

10 languages

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National identity cards are [identity documents](#) issued to citizens of most [European Union](#) and [European Economic Area](#) (EEA) member states, with the exception of [Denmark](#) and [Ireland](#) (which however issues an equivalent [passport card](#)).^{[6][7]} A new common identity card model harmonized the various formats in use from 2 August 2021 and older ID cards are currently being phased out according to EU Regulation 2019/1157.^[8]

As of 2021, there are approximately two hundred million national identity cards in use in the EU/EEA.^[1] They are compulsory in fifteen countries, voluntary in eleven countries and in five countries they are semi-compulsory (possession of some ID is required).^[8]

Citizens holding a national identity card, which states citizenship of an EEA member state or Switzerland, can use it as an [identity document](#) within their home country, and as a [travel document](#) to exercise the [right of free movement](#) in the EEA and [Switzerland](#).^{[9]:Articles 4 and 5}^[4]^[10] However, identity cards that do not state citizenship of an EEA member state or Switzerland, including residence permits or residence cards issued to non-citizens, are not valid as [travel documents](#) within the EEA and Switzerland.^[11]^[12]^[13]

Travel document [\[edit \]](#)

As an alternative to presenting a [passport](#), EEA and Swiss citizens are entitled to use a valid national identity card as a stand-alone [travel document](#) to exercise their [right of free movement](#) in the European Economic Area and Switzerland.^[9] Articles 4 and 5^{[4][10]} National identity card ownership in most EU countries and Switzerland is much more widespread than passport ownership.^[14]

When travelling within the [Nordic Passport Union](#), no identity documentation is legally required by [Nordic](#) citizens. When travelling within the [Common Travel Area](#) (UK and Ireland), other valid identity documentation (such as a [driving licence](#)) is often sufficient for Irish and British citizens.^[15]

As of 2024, Denmark is the only state that does not issue identity cards that are valid as [travel documents](#) in the EEA member states and Switzerland.^[16] Strictly speaking, it is not necessary for an EEA or Swiss citizen to possess a valid national identity card or passport to enter the EEA and Switzerland. In theory, if an EEA or Swiss citizen can prove their nationality by any other means (e.g. by presenting an expired national identity card or passport, or a citizenship certificate), they must be permitted to enter the EEA and Switzerland. An EEA or Swiss citizen who is unable to demonstrate their nationality satisfactorily must, nonetheless, be given 'every reasonable opportunity' to obtain the necessary documents or to have them delivered within a reasonable period of time.^{[9]:Article 5(4)[17][18]}

Additionally, EEA and Swiss citizens can enter the following countries and territories outside the EEA and Switzerland on the basis of their national identity cards alone, without the need to present a passport to the border authorities:

-  Akrotiri and Dhekelia^[note 1]
-  Albania^[22]
-  Andorra
-  Bosnia and Herzegovina^[23]^[note 2]
-  Faroe Islands^[24]^[note 3] ^[note 4]
-  French overseas territories
-  Georgia (excluding Abkhazia and South Ossetia)^[25]^[note 5]
-  Gibraltar^[note 6]
-  Kosovo^[27]^[note 2]
-  Moldova^[28]^[note 2]
-  Monaco^[note 7]
-  Montenegro^[29]
-  Montserrat^[note 8]
-  North Cyprus^[31]^[note 2]
-  North Macedonia^[32]^[note 2]^[note 9]
-  San Marino^[note 7]
-  Serbia^[33]^[note 10]
-  Transnistria^[34]
-  Vatican City^[note 7]

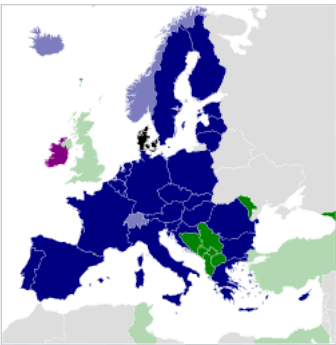
Turkey allows citizens of [Belgium](#), [Bulgaria](#),^[35] [France](#), [Germany](#), [Greece](#), [Hungary](#), [Italy](#), [Liechtenstein](#), [Luxembourg](#), [Malta](#), [Netherlands](#), [Poland](#), [Portugal](#), [Romania](#), [Spain](#) and [Switzerland](#) using a national identity card for short-term visits.

