

QUALITY & RELIABILITY SA

HIGH-TECH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS

Konitsis 11B, Marousi, 151 25

Press Release

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Q&R has been awarded a new IT project for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The implementation of the project "Creation of the central infrastructure of the National Entry/Exit System (EES)" was undertaken by the consortium of companies "Cosmos Business Systems S.A. - Quality & Reliability S.A." on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with a total budget of €1,606,785.00 plus VAT. The consortium consists of Q&R with a 49% share and COSMOS COMPUTERS S.A. with a 51% share.

The Entry/Exit System (EES) is a new large-scale information system that records the entry and exit of third-country nationals to and from the Schengen area. This system will replace the current practice of stamping entry/exit seals on travel documents with electronic recording in a central database, including biometric and biographical data of travelers, as well as the date and place of entry/exit for short stays (up to 90 days) in the Schengen area.

The aim of the EES system is to modernize the management of the EU's common external borders and automate border controls, allowing member states to better manage the increasing number of visitors from third countries to the Schengen area, strengthen internal security, combat irregular migration, terrorism, and organized crime. It also provides access to the data of the EES to authorized national authorities and Europol for the purposes of preventing, verifying, or investigating terrorist crimes or other serious offenses.

The Entry/Exit System (EES) will be interoperable with the Visa Information System (VIS), facilitating the visa application process and decision-making. Consular and border authorities will be able to identify individuals who misuse their visas by remaining in the Schengen area beyond the visa's expiration date (overstayers) through an automated process.

The project aims to enhance the services provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs by:

- Facilitating the application process for short-stay visa submissions in the Schengen area.
- Combating visa fraud and abuse (visa shopping).
- Avoiding the circumvention of criteria for determining the member state responsible for examining the visa application.
- Facilitating checks at external border crossing points of member states and within their territories.
- Assisting in identifying individuals who do not meet the conditions for entry, stay, or residence in the territories of member states.
- Facilitating the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 343/2003 of 18 February 2003, establishing criteria and mechanisms for determining the member state responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the member states by a third-country national.
- Contributing to the prevention of threats to the internal security of member states.

According to the project implementation schedule, it is expected to be completed by December 31, 2023.

Q&R has implemented and supported the productive operation of complex and critical Information Systems, based on cutting-edge technologies, for numerous organizations and businesses in Greece and abroad. In its thirty years of operation, it has made significant contributions to the digital modernization of the broader public and private sectors and the creation of value and competitive advantage for its clients through its technical expertise and innovative software products.

Q&R's client portfolio currently includes more than 250 large organizations and businesses from the private and public sectors. Leveraging new technologies, the company develops new solutions in the field of cloud services, offering modern services specifically designed for small and medium-sized enterprises.