The German National Firearms Register

“Advantages and Challenges from the German Perspective“

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AGENDA

I. Introduction

II. Overview and circumstances leading to the establishment of the National Firearms Register (NWR) for the arms of civilians
  ■ Legal framework
  ■ Federal structure of German weapons administrations
  ■ General approach

III. Purposes of the NWR
  ■ Modernization of German weapons administration

IV. Facts and Figures

V. Advantages and Challenges of the NWR
II. EUROPEAN LAW BASIS

EU-Directive 2008/51/EG about controlling, purchasing and possessing weapons with the following obligations

All Member States of the EU 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 stored in the system.

- Computer based register had to be set up until 31 December 2014
- Required data: type, model, brand, caliber, serial number, name and address of the seller and the new owner
Due to the shooting rampage in Winnenden in 2009, the „Conference of Ministers of the Interior“ decided to set up the NWR already by the end of 2012.

II. LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN GERMANY

Transfer of the EU-Directive 2008/51/EG into German law

1. Due to the shooting rampage in Winnenden in 2009, the „Conference of Ministers of the Interior“ decided to set up the NWR already by the end of 2012

2. Article 43a of the German Weapons Act

3. Creation of the National Firearms Register Act

4. Required data: type, model, brand, caliber, serial number, name and address of the seller and new owner

5. Permanent access for law enforcement authorities (24/7)
II. SITUATION 2010

Federalism in German weapons administrations

Delivering firearms licenses for civilians was done

- by 16 federal states and the national administration,
- by 577 weapons authorities,
- in different levels of organization (police authorities, county, city and municipal administration,
- no national standardization,
- different IT-platforms and vendors,
- no permanent access for law enforcement authorities (24/7).
II. GENERAL APPROACH

1. The functional and jurisdictional competence remains in the 16 federal states and their local authorities.

2. All local authorities have to guarantee the quality of their data.

3. All relevant data is stored in a central register based on an enabling legal act (National Firearms Register Act).

4. The Federal Office of Administration (BVA), a civilian administration with more than 150 different tasks, is responsible for the hosting and further development of the National Firearms Register.
ORGANIZATIONAL PROJECT STRUCTURE

Federal structure and key players

Co-project management


Steering groups with stakeholders

Several weapons administrations  Criminal Police and Law enforcement authorities  Ministries of the Interior (all 17)

Register Support Desk  BVA

Daily operation and functional support is ensured by BVA and Register Support Desk
III. PURPOSES OF THE NWR

Modernization, improvement and better access possibilities for…

- Mandatory use of compliant IT
- Establishment of an electronic network to the database
- Based on XWaffe standard (semantic and obliging description of data)
- High level of IT-security
- Access provided by interface gateways and portal solutions
- Permanent access granted
IV. FACTS AND FIGURES

Number of records (May 2015)

- Persons filed: 1,500,000
- Weapons filed: 5,700,000

Number of connected authorities

- Weapons administrations: 554 (2014)
- Evaluating authorities: 339 (steadily increasing)

Number of transactions in 2013

- Reading transactions via gateway: 19,149,373
- Writing transactions via gateway: 3,286,123
- Reading transactions via portal: 821,661
V. ADVANTAGES AND CHALLENGES

Challenges

- Federal structure of the German administration (business processes and responsibilities)
- Heterogeneous system landscapes and datasets for all participants
- Short timeframe

Advantages

- Centralized and permanent access for all stakeholders (24/7)
- Semantic standardization of data

Potential for International Cooperation

- Mature technical platform for building and operating data registers
- Semantic standard for business data and catalogues
Thank you for your attention!

For more information, please click here.

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BVA is running a variety of different registers:
- Central Register of Foreigners
- Visa File
- National Firearms Register

They share a subset of common customers and operate under a common register portal platform.

To assure sustainability and efficient maintenance of the platform many of the long existing registers have been reengineered.

New registers (like NWR) are built on the basis of the existing platform.