

Schengen Europe: political structure, practical implications and external perceptions

40 years after its birth

Das Schengen-Europa: politische Ausgestaltung, praktische Auswirkungen und externe Wahrnehmungen 40 Jahre nach der Geburtsstunde

L'Europa di Schengen: costruzione politica, ricadute pratiche e percezioni esterne a 40 anni dalla nascita

14/07/2025 - 16/07/2025

Villa Vigoni, Italy

Via Giulio Vigoni, 1, Lovenato di Menaggio, CO, 22017

40 years after the Schengen Agreement and 30 years after its entry into force, the event brings together leading international experts and young researchers in the field of Schengen from different disciplines, and with distinct research approaches and methodologies and a wide range of empirical experience. The aim is to combine their considerable but necessarily fragmented expertise in order to enable an intensive, interdisciplinary and, above all, multi-perspective examination of the Schengen's history, current state and prospects. On the occasion of the Schengen anniversaries, we want to reflect, take stock of the state of research and think ahead. While most publications or events on the subject highlighted a specific disciplinary aspect, usually legal or political, the Villa Vigoni discussion format offers the opportunity to initiate a comprehensive synthesis of knowledge. The combination of historical and contemporary analyses from the humanities and social sciences, together with both an internal and external perspective on Schengen, promises to be a profound scholarly gain from the event. This also includes issues that have so far been less present in this context, such as the global dimension of Schengen, in particular the impact of the free movement of persons within the European Union on mobility in the European neighborhood, as well as the interaction with other policy areas or the special role of peripheral member states. The focus will be on a comparative analysis of Germany and Italy, which, despite the breadth of the topic, will allow for a specific and in-depth examination. Recent developments, with an increase in the reintroduction of controls, will also be looked at. The discussion will promote intergenerational exchange and bring together researchers with different levels of experience. The plurality of perspectives is to be increased even further by integrating a dialogue with the political sphere within the discussion format. This is intended to provide a mutual exchange that can both fertilize scientific reflection and give important ideas and stimuli to EU professionals.

Programme schedule

Monday, 14.07.2025	14:00	Arrival
	15:00 - 15:30	Opening remarks and introduction
	15:30 - 16:30	Personal introductions: Who am I and how is my work related to the Schengen topic?
	16:30 - 17:00	Coffee break
	17:00 - 19:30	The history of the Schengen system: origins, development, prospects
	19:30 - 21:30	Dinner
Tuesday, 15.07.2025	09:00 - 10:45	Schengen's impact on culture, law, economy and society (I)
	10:45 - 11:15	Coffee break
	11:15 - 12:30	Schengen's impact on culture, law, economy and society (II)
	12:30 - 14:30	Lunch
	14:30 - 16:15	The external dimension of Schengen: narratives, perceptions and repercussions in non-Schengen countries (I)
	16:15 - 16:45	Coffee break
	16:45 - 18:00	The external dimension of Schengen: narratives, perceptions and repercussions in non-Schengen countries (II)
	18:00 - 19:30	World Café on Schengen-related questions from doctoral students
	19:30 - 21:30	Dinner
Wednesday, 16.07.2025	09:00 - 09:45	Discussing Schengen with Isaac Stanley-Becker (author of <i>Europe without Borders. A History</i> , Princeton; Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2025)
	09:45 - 11:30	Schengen Exhibited
	11:30 - 12:00	Coffee break
	12:00 - 13:00	Plenary debate: brainstorming for joint follow-ups and conclusion
	13:00 - 14:30	Lunch
	14:30	End of event

Participants

Prof Simone **Paoli**, Università di Pisa

Dr Isabel **Hilpert**, Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde

Dr Marcel **Berlinghoff**, Universität Osnabrück

Dr Kristine **Beurskens**, Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde

Dr Amanda **Bisong**, European Centre for Development Policy Management

Mert **Cangönül**, Koç University/University of Amsterdam, PhD student

Prof Michela **Ceccorulli**, Università di Bologna

Dr Luisa **Chiodi**, Osservatorio Balcani Caucaso Transeuropa (OBCT)

Dr Raffaella **Coletti**, National Research Council of Italy (CNR ISSIRFA)

Dr Emmanuel **Comte**, Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy

Dr Paolo **Cuttitta**, Università di Genova

Prof Raffaella A. **Del Sarto**, European University Institute

Frederik **Doktor**, Universität Flensburg, PhD student

Prof Sabine **Hess**, Universität Göttingen

Prof Sebastian **Lentz**, Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde

Michele **Linfozzi**, Università della Tuscia, PhD student

Prof Judith **Miggelbrink**, Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde

