Schengen Information System (SIS)
Entry/Exit system (EES)
ETIAS

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Disclaimer: ***These slides accompany the explanation of the acquis to Albania and North Macedonia and can only be used for that purpose. Their content is subject to further development of the acquis and interpretation by the Court of Justice of the European Union'***

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SIS

Schengen Information System

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SIS - Background

The SIS was established in 1995 in the signatory Member States of the Schengen Agreement, as a **major compensatory measure following the abolition of internal border controls.**

In order to efficiently maintain a high level of security, Member States had to move away from the traditional concept of bilateral agreements and legal assistance and establish a unique instrument with a view to:

- **Sharing security-related information in a centralised and structured way**
- **Making such information immediately available to all competent national authorities**
- **Empowering competent authorities in other Member States to act on behalf of requesting Member States**

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What is SIS?

"A highly efficient large-scale information system that supports external border control and law enforcement cooperation in the Schengen States"

The most important and effective information exchange tool; and a compensatory measure as the abolition of the internal borders necessitated new initiatives in order to maintain a high level of security by supporting operational cooperation between police, border guard and judicial authorities.

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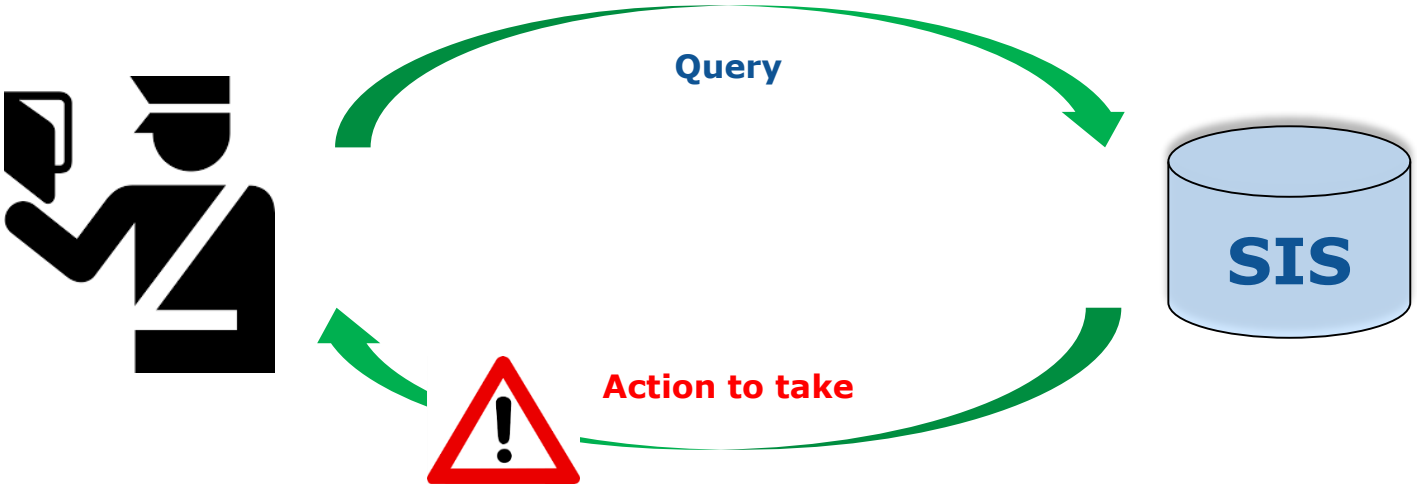
What does SIS do?

- The SIS enables competent authorities, such as police and border guards, to enter and consult alerts on certain categories of wanted or missing persons and objects.
- An SIS alert not only contains information about a particular person or object but also clear instructions on what to do when the person or object has been found.



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What does SIS do?

