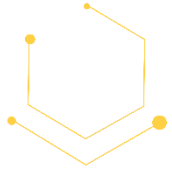# Guaranteeing freedom, security and justice

**THE SCHENGEN INFORMATION SYSTEM**

# The Schengen Information System (SIS)

- The Schengen Information System (SIS) is an **IT system** that guarantees freedom, security and justice in the Schengen area

- SIS supports **operational cooperation** and **information exchange** between national authorities

- The system enables the national competent authorities to **check alerts** on wanted persons or objects

- SIS has been upgraded and includes new elements

# What does SIS do?

- Enhances cooperation

- Protects the most vulnerable

- Manages irregular migration

- Combats criminality

- Strengthens external border controls

- Safeguards individual rights
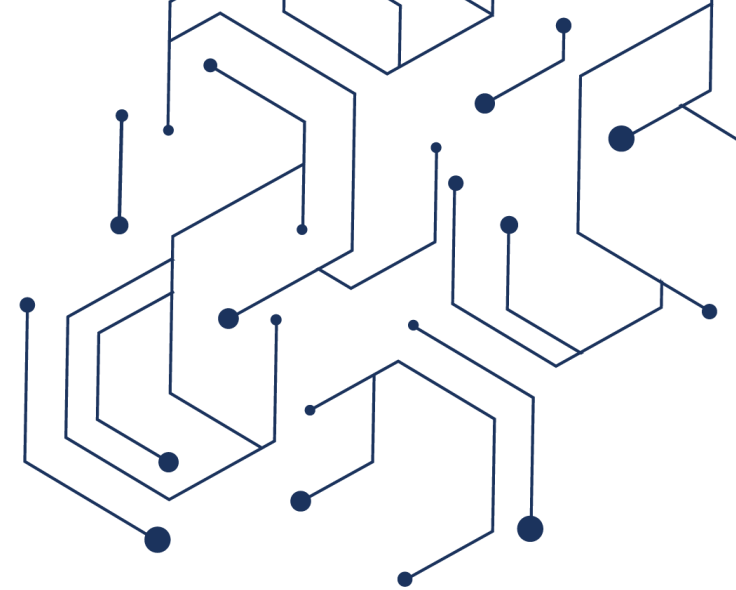
# Enhancing cooperation

- **Additional types of alerts on persons and objects** and specific actions that need to be taken

- **Frontex teams** and more **national competent authorities** now access SIS data

- **Europol** can exchange information with Member States on alerts concerning terrorist offences

- Exchange of supplementary information takes place in an enhanced way through the dedicated national contact points – **SIRENE Offices**

# How this works in practice?

**Arrest of suspect alleged of rape thanks to SIS**

- Ireland started using the SIS during March 2021

- On **14 May 2021, the Irish authorities** issued a SIS alert for arrest for surrender, for a person **wanted in relation to an alleged rape of a young person** in Munster in 2019

- The authorities believed that subject continued to have interactions with teens and minors at sports camps situated elsewhere

- **The Italian authorities located** and **arrested** the subject on 27 May 2021, **just 13 days after the Irish SIS alert was created**
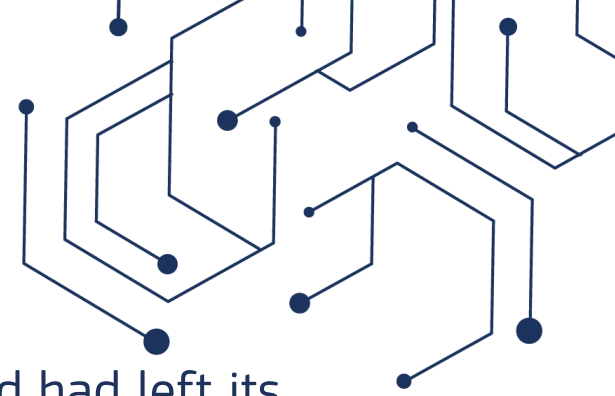
# Protecting the most vulnerable

- New alerts on **children at risk of abduction** and on **vulnerable persons at risk** support competent authorities to:

  o prevent children from being abducted

  o prevent children and other vulnerable persons from being taken abroad unlawfully for their own protection

- These alerts complement the alerts on **missing persons**

- **Missing persons** are identified also thanks to fingerprints or DNA

# How this works in practice?

**Preventing taking a child unlawfully abroad thanks to SIS**

- A **public institution in a Member State reported** that a 16-year-old child had left its premises and could neither be found nor contacted

