU law enforcement practitioners to assist when dealing with an EU national. It provides guidance to support a REQUEST FOR INFORMATION to another EU member state.  
This App is only available/accessible to EU registered authorities/agencies.

Please select your country flag to launch App

					
					
					
					
					

To register your authority or agency for access please e-mail [eu.data.app@acro.pnn.police.uk](mailto:eu.data.app@acro.pnn.police.uk).  
To view the ERIC 'Check List' Library [click here](#)  
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