Similarly, [Egypt](#) allows citizens of [Belgium](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Italy](#), and [Portugal](#) to enter using a national identity card for short-term visits.^{[36][37]}

Anguilla, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Mauritius, Guernsey and Jersey allow citizens of France to enter using a national ID card.

Examples of European standard ID cards issued in [Bulgaria](#) and [Norway](#). ID cards issued in [EFTA](#) countries do not feature the EU flag.

Card type	Identity card
Issued by	 Member states of the European Economic Area  Switzerland
First issued	2 August 2021 (new EU-standard)
In circulation	53 million (2023, new EU-standard) ^[1] ~200 million (total) ^[2]
Valid in	 EU ^[3] and  EFTA ^{[4][5]} Various other countries and territories depending on the country of issue
Eligibility	Citizens of the European Economic Area and Switzerland
Expiration	New cards: Maximum 10 years Non-MRZ: 2 Aug 2026 Non-EU standard: 2 Aug 2031
Size	ID-1



-  EU state, national ID card issued
-  EFTA member, national ID card issued
-  EU state, passport card issued (Ireland)
-  EU state, no national ID card issued (Denmark)
-  Accepts EU/EFTA national ID cards
-  Accepts some EU/EFTA national ID cards (or under certain conditions)

[Belgium](#) allows citizens of Belgium to enter using a national ID card.^[38]

[Greenland](#) allows Nordic citizens to use any identification document containing a photo.^[39]

The [United Kingdom](#) and the [Crown Dependencies](#) allows EU, EEA and Swiss citizens to use national identity cards for entry if they have rights under the [Withdrawal Agreement](#), which applies generally to EU/EFTA citizens residing in the UK before [Brexit](#).^{[40][41][42]} Under the Brexit withdrawal agreement, the United Kingdom has an option to cease accepting identity cards that do not comply with [ICAO](#) biometric specifications after 31 December 2025.^{[43][44]}

According to their local laws, Swedish and Finnish citizens cannot leave their country directly for a non-EU/EFTA country with only their ID cards.^{[45][46][47]}

Additional checks for some citizens [\[edit \]](#)

At the [external border crossing points](#) of the Schengen Area, if a traveller presents a travel document without a [machine readable](#) zone and the border guard has 'doubt about his/her identity', the traveller may be requested to undergo a more in-depth 'second line' check.^[17] In practice, this means that Greek or Italian citizens who present an old-format paper [Greek](#) or [Italian](#) identity card could be subject to additional checks and delay when entering/leaving the Schengen Area.^[48]

With effect from 7 April 2017, it is mandatory for border guards in the [Schengen Area](#) to check on a systematic basis the travel documents of all EEA and Swiss citizens crossing external borders against relevant databases.^[49] Until 7 April 2017, border guards in the Schengen Area were only obliged to perform a 'rapid' and 'straightforward' visual check for signs of falsification and tampering, and were not obliged to use technical devices – such as document scanners, UV light and magnifiers – when EEA and Swiss citizens presented their passports or national identity cards at external border checkpoints.^[50] They were not legally obliged to check the passports/national identity cards of EEA and Swiss citizens against a database of lost/stolen/invalidated travel documents (and, if they did so, they could only perform a 'rapid' and 'straightforward' database check, and could only check to see if the traveller was on a database containing persons of interest on a strictly 'non-systematic' basis where such a threat was 'genuine', 'present' and 'sufficiently serious').^[50]

According to statistics published by [Frontex](#), in 2015 the top 6 EU member states whose national identity cards were falsified and detected at [external border crossing points of the Schengen Area](#) were Italy, Spain, Belgium, Greece, France and Romania.^[51] These countries remained the top 6 in 2016.^[52]

Identification document [\[edit \]](#)

Usage in own country

There are varying rules on domestic usage of identity documents. Some countries demand the usage of the national identity card or a passport. Other countries allow usage of other documents like [driver's licences](#).