- The 'second generation' SIS (SIS II) replaced the original SIS on 9 April 2013 which had been in operation since 1995 with a **technically more advanced system** offering additional functionalities and extended data categories.
- Today, SIS is the largest information exchange platform in Europe containing data on persons and objects:
  - ✓ currently it contains approximately **82 million records**;
  - ✓ it was accessed **5.1 billion** times in 2017;
  - ✓ **243 818 hits** were achieved (law enforcement action taken on the basis of SIS alerts in 2017.

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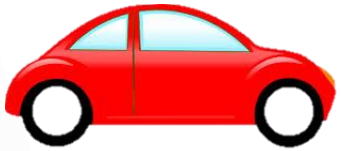
SIS alert categories

- Refusal of entry or stay
- Persons wanted for arrest
- Missing persons
- Persons sought to assist with a judicial procedure
- Persons and objects for discreet or specific checks
- Objects for seizure (lost, stolen, invalidated documents, stolen vehicles, firearms etc.)



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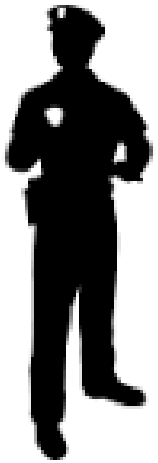
SIS end-users

Who has access to SIS?

- Border control
- Police
- Customs
- Visa and immigration authorities
- Judicial authorities
- Vehicle registration services



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SIS end-users

- Operational end-users access SIS data via their national law enforcement systems; so **a routine check will search both the national databases and the SIS at the same time.**

- **It is directly accessible by more than 1 million end-users.**

The SIS II adopts a simple approach:

(1) The text on the screen **informs the officers on the ground if there is a hit (*person is wanted/missing*)**
(2) It informs them of the **the action to take**
(3) It informs them who **to contact to report the hit**

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Legal Base

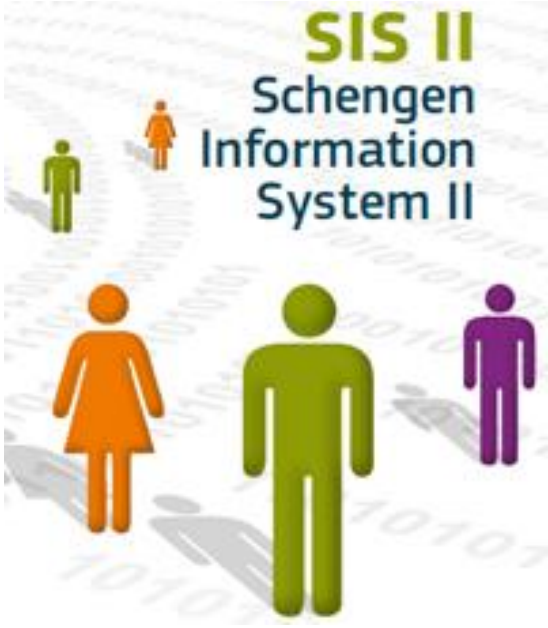
- Establishment, operation and use of SIS:

  Regulation 1987/2006/EC

  Council Decision 2007/533/JHA

- Access to SIS by MS vehicle registration services

  Regulation 1986/2006/EC



SIS

- Implementing rules:

  SIRENE Manual

  Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2017/1528 of 31 August 2017 replacing the Annex to Implementing Decision 2013/115/EU on the SIRENE Manual and other implementing measures for the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II)

  (*notified under document C(2017) 5893) (OJ L 231, 07.09.2017, p6*)

