

GENETICS

DNA DATA TRAVEL ACROSS EUROPE

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[heise.de](#) reports that a top German politician wants to apply the Prüm contract also to the EU. The Prüm contract signed in May 2006 by Germany, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria and Spain regulates anti terror measurements and cross border prosecution of crimes. Mainstay of these activities are databases that allow the exchange of DNA and fingerprint data. Within the first 6 weeks of activity (as by November 2006) they report 1500 German hits in Austrian records (8 million inhabitants) and 1400 Austrian hits in German records (82 million inhabitants) if I understand that correctly. What does this now mean to have a [German](#) or a [British](#) or [Swiss](#) passport? For a respectable citizen and for a desperado?

Addendum

5-2-07 update [U.S.](#)

6-3-07 update [Germany](#)

Allein im vergangenen Jahr nahmen die deutschen Polizeibehörden laut einer BKA-Statistik 72.280 Verdächtigen den genetischen Fingerabdruck ab, "immer häufiger auch bei eher geringfügigen Straftaten", kritisiert Datenschützer Weichert.