In eleven countries, e.g. Austria, Finland, Sweden and Iceland, national identity cards are fully voluntary and not needed by everyone, as identity documents like driving licences are accepted domestically. In these countries only a minority have a national identity card, since a majority use a passport or driving licence for identification purposes and do not need more identity documents. Similarly, the Irish Passport Card is voluntary.^[53]

However, even in those EEA countries that impose a national identity card requirement on their citizens, it is generally not required to carry the identity cards at all times.

Usage outside own country

EEA and Swiss citizens exercising their [right of free movement](#) in another EEA member state or Switzerland are entitled to use their national identity card as an identification document when dealing not just with government authorities, but also with private sector service providers. For example, where a supermarket in the Netherlands refuses to accept a German national identity card as proof of age when a German citizen attempts to purchase an age-restricted product and insists on the production of a Dutch-issued passport or driving licence or other identity document, the supermarket would, in effect, be discriminating against this individual on this basis of their nationality in the provision of a service, thereby contravening the prohibition in [Art 20\(2\) of Directive 2006/123/EC](#) of discriminatory treatment relating to the nationality of a service recipient in the conditions of access to a service which are made available to the public at large by a service provider.^[54] In those EEA countries whose citizens are required by law to obtain a national identity card, only a minority have a passport, since it is not needed for travelling across much of Europe.

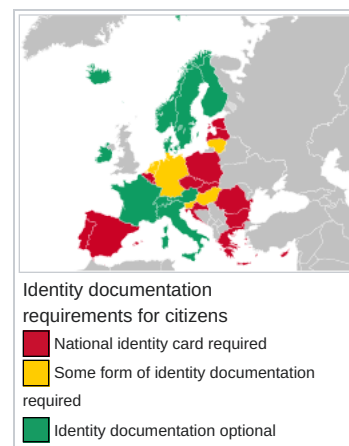
Usage in third countries

National identity cards are often accepted in other parts of the world for unofficial identification purposes (such as age verification in commercial establishments that serve or sell alcohol, or checking in at hotels) and sometimes for official purposes such as proof of identity and nationality to authorities (especially machine-readable cards).

Electronic identity cards (eID) [\[edit \]](#)

As of 2024, all EU/EEA countries (except Denmark) issue national identity cards with contact and/or [contactless \(NFC\) smart card](#) functionality. The regulation dictates that the eID functions must be logically or physically separate from the [ICAO biometric](#) function of the card.^{[1][55]}

Digital signature applications can be used which enables the bearer to authenticate themselves digitally using their identity card.^[56] Consequently, they can authenticate documents to satisfy any third party that the document's not been altered after being digitally signed, as well as to identify the identity card holder. This application uses a registered certificate in conjunction with public/private key pairs so these enhanced cards do not necessarily have to participate in online transactions.^[57] This can be achieved by using a smartcard reader paired with a computer (for contact and contactless cards), or via the NFC interface present in many smartphones (for contactless cards).



growing number of EU countries have introduced dedicated [mobile apps](#), linked to state registries, that replace physical identity cards. In 2024, the EU passed [regulations](#) aimed at standardising electronic identities also through mobile wallets.

Common design and security features [\[edit\]](#)

European Union standards from 2006 [\[edit\]](#)

On 4 December 2006, all [European Union member states](#) agreed to adopt common designs and minimum security standards for national identity cards that were in the draft resolution of 15 November 2006:^{[58][59]} This included laminated paper core cards and cards made of a synthetic substrate. The standard specified minimum biographical information (including doc. no., validity, signature), machine readability and ICAO conformity.^[60]

[EU Regulations](#) from April 2017 revising the Schengen Borders Code, introduced systematic checks of travel documents of EU, EEA and Swiss citizens against relevant databases when entering and leaving the [Schengen Area](#), and states that all member states should phase out national identity cards which are not [machine-readable](#).^[61]

New European Union standards from 2019 [\[edit\]](#)

In 2019, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union adopted a new regulation with a new common format of identity cards. The purpose of the regulation was to replace and harmonize the various identity card models currently in use in Europe. The regulation began to apply to the [European Union](#) (EU) on 2 August 2021 and the [European Economic Area](#) (EEA) from 1 February 2024.^[a]

As of June 2024, all EU/EEA countries issue national ID cards which are compliant with the 2019 legislation.