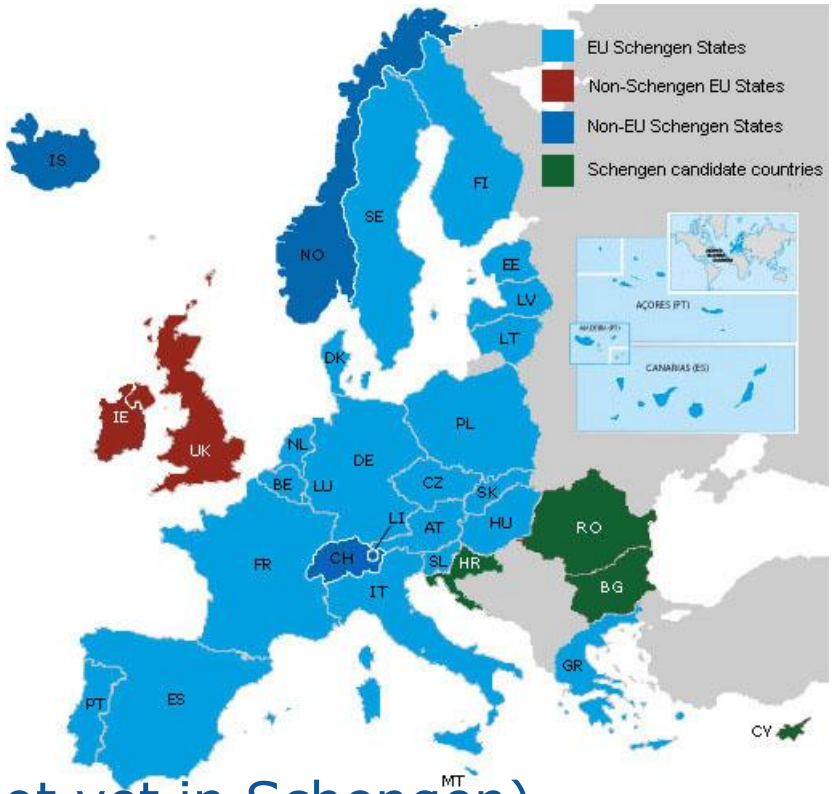
- Recommendations and Best Practice 'Best Practice Catalogue':

  Catalogue of recommendations and best practices for the correct application of the SIS and the exchange of supplementary information by the Member States competent authorities implementing and using SIS
  (*COM Recommendation C(2018) 2161 final*)

Currently:

30 countries use SIS

-> 26 EU Member States



UK: limited use of SIS

- only for police and judicial cooperation

CY and IE: not yet connected

BG, RO: recently full use of SIS (not yet in Schengen)

-> 4 non-EU Schengen States

Full use (IS, NO, CH, LI)

Institutional users: Europol/Eurojust.

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What is SIRENE?

- **SIRENE** - Supplementary Information Request at the National Entries.
- SIS stores **sufficient data for front-line officers to identify a person or an object**. Member States need to consult each other about the circumstances and follow-up the specific case - SIRENE Bureaux.
- Each Member States must designate the authority which shall ensure the exchange of all supplementary information (the SIRENE Bureau) – **SPOC 24/7** (integrated office with Interpol)
- Communication is through the use of SIRENE forms, designed for their specific purposes.
- **The SIRENE Bureaux are at the very heart of SIS operation and play a key role in effective information exchange**

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What is eu-LISA?

- *The European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT Systems in the area of freedom, security and justice*
- EU executive Agency established by Regulation 1077/2011 which took over the operational management of SIS and other large scale IT systems (*new regulation to enter into force soon*).
- Responsible for functioning and maintenance of system 24/7.

eu LISA

SIS

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Participating countries

26 EU Members

4 Schengen Associated Countries

Switzerland

Norway

Iceland

Liechtenstein

To whom does it apply?

All **EU** and **third-country** nationals

Proposed improvements

On 21 December 2016 the Commission proposed a revision of SIS to bring about important technical and operational improvements to the system

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SIS – the future

- Commission proposals – 21 December 2016.
- Close potential security gaps and strengthen the system as a whole.
- **3 new SIS Regulations:**

  ✓ Return
  ✓ Border Control
  ✓ Police

- The Regulations will be adopted December 2018
- The provisions will enter into force latest 3 years after.

Biometrics; Counter-terrorism; Return alerts

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EES

Entry/Exit system

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ENTRY/EXIT SYSTEM

- System to register entries and exits of all Third Country Nationals (TCN) to and from the Schengen area.

- Stamps replaced with electronic registration.

