



SISEMINISTEERIUM  
Estonian Ministry of the Interior

# The Enlargement of the Schengen Borders: Opportunities and challenges for Estonia

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ÜHTSUS ♦ KOOSTÖÖVALMIDUS ♦ LAHENDUSEKESKSUS ♦ EESMÄRGIPÄRASUS



# Political situation in East Europe 1990-s

“Is the world now more secure or  
insecure?”



# Opportunities for Estonia:

- ◆ European Union
- ◆ NATO
- ◆ Schengen area

We succeeded, but the work continues!



# Schengen Agreement

- ◆ Freedom of movement
- ◆ Increased security



# Estonia's three challenges:

- ◆ Guarding the Schengen external border
- ◆ Enhancing international police cooperation
- ◆ Raising the capacity of internal security



## Schengen evaluations showed:

- ◆ Estonia is trustworthy and able to ensure a quality on internal security conforming to the Schengen requirements



# International cooperation

- ◆ Through common principles and legislative standards is cooperation more simple
- ◆ Cross-border investigation, observation and pursuit
- ◆ Before Schengen: joint investigation teams with Finland
- ◆ Now enhanced cooperation with Latvia



# The future: Prüm Treaty

- ◆ DNA and fingerprint data
- ◆ Already cooperation with Finland
- ◆ First results – DNA and fingerprint exchange is effective mechanism



# Internal cooperation

- ◆ Cooperation between various bodies responsible for internal security has become closer
- ◆ Joint patrols: The police involves specialists from different agencies in its patrol units
- ◆ The police participates directly in border surveillance and migration supervision



# Schengen Information System

- ◆ Before Schengen – only our own databases.
- ◆ SISOne4All integrated solution – we can simultaneously query Estonian databases and SIS
- ◆ Connected with our E-Police system – we can query the SIS from patrol units in the field



## **E – Police system**

- ◆ Patrol vehicles are equipped with modern terminal and positioning device
- ◆ Data about persons, registered fire arms and vehicles
- ◆ Connection with Europol and Interpol information system
- ◆ Data is protected



# E – Police system





## **E – Police system**

- ◆ E – Police system has increased our reaction speed
- ◆ Our experience with E – Police shows that innovative information technology solutions are an important mechanism in order to ensure security



# Joint communications network

- ◆ Another important project
- ◆ Nationwide coverage
- ◆ Independent system
- ◆ Allows cross-border cooperation
- ◆ Major contribution in guarding Schengen external border



# Our experience tells:

- ◆ The Enlargement of the Schengen Borders = more secure Europe



# Successful fight against crime requires:

- ◆ new and innovative solutions
- ◆ More efficient organisation of work
- ◆ Active cooperation between states and institutions



The entire Schengen system supports cooperation and development in the policies of the European Union's "third pillar" – cooperation in justice and internal affairs.



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## Thank you!

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