



**AD HOC QUERY ON 2020.52 Amenments regarding the technical standarts required of the issuance, replacement and renewal of the e-residence permits**

**Requested by alexandra apalopoulou on 21 July 2020**

**Compilation produced on 26 October 2020**

**Responses from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden plus Norway (24 in Total)**

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**1. Background information**

According to Regulation 1030/2002 as amended by Regulations 380/2008 and 1954/2017, residence permits issued by MS to TCNs shall be drawn up in a uniform format and are produced as “machine readable” documents. The e-residence permit shall include, inter alia, a facial image and two fingerprint images of the holder taken flat and digitally captured (as biometric identifiers), as well as the holder's signature (optional).

Within the framework of meeting the high technical standards required against counterfeiting and falsification and having as priority to ensure the integrity as well as the authenticity of the data, the Ministry of Migration and Asylum is examining the possibility of amending the process of the issuance and renewal of

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the e-residence permits in relation to the above mentioned specifications. The purpose of the amendments is solely to accelerate the process and, at the same time, to safeguard a reliable link between the holder and the residence permit.

## **2. Questions**

**1. Taking into account that fingerprints evolve over time, does your Member State requires that TCN give their fingerprints: - every time they apply for an e-residence permit (first/issuance/replacement/renewal) - only the first time thy apply for an e-residence which are later used for replacement or renewal.**

**2. In case you MS uses use the same fingerprints of the applicant in file when replacing and/or renewing an e-residence permit: a) How many times the same fingerprints can be used, in order to ensure the quality of and the common standards for the fingerprint images? b) What are the legal and operational safeguards laid down at national level so as to preserve the integrity of the data and ensure the appropriate identification of the fingerprints integrated into the card body with those of the applicant.**

**3. How the applicant's digital identity photograph, integrated into the card body, is taken by the competent Authorities: a) Is it scanned during the fingerprinting process? b) Is it downloaded via magnetic storage (dvd, cd, usb)? c) Is it transferred by the applicant himself via e-platform or via mobile phone? d) Is it taken in real time with a camera when submitting the application? e) Other (kindly specify)**

**4. In case MSs apply as mandatory the signature sample requirement for the issuance, replacement or renewal of an e-residence permit, how is it submitted and transferred to the e- residence permit: a) Is it scanned along with the photo when submitting the request? b) Is it taken digitally via a PDA device? c) Other (kindly specify)**

We would very much appreciate your responses by **21 August 2020**.

## **3. Responses**

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<sup>1</sup> If possible at time of making the request, the Requesting EMN NCP should add their response(s) to the query. Otherwise, this should be done at the time of making the compilation.

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		Wider Dissemination <sup>2</sup>	
	EMN NCP Austria	No	
	EMN NCP Belgium	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Some resident cards are biometric (A-card, B-card, C-card and D-card). On these biometric cards the signature, photo and fingerprints are registered. Every time TCNs apply for such a biometric card their fingerprints are taken again. When it comes to E-cards, F-cards, E+-cards and F+-cards no fingerprints are taken.</li> <li>2. NA</li> <li>3. a) The applicant has to bring a photo when applying for a biometric card. The photo is scanned during the fingerprinting process.</li> <li>4. a) The signature is scanned.</li> </ol>

<sup>2</sup> A default "Yes" is given for your response to be circulated further (e.g. to other EMN NCPs and their national network members). A "No" should be added here if you do not wish your response to be disseminated beyond other EMN NCPs. In case of "No" and wider dissemination beyond other EMN NCPs, then for the Compilation for Wider Dissemination the response should be removed and the following statement should be added in the relevant response box: "This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further."

