ETIAS
European Travel Information and Authorisation System

ETIAS INFO PACK

PUBLIC VERSION

OCTOBER 2023

FRONTEX
EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY

ETIAS MISINFORMATION

Below are the most common mistakes in media coverage about ETIAS.

	✗	✓
Date of entry into operation	~~November 2023~~ ~~January 2024~~	2025
Number of European countries requiring ETIAS	~~26~~ ~~29~~	30 (see the list here)
Medical information required to apply for ETIAS	~~needed~~	not needed (more information on what is needed to apply)
Official ETIAS website	~~etias.com~~ ~~etias.info~~ ~~no official website~~	europa.eu/etias
ETIAS validity	~~3 months | 5 years | 10 years~~	3 years or until passport expires, whichever comes first
ETIAS is a visa	~~- new visa~~ ~~- electronic visa~~ ~~- eurovisa~~	not a visa, similar travel authorisations are implemented by the US, Canada and Australia
Application fee	~~not yet announced~~	EUR 7
Who should apply	~~only people between the ages of 18-70~~	all visa-free travellers regardless of age
In case application is refused	~~apply for Schengen visa~~	not possible to apply for a visa (see here what should be done instead)
Databases applications are checked against	~~Both EU and international databases~~	EU databases, including VIS, SIS, EES and ECRIS-TCN

ABOUT ETIAS

ETIAS travel authorisation is a new entry requirement for the nationals of around 60 visa-exempt countries travelling to most European countries (see list on the next page).

ETIAS is for short-term stays: it allows visa-exempt travellers to remain in the 30 European countries requiring ETIAS for up to 90 days within any 180-day period. It is valid for three years or until the passport used in the application expires, whichever comes first.

Air, sea and coach carriers will be required to the check that travellers possess a valid ETIAS travel authorisation before boarding.

WHY ETIAS?

ETIAS was developed to maintain a high level of internal security of the European Union, while ensuring smooth border crossings of travellers. Currently, border authorities in Europe assess whether travellers pose a security, public health, or irregular immigration risk when they have already arrived at the border. ETIAS will allow for the assessment to be done before the travellers start their trip, making their travel easier and more convenient.

ETIAS IS NOT A VISA

Having an ETIAS travel authorisation only allows travellers to enter and remain on the territory of the European countries requiring ETIAS for a short-term stay. ETIAS does not give the right to study long-term or to work in these countries. Nationals of visa-exempt countries who plan to stay in a European country requiring ETIAS for a longer period, will most likely need a long-term visa. Travellers who already have a valid visa do not need an ETIAS travel authorisation.

Similar travel authorisations for visa-exempt nationals are currently implemented by the US, Canada and Australia as well as other countries.

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES REQUIRING ETIAS

These 30 European countries require visa-exempt travellers to have an ETIAS travel authorisation:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Iceland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Liechtenstein
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland

WHO WILL NEED AN ETIAS

Nationals of below listed countries/territories will be required to have an ETIAS travel authorisation in hand in order to travel to Europe:

- Albania
- Antigua and Barbuda
- Argentina
- Australia
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Brazil
- Brunei
- Canada
- Chile
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Dominica
- El Salvador
- Georgia
- Grenada
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- Hong Kong
- Israel
- Japan
- Kiribati
- Macao
- Malaysia
- Marshall Islands
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Micronesia
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- North Macedonia
- Palau
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Samoa
- Serbia
- Seychelles
- Singapore
- Solomon Islands
- South Korea
- Taiwan
- Timor-Leste
- Tonga
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Tuvalu
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States of America
- Uruguay
- Venezuela

