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English

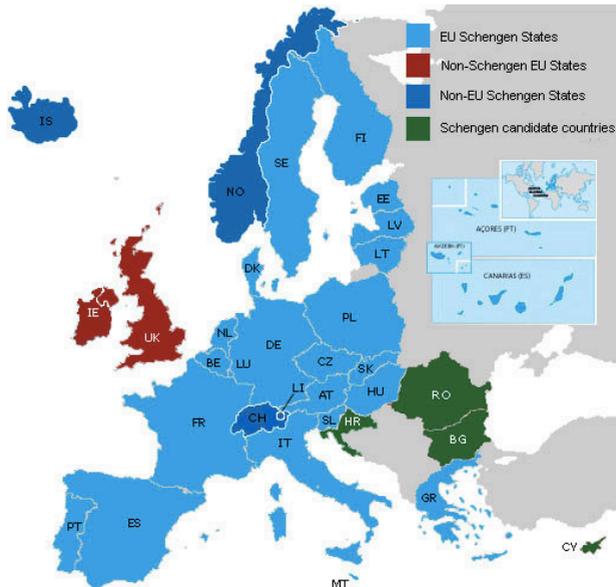
The »Schengen Area« and Me

Information for Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Persons with Subsidiary Protection and Stateless Persons on the »Schengen Area«

What does »Schengen Area« mean for:

- **refugees**
- **asylum seekers**
- **persons with subsidiary protection**
- **stateless persons**

in Slovenia?



What is the Schengen Agreement?

This is an arrangement that allows the free movement of persons between countries that have signed the Schengen Agreement. This agreement, for example, means that passport controls have been eliminated between certain countries in Europe. The participating countries under this agreement have also harmonised the control of their external borders and now have a common visa issuance policy.

Which are the countries in the »Schengen Area«?

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lichtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland (Iceland, Norway and Switzerland are not EU Member States).

Which countries are prospective to enter the »Schengen Area«?

Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus and Romania are yet to join the Schengen Area in the future. Once joined, border passport controls will be abolished at land and sea borders.

Which countries in the European Union are currently outside the »Schengen Area«?

Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus Ireland, Romania and the United Kingdom.

- ✓ **I am a refugee;**
- ✓ **I am an asylum seeker;**
- ✓ **I have subsidiary protection;**
- ✓ **I am stateless**
- ✓ **I live in Slovenia.**



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What does it mean for me if the country is a part of the »Schengen Area«?

Can I travel without documents?

There are no passport controls within the »Schengen Area« for persons with a valid residence permit in Slovenia. But all persons must still carry an identification document to prove their identity if requested to do so by the authorities (e.g. police, customs). Foreigners without a valid resident permit in Slovenia need to have a valid passport and visa to enter the »Schengen Area«.

I am an asylum seeker, can I move to another country in the »Schengen Area« and reapply for asylum there?

Asylum seekers will still not be permitted to lodge multiple asylum applications in other countries in the »Schengen Area« if they already lodged an application in Slovenia. As an asylum seeker, you have to wait for your application to be processed in the country where you first applied for asylum. This is because of the Dublin Regulation.

Can I travel within the »Schengen Area« as a tourist or to meet friends and family? And for how long can I stay?

This depends on your status:

Asylum seekers are generally not entitled to travel freely within the »Schengen Area«. If you are recognised refugee, if you have subsidiary protection status or you are a stateless person with a valid residence permit in Slovenia you can travel within the »Schengen Area«. But you have to carry your identity documents. Remember that, as a tourist or visitor, you can only stay for a short period of time in another country.

This short stay is usually for a period not longer than 90 days during a single visit. If you want to stay more than this period, you must seek permission from the relevant authorities.



Can I live wherever I want in the »Schengen Area«?

In order to take up legal residence and live in another country in the »Schengen Area« you need a residence permit from that country. You have to obtain this permit prior to your departure from the Embassy or Consulate of that country. Otherwise you are breaking the law and can be penalised.

Can I work wherever I want in the »Schengen Area«?

Refugees, persons with subsidiary protection and stateless persons holding a valid residence permit in Slovenia do not have the automatic right to work in another country in the »Schengen Area«. If you want to work in another country in Europe, including those in the »Schengen Area« you must first apply and get work permit and visa from the responsible authorities of that country.

**I have more questions.
Where can I find more information?**

If you are not sure about your rights and obligations in the country you intend to visit, please contact the authorities of that country (e.g. Embassy / Consulate) *before* your departure.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



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