

# Factsheet

## Privacy & Information-supported decision-making

### *Short-stay visas (KVV's)*

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#### Information for applicants and sponsors

If you want to visit the Netherlands for a short stay and require a visa, or if you want to sponsor someone who is going to apply for a visa, this information is for you.

In this factsheet the Ministry of Foreign Affairs explains how your and which personal data is processed. This information is in addition to the ministry's [general privacy statement](#). We recommend that you also read that statement carefully, especially the [Privacy statement regarding short-stay visa applications](#).

#### How the Ministry of Foreign Affairs processes applications

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is responsible for processing and assessing applications for short-stay visa. Due to the large number of applications it receives, and to ensure that it can carry out its work as objectively and thoroughly as possible, the ministry uses a method based on data analysis. This is called information-supported decision-making.

#### Information-supported decision-making

Information-supported decision-making means that the ministry uses a range of data to assess a visa application.

For example:

- data that the ministry has received directly from you, or your sponsor, when applying for a visa (for example, the application form and the necessary documents);
- data that the ministry has received from third parties in the migration chain, which can be directly linked to you as an applicant or sponsor (for example, about the handling of a similar visa in the past, or about falsified documents); and
- data that the ministry has based on analyses, and that cannot be directly linked to you or your sponsor; also called profiles. These may give information about your visa application based on similar previous applications and provide us with advice on how extensively we need to assess the application.

The ministry uses all of this information to determine whether a visa application meets the legal requirements. The data used for this purpose is processed by the ministry on the basis of our government task: processing and assessing short-stay visa applications.

## How does this work in practice?

Information-supported decision-making works by comparing information given in your visa application with information held by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This means that in its system the ministry compares the data that it has received from you (or your sponsor) or that it has gathered itself during the visa process. In addition, the information is compared with information that the ministry has received from various other government organisations. Profiling forms an element of information-supported decision-making. The ministry makes use of profiling in order to have as efficiently as possible access to relevant information. By doing so, the visa decision officers receive supporting advice in view of an objective visa decision-making process.

If there is a match between your information provided in the application and the information held in the ministry's system (amongst others a profile), the match can help determine whether an application can be fast-tracked or whether, for example, an interview or extra document check is needed.

## Will this affect my visa application?

The criteria for obtaining a short-stay visa are, and always will be, the same for everyone. This is irrespective of information about compliance with the conditions that applied to visa issued in the past or regarding your sponsor. These criteria have been agreed on by Schengen countries and are laid down in the [Visa Code](#).

The final decision to issue a visa or refuse is solely based on the conditions and refusal grounds as laid down in the Visa Code.

Information-supported decision-making only assists with decisions on applications. An extra interview may be recommended on the basis of the results. It is never a reason for refusing a visa in itself.

The information that the ministry uses ensures that a decision can be taken more quickly and more objectively. Ultimately, it is the consular officer who will decide whether or not to issue a visa. It is not a form of automated decision-making.

## What data does the Ministry of Foreign Affairs gather and use?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs uses the following data for information-supported decision-making:

### 1. Start of visa application processing:

Application form and the required supporting documents

### 2. Processing of visa application:

- Application form and the required supporting documents
- Information on previous visa applications, where relevant (kept for a maximum of 5 years)
- Where applicable, additional information provided on request by the applicant/sponsor or gathered by the ministry (e.g. information obtained during an interview)
- Results of analyses based on information of similar visa applications (not directly traceable to applicant/sponsor) by way of profiling

### 3. Deciding on visa application:

Information mentioned above

When processing the visa application, information about the applicant and/or specified sponsor can also be requested from a third party in the immigration system. These could be:

- Royal Military and Border Police
- Immigration and Naturalisation Service (IND)
- Repatriation and Departure Service
- Social Affairs and Employment Inspectorate

## How long will this data be kept?

All data relating to the visa process will be deleted from the ministry's system or anonymised after 5 years.

## Do you share my data with other organisations?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs only shares information with other government organisations and/or authorities when this is necessary to facilitate public tasks in the field of border control, supervision and enforcement and return.

This is done under strict conditions, within the applicable laws and regulations, including those relating to data protection.

## Right to object

Under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) you are entitled to object to your personal data being processed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The ministry will consider your objection and stop processing personal data if this proves necessary. You can submit an objection to the address given below.

## Any questions?

If you have any questions about information-supported decision-making or would like to view your information, correct it or ask that it be removed from the system, please contact:

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Consular Affairs and Visa Policy Department (DCV)

Postbus 20061

2500 EB Den Haag

Or send an email to [DCV-BAO@minbuza.nl](mailto:DCV-BAO@minbuza.nl).

See the Ministry of Foreign Affairs [privacy statement](#) for more information about exercising your rights and contacting the ministry.

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**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**  
Postbus 20061 | 2500 EB Den Haag

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