

Criminal Background Checks for EU Citizens working in EU countries:

In April 2012, the European Commission established the **ECRIS (European Criminal Records Information System)**, a computerised system connecting criminal records databases in **all** EU countries, ensuring that information on criminal convictions is exchanged.

The EU country of nationality of a person is the central repository of all convictions handed down to that person. The country's authorities must store and update all the information received and retransmit them when requested.

As a result, each EU country upon request is in a position to provide, from another EU country, exhaustive, up-to-date information on its nationals' criminal records, regardless of where those convictions were handed down

An EU country convicting a non-national is obliged to immediately send information, including updates, on this conviction to the member state(s) of the offender's nationality.

**This means that when an EU citizen requests a criminal background check in an EU Country in which they are currently working, the authorities issuing the check will automatically request information from the applicant's country of nationality, the central repository of all convictions handed down to that person. So, a current background check from one EU country effectively covers all previous EU residencies.**