COMMISSION PROPOSES AN EU DIGITAL TRAVEL APPLICATION FOR EASIER AND SAFER TRAVEL

#DigitalSchengen | October 2024

The Commission is proposing the digitalisation of passports and ID cards, which will make traveling to and within the Schengen area **easier** and **more secure**. This will include:

A common framework for the use of digital travel credentials, which will be voluntary and free of charge.

A new '**EU Digital Travel application**', for citizens to create and store their digital travel credential.

What is a digital travel credential?

A digital travel credential is a digital copy of the data stored on the passport or identity card. The data includes information contained in the chip of the passport or ID card, including the facial image of the holder, but not their fingerprints. A digital travel document can be stored on a mobile phone.

What are the key benefits?

Easier and faster travel:
- Faster border checks by submitting credentials in advance.
- Reduced waiting times at airports and borders.

Reduced administrative burden:
- For border management authorities, carriers and citizens at the EU's external borders.

More efficient and secure border controls:
- Increased security at the external borders of the Schengen area.
- Enables border authorities to conduct checks in advance, focusing resources on detecting irregular migration and cross-border crime.

Data protection and privacy:
- Personal data of travellers will be protected through strong encryption and security protocols, with users consent over sharing their data.
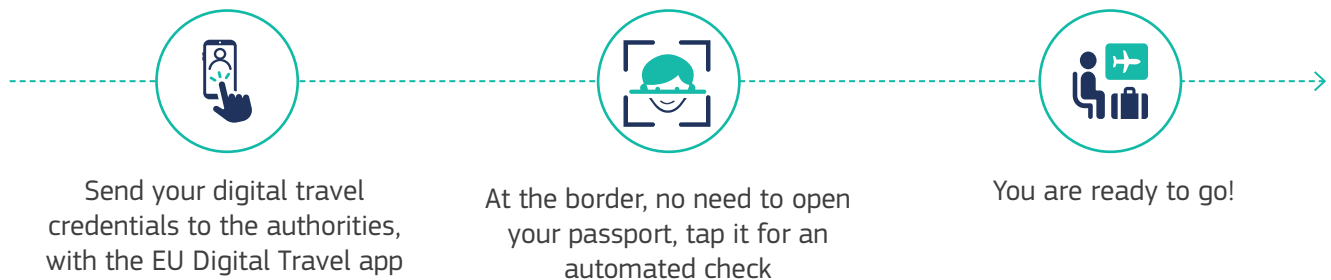
How will the EU Digital Travel application work?

The application will:

- Verify the authenticity and integrity of the travel document and match the facial image of the user to the image stored on the travel document's chip;
- Transmit the travel data to the competent border authorities for advance border checks and pre-clearance;
- Store the digital travel credential on the holder's mobile device.

Travelers will be able to:

- Create a digital travel credential using the EU Digital Travel application. EU citizens will also be able to receive it together with a new passport or identity card;
- Submit their digital travel credential and self-declared travel data to the competent border authorities through the application;
- Use their digital travel credential for advance border checks and pre-clearance, facilitating crossing or entering the Schengen area;
- Choose whether to use the digital travel document, as participation will be voluntary.

Send your digital travel credentials to the authorities, with the EU Digital Travel app

At the border, no need to open your passport, tap it for an automated check

You are ready to go!

Your digital travel document can be used at **air**, **land** and **sea** border crossings

Next steps

- The system will be rolled out after the proposal is adopted, with the app developed and tested by the European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (eu-Lisa).
- Member States can begin issuing digital travel documents even before the app is fully operational.
- The EU digital travel application will become available as of 2030. This will provide the possibility to store the digital travel credentials in the European Digital identity wallet.