

Cooperation

National level

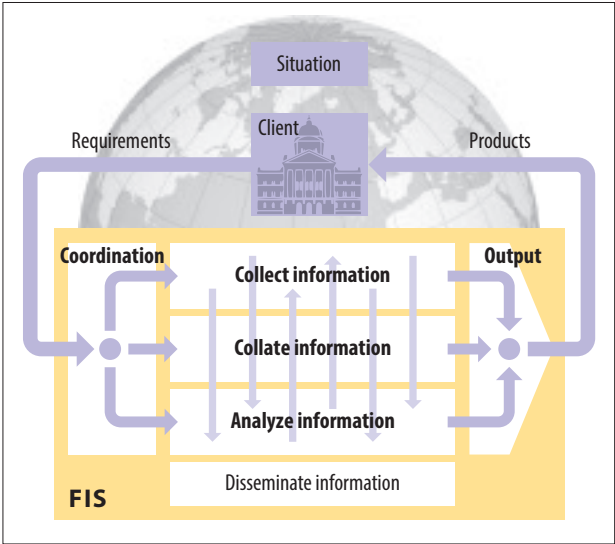
The FIS works closely in all its fields of activity with several federal and cantonal services and agencies, for example:

- the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA);
- the Federal Department of Justice and Police (FDJP), in particular the Federal Office of Police (fedpol) and the State Secretariat for Migration (SEM);
- the Federal Department of Finance (FDF), in particular the Swiss Border Guard (SBG) and the Federal IT Steering Unit (FITSU);
- the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER), in particular the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO);
- the Office of the Attorney General (OAG);
- cantonal police forces.

International level

The FIS cooperates with several foreign partner services.

The Intelligence Cycle



Methods used by the FIS for gathering information

- Human Intelligence (HUMINT)
- Open Source Intelligence (OSINT)
- Communications Intelligence (COMINT)
- Imagery Intelligence (IMINT)
- Travel Intelligence (TRAVINT)
- Defence attachés
- Intelligence services of the cantonal police
- Foreign partner services



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Intelligence Service FIS

The Federal Intelligence Service FIS



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quick facts

What is the FIS?

The FIS collects **information using intelligence-gathering techniques**. This information is then analysed, evaluated and disseminated in order to provide **a comprehensive threat assessment relevant to decision-makers** at all levels.

The tasks of the FIS

The FIS monitors and analyses strategic developments and evolving threats, and issues alerts in the event of emerging crises or unusual developments. To this end, it provides the appropriate authorities with information and facts relevant for protecting national interests and safeguarding the internal and external security of Switzerland and its people.

Through its operational activities and preventive services, the FIS makes a direct contribution to Switzerland’s security by:

- employing intelligence-gathering techniques to procure information and acquire knowledge that is not available to other federal agencies;
- supplying political and military leaders with intelligence to facilitate their decision-making;
- prevention, which means it aims to identify and avert all acts that threaten Switzerland’s security before the danger materialises or before there are sufficient grounds for opening criminal proceedings.

The collection and analysis of covertly obtained information generates **value-added intelligence** beyond the scope of information obtained from open sources.

Statutory provisions



Legal framework

The tasks, framework, scope and limitations of the FIS’s activities are clearly defined and regulated in detail by law. It operates exclusively within this legal framework. The Constitution and federal law form its legal basis, and the principle of legality applies without exception.

The tasks and activities of the FIS are regulated, in particular, by the new Intelligence Service Act (ISA), which was adopted by the Swiss electorate in a popular vote on 25 September 2016. The new piece of legislation became effective on 1 September 2017 and replaces the statutory provisions previously in force (ZNDG and BWIS). The act provides the FIS with additional means for gathering information, thus allowing Switzerland to respond more effectively to the current threats.

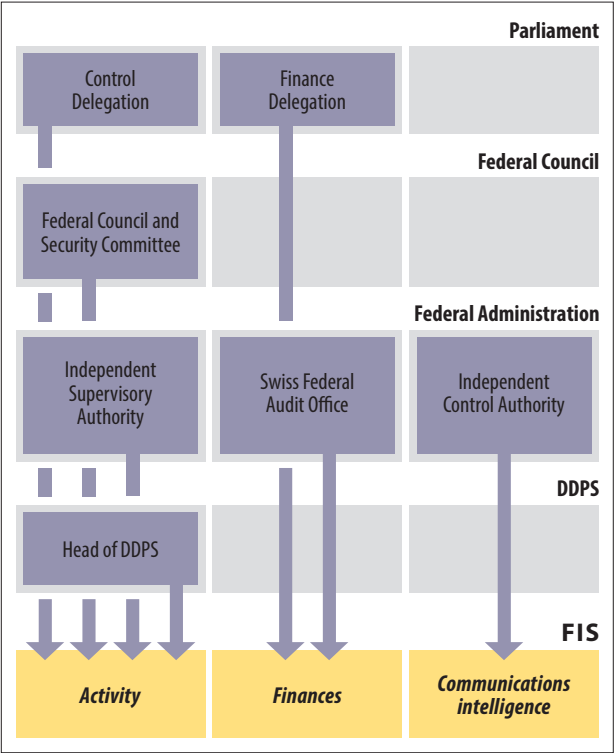
The new legislation provides the FIS with a modern legal framework for identifying threats and issuing warnings in good time. It allows the FIS to employ measures for gathering extensive information, while imposing very strict constraints and a multi-level judicial and political authorisation procedure.

The measures may only be applied in the event of a serious threat to internal or external security from terrorism, espionage, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction or cyber attacks on critical infrastructures. They may not be applied, however, in the event of a threat from violent extremist activities.

Before applying such measures, the FIS must first obtain authorisation from the Federal Administrative Court (FAC) and then from the head of the Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS), in consultation with the head of the Federal Department of Justice and Police (FDJP) and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). In addition, the measures are overseen by the Control Delegation and the Independent Control Authority during the phase of execution.

Supervision and control of the FIS

The activities of the FIS are overseen on several levels. These include parliamentary supervision, control by an independent supervisory authority, and oversight by the steering and supervisory bodies of the government and Federal Administration. **The controls concern the legality, suitability and effectiveness of its activities.**



Control bodies

- The **Control Delegation** of the Swiss Federal Parliament (three members of the National Council and three members of the Council of States) monitors and controls all FIS activities. It issues recommendations and can carry out specific inspections. It has access at all times to the FIS, its staff, databases and top secret operational files.

- An **independent supervisory authority**, whose head is appointed by the Federal Council for a renewable period of six years, is responsible for monitoring the activities of the FIS, the cantonal authorities responsible for enforcement and third parties assigned mandates by the FIS. It coordinates its activities with the supervisory activities of the Swiss Federal Parliament and with the other federal and cantonal supervisory bodies.
- The **Federal Council** bears political responsibility for the activities of the FIS. In particular, it determines its basic mandate, authorises its cooperation with foreign services and approves certain special measures subject to authorisation under the Intelligence Service Act.
- The **Independent Control Authority**, an interdepartmental committee appointed by the Federal Council, monitors the legal conformity and proportionality of mandates for communications intelligence.
- The FIS is also subject to an audit by the **Federal Audit Office** on behalf of the Finance Delegation of the Swiss Federal Parliament.
- The **Federal Data Protection and Information Commissioner** monitors the legal conformity of personal data management.