ROLLOUT OF ETIAS

TIMING

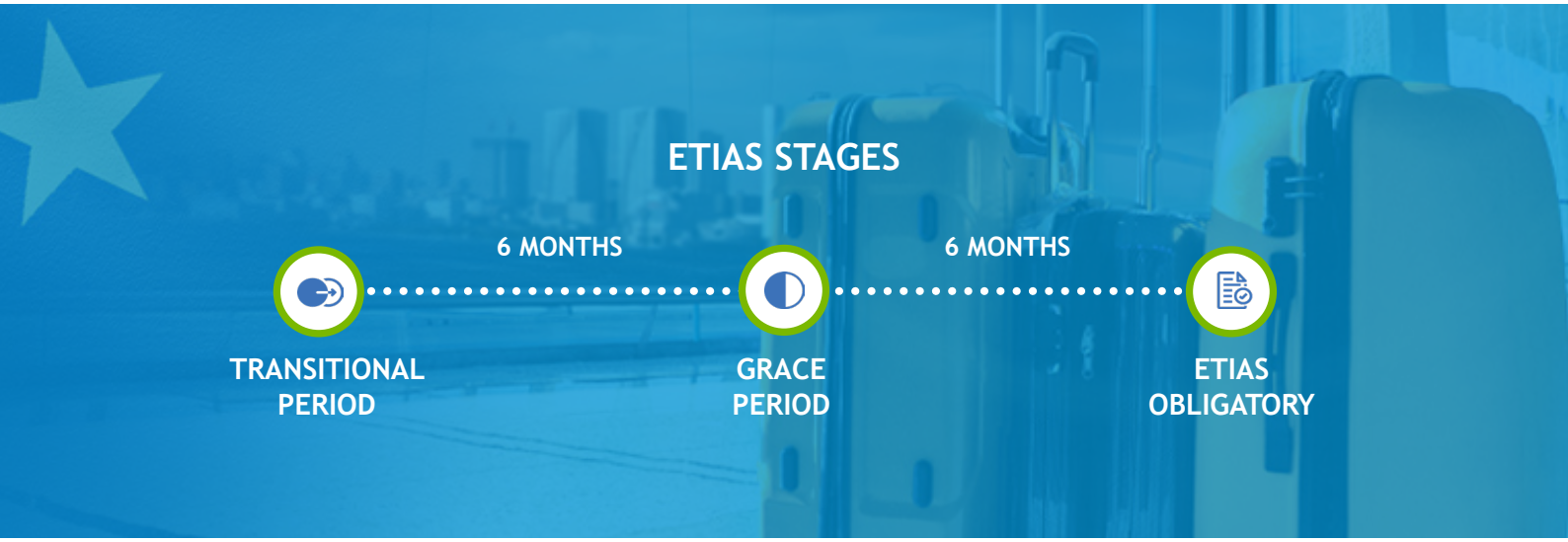
ETIAS will be launched in 2025. This will be six months after the launch of the Entry/Exit System (EES).

ETIAS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN STAGES

TRANSITIONAL PERIOD: a transitional period of six months will follow the launch of ETIAS. During this period, if a traveller does not have a valid ETIAS travel authorisation, border authorities will nevertheless allow them to cross the external borders, as long as they hold a valid travel document and fulfil all remaining entry conditions.

GRACE PERIOD: once the transitional period is over, a six-month 'last chance' grace period will follow. During this period, if a traveller does not have an ETIAS travel authorisation and it is the first time they are entering any of the European countries requiring ETIAS since the end date of the transitional period, border authorities will exceptionally allow them to cross the external borders as long as they hold a valid travel document and fulfil all remaining entry conditions.

Important! If the traveller does not have an ETIAS travel authorisation and it is not the first time that they are entering any of the European countries requiring ETIAS since the end of transitional period, they will not be allowed to enter.



ETIAS REQUIREMENT WILL AFFECT ALL TYPES OF BORDERS

The obligation to have an ETIAS is binding independently on whether travellers will be entering Europe via land, sea or at an airport.

ALL ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS

HOW TO APPLY

Once ETIAS enters into operation, travellers can only apply for an ETIAS travel authorisation online at europa.eu/etias and through the official ETIAS mobile app (not yet available). The applicant will need a valid travel document, a payment card and an email address. When filling in the application form, they will be asked to provide their personal information, including their address, passport details, current occupation, and information about past travel to conflict zones or criminal convictions.

