

Provision of information to third-country nationals about the processing of personal data in the Entry/Exit System

The Entry/Exit System¹ contains personal data records on third-country nationals coming to the territory of the Member States² for a short stay (maximum of 90 days in any 180-day period). The system became operational on 12 October 2025. As of this date, information about your entries into and exits out of the territory of the Member States, and, if applicable, information on whether you have been refused entry, is registered in the Entry/Exit System.

To this end, your data is collected and processed during border control and send to the Federal Office of Administration. Please see below the contact details. Your personal data is processed for the purposes of border management, preventing irregular immigration and facilitating the management of migration flows. This is required in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/2226, specifically Articles 14, 16 to 19 and 23 of Chapter II and Chapter III of the Regulation

What data is collected, recorded and processed?

During checks at the external borders of the Member States, the collection of your personal data is mandatory for the examination of entry conditions. The following personal data is collected and recorded:

1. data listed in your travel document; and
2. biometric data: from your facial image and fingerprints³.

Data about you is also collected from other sources, depending on your situation:

1. the Visa Information System: data contained in your personal file; and
2. the European Travel Information and Authorisation System, in particular the status of your travel authorisation and your family member status, if applicable.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2017/2226 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2017 on establishing an Entry/Exit System (EES) to register entry and exit data and refusal of entry data of third-country nationals crossing the external borders of the Member States and determining the conditions for access to the EES for law enforcement purposes, and amending the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement and Regulations (EC) No 767/2008 and (EU) No 1077/2011 (OJ L 327 9.12.2017, p. 20).

² Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

³ Please note that the fingerprints data of third-country nationals who do not need a visa to enter the Schengen area and holders of Facilitated Transit Documents will also be stored in the Entry/Exit System. If you need a visa to enter the Schengen area, your fingerprints will already be stored in the Visa Information System as part of your file there and will not be stored again in the Entry/Exit System.

What happens if you do not provide the requested biometric data?

If you do not provide the requested biometric data for registration, verification or identification in the Entry/Exit System, you will be refused entry at the external borders.

Who can access your data?

Member States can access your data for the purposes of border management, facilitation of border crossings, immigration, and law enforcement. Europol may also access your data for law enforcement purposes. Under strict conditions, your data may also be transferred to a Member State, a third country or an international organisation listed in Annex I of Regulation (EU) 2017/2226⁴ for the purposes of return⁵ or law enforcement⁶.

Your data will be stored in the Entry/Exit System for the following duration, after which it will be automatically erased:⁷

1. records of each entry, exit or refusal of entry record are stored for 3 years starting on the date of the entry, exit, refusal of entry record;⁸
2. the individual file containing your personal data is stored for 3 years and one day starting from the date of the last exit record or of the refusal of entry record where is no entry recorded during that period;
3. where there is no exit record, your data are stored for 5 years starting on the date of the expiration of your authorised stay.

Remaining authorised stay and overstay

You have the right to receive from the border guard information on the maximum remaining duration of your authorised stay on the territory of the Member States. You can also consult the following website [Check how long you can stay - EES](#) to self verify your remaining authorised stay.

⁴ Article 41(6).

⁵ Article 41(1) and (2) and Article 42.

⁶ UN organization, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) or the International Committee of the Red Cross.

⁷ If you are subject to visa requirement, your fingerprint will not be stored in the Entry/Exit system as they are already stored in the Visa Information System.

⁸ In the case of third-country nationals who are family members of mobile EU, EEA or Swiss citizens (i.e. of EU EEA or Swiss citizens who travel to a State other than the State of their nationality or already reside there), and are accompanying or joining the EU, EEA or Swiss citizen, each entry, exit or refusal of entry record will be stored for one year following the date of the exit record or of the refusal of entry record.

If you overstay the period of your authorised stay, your data will be automatically added to a list of identified persons (a list of overstayers). The list can be accessed by competent national authorities. If you are on this list of overstayers it is generally assumed that your stay and, if applicable, your entry are unlawful, and you are required to leave the country (see § 50 (1) of the Residence Act). Furthermore, unlawful entry and unlawful residence are also punishable by a fine or imprisonment of up to one year (see § 95 (1) Nr. 2, 3 of the Residence Act).⁹ However, if you can provide credible evidence to the competent authorities that you exceeded the authorised duration of your stay due to unforeseeable and serious events, your personal data can be rectified or completed in the Entry/Exit System and you can be removed from the list of overstayers.

Your rights with regard to the processing of personal data

You have the following rights:

1. to request from the controller access to data relating to you;
2. to request that inaccurate or incomplete data relating to you is rectified or completed; and
3. to request that unlawfully processed personal data that concerns you is erased or that the processing thereof is restricted.

If you want to exercise any of these rights listed in points (1) to (3), you must contact the data controller or data protection officer indicated below.

Contact details

Federal Office of Administration

Address:

Barbarastrasse 1
50735 Cologne
Germany

Contact:

Phone: 0049 228 99358-0
E-Mail: poststelle@bva.bund.de

For more information use

https://www.bva.bund.de/DE/Das-BVA/Aufgaben/S/Smart_Borders/smart-borders_node.html

⁹ The calculation of the duration of the authorised stay and the generation of alerts to Member States when the authorised stay has expired do not apply to third-country nationals who are family members of mobile EU, EEA or Swiss citizens (i.e. of EU EEA or Swiss citizens who travel to a State other than the State of their nationality or already reside there) and are accompanying or joining the EU, EEA or Swiss citizen.

Data protection officer:

Address:

Behördlicher Datenschutzbeauftragter
DGZ-Ring 12
13086 Berlin
Germany

Contact:

Phone: 0049 228 99358-681234
E-Mail: datenschutzbeauftragter@bva.bund.de

In line with the division of tasks between Member States' authorities and the European agencies involved, you can lodge a complaint with:

Supervisory authority of Germany which is in charge of processing your data (e.g. if you allege that they have recorded your data incorrectly):

Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information (BfDI)

Address:

Graurheindorfer Straße 153
53117 Bonn
Germany

Contact:

Phone: 0049 228 99799-0
E-Mail: poststelle@bfdi.bund.de

European Data Protection Supervisor for matters of data processing by European Agencies:

Address:

60, Rue Wiertz (Wiertzstraat 60)
1047 Brussels
Belgium

Contact:

Phone: 0032 382 1900
Website
<https://www.edps.europa.eu/de/de>

Further information on the rights of data subjects or on the possibility of obtaining support from the supervisory authorities can be found in the data protection information of the Federal Office of Administration.

For additional information please consult the Entry/Exit System public website <https://travel-europe.europa.eu/de/ees>.