However, the regulation was declared invalid by the [European Court of Justice](#) in March 2024 as it had been adopted on an incorrect legal basis. It remains temporarily in force until, at the latest, 31 December 2026 so that the Council may adopt a new regulation on the correct legal basis.^[64]

According to the EU law, Member States (including EEA States, with exceptions), should issue identity cards according to Regulation (EU) 2019/1157 which states that ^[8]

- Identity cards shall be produced in [ID-1 format](#) and shall contain a [machine-readable zone \(MRZ\)](#).
- Security standards shall be based on ICAO [Document 9303](#).
- The document shall bear the title 'Identity card' in the official language and in at least one other official language of the institutions of the Union.
- It shall contain the two-letter country code of the Member State issuing the card, printed in negative in a blue rectangle and encircled by 12 yellow stars ([EU Flag](#)) on the front side. (Requirement of the EU flag does not apply in Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein)^[65]
- It shall include a highly secure storage medium which shall contain a facial image of the holder of the card and two fingerprints in interoperable digital formats. The storage medium shall have sufficient capacity and capability to guarantee the integrity, the authenticity and the confidentiality of the data. The data stored shall be accessible in contactless form and secured as provided for in Implementing Decision (European Union) C(2018) 7767.^[66]
- Identity cards shall have a minimum period of validity of 5 years and a maximum period of validity of 10 years. But Member States may provide for a period of validity of less than 5 years for minors and more than 10 years for persons aged 70 and above.
- Identity cards which do not meet the new requirements shall cease to be valid at their expiry or by 3 August 2031.
- Identity cards which do not meet the minimum security standards or which do not include a functional MRZ shall cease to be valid at their expiry or by 3 August 2026.
- Identity cards of persons aged 70 and above at 2 August 2021, which meet the minimum security standards and which have a functional MRZ shall cease to be valid at their expiry.

Article 16 states that this Regulation shall apply from 2 August 2021.

Regulation 2019/1157

European Union regulation

Text with EEA relevance



Title	Regulation (EU) 2019/1157 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on strengthening the security of identity cards of Union citizens and of residence documents issued to Union citizens and their family members exercising their right of free movement
Made by	European Parliament and Council
Made under	Art. 21(2) TFEU
Journal reference	L 188 , pp. 67–78
EEA Joint Committee decision	50/2023
History	
Date made	20 June 2019
Entry into force	10 July 2019
Applies from	2 August 2021
Preparative texts	
Commission proposal	17 April 2018
Current legislation	

Examples of the new design standard



Austrian identity card



Belgian identity card



Dutch identity card



Spanish identity card

For several member countries the new requirements do not mean that the design or features of the existing cards change much, since they mostly fulfil the requirements already. For some this means a large redesign. A visible change for all countries is the country code inside the EU flag.

EU identity cards have an identifying initial character of either **A**, **C** or **I** ^[67] in the **MRZ** on the obverse side. All EU/EEA identity cards have the initial identifying characters **ID** or **I<** except Italy, Ireland, Cyprus and Norway. , Croatia uses **IO** . However, Italy and Norway use the initial character **C** for their identity cards. Irish passport cards, which are not identity cards, have the initial identifying characters **IP** in common with the [United States passport card](#).