1 Fill in the application → 2 Pay EUR 7 application fee → 3 Get your travel authorisation → 4 Travel to Europe → 5 Stay for up to 90 days

VALIDITY

An ETIAS authorisation will be valid for three years for the entire territory of the European countries requiring ETIAS, or until the validity of the travel document the applicant has used expires - whichever comes first.

Important! Having a valid ETIAS travel authorisation does not guarantee entry. When a traveller arrives at the border, border guards will verify that they meet the entry conditions. Those travellers who do not meet the entry conditions will be refused entry.

COST

The cost of the ETIAS travel authorisation is EUR 7. However, applicants who are under 18 or above 70 years of age, or family members of EU citizens or of nationals of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland are exempt from this payment. More information regarding the status of family members can be found here.

APPLYING ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

The ETIAS regulation makes it possible for another person (e.g. a friend, a family member, etc.) or a commercial intermediary (e.g. a travel agency) to apply on behalf of the traveller.

⚠ WHAT TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT

It is important to select a trusted third party, as the application process requires very sensitive information such as personal data, passport details and credit card number. Also, submitting the application via the official ETIAS website or the mobile app costs EUR 7, but an intermediary may require an additional fee for their services – the public should be made sensitised to make sure that this extra fee is reasonable. Instances of abuse by a commercial intermediary who, for example, has charged excessive amount for submitting an application or has failed to submit it altogether, can be reported anonymously on the official ETIAS website.

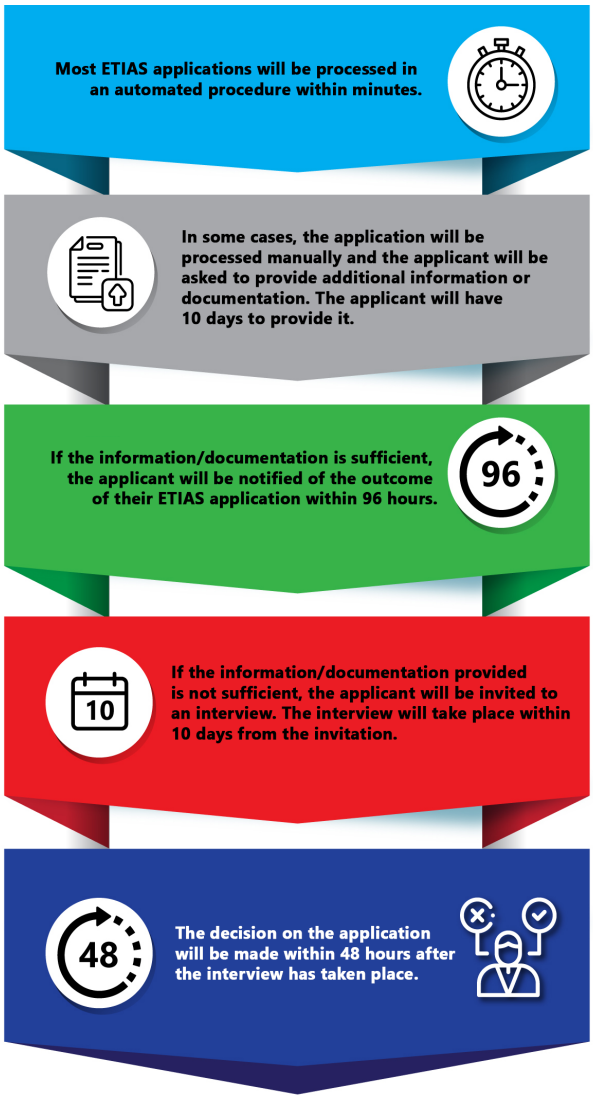
ALL ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCESS

HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE TO GET AN ETIAS

In most cases, the online application will only take a few minutes to complete. The system will automatically compare the personal data submitted by the applicants with the data already stored in various EU and international information systems. In case the application raises concerns, it will be manually processed by the ETIAS Central Unit, managed by Frontex, and forwarded to the ETIAS National Units in the European countries requiring ETIAS, for final assessment.

