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**
Thank you