citigen*z

THE SCHENGEN AREA

To make freedom of movement a reality, the EU created, in 1995, an "area of freedom, security and justice".

BENEFITS

Free movement of persons enables every EU citizen to travel, work and live in an EU country without special formalities.

Schengen improves this freedom by allowing to **move around the Schengen Area without going through border checks**.

This means:

- **EU Citizens can travel across the Schengen area without any control such as an ID check;**

- **Citizens from countries outside of the Schengen area can get a single Schengen Visa to visit the whole area.**

Exceptions

In exceptional situations, when public health or security is at risk especially, Schengen countries can **temporarily reintroduce border controls**. Like during the Covid pandemic!

Schengen ≠ EU !

In 2024, Schengen covers 29 countries.

25 EU countries: Ireland opted out, Cyprus has not joined yet.

4 non-EU countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland are associated!

Security & Justice

To avoid freedom of movement making international crime easier, Schengen countries have reinforced their cooperation:

- **Police: "Europol"** helps exchanging information on crimes and investigations, arresting criminals abroad ...

- **Judicial cooperation ("Eurojust")**: justice also cooperates, e.g. to have judgments recognized in all countries.

CYPRUS