It is expected that the vast majority of applications – some 97% - will be accepted in the automated procedure. The remaining 3% will be decided on by the ETIAS National Units.

Most of the time, applicants will receive a decision within minutes of submitting the application. In exceptional cases, the application process may take up to 30 days if the applicant is requested to provide additional information, or invited to an interview.



WHAT TO DO IF AN ETIAS APPLICATION IS REFUSED

In case the applicant receives a negative decision on their ETIAS application, they have the right to appeal.

The applicant also has the possibility to request an ETIAS travel authorisation with limited validity (LV) if they meet the relevant conditions. More information about the LV can be found on the official ETIAS website.

Unlike with the American ESTA, it is not possible for visa-exempt travellers to apply for a visa if their ETIAS is refused. A visa and ETIAS are different types of authorisations, intended for different categories of travellers. If a visa-exempt traveller does not have a valid ETIAS travel authorisation, they will not be allowed to cross the external borders of the European countries requiring ETIAS.

WHO IS WHO

AUTHORITIES BEHIND ETIAS

Setting up ETIAS is a very complicated task. The challenges are huge as the system has to be extra-secure not only due to the fact that it will have to process personal data of the millions of applicants, but also be connected to a variety of databases such as SIS, VIS, EES, Eurodac and ECRIS-TCN. Currently many of these systems do not 'talk' to each other, so making them work seamlessly is essential. Considering the scale and complexity of this project, it is not surprising that the following 34 institutional actors are closely cooperating to make it happen.

European Commission

- Development of Delegated and Implementing Acts
- Assisting in implementation of the ETIAS Regulation
- Overall responsibility for the ETIAS policy and the information campaign

Frontex

- Creation and operation of the ETIAS Central Unit
- Handling applications from travellers
- Support to carriers and travellers

Eu-LISA

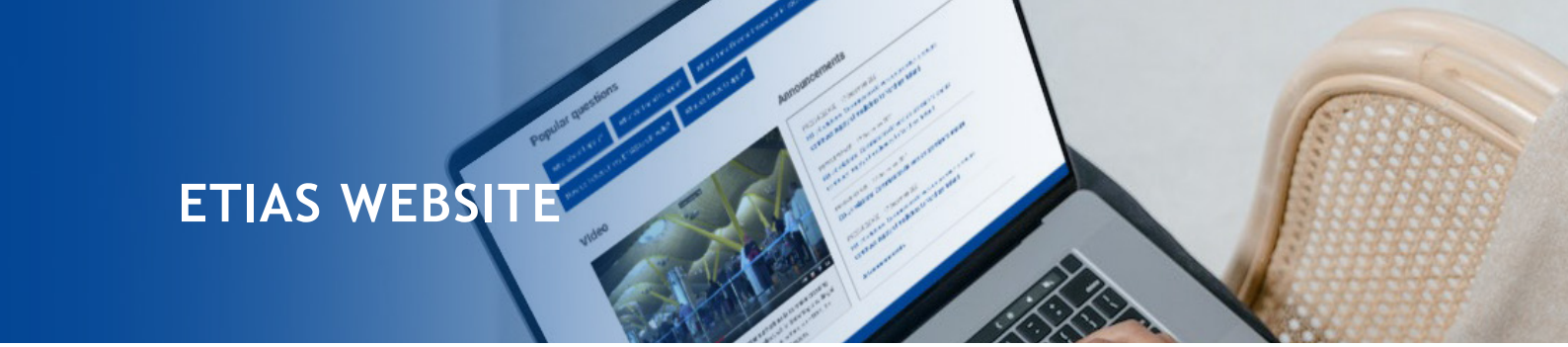
- Development and operation of the ETIAS Information System
- Development of the ETIAS watchlist containing information on persons involved in terrorism or other serious crime

Europol

- Provision of data to the ETIAS watchlist
- Being consulted following a hit against their data

30 European countries requiring ETIAS

- Creation and operation of the ETIAS National Units
- Checking ETIAS travel authorisations at border crossing points
- Handling applications from travellers
- Processing appeals from ETIAS applicants