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	<p>EMN NCP Bulgaria</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. According to the Law on Bulgarian Identity Documents, fingerprints, taken for the issuance of a Bulgarian identity document (including residence permit), are valid for 59 months i.e. the first taken fingerprints may be used when a residence permit is issued for the first time; when a document is renewed within the next 59 months; and if the holder wishes. New fingerprints must be taken when issuing a document after the expiration of the 59 months .</li> <li>2. a) When renewing a document within the 59 months after first taken fingerprints (when issuing for the first time or renewing a residence permit) and if the holder wishes, the previously taken fingerprints may be used regardless of the number of their use. New fingerprints must be taken when issuing a document after the expiration of the 59 months. b) When issuing a document with a built-in electronic chip, the holder may request verification of the document at a workplace (station) where it is possible to read and visualize the data stored in the electronic chip. Verification of the fingerprints in the electronic chip with those taken now with a fingerprint scanner is also provided as part of the verification.</li> <li>3. In Bulgaria the places, where applications for issuing a Bulgarian identity document can be submitted (including residence permit), are equipped with biometric stations through which biometric data are taken. When applying for issuing a document, the photo is taken by an employee on site through a camera built into the biometric station.</li> <li>4. The signature of the holder is taken digitally by PDA device built into the biometric station.</li> </ol>
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	<p>EMN NCP Croatia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes, fingerprints are required every time TCN applies for an e-residence permit. Fingerprints are taken directly on the scanner (L-SCAN).</li> <li>2. n/a</li> <li>3. The applicant is obliged to enclose a color-photo with an application for an e-residence permit. The photo is scanned.</li> <li>4. The signature is provided by scanning the signature provided on the application.</li> </ol>
	<p>EMN NCP Cyprus</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fingerprints are captured every time an application is submitted. Fingerprints are never captured for minors under the age of 6.</li> <li>2. N/A</li> <li>3. Usually it is taken in real time with a camera when submitting the application. However, during this process, the applicants have the option to submit a photograph to be scanned, provided that it is compliant with the ICAO specifications.</li> <li>4. The signature is captured during the application process by an electronic signature pad or (in rare cases) scanned.</li> </ol>
	<p>EMN NCP Czech Republic</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. TCNs gives their fingerprints every time that a new residence card (e-residence permit) is issued, either new, renewed or spare.</li> <li>2. Please see our reply to the question no 1.</li> </ol>

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			<p>3. d) The photo is taken together with the fingerprints in real time in order to get the data for a new e-residence permit.</p> <p>4. b) The signature is taken digitally via a tablet PC.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Estonia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Person should submit the application in person in order to give a fingerprints sample. Fingerprints shall not be taken if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fingerprints have already been taken less than 6 years ago, e.g., if person have applied for a residence permit before;</li> <li>• person has been proven permanently incapable to provide fingerprints.</li> </ul> <p>2.</p> <p>a) There is no limit to how many times the same fingerprints can be used. The fingerprints are captured digitally and stored in the database digitally. The quality of the digital file is not dependent on how many times the fingerprints are used.</p> <p>b) Appropriate information security measures are implemented according to the Estonian information security ruleset ISKE (ISKE is compulsory for all public sector databases). Fingerprints are stored on the chip of the card according to the specifications set in the EU regulation.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>a) An applicant can take the photo and give fingerprints at the biometric data capture kiosk at Police service point or send their own photo. In case an applicant sends their own photo, the photo must meet the requirements for a identity document photo.</p>

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			<p>b) No. In case the applicant wants to present their own photo, they can only send it via e-mail. No external data storage devices are accepted.</p> <p>c) The applicant must send the photo by e-mail.</p> <p>d) The photo must not be older than 6 months.</p> <p>4. Yes, the applicant must present a signature sample. This sample is captured in a digital format with a signature pad.</p>
	EMN NCP Finland	Yes	<p>1. Finland requires that all applicants submit their fingerprints during their application process. Fingerprints (ten, flat) of every applicant are stored in the immigration database. Two fingerprints are stored on the chip of the eRP. Fingerprints are taken for residence permit of all applicants aged 12 or above, residence card aged 6 or above.</p> <p>2. a. Fingerprints may be copied to a renewal application (requires a previously approved application) if the fingerprints are of at least good quality, not more than 5 years old. There is no limit to amount of times they can be copied as long a they fulfil the quality and age requirements.</p> <p>b. All biometric identifiers are stored in the national database compliant to GDPR and national data management, privacy and data retention regulations. Only the owners of the data, the Finnish immigration Service has access to delete these files.</p> <p>The fingerprints of an applicant may be compared to the fingerprints on file. This may be executed on every single application and is stipulated in national legislation.</p>

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			<p>3. The facial image of every applicant is stored in the immigration database and on the chip. The facial image is taken by the Immigration Service, competent photographers or embassies around the world. However, a self-taken scanned image is possible to submit. If a competent authorized photographer takes a facial image it is delivered electronically unaltered to national police database for passports, eID and Residence permits.</p> <p>4. The signature is initially obtained using a digital signature pad and stored in the national database. The signature may be copied to a renewal application, given the quality is at least good and the signature is less than 5 years of age. However, if the applicant so wishes the signature may be renewed upon a visit to the Immigration service.</p>
	EMN NCP France	Yes	<p>1. Fingerprints shall be collected at the time of the first application for a residence permit and shall be used for renewal and modification of the residence permit.</p> <p>2. The digitised images of the 10 fingerprints of the applicant are recorded in an automated processing, 'Application de gestion des dossiers des étrangers en France' (French central database for foreign nationals) provided for in Article R.611-1 of the CESEDA. The two best fingerprints shall be incorporated in the electronic component of the residence permit and shall be the subject of a comparison with the fingerprints of the holder when issuing the residence permit.</p> <p>3. The identity photograph integrated in the residence permit and in the electronic component shall be digitised during the collection of fingerprints.</p> <p>4. The signature is collected on a form that is then scanned and integrated into the database used to record and process applications for residence permits.</p>

