Safeguarding your rights

SIS contains personal data of persons subject to alerts. The types of data that might be processed in SIS are mentioned in EU laws. Personal data are also processed when an individual is checked against SIS. This happens for example, when you are entering the Schengen area or when you are stopped by the police for a road check. SIS guarantees the right of individuals to: **access their data; correct inaccurate data; delete data unlawfully stored** in the system. Moreover, a person who is subject to an alert for refusal of entry and stay or an alert on return shall be duly informed **(right to information)**.

All people subject to an alert also have the right to: complain to the national data protection authorities or courts; and may get compensation for any damage resulting from unlawfully processed data concerning them in any Schengen country.

Strengthening external border controls

The additional functionalities of SIS on **fingerprints** and **personal identification documents** enable border guards to ascertain if non-EU nationals are subject to alerts for refusal of entry or stay or posing threats to security; and detect possibly falsified documents for verification. Authorities find it easier to match alerts on EU nationals who are wanted or suspects of crime.

THE SCHENGEN INFORMATION SYSTEM
guaranteeing freedom, security and justice

The **Schengen Information System (SIS)** is an IT system that protects your freedom and security in the Schengen area.

SIS supports the **operations** of:
- national border guards
- police
- customs authorities
- immigration authorities, and
- authorities responsible for the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of criminal offences.

Access to SIS enables the national competent authorities to check alerts on wanted persons or objects in the Schengen area. Access to SIS data is **limited to relevant national competent authorities.**
SIS has been upgraded and includes new elements.

Enhancing cooperation

SIS gives authorities information on the reasons for **alerts on wanted persons and objects, and on the actions needed.** Frontex teams and more national competent authorities now have access to these data.
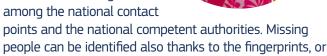
Clearer rules and improved structures have been introduced for the **exchange of supplementary information** through the national contact points for exchange of SIS related information in Schengen countries (SIRENE Offices). Europol can now exchange information on alerts concerning terrorist offences, and offences falling within its mandate directly with these national contact points.

Protecting the most vulnerable

The **alert categories on children at risk of abduction and on vulnerable people at risk** are now part of SIS. These alerts will help prevent children from being abducted and from being taken abroad unlawfully. These categories complement the **alerts on missing people.** Information on these types of alerts is available for immediate exchange among the national contact points and the national competent authorities. Missing people can be identified also thanks to the fingerprints, or DNA where fingerprints are unavailable.

Managing irregular migration

The **new category of alert on return decisions and the improved tools for better identification of non-EU nationals** subject to these alerts will help tackle irregular migration. SIS allows authorities to search and verify, with the use of fingerprints, if non-EU nationals being checked have the right to enter or stay in the EU. SIS will also contain data on falsified documents, including travel documents and visa stickers.

Combating criminality

Cooperation and information-sharing are key to combat organised crime and terrorism, and to ensure justice.

SIS is one of the most effective IT systems in the EU to combat criminality. Schengen countries use SIS for **issuing alerts for the arrest of persons wanted** for prosecution or conviction **for terrorism-related offences or serious criminal offences.**

Schengen countries also use the system to issue alerts for checks on people who committed, or are likely to commit serious criminal offences, and on certain objects connected to these offences. National authorities issue alerts to locate and protect: missing people; vulnerable people at risk who need to be prevented from travelling or being taken abroad; and people required to assist with judicial procedures, including witnesses, defendants or victims of crime. They may issue alerts to identify unknown perpetrators of terrorist offences or serious crime with the use of fingerprints and palm prints. National authorities also use SIS to find objects wanted for seizure or for use as evidence in criminal proceedings.