- The child was put in those premises following the judicial decision to be protected from frequent abuse and the threat of taking the child to a third-country of origin and force the child in marriage

- The child's relatives **arranged to take the child to the third-country of origin unlawfully**, using an airport in another Member State

- The Member State investigating the case **entered a SIS alert** immediately and alerted the authorities in the Member State concerned

- Those **authorities located the child at the airport while when leaving with a parent**. The child was immediately **placed under protection and eventually entrusted to the authorities in the Member States that issued the alert**

# Managing irregular migration

- New alert on **return decisions** and the improved tools for better **identification of non-EU nationals** subject to these alerts will help tackle irregular migration

- System allows to search and verify if non-EU nationals are subject to SIS alerts with the use of fingerprints

- New data on **falsified documents**, including **travel documents** and **visa stickers**

# Combating criminality

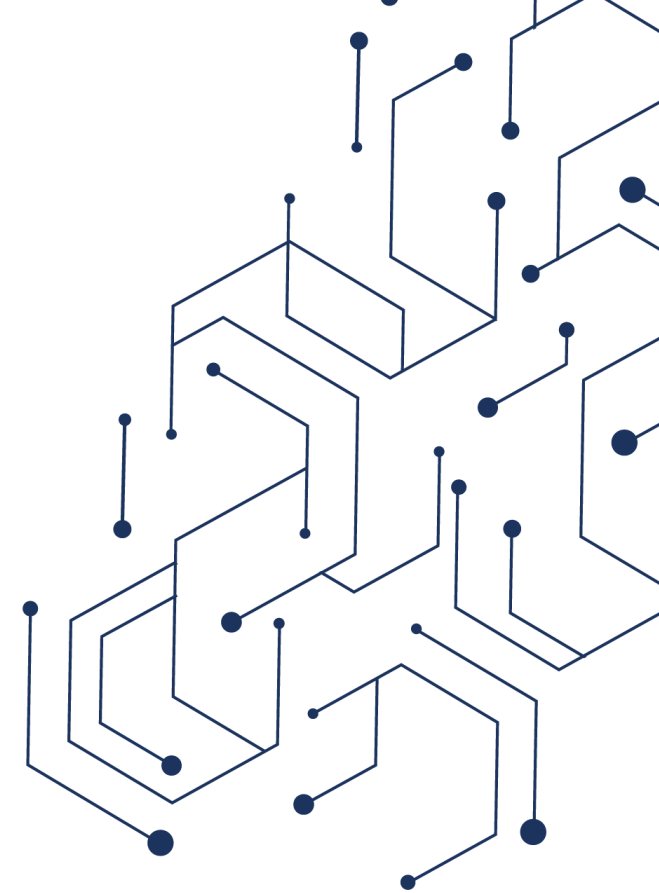Member States authorities use SIS:

- To arrest **persons wanted** for prosecution or conviction of **terrorist** related offences or **serious crime**

- For checks on **persons involved in serious crime** and certain types of **objects connected with serious crime**

- To locate and protect **missing persons**, to protect **vulnerable persons at risk** who need to be prevented from travelling or being taken abroad, or to find **witnesses, defendants or victims** of crime sought to assist judicial procedures

- To identify criminals based on **fingerprints from scenes of serious crime**

- To locate **objects wanted for seizure or use as evidence** in criminal proceedings