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	EMN NCP Germany	Yes	<p>1. Yes, fingerprints need to be given every time a foreigner applies for an e-residence permit, even for renewal and replacement. After the e-residence permit is handed out the foreigners office has to delete the fingerprints.</p> <p>2. n/a</p> <p>3. The applicant may submit a print-out photograph which will later be scanned by the authority. Additionally, some foreigners offices offer the service of a payable photo both where the applicant may take his/her photo at the time of application and this photo is then electronically being transferred to the applicant's file.</p> <p>4. It is taken digitally via a PDA device.</p>
	EMN NCP Hungary	Yes	<p>1. Fingerprinting is required each time.</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3.</p> <p>d) It is taken in real time with a camera when submitting the application.</p> <p>4.</p> <p>a) and b) It is scanned along with the photo or it is taken digitally via a PDA device when submitting the request.</p>

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	EMN NCP Ireland	No	
	EMN NCP Latvia	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. TCNs gives their fingerprints every time that a new residence card (e-residence permit) is issued, either new, renewed or spare.</li> <li>2. N/A, please see reply to the first question.</li> <li>3. The photo is it taken in real time with a camera when submitting the application (together with the fingerprints) in order to get the data for a new residence card (e-residence permit).</li> <li>4. The signature sample is taken digitally via a PDA device at the same time as fingerprints and photo.</li> </ol>
	EMN NCP Lithuania	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A foreigner from 6 years of age is fingerprinted every time his application for a residence permit in Lithuania is accepted (during the procedure for the acceptance of such an application).</li> <li>2. N/a</li> <li>3. A foreigner's facial image is taken in during the procedure for the acceptance of his application. If a foreigner under the age of 6 does not participate in the submission of his or her application or if it is technically impossible to read foreigner's facial image by means of biometric enrolment equipment, two identical (from the same negative) photographs corresponding to the alien's age must be submitted at the time of submission of the application, complying with the requirements for photographs of personal documents</li> </ol>

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			<p>approved by an order of the Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, and the alien's image is drawn from the photograph.</p> <p>4. During the procedure for acceptance of an application for a residence permit in Lithuania by a foreign national who has reached the age of 14, that foreign national must sign the signature with a special pen in an integrated biometric reader, unless the foreign national is unable to sign because of incapacity or physical disability.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Luxembourg</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. In Luxembourg, fingerprints are taken every time they apply for an e-residence permit (first/issuance/replacement/renewal).</p> <p>2. a) N/A. b) N/A.</p> <p>3. a) YES. b) NO. c) NO. d) NO. e) N/A.</p> <p>4. a) NO. b) NO. c) YES d) N/A.</p>

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	<p>EMN NCP Malta</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identity Malta Agency as the Registration Authority of Malta requires TCN to give their fingerprints every time they apply for an e-residence permit during first/issuance/replacement/renewal.</li> <li>2. N/A</li> <li>3. The digital identity photograph integrated into the card body is taken in real time with a camera when submitting the application.</li> <li>4. The signature is mandatory for the issuance, replacement or renewal of an e-residence permit and it is taken digitally via an electronic capture signature device (ePad).</li> </ol>
	<p>EMN NCP Netherlands</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fingerprints taken in order for the issuance of the resident pass will be re-taken when the resident pass is renewed or replaced.</li> <li>2. a) there is no maximum as to the number of times a fingerprint is re-used, as long as the fingerprint itself is of sufficient quality. b) The quality of the fingerprint has to meet the criteria laid down in the regulation. Furthermore, the fingerprints also have to meet the criteria laid down by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) norms.</li> <li>3. Answer D; for foreign citizens in the Netherlands who apply for a residence permit it is taken in real time with a camera when submitting the application. An exception is made for</li> </ol>