Cyprus began issuing identity cards conforming to the harmonised requirements as early as August 2020, becoming the first country to implement the new standard, followed by Malta the same month. Implementation throughout the member states progressed gradually and was completed when Portugal and Bulgaria implemented the new standards in June 2024.^{[68][7][69]} In 2019, the EU estimated that around 80 million ID cards in circulation were not machine-readable, and will therefore expire in 2026.^[70]

Cards issued by EEA states [\[edit \]](#)

As a result of the EEA agreement, in February 2024, [Norway](#), [Iceland](#) and [Liechtenstein](#) became bound by Regulation 2019/1157 with some special provisions, including the lack of a requirement of an EU flag.^{[71][72]} [Norwegian identity cards](#) have been compliant with the regulation since July 2021. [Liechtenstein](#) began issuing biometric EU-standard ID cards in January 2024.^[73] Iceland began to issue new EU-standard ID cards in March 2024, the first in the world to use the new additional ICAO 9303 format with a vertical format. Identity cards issued by EEA states are equally as valid as EU identity cards within the EU and EFTA.^{[74][75][76]}

Non-compliant identity cards [\[edit \]](#)

Denmark, Ireland and Switzerland do not issue national identity cards compliant to the EU Regulation 2019/1157, for different reasons outlined below.









Danish identity cards are issued by municipalities, each having their own design, and are not accepted as valid travel documents outside Denmark. They were launched in 2017, replacing previous 'Youth Cards'.^[77] Since 2018 the nationality of the cardholder has been included, which briefly allowed the card to be used for travel to Sweden.^[78] However, in September 2019, Swedish authorities explicitly banned Danish municipal identity cards from being used for entry, due to their low level of security. Danish municipal ID cards are mostly only valid for proof of age requirements.^[79] In 2021, the Danish Ministry of Interior concluded that more secure national ID cards were not on the agenda due to costs.^[80]


























Ireland does not issue identity cards, but issues an almost functionally equivalent [passport card](#) on an optional basis only to those who have an Irish passport booklet. Recital 14 of the EU Regulation states that it does not apply to [Irish passport cards](#) because they do not serve identification purposes in the issuing member state. Irish passport cards nevertheless follow the ICAO 9303 standard and are biometrically compliant but do not contain the EU flag. However, the name of the European Union does appear on them.^[8]

[Swiss ID cards](#) are not subject to the EU Regulation; however, they are [machine-readable](#) but do not contain biometric data. Nevertheless, Swiss ID cards are valid for travel across the EU and EEA due to [bilateral agreements](#) and the [Schengen acquis](#).























Overview of national identity cards [\[edit \]](#)

Member states issue a variety of national identity cards with differing technical specifications and according to differing issuing procedures. In most member states, cards can be issued abroad through the country's respective consulates.^[81]

Member state	Smart card interface	Front	Reverse	Compulsory/optional	Cost	Validity	Issuing authority	Latest version
<div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Austria</div></div><div></div></div></div></div>	Contactless			Identity documentation is optional	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• €61.50 (applicants aged 16 or over)• €26.30 (children aged 2–15)• Free of charge (children under 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 years (ages >12)• 5 years (ages 2–11)• 2 years (<2)		2 August 2021 ^[82]
<div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Belgium</div></div><div></div></div></div></div>	Contact Contactless			National identity card compulsory for Belgian citizens aged 12 or over	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Differs per city• equivalent of €11 or €17 in local currency (citizens registered abroad)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 years (ages 12 to 18)• 10 years (age >18)	Municipality	15 July 2021 ^[83]
<div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Bulgaria</div></div><div></div></div></div></div>	Contactless			National identity card compulsory for Bulgarian citizens aged 14 or over	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• first card free (age 14–16)• €6.65 (age 14–17) for 30-day issue, €13.29 for 3-day issue• €9.20 (age 18–69) for 30-day issue, €18.41 for 3-day issue• free (age 70+)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 years (age 14–17)• 10 years (age 18–69)• 10 or 30 years (age 70+)	The police on behalf of the Ministry of the Interior	17 June 2024 ^[84]
<div><div><div><div><div></div><div>Croatia</div></div><div></div></div></div></div>	Contact Contactless			National identity card compulsory for Croatian citizens resident in Croatia aged 18 or over	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First card free of charge (age <18)• €13.27 (age 5–70)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 years <p><i>Note: Those aged over 70 may use their card past</i></p>	The police on behalf of the Ministry of the Interior ^[87]	2 August 2021

