



VISA DIGITALISATION: Making visa travel to the EU easier

#DigitalSchengenVisa | 27 April 2022

The Commission is proposing the **digitalisation of the Schengen visa process**:



introducing the ability to **submit Schengen visa applications online** through a **European online visa platform**



replacing the visa sticker with a digital visa

Why go digital?

- Because applying for a visa is a **lengthy and costly procedure** both for consulates and for applicants
- To **harmonise the application procedure** through an EU-wide platform, with **the same digital procedure** for all Schengen countries
- To make the visa **more secure** replacing the visa sticker with a **digital visa**



Applying for a Schengen visa will become **easier and faster**



One single EU portal for all Schengen visa applications



The digital visa will be more **secure**

What will digitalisation mean?

- Visa applicants will be able to **apply for a Schengen visa online using one single platform**
- The platform will **automatically determine which Schengen country is responsible** to examine an application
- The platform will provide the applicants with **up-to-date information** on Schengen short-stay visas
- The visa will be an electronic record in the Visa Information System ensuring compliance with **fundamental rights** and the protection of personal data

How to apply for a visa through the new platform?

1 Check on the EU Online Visa Application platform if you need a visa

2 If yes - create a secure account and fill out an application form online and upload all necessary document

If you are visiting more than one Schengen country, the platform will help you find out for which country you should apply for a visa

3 Get informed if you need to provide biometrics

4 Pay the visa fee online and submit your application. The Schengen country which is your main destination will process your application

5 If you need to provide biometrics, book an appointment at a Visa Application Centre or consulate

6 Check status of your visa application on the platform and receive notifications

7 Access digital visa through the platform

in case of loss of travel document, the digital visa that was granted can be securely linked to a new travel document

8 Easy extension of the visa online
(if applicable conditions are met)



Next steps:

- Once the European Parliament and the Council adopt this initiative, Member States will have five years to switch to the common online visa platform.
- Development of the platform could start in 2024 in order to be operational by 2026.