



European Entry / Exit System (EES) - Fact Sheet

What is EES

- The European Entry/Exit System (EES) is a digital border control system for non-EU / non-Schengen nationals travelling for short stays.
- It records travel document details, entry and exit dates and locations, and collects biometric data such as a facial image and fingerprints.
- EES replaces many manual passport stamps, modernising border checks and improving accuracy.

Why EES matters

- Confirms traveller identity using biometrics.
- Tracks how long visitors stay within the Schengen zone.
- Helps enforce the '90 days in any 180 days' rule.
- Reduces identity fraud and strengthens border security.

When it begins / rollout

- Operational from 12 October 2025.
- Phased rollout until full implementation by 10 April 2026.
- Manual passport stamping may continue during the transition.

Who must use EES

- Travellers from non-EU, non-Schengen countries on short stays (≤ 90 days in any 180-day period).
- Holders of long-stay visas or residence permits may have different requirements.
- Children under approximately 12 may be exempt from fingerprinting but still require registration.
- EU / EEA / Swiss nationals are not subject to EES in the same way.

What travellers need to do / expect

- No pre-registration or separate fee required for EES.
- Biometric data (photo + fingerprints) collected at first entry.
- Allow extra time at border control during initial rollout.
- Subsequent visits may process faster once data is registered.

Checklist for Travellers & Agents

- 1 - Confirm traveller's nationality - if non-EU / non-Schengen, EES likely applies.
- 2 - Confirm length of stay - if ≤ 90 days in any 180 days, EES applies.
- 3 - Ensure passport validity meets destination requirements.
- 4 - Check if traveller holds long-stay visa / residence permit.
- 5 - Inform travellers biometric data will be collected on first entry.
- 6 - Advise extra time at border control, especially during first visit.
- 7 - Verify minor fingerprint exemptions by destination country.
- 8 - Keep updated on local border authority guidance.