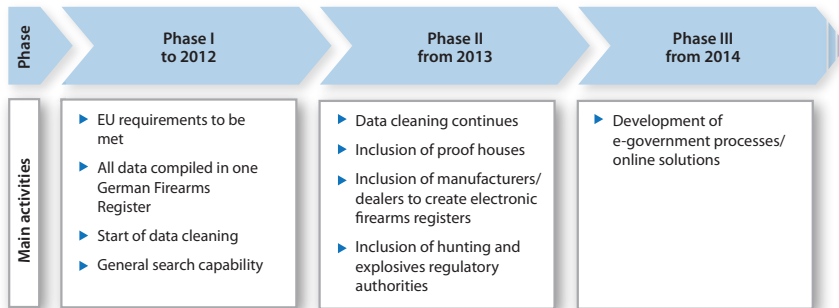


The way Ahead

The overall plan for the NWR will be implemented in several phases. The information on the reverse describe the first of several implementation phases for the German Firearms Register.

The remaining phases are illustrated in the diagram below:



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electronic firearms register
e-government public security
information technologies online services
communication information-sharing prevention
National Firearms Register networks
Deutschland-Online shared standards

The German Firearms Register

Overview - Key Issues - Guidelines 1



The European Directive on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons

According to the EU Weapons Directive, by 31 December 2014 all Member States must "ensure the establishment and maintenance of a computerized data-filing system" at national level for weapons that are subject to the Directive. The Directive also requires that all responsible authorities must have access to the data on file in this filing system.

As a result, Germany passed legislation deciding that the German Firearms Register is to be created by the end of 2012, two years ahead of the deadline given in the EU Weapons Directive (Section 43a Weapons Act).



The NWR Project

This project is jointly supervised by the Interior Ministry of the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg and the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI). This goes along with a close cooperation with a federal-states working group on the German Firearms Register tasked by the (committee of the) interior ministers of the states and supervised by the Federal Ministry of the Interior.

Aims

The German Firearms Register will create the necessary conditions to process information kept by nearly 600 weapons authorities at local level and will migrate the relevant data to a central, computer-based database while maintaining federal structures.

For every firearm requiring a permit, it should be possible to find out, without delay, who the owner is, how long he or she has owned the weapon, and where he or she purchased it. It should be possible to trace the ownership history of a firearm requiring a permit from the current owner to previous owners all the way back to the manufacturer or importer.

This enables authorized agencies which need weapons law-related data to carry out their assigned tasks with access to NWR data for the first time ensuring for example that police situation assessments will be able to incorporate weapons law-related data.

In this way, the NWR will directly contribute to increase security of the society in Germany.

The standards and harmonized processes created for the NWR – namely, the "XWaffe standard" – represent a first for German weapons administration.

These are especially important, as they make it possible to design efficient e-government processes which extend across multiple levels of administration and enable electronic processing from start to finish.

The Central Component of the German Firearms Register

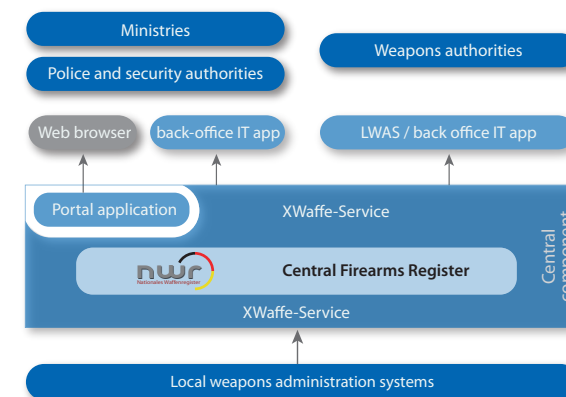
A central component of the German Firearms Register is being set up at the Federal Office of Administration as the responsible authority for administering the register. The key element of the German Firearms Register central component is an automated register database, the Central Firearms Register. This database will keep a central copy of the relevant data from the local weapons authorities. To begin with, in Phase I of the NWR, only those data related to firearms and ammunition requiring a permit will be kept in the database.

- Information about the responsible **weapons authority** (e.g. name, address)
- Information about the **weapon owner** (natural and legal persons and groups; e.g. name, address, date and place of birth, nationality)
- Information about the **permit** (e.g. type of permit)
- Information about the **firearm** (e.g. manufacturer, model, category of weapon, calibre)

The details will be governed by the Act Establishing a German Firearms Register, that will enter into force on 1st of July 2012.

Technical Design of the Central Component

The central component of the German Firearms Register comprises the German Central Firearms Register and a portal application and a communications interface ("XWaffe-Service"). The weapons administration systems of the local weapons authorities and the Central Component communicate exclusively via government networks using the XWaffe standard for data sharing.



For this reason, all the weapons authorities must have an NWR-compliant weapons administration system and access to a government network such as Deutschland-Online infrastructure.

The police and security authorities can be given access to the necessary NWR data via the portal application. Such access will require only a suitable web browser and utilisation.

The details will be governed by regulations implementing the Act Establishing a German Firearms Register.