ETIAS WEBSITE

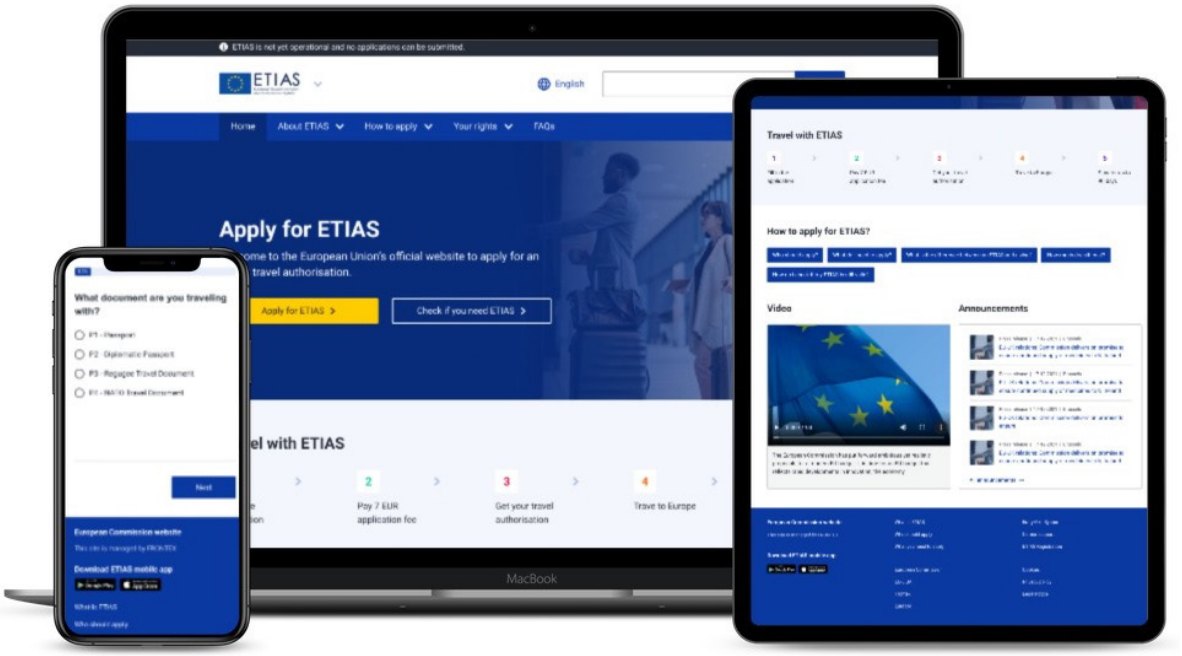
There is only one official ETIAS website: europa.eu/etias. Currently the website provides information to travellers about the application process, appeals and other relevant topics. Once ETIAS is launched, applications for the travel authorisation will be submitted through the website.

The News corner section of the website provides regular articles with updates and information about ETIAS, prepared by Frontex. Read the latest article on what entry conditions besides ETIAS visa-free travellers will need to meet in order to travel to Europe.

BEWARE OF SCAMMERS

Currently there are at least 58 unofficial ETIAS websites online providing information about the rules and requirements related to ETIAS.

While the ETIAS regulation does allow commercial intermediaries to apply for ETIAS on behalf of others, there is a risk related to the third-party websites. While some of these websites are run by genuine commercial intermediaries, others may be hosted by people with dubious intentions. The unofficial websites can be scammers who will seek to financially profit from ETIAS applicants and may misuse the applicants' personal data and credit card details. Travellers will have the possibility to report abuse using the official ETIAS website.



PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

The European Commission will run a public information campaign to inform visa-exempt travellers of the new ETIAS requirement. The campaign will be launched six months before the system enters into operation. Conducted in 19 languages, including 13 non-EU languages, the campaign will take place in third countries, at key travel hubs, and border crossing points in the 30 European countries.

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ETIAS CENTRAL UNIT | FRONTEX

www.europa.eu/etias