- **Scope of application of EES**
  - Entries and exits for a short stay ("90/180 days" rule);
  - Visa-exempt + visa-required TCNs;
  - No registration of EU citizens and residence card/permit holders.

- **Objectives**
  - Improve quality and efficiency of border controls;
  - Systematically identify overstayers;
  - Reinforce internal security and fight against terrorism.

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Legal Base

- Establishment of EES:

REGULATION (EU) 2017/2226 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 30 November 2017 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.

- Consequential amendments:

REGULATION (EU) 2017/2225 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 30 November 2017 amending Regulation (EU) 2016/399 as regards the use of the Entry/Exit System.

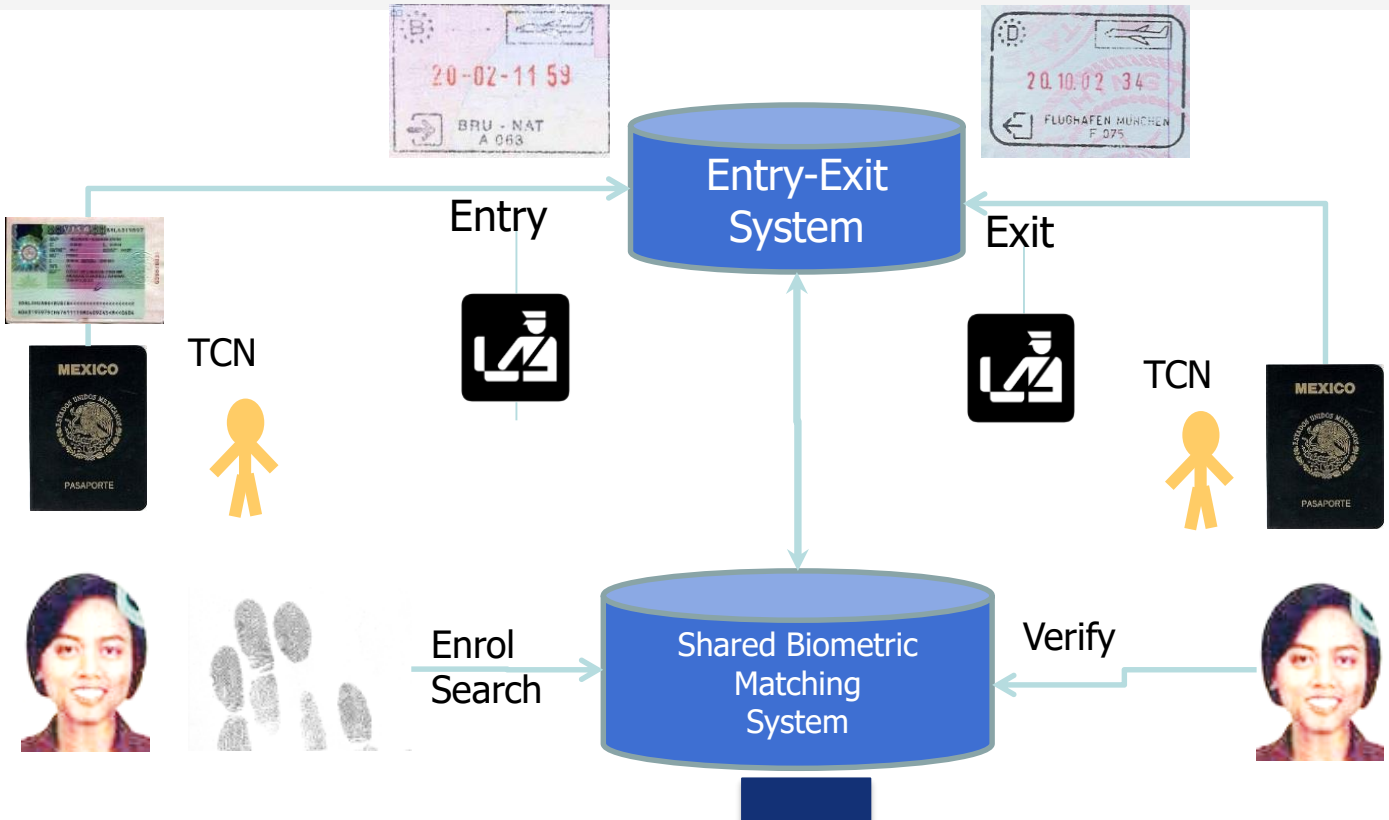
EES to be operational by 2020

EES

The EES will register border crossings (entry & exit & refusal) for all TCNs visiting Schengen for a short stay.