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			<p>children under the age of 1. Foreign citizens abroad who apply for a temporary residence permit (MVV) at the Dutch Embassy or Consulate must provide a passport photo.</p> <p>4. The signature will be digitally taken by a PDA device at the desk of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND).</p>
	EMN NCP Poland	Yes	<p>1. Pursuant to the applicable regulations, fingerprints are taken from foreigners each time they submit an application for a residence permit. Fingerprints are stored in IT systems only until they collect the residence card. If a decision is issued to refuse to grant a residence permit to a foreigner, data in the form of fingerprints are kept in registers only until these decisions become final.</p> <p>2. As indicated above, fingerprints are taken from the foreigner each time he / she applies for a residence permit. An electronic reader is provided to the foreigner collecting the residence card in order to check whether his personal data contained in the card is consistent with the facts.</p> <p>3. A foreigner applying for a residence permit is required to each time attach a printed up-to-date photograph to the application.</p> <p>4. A foreigner applying for a residence permit is obliged to include his specimen signature in the application form. It is scanned along with the photo when submitting the request.</p>
	EMN NCP Portugal	Yes	<p>1. Biometric data is considered valid for 5 years since their collection. Therefore, data is collected upon the issuance of the first issuance of the e-residence permit, upon</p>

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			<p>replacement, as the data is reproduced from the previous issuance, and upon renewal, as long as they are valid, ie, collected less than 5 years before.</p> <p>2. The fingerprint images, like all biometric data, are stored in the database, therefore they can be reused for this purpose whenever necessary, within the abovementioned period of 5 years.</p> <p>b) The legal safeguards are based on the GDPR. The operational safeguards are the same as the protection of all other data and ensured by the Schengen evaluations; the appropriate identification is ensured by the association to the previous e-residence and a presentation of a passport.</p> <p>3. e) Other—all biometric data (photograph, fingerprints and signature) are collected via a kiosk and uploaded directly onto the TCN's profile. In very specific cases they may be scanned from biometrics collected by a competent authority—eg in case someone is bedridden, in prison, etc</p> <p>4. c) Other—all biometric data (photograph, fingerprints and signature) are collected via a kiosk and uploaded directly onto the TCN's profile. In very specific cases they may be scanned from biometrics collected by a competent authority—eg in case someone is bedridden, in prison, etc.</p>
	<p>EMN NCP Slovakia</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. <a href="#">The Slovak Republic stores the fingerprints taken during the application for a residence permit for two years – during this period, if there is a request for a change of the document, fingerprints are not taken again. In case of a new application for a residence permit, new fingerprints are taken.</a></p> <p>2. <a href="#">See 1.</a></p> <p>3. <a href="#">d) Is it taken in real time with a camera when submitting the application</a></p>

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			4. b) Is it taken digitally via a PDA device
	EMN NCP Slovenia	Yes	<p>1. Fingerprint is taken every time.</p> <p>2. Fingerprints in digital form are be stored in the temporary record of fingerprints for residence permits established in accordance with Foreigners Act until the residence permit procedure in the first instance is concluded, but for not more than 60 days from the date of collection.</p> <p>3. The photograph shall be enclosed on paper or in digital form. The photograph on paper is checked (suitable for biometry) and scanned by the official, during the process. The digital photograph shall be stored for one year in a digital photo storage facility for identity documents established in accordance with the Act governing identity cards and may be used, at the foreigner's request, for another photo ID document issued by a state authority.</p> <p>4. SI has not decided yet on the procedure of submittning signature, final decision on fingerprints is still not taken. Most probably will be taken digitally.</p>
	EMN NCP Spain	Yes	<p>1. For the issuance of the permit, the person must be present and fingerprinting is compulsory for those over six years of age on every occasion.</p> <p>2. Not applicable.</p> <p>3. It is scanned during the fingerprinting process.</p>

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			4. It is scanned together with the photograph.
	EMN NCP Sweden	Yes	<p>1. Sweden requires new fingerprints from the applicant every time a new e-residence permit is issued, including all replacements and renewals. Fingerprints cannot be re-used and are automatically deleted once the fingerprints have been used to issue an e-residence permit.</p> <p>2. N/A</p> <p>3. d), the photograph is taken in real time with a camera when submitting the application (along with fingerprints and signature)</p> <p>4. c) the signature is submitted digitally via a signature pad that is integrated on the photo/biometrics hardware</p>
	EMN NCP Norway	Yes	<p>1. Norway collects fingerprints with every application for a residence permit (e.g. when issuing the residence permit after the decision to grant a permit)</p> <p>2. N.A.</p> <p>3. d) The photo is taken in real time (by the camera in biometric “kiosks”) and at the police station when the foreigner shows up to order a residence permit after having been granted a residence permit.</p>

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			<p>4. The signature is taken digitally (by the biometric “kiosks”) at the police station when the foreigner shows up to order a residence permit after having been granted a residence permit.</p>
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