

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.

English

*2. You are replying as an individual in



your personal capacity



in your professional capacity or on behalf of an organisation

*9. Respondent's first name

Suzanne

*10. Respondent's last name

Tossings

*11. Respondent's professional email address

Suzanne.tossings@minbuza.nl

*12. Name of the organisation

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

*13. Postal address of the organisation

Postbus 20061, 2500 EB Den Haag

*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

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



Yes



No



Not applicable

*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

- *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:

Many different measures are implemented on various levels (member state, EU, etc.) to prevent all options mentioned under question 4. However, tracking the fingerprints of minors is a well established wish of the investigative services and will contribute to the prevention and detection of all purposes mentioned.

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.

*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

In NL around 40% of child trafficking incidents registered are 3rd country nationals.

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;

between 1 and 3

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

b) Holding a visa;

between 1 and 3

(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).

between 1 and 3

(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

We do not have figures on the above.

*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.

Contact

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