The identity (alphanumeric data, 4 fingerprints and facial image) together with details of the travel document will be linked to electronic entry and exit records.

Travel documents will no longer be stamped.



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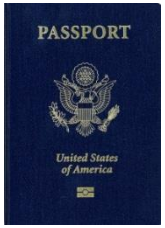
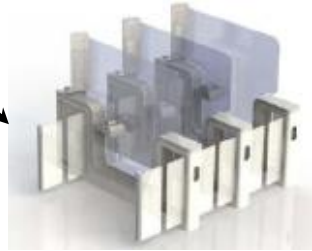
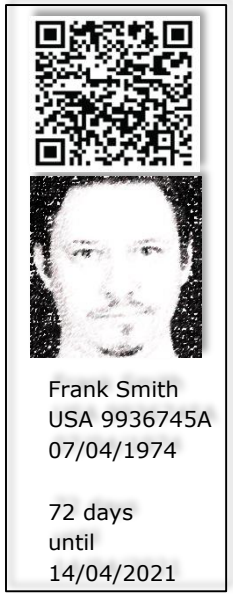
Automation possibilities via self-service kiosks



- **Enrolment or verification** (Machine readable travel document (MRTD), facial image, fingerprints)
- **Questions/Responses**
- **Checks against databases** (national, ETIAS, EES, VIS,..)
- **If first entry or if problem:** need to pass through border guards
- **If subsequent entry:** not necessary to pass through border guards



example



- **Read barcode**
- **Show MRTD**
- **(Authenticate MRTD)**
- **Verify Responses**
- **Profiling**
- **Entry confirmation**
- **Give slip back**

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ETIAS

European Travel Information and Autorisation System

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ETIAS

- System to gather information and identify migration, security or health risks associated with a visa-exempt visitor travelling to the Schengen Area.

- **Scope of application of ETIAS**
  - Visa-exempt third country nationals

- **Objectives**
  - Determine security and migration risks;
  - Less refusals of entry at the border;
  - Pre-assess and inform travellers whether they are admissible to enter the Schengen Area.

Legal Base

- Establishment of ETIAS:

Regulation (EU) 2018/1240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 September 2018 establishing a European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) and amending Regulations (EU) No 1077/2011, (EU) No 515/2014, (EU) 2016/399, (EU) 2016/1624 and (EU) 2017/2226.

- Consequential amendments:

Regulation (EU) 2018/1241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 September 2018 amending Regulation (EU) 2016/794 for the purpose of establishing a European Travel.

ETIAS to be operational by end of 2021

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ETIAS overview

More than an IT system	Consists of: • the ETIAS Information System • the ETIAS Central Unit (EBCGA) • the ETIAS National Units (Member States)
What?	A travel authorisation: • To board on a vessel bound to a Schengen country (by air and sea) or to travel to the Schengen borders (by land); • Valid for 3 year period of time and multiple entries; • Not an authorisation to enter Schengen – border guards perform their standard border control as per the Schengen Borders Code, incl. ETIAS status and may still refuse entry. • Not a visa.
Who?	**Visa-exempt** third country nationals.
Why?	• Information gap on visa-exempt travellers, security and migratory risks, monitoring of border-crossings. • To carry out advance checks on visa-exempt third country nationals allowing to determine the security and migration risks of visa exempt visitor to travel to the Schengen Area.
When?	Travellers apply prior to their trip.
Where?	The Schengen Area.

