

EU VISA STRATEGY

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1. OVERVIEW AND SCOPE

- Official name of the initiative: **EU VISA Strategy**
- Type: Strategy (a high-level "roadmap" on a specific topic, that will support the development of the legislations implementing the strategy).

The EU VISA Strategy aims to make visa policy more strategic and better able to respond to increasing global mobility, regional instability and geopolitical competition.

2. WHAT DOES IT APPLY TO?

Third-Country Nationals and companies.

3. HOW IS THE EVENTS INDUSTRY DIRECTLY AFFECTED?

The EU-VISA strategy includes pillars for short-term visiting (from both VISA and VISA-free regimes) aiming at facilitating and speeding-up the access to EU for non-EU nationals.

4. MAIN PROVISIONS OF THE STRATEGY

The Visa Strategy is based on three main pillars:

1. Strengthening EU's security

- A modern system for granting visa-free travel to partner countries
- Stronger monitoring of existing visa-free regimes
- Stronger leverage through visa policy
- The possibility of targeted restrictive visa measures
- New measures to strengthen the security of travel documents

2. Boosting competitiveness

- New digital procedures for both visa-free and visa-required travellers (from Q4 2026, ETIAS will simplify and partly automate pre-departure checks for visa-free travellers)
- Multiple-entry visas with longer validity for trusted travellers

- Improved conditions for attracting talent
- Additional support for non-EU nationals and employers through European Legal Gateway Offices, helping them navigate visa procedures
- Additional EU funding to support visa processing for highly skilled non-EU nationals

3. Modern VISA tools

- By 2028, EU IT systems will be fully **interoperable**, allowing authorities to search multiple databases at once through a single interface
- This will improve information-sharing and help prevent visa abuse

Plus, recommendations for Member States on attracting talent for innovation.

5. STATE OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

the Commission will engage with the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, and will invite both institutions to support work on the announced future initiatives.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS/REMARK

Some initiatives (e.g. the ETIAS) are already work-in-progress or about to be implemented, while others still need to be developed.

7. LINKS

EU VISA Strategy: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/eu-visa-strategy_en