Tobias **Nickl**, Europa-Universität Flensburg, PhD student

Prof Sara **Poli**, Università di Pisa

Dr Anastasia **Remes**, Historical Archives of the European Union

Dieter **Schlenker**, Historical Archives of the European Union

Prof Giuseppe **Sciortino**, Università di Trento

Isaac **Stanley-Becker**, Journalist, staff writer at The Atlantic

Leonie **Staud**, Universität des Saarlandes, PhD student

Prof Daniel **Thym**, Universität Konstanz

Prof Georg **Vobruba**, Universität Leipzig

Prof Ruben **Zaiotti**, Dalhousie University (online)

Detailed programme

Monday, 14.07.2025

14:00	Arrival
15:00 - 15:30	Opening remarks and introduction
15:30 - 16:30	Personal introductions: Who am I and how is my work related to the Schengen topic?
16:30 - 17:00	Coffee break
17:00 - 19:30	The history of the Schengen system: origins, development, prospects Chair: Simone Paoli Anastasia Remes : Before Schengen: Visualizing (the disappearance of) borders in the European Community Giuseppe Sciortino : The Rise and Fall of the Gentle Monster. The European Migration Regime (1980-2027) Marcel Berlinghoff : Finally Free Movement? Schengen's Place in European Migration History Emmanuel Comte : Free Movement in Europe: Why Schengen Was Not the Key Michela Ceccorulli : The persistence of internal controls at border: Schengen and the EU's integration process' Ruben Zaiotti : Schengen as cultural practice (online)
19:30 - 21:30	Dinner

Tuesday, 15.07.2025

09:00 - 10:45	Schengen's impact on culture, law, economy and society (I) Chair: Isabel Hilpert Daniel Thym : The efficacy of Schengen law Kristine Beurskens : (In)Securities at EU internal borders Georg Vobrub a: Schengen in the suction of sovereignty Judith Miggelbrink : "Flying Televisions". On European Borders as Nested Scales
10:45 - 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 - 12:30	Schengen's impact on culture, law, economy and society (II) Chair: Isabel Hilpert Raffaella Coletti : The Schengen treaty and local communities at EU internal borders: evidences and perspectives from Italy Tobias Nickl : 'Schengen': inclusion of vulnerable groups vs. social policy sovereignty of member states Sebastian Lentz : Schengen in everyday life: everyday life in Schengen
12:30 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 - 16:15	The external dimension of Schengen: narratives, perceptions and repercussions in non-Schengen countries (I) Chair: Isabel Hilpert Paolo Cuttitta Externalisation and counter-externalisation along the Central Mediterranean Route Mert Cangönül : Schengen visa regime in Turkey Luisa Chiodi : Schengen seen from the Balkans Amanda Bisong : Beyond the borders: the external dimension of Schengen and its impact on West African countries
16:15 - 16:45	Coffee break
16:45 - 18:00	The external dimension of Schengen: narratives, perceptions and repercussions in non-Schengen countries (II) Chair: Simone Paoli Sara Poli : The dispute between the European Union and Hungary over visa policy towards Belarus and Russia Sabine Hess : From violence to unlawfulness – the ongoing crisis of the European Border Regime Raffaella A. Del Sarto : A borderlands perspective on Europe's Schengen regime
18:00 - 19:30	World Café on Schengen-related questions from doctoral students
19:30 - 21:30	Dinner

Wednesday, 16.07.2025

09:00 - 09:45	Discussing Schengen with Isaac Stanley-Becker (author of <i>Europe without Borders. A History</i>, Princeton; Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2025) Chair: Simone Paoli
09:45 - 11:30	Schengen Exhibited Chair: Dieter Schlenker (director of the Historical Archives of the European Union) Dieter Schlenker: The Historical Archives of the European Union and European borders: an introduction Michele Linfozzi: Schengen's Europe Exhibited: a Comparison between the Musée Européen Schengen and the Musée National de l'Histoire de l'Immigration in Paris Martina Kneip (director of the Centre Européen Schengen): The new Centre Européen Schengen (online) Isabel Hilpert, Simone Paoli: The online exhibition 'Schengen: a Europe without Borders?'
11:30 - 12:00	Coffee break
12:00 - 13:00	Plenary debate: brainstorming for joint follow-ups and conclusion Chairs: Isabel Hilpert, Simone Paoli
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30	End of event