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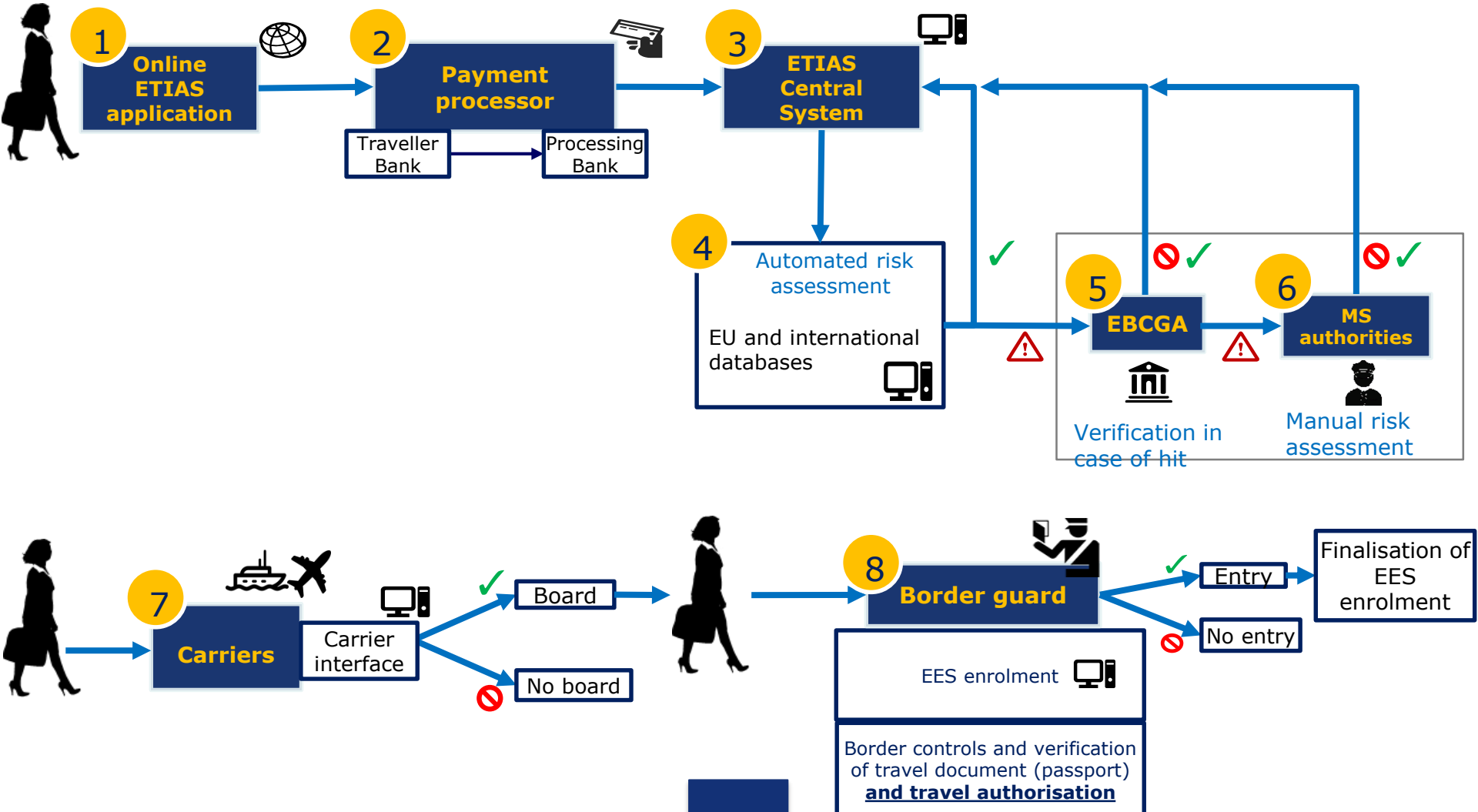
How it works



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Thank you!

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