					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €9.29 (age >70)^[85] • €25.88 for 10-day issue • €66.36 for 3-day issue 	expiry indefinitely ^[86]		
 Cyprus	Contactless			National identity card compulsory for Cypriot citizens aged 12 or over	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €30 (applicants aged 18 or over) • €20 (children under 18) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 years (age >18) • 5 years (age <18) 		12 August 2020
 Czech Republic	Contact			National identity card compulsory for Czech citizens over 15 years of age with permanent residency in the Czech Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free of charge for first issue or renewal of data • 200 CZK for all ID cards with an electronic chip for all reasons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 years (age >15) • 5 years (age <15) 	Municipality on behalf of the Ministry of the Interior	2 August 2021
 Denmark	No	No national identity card. Danish identity cards are issued by municipalities without a common design and are not usable as travel documentation. ^[88]		Identity documentation is optional (for Danish and Nordic citizens) ^[3]	150 DKK	10 years	Municipality	21 November 2017 ^[89]
 Estonia	Contact ^[90] ^[91]			National identity card compulsory for all Estonian citizens aged 15 or over	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €7 (age <15, retired or disabled, in Estonia) • €10 (age <15, retired or disabled, abroad) • €25 (age >15, in Estonia) • €50 (age >15, abroad) • €45 (urgent)^[92] 	5 years	Police and Border Guard Board	23 August 2021
 Finland	Contact ^[93]			Identity documentation is optional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €49-55 (regular, for all citizens)^[94] • €33-39 (children under 18, not valid as a travel document) 	5 years	Police	13 March 2023
 France	Contact Contactless ^[95]			National identity card optional ^[96]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free of charge • €25 (if the previous one cannot be presented, e.g., it was lost or stolen) 	10 years ^[97]	City halls with a <i>Dispositif de Recueil</i> (on behalf of the prefecture) ^[98]	15 March 2021 ^[97]
 Germany	Contactless			National identity card optional; however, a national identity card or passport is compulsory for German citizens aged 16 or over.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €37.00 (applicants aged 24 or over) • €22.80 (applicants aged under 24) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 years (age >24) • 6 years (age <24) 	City or town of residence	2 May 2024 ^[99]
 Greece	Contactless			National identity card compulsory for Greek citizens aged 12 or over	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €10 for first issue and renewal (or reissue after reported stolen) • €5 for members of large family households • + €9 for reissue if lost or destroyed^[100] 	10 years	Police	25 September 2023 ^[101]
 Hungary	Contactless			National identity card optional; however, a national identity card, passport or driving licence is compulsory for all Hungarian citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free of charge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 years (age >70) • 6 years (age 18–70) • 3 years (age <18) 	Ministry of Interior	2 August 2021

