

**UNISYS**  
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case study

## Visible Breakthrough:

Unisys improves the European Car and Driving Licence Information System (EUCARIS) for 14 European countries

## Imagine it

A standardised, flexible and accessible network that offers member countries quick and reliable access to official information on vehicle and driver licences and supports European governments in the reduction of cross-border vehicle theft, crime and insurance fraud.

## Done

Working with the RDW (Rijksdienst voor het Wegverkeer), the Dutch Vehicle and drivers Registration Authority responsible for vehicle and driving licence registration, Unisys redeveloped the existing EUCARIS (European Car and Driving Licence Information System) to improve communication and collaboration among its 14 European member countries, while driving cost reductions across the system.

## Visible Breakthrough

Unisys developed a Microsoft .NET based solution to improve the connection of systems, information and devices in the EUCARIS. The .NET framework supplies the entire application layer for EUCARIS, replacing the need for middleware and providing immediate cost benefits for the RDW. The result is a standardised, flexible system with improved functionality and benefits for all members.

## Secure Business Operations

The .NET framework provides secure communications channels for every member to the EUCARIS.

## Visible Metrics

- Improved communications and collaboration between 14 European countries
- Reduction in middleware and operating costs
- Secure communications channels
- Improved functionality of the EUCARIS – for example, new language module and ability for members to perform cross-country information searches
- Web services support countries in working together across different platforms and programming languages

## Business Opportunity: Working Together To Combat Fraud

Formed in 1949, the RDW (Rijksdienst voor het Wegverkeer) was originally created to ensure safety and efficiency of road traffic in The Netherlands. Today, the RDW has increased responsibilities and carries out a range of tasks for different ministries, such as implementing transport laws and for other (semi) public and (restricted) private organisations. Any party that has anything to do with the transport and traffic industry, whether it is vehicle owners, police or insurers, can call the RDW for support.

Since the early nineties, the RDW has been faced with a huge challenge - combating the increase in vehicle and insurance fraud which has occurred as a result of ease of travel between European countries.

Hans van der Bruggen, Deputy Director at RDW explains: “Today, it’s common for fraudsters to buy and insure a car in the Netherlands, drive it across Europe, insure it again in another European country and make fraudulent insurance claims. These kinds of incidents happen throughout Europe, and the opening up of Eastern Europe’s internal borders in the early nineties has only made this a bigger challenge – having a further impact on consumers who are facing higher insurance rates as a result.” According to Van der Bruggen, these incidents were the primary reason behind the launch of the EUCARIS.

Unisys worked on the initial implementation of EUCARIS and was re-instated to further improve the framework. Today, the EUCARIS connects fourteen European countries who can share vehicle and insurance licencing data to combat fraud, among other benefits.

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Hans van der Bruggen, Deputy Director, RDW

## Solution: A Stronger Pan-European Framework

EUCARIS remains unique in its ability to share vehicle and driver licence information across several countries. Every member country manages its own system and its own data, inputting national driver and vehicle licencing information. However, each system is linked and information can be easily shared if needed.

According to Van der Bruggen, the effective exchange of information across countries is key in combating crime and terrorism. “We ask that the European registration authorities keep their systems updated on a national level. Then, via EUCARIS, they have the opportunity to exchange information with other member countries. It would be useless to set up a separate system for each target group as it would take longer to access information and this would impact the success of fraud detection activity which by its very nature has to happen as close to real time as possible.” Van der Bruggen, says: “This type of framework prevents a spaghetti of systems and connections and avoids a system with central databases, where nothing is ever secure or up-to-date. A central database also means a greater risk of system failure and if that happens, no-one of the EUCARIS member countries, will be able to verify anything. Now when a system fails in one country members can still access information from other countries systems.”

## Service Delivery: Solution Components

Since EUCARIS was originally created in the early nineties, there have been many technology advances. Most significantly, open standards such as Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) and XML, and the broad availability of Windows and Intel technology.

Recognising that the functionality of EUCARIS could be greatly improved by these new technologies, the RDW on behalf of all EUCARIS member countries, approached Unisys to redesign the overall system. In response to this brief, Unisys developed a Microsoft .NET framework to improve the connection of systems, information and devices in the EUCARIS. The .NET framework also supplies the entire application layer for EUCARIS, replacing the need for middleware and providing immediate cost benefits for the RDW and the other EUCARIS participants.

## Results: Improved Collaboration Among Member Countries

The improved EUCARIS now offers member countries access to vehicle and driver registration via a standard browser. The system also includes a new module so that member countries can now work in their own language and carry out multi-country searches (spanning the entire network).

Thanks to the redesign, member countries can now take advantage of a standardised, flexible EUCARIS, where information can be easily shared.

According to Hans van der Bruggen, redesigning EUCARIS was an essential investment, not only to improve the system’s functionality, but to ensure the network could cope with the increasing levels of information exchange between members.

“14 member countries currently exchange vehicle registration information via EUCARIS with six member countries exchanging driver licence information. The system also copes with a number of bilateral agreements between states in the area of traffic violation fines by foreigners. In addition, various police conventions and treaties have also been signed in the field of fraud prevention and crime control such as the conventions of Senningen, Enschede and Prüm – the EUCARIS needs to include and manage this information. We want to avoid developing new systems for all of these initiatives – the improved EUCARIS will not only prevent this but will provide us with a reliable and flexible system to support the needs and the future needs of the RDW and the other Registration Authorities in Europe.”

## Profile: RDW

- Industry: Public Sector
- Headquarters: Zoetermeer, The Netherlands

<http://www.dieselnet.com/com/xf045.html>

<http://www.eucaris.net/land/nl.htm>

“Unisys is a key partner for RDW in supporting areas such as secure information exchange,” says Hans van der Bruggen, Deputy Director, RDW. “We now have a system that is not only 100 per cent secure, but also offers increased simplicity and reliability for all users, not only in the Netherlands, but throughout Europe. And also the new technology may be used for more functionalities like supporting collecting traffic fines from foreigners and facilitating the enforcement authorities.”

Hans van der Bruggen, Deputy Director, RDW

## RDW has a standardised, flexible and accessible network: Do you?

To learn how Unisys can help you create value through visibility, visit [www.unisys.com](http://www.unisys.com)

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