# How this works in practice?

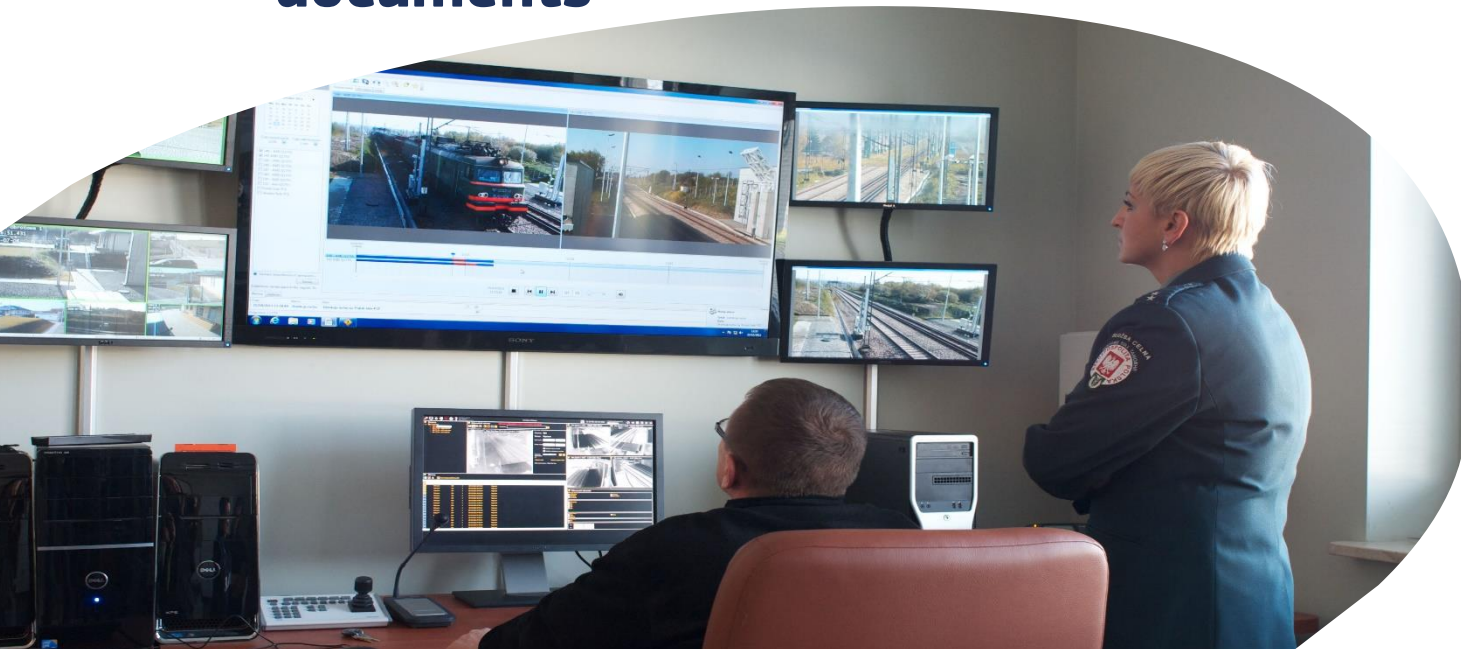**Locating and arresting perpetrators of serious organised crime thanks to SIS**

- Italy searched a person who **participated in a criminal organisation**, aiding and abetting **exploitation of prostitution**, including minors between March 2014 and June 2019

- In 2020, the individual was **stopped driving a vehicle** in Ireland but at the time it was not known that the person was wanted for such serious offences in Italy

- On 29 June 2021, Italy issued a SIS alert and **on that same day the subject was arrested** in Ireland

# Strengthening external border controls

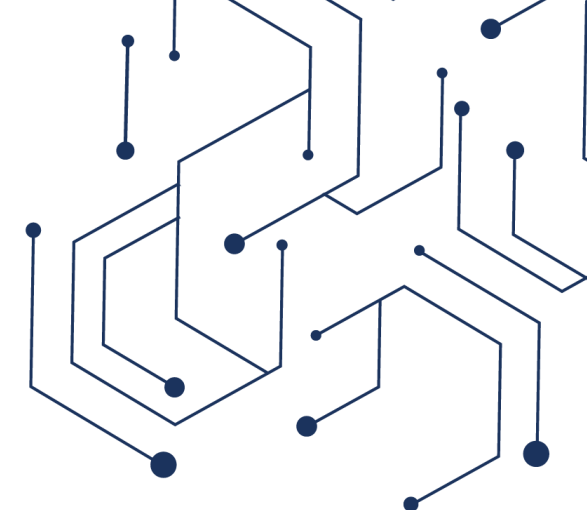Additional functionalities in the Schengen Information System enable:

- Border guards' faster recognition of **non-EU nationals** subject to alerts for **refusal of entry or stay,** or **posing threats to security**, and to detect possibly **falsified documents**

- Authorities to match alerts on **EU nationals** who are **wanted or suspects of crime**

# How this works in practice?

**Arrest of a wanted person for robbery thanks to SIS**

- A **person without identity documents reached Lampedusa, together with migrants**

- A **check in SIS with the person's fingerprints**, through the so-called functionality **SIS – AFIS**, permitted the authorities to ascertain that German competent judicial authorities had entered **a European arrest warrant for robbery against that person, but under another name**

- The **fugitive was arrested** with a view to surrender to the German competent judicial authorities

# Safeguarding your rights

- Rights of **access, correction or deletion of your data** stored in the system

- Right to be **informed about your alert on return or alert for refusal of entry and stay**

- **Legal procedure** before competent authorities (including courts) to access, correct or delete data or to obtain **compensation** for any damage resulting from unlawfully processed data in any Member State

- ***Guide for exercising the right of access***

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# Thank you