 Iceland	Contactless			Identity documentation is optional (for Icelandic and Nordic citizens ^[3])	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9,200 ISK (18–66) • 4,600 for children, elderly and disabled • 2x cost for urgent application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 years (age >18) • 5 years (age <18) 	Sheriff, on behalf of Registers Iceland	5 March 2024 ^[75]
 Ireland		No national identity card. Ireland issues an optional passport card , only if the applicant already has a valid passport booklet, or gets one in the same application.		Identity documentation is optional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €35 (standalone) • €25 (as part of a passport application) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 years (or less, matched to passport) 	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	14 October 2021
		Link to image	Link to image					
 Italy	Contactless ^[102] [103]			National identity card optional ^[104]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Italy: €16.79 + fees depending on municipality^[105] • Abroad: €21.95 or €27.11 (if previous card was lost or stolen)^[106] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 years (age <3) • 5 years (age 3–18) • 10 years (age >18)^[107] <p><i>Note: validity expires on birthday^[108]</i></p>	Municipality of residence on behalf of the Ministry of the Interior^{[105][106]}	29 September 2022
 Latvia	Contact Contactless ^[109] [110]			National identity card compulsory for Latvian citizens aged 15 or over. ^[111]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €14.23 • €7.11 (age <20, retirees) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 years (age <5) • 5 years (age 5–20) • 10 years (age >20)^[112] 	Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs	12 October 2021
 Liechtenstein	Contactless			Identity documentation is optional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHF65 (adults aged 18 or over) • CHF30 (children under 18) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 years (age >15) • 3 years (age <15) 	Immigration and Passport Office, Vaduz	3 January 2024
 Lithuania	Contact Contactless ^[113]			National identity card optional; however, a national identity card or passport is compulsory for Lithuanian citizens aged 16 or over.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €8.6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 years (age >16) • 5 years (age <16) 	Migration Department	17 August 2021
 Luxembourg	Contactless ^[114]			National identity card compulsory for Luxembourgish citizens resident in Luxembourg aged 15 or over	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €14 (people aged 15 or over) • €10 (children aged 4–14) • €5 (children under 4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 years (age >18) • 5 years (age 4–14) • 2 years (age <4) 	Ministry of the Interior	2 August 2021
 Malta	Contactless			National identity card compulsory for Maltese citizens aged 18 or over	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free of charge for first issue or renewal of data • €22 for renewal if lost, stolen or destroyed • €16.50 for renewal if defaced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 years 	Identity Malta^[115]	28 September 2020 ^{[116][117]}
 Netherlands	Contactless ^[118]			National identity card optional; however, valid identity documentation is compulsory for all persons aged 14 or over.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €40.92 (age <18)^[119] • €75.80 (age ≥18)^[119] • €87.00 (age <18, abroad)^[120] • €121.95 (age ≥18, abroad)^[120] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 years (age <18)^[121] • 10 years (age >18)^[122] 	Municipality	2 August 2021 ^[123]
 Norway	Contactless			Identity documentation is optional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOK 750 (adults and children aged 10 or older) • NOK 450 (children under 10)^[124] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 years (age >10) • 3 years (age 5–10) • 2 years (age <5)^[124] 	Norwegian Police Service	29 July 2021 ^{[125][126]}

 Poland	Contactless			National identity card compulsory for Polish citizens resident in Poland aged 18 or over and optional for those under 18 and those residing abroad.	Free of charge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 years (age >12) • 5 years (age <12) 	Municipality	8 November 2021
 Portugal	Contact Contactless ^[127]			National identity card (called "Citizen Card") compulsory for Portuguese citizens aged 20 days or over ^[128]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free of charge (age <1) • €15 (age 1–25, in Portugal) • €18 (age >25, in Portugal) • €20 (age 1–25, abroad) • €23 (age >25, abroad) • €30 to €70 (expedited) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 years (age >25) • 5 years (age <25) 	Institute of Registries and Notary	11 June 2024
 Romania	Contact Contactless ^[129]			National identity card compulsory for Romanian citizens aged 14 or over with permanent residence in Romania	7 RON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 years (age ≥25) • 7 years (age 18–24) • 4 years (age 14–17) 	Ministry of Internal Affairs through the Directorate for Persons Record and Databases Management	2 August 2021 (Only available in the Cluj County) 20 March 2025 (Available the entire country)
 Slovakia	Contact Contactless	Link to image	Link to image	National identity card compulsory for Slovak citizens aged 15 or over with permanent residence in Slovakia ^[130]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free of charge (first card, renewal after expiration) • €25 (reissue of lost or stolen card, free of charge if stolen during a robbery) • €7 (reissue for all other reasons) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 years (age >15) • 5 years (age 6–15) • 2 years (age <6) 	Police	18 December 2024
 Slovenia	Contact Contactless ^[131]			National identity card optional; however, a form of ID with photo is compulsory for Slovenian citizens permanently resident in Slovenia aged 18 or over	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €22.27 (age <3) • €24.07 (age 3–12) • €24.93 (age 12–18) • €29.53 (age >18) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 years (age <3) • 5 years (age 3–18) • 10 years (age >18) 	Administrative unit	28 March 2022
 Spain	Contact Contactless ^[132]			National identity card compulsory for Spanish citizens residing in Spain aged 14 or over (not required for those residing abroad)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • €12 (first issued, expired, lost or damaged) • Free of charge (change of residency, "large family" status ^[133]) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 years (age >30) • 5 years (age <30) 	National Police Corps	2 August 2021
 Sweden	Contactless			Identity documentation is optional	SEK 400	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 years (age >12) • 3 years (age <12) 	Swedish Police Authority	1 January 2022 ^[134]
 Switzerland	No			Identity documentation is optional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHF 70 (adults) • CHF 35 (children) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 years (age >18) • 5 years (age <18) 	Federal Office of Police through canton / municipality of residence	3 March 2023 ^[135] ^[1]

