

EES-ready. Easy with us.

Successstory: A Sustainable Strategy for
Enhanced Security at Europe's External Borders





Entry/Exit System – A Major Task for all Schengen States

With EES, Europe's borders become biometric. Each member state needs to adapt the respective national border control infrastructure to comply with the EES requirements.

Challenge

The European Parliament has decided to introduce the common biometric Entry/Exit System (EES) to register all nationals from non-EU countries – the corresponding regulation became effective on 29 December 2017.

Therefore, as of 2022, nationals of non-EU countries – so called “Third Country Nationals”, or TCN for short, will have to register with four fingerprints and a facial image when entering Schengen countries through land, sea and air borders. The biometric data will be stored in the EES together with the identity data and other information taken from the travel document. Each data record resembles an electronic stamp (thus replacing the previous manual stamping procedure) and will be used to calculate the legitimate duration of

stay within the Schengen area: Once the EES is introduced, it will become much easier to verify whether the permitted duration of a short stay (maximum of 90 days within a 180-day period) is exceeded. The national security authorities are automatically informed by the database if the person concerned has not left the country by the set date. Therefore, it will be easier to spot those who overstay visas and to fight document and identity fraud. The complete system will consist of the central European register, a biometrics background system and the integration into the national border control and security systems. The current time plan for the implementation and operation is a real challenge for the EU, and not least for the member states entrusted with national implementation.

A strategy that takes into account both the depth of control and the flow of passengers is key to handle the complexity and compensate additional efforts when processing TCNs.



Requirements

Besides the tight schedule, enforcing the higher level of security is also a challenge for all those involved: Thus, the new handling process for Third Country Nationals will become significantly more complicated and more time-consuming due to the (biometric) data collection at the stationary border control counters. This will inevitably lead to longer waiting times for all travellers – unless conditions change – and, in the worst case scenario, can lead to missed flights. Due to the longer waiting times, airports are likely to reach

their capacity limits, especially as passenger numbers continue to rise. This would predispose passengers to being dissatisfied, which in turn increases the pressure on security organisations, airports and airlines. Therefore, it is essential to create an infrastructure that takes into account both the depth of control and the flow of passengers while facilitating the capturing of biometric data at the counter and achieving the technically much more complex connection of the airports – across several levels – to the central EES.



Self-service kiosks will play a pivotal role to compensate the additional efforts for the biometric acquisition at border control.

Solution

Thanks to a border control strategy optimally adapted to the EES processes and applications – which also includes the stationary counters – the time required for the control process remains virtually unchanged, despite the capturing of biometric data and the extensive checking performed. This is ensured by automation and process optimisation at key points:

- Self-service kiosk systems can speed up the time-consuming process of data collection and document checks.
- eGates (or ABC-gates) allow EU citizens and, under certain conditions, also Third Country Nationals to perform the border crossing process themselves within a very short time.
- At the counter, applications that have been developed specifically for border control visualise the check results from various systems at a glance.

Intelligent and technically secure solutions absorb the increased effort, whereas the entry into Europe remains as easy and convenient as before.

Implementation

secunet border gears is a comprehensive product portfolio that enables the implementation of sustainable, EES-compliant border control strategies that take all parties into account: All components can be integrated individually into existing infrastructures or combined together to form a modular, modern and future-proof border control infrastructure. secunet border gears stands for maximum security, convenient and intuitive passenger processes, and for “EES-ready” border control technologies.



eGates

Every day, tens of thousands of passengers in Europe pass through one of the secunet easygates – an automated border control gate – and benefit from fast, secure, comfortable and independent border crossings.



Self-service kiosk

Travellers from third countries carry out parts of the required and frequently time-consuming steps during the control process themselves at the secunet easykiosk, for instance, by capturing their fingerprints and facial image, before proceeding to the border control counter.



Stationary border control

secunet boco provides all the information from passport and personal checks at a glance to ensure that the border control officer in both stationary and mobile checkpoints has all the important data at hand within a very short time.