See also [[][edit](#)[]]

- [Passports of the European Union](#)
- [European driving licence](#)
- [European Health Insurance Card](#)
- [Citizenship of the European Union](#)
- [Visa requirements for European Union citizens](#)
- [Schengen Area](#)



- [List of national identity card policies by country](#)
- [Identity document](#)
- [Internal passport](#)

Notes [\[edit \]](#)

- a. [^] The legal *acquis* has been identified as [EEA](#)-relevant by the EU Commission, which makes it under scrutiny for incorporation into the [EEA Agreement](#) by [Iceland](#), [Liechtenstein](#) and [Norway](#).^[62] However, the legal basis rely on Article 21 of the [Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union](#), an article which is not reflected in the EEA Agreement.^[63]
1. [^] The British Sovereign Base Areas of [Akrotiri and Dhekelia](#) has no border control to [Cyprus](#) and follows the [visa policy of the Schengen Area](#), but requires permits for stays longer than 28 days per 12-month period.^{[19][20]} These rules were not affected by [Brexit](#).^[21]
2. [^] ^a ^b ^c ^d ^e National ID cards only accepted for short-term visits, and a passport is required to take up residency.
3. [^] Open border with the Schengen Area due to open borders with the Nordic countries ([Nordic Passport Union](#)). Citizens of EU/EFTA countries can use an ID card.
4. [^] Except for Nordic citizens, national ID cards are only accepted for short-term visits, and a passport is required to take up residency
5. [^] Not valid for Norwegian or Icelandic citizens.
6. [^] On 31 December 2020, [Spain](#) and [UK](#) signed an agreement to begin negotiations for [Gibraltar](#) to join the [Schengen Area](#).^[26]
7. [^] ^a ^b ^c [Monaco](#) is *de facto* part of the Schengen Area under an arrangement with France, while [San Marino](#) and [Vatican City](#) are enclaves of Italy with open land borders. For further information, see: [Schengen Area § Status of the European microstates](#).
8. [^] Up to 14 days and only for passengers in transit to another destination. French citizens can visit [Montserrat](#) up to 6 months with their ID cards, if in possession of a return ticket to their origin country. (*as stated at page 69, Section 17 of Chapter 13.01 Immigration Act*)^[30]
9. [^] Not valid for Irish citizens.
10. [^] Not valid for Liechtenstein citizens.

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4. [^] ^a ^b ^c ["APPENDIX 1 Movement of persons \(Art. 20\)"](#) (PDF). Article 1.

5. [^] **Cite error: The named reference :22002A0430 (01) was invoked but never defined (see the help page).**

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9. [^] ^a ^b ^c [Directive 2004/38/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the right of citizens of the Union and their family members to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States amending Regulation \(EEC\) No 1612/68 and repealing Directives 64/221/EEC, 68/360/EEC, 72/194/EEC, 73/148/EEC, 75/34/EEC, 75/35/EEC, 90/364/EEC, 90/365/EEC and 93/96/EEC](#)

10. [^] ^a ^b ^c [Agreement between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Swiss Confederation, of the other, on the free movement of persons - Final Act - Joint Declarations - Information relating to the entry into force of the seven Agreements with the Swiss Confederation in the sectors free movement of persons, air and land transport, public procurement, scientific and technological cooperation, mutual recognition in relation to conformity assessment, and trade in agricultural products](#)

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