PKI border control

As a security framework in the background, secunet eID PKI Suite ensures that the authenticity of electronic identity documents, such as passports or national identity cards, can be determined in a comprehensive, efficient, reliable and highly secure way.





EES-ready: The expertise and technologies of secunet are already in use in many European countries. They are all well prepared for the EES.

The Entry/Exit System will improve the quality of border controls across Europe, make border crossing at entry and exit transparent and tighten the security of external borders throughout the Schengen zone: It will be easier for the European states to

- reliably detect people who overstay visas,
- prevent illegal entry,
- fight document and identity fraud,
- protect themselves more effectively from organised crime and terrorism.



Iceland

Improved passenger convenience and shorter entry and exit times thanks to eGates; cost and resource-saving maintenance for airport operators thanks to highly secure remote access

Germany

Project partner in the Smart Borders pilot project for conceptual consulting, state-of-the-art border control technology including kiosk systems and the adaptation of the border control systems in live operation on EES

Switzerland

Completely new, modular border control infrastructure for a highly intuitive checking process at approximately 100 stationary workplaces in the Zurich Airport, which have been prepared for the introduction of the EES since 2014

A map of Europe with several countries highlighted in red. Red lines connect these countries to text boxes providing details about eGates. The highlighted countries are Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czechia, Austria, and Hungary. The background of the map has a light blue diagonal hatching pattern.

Lithuania

Installation of the first eGates in Europe that support two biometric modalities: face and fingerprint recognition

Estonia

Pilot testing of kiosk systems in collaboration with a local partner specialising in queuing management, to tighten security and reduce processing times at the land border between Estonia and Russia

Latvia

Passport and migration information system for issuing and verifying eIDs at border control—as a result Latvia has been checking electronic identity documents comprehensively at the border since 2012

Poland

secunet delivers easygates of the latest generation for Warsaw airports

Czechia

Overall border control infrastructure for automated and comprehensive checking of eIDs to achieve significantly improved security and shorter process times at the Vaclav Havel Airport Prague

Austria

Rollout of the latest generation eGates in a record time of 3 months—an optimised document scanning process shortens passenger processing time to about 12 seconds

Hungary

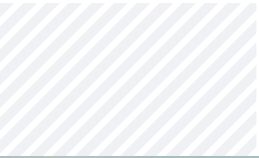
Implementation of Automated Border Control Gates at the Hungarian Hubs

EES with secunet

Each state in the Schengen area is responsible for organising and managing its own national border control infrastructure at sea, land and air borders and its connection to the central EES. A sustainable border control strategy is thus essential to these states.

secunet is the perfect partner for the implementation of sound, future-proof EES solutions, since our expertise and technologies are already implemented in many European countries – therefore, they are all well equipped for the EES. Thanks to the knowledge gained from being part of the German Smart Borders pilot project, the secunet team is familiar with all the intricacies of the EU regulation and knows the requirements of security authorities and airport operators. Depending on the task and customer requirements, our team works independently or in cooperation with local or larger partners to create flexible and sustainable infrastructures – even against tight deadlines – and develops completely new solutions according to specific needs. These are trusted by airport operators and security authorities throughout Europe.





ABC gates for automated border control are already in use to process FOM-travellers efficiently at many airports in Europe.



secunet – protecting digital infrastructures

secunet is Germany's leading cybersecurity company. In an increasingly connected world, the company's combination of products and consulting assures resilient digital infrastructures and the utmost protection for data, applications and digital identities. secunet specialises in areas with unique security requirements – such as cloud, IIoT, eGovernment and eHealth. With security solutions from secunet, companies can maintain the highest security standards in digitisation projects and advance their digital transformation.

Over 1,000 experts strengthen the digital sovereignty of governments, businesses and society. secunet's customers include federal ministries, more than 20 DAX-listed corporations as well as other national and international organisations. The company was established in 1997, is listed in the SDAX and generated revenues of around 337 million euros in 2021.

secunet is an IT security partner to the Federal Republic of Germany and a partner of the German Alliance for Cyber Security.

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