

# 12 REASONS WHY (VISAS GET REJECTED)

In this activity we will look at the reasons given by the official authorities why visas get rejected and reflect on the reasons we think are real taking into account the current capitalist system.

## MATERIALS

- Papers
- Pens
- Post-its

Age	12+
Duration	1h
Group Size	9-15
Space	Any

## OBJECTIVES

- Think about systematic reason visas are denied
- Come up with creative solutions
- Reflect on the influence of the current system in the approval or denial of visas

## STEP-BY-STEP

### Official 12 Reasons why

1. Split the group into threes and give them a sheet where they have to guess the 12 main reasons that are given for Schengen visas to be rejected.
2. Tell them that now they have to say them out loud, and they get a point for every one that they guessed correctly (see annex 1)

### 12 reasons why by us

1. Now, they have to do the same activity, but they have to come up with their 12 main reasons why they think visas don't get granted.
2. Get the groups to present their outcomes getting the group to do an applause barometer clap as hard as they agree) for if they agree/disagree.
3. Collect all of the ideas on a flipchart paper (a second facilitator will do this and merge similar ones)

### All the Possibilities

1. Explain to the group they will go through the reasons/barriers and they will brainstorm solutions - there is no censorship, discussion or judgment for this.
2. The facilitator will read out the reasons one at a time and any solutions they have they must write on a post it. No solution is too crazy or silly. Once they write a post-it note, they must put it in the center of the table and read out what's on it so the rest of the group hears. The facilitator may ask for clarifications but there is no discussion.

## DEBRIEFING

- Were you successful in getting the official reasons?
- What do you think some of the reasons actually mean?
- Do you think they are the real reasons or just excuses or ways to institutionalise different kinds of discrimination?
- What relation do you see between these reasons and the capitalist oppression?
- Think about how some of these can be barriers for some people.
- Who is this helping? Who is this stopping from traveling?
- Do you think all the ideas you had are factible?
- What can you actually do? See that with no restrictions we can find some ideas.

## TIPS

- It would be useful to do an introduction about what is the Schengen area. Read about it in the IFM-SEI visa website (<http://ifm-sei.org/en/projects/on-the-move/visas/>) or in the official website (<https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/>)
- You can find it useful to do some debriefing questions as the activity develops and use the brainstorm as a way to end the session in a positive note.

## ANNEX1

Source: <https://www.schengenvisainfo.com/common-reasons-visa-applications-get-rejected/>

### 12 COMMON REASONS WHY SCHENGEN VISA APPLICATIONS GET REJECTED, 11 Aug 2016

What makes an Embassy or Consulate reject providing you a Schengen Visa? This is the question many people make anytime they are about to apply for such a visa. The fact is that whenever a Schengen visa or any visa gets rejected, there is something UNSATISFACTORY as regards of that visa application.

Many visa applicants get confused and unable to exactly understand the reason for their visa refusal. That is why the article will focus on presenting the common known reasons for such refusal.

A visa application might be considered unsuccessful if the consular officer fails to get from the candidate all the needed information about him/her. Lacking to possess such information, the consular officer will be incapable to decide if the candidate qualifies to be given a visa. On the other hand, sometimes the consular might get information from the applicant that is unacceptable or beyond the fixed procedures. Sometimes the candidate is prone of illegitimate and/or dishonest activities. In all of the aforementioned cases the officer is led to DENY offering a visa to the applicant.

LEARN which are the Most Common Reasons For Failed Schengen Visa Applications, in order to avoid being amongst those who perform them:

#### 1. Past or Current Criminal Actions

The past and current circumstances and actions of the applicant matter a lot in the decision of the consular officer in issuing a Schengen visa. In such cases, the refusal might occur because the applicant is considered a threat to the public policy, internal security or public wealth of Schengen Area (i.e. terrorism, drug abuse, child abuse, addiction, other serious crimes).

#### 2. False Travel Document

There is a common destiny for all the individuals (applicants) who attempt to present false travel documents to the embassy or consulate, trying to misrepresent their identity, using fake identity - and that is an absolute visa denial and other accompanying unfavorable consequences.

#### 3. Insufficient Explanation For The Purpose And Circumstances Of The Planned Stay

Another motive to lead the consular office to deny your Schengen Visa is failing to have the needed justification for your purpose and conditions of the planned travel and stay. Such are the cases of:

- Failing to present an employment and professional qualification that matches with the presented financial situation
- Incapacity to provide documents that support the purpose of travel and stay in the Schengen Area
- Missing to apply for a visa period in conformity with the presented travel itinerary and holiday right or revenue situation
- The inability to offer unchanging declarations about the purpose of travel and stay

#### 4. Damaged Passport

A reason for a visa refusal could be presenting a passport that is not kept in a good condition. Such case can be when passport pages are detaching or missing, when the cover of the passport is damaged and so on.

## 5. Passport Invalidity

Alternative motive to lead the consular officer denying your visa application is presenting a passport that is not acceptable for the Embassy or Consulate. Such cases are classified the following:

- Presenting a passport that does not have a valid period less than three (3) remaining months after the return from the visit in the Schengen Area
- Presenting a passport that does not possess two different blank visa pages
- Presenting a Travel Document Booklet instead of a valid passport
- Presenting a valid passport that is older than ten (10) years

## 6. Lack To Proof The Travel Itinerary

An additional reason for Schengen Visa application fail, is lacking to present the proper plan of your travel within the Schengen Area. Such cases include:

- Applying at the wrong Embassy of the Schengen Area (not being able to determine the main destination of your visit in the Schengen Area)
- Not being able to prove having a booked accommodation for each destination and each night to spend in the Schengen Area
- Not being able to provide booked flight ticket for each applicant (when a group of travelers)
- Not being able to provide travel tickets for each destination to be toured in the Schengen Area.

Learn How to get a Flight Itinerary for Schengen Visa Application without paying any money towards the actual cost of the full airline ticket.

## 7. Invalid Letter of Reference

Further evidenced reason for a failed Schengen Visa application is providing a formal letter of reference that is not authenticated by the author. Such cases involve:

- Lacking to offer a formal letter that has an original letterhead with the address and contact details of the company or the author issuing it
- Lacking to present a formal letter issued not later than three (3) last months from the application date
- Missing to have the stamp and signature of the author on the formal letter
- Other

## 8. Insufficient Means Of Subsistence

One of the reasons the embassy or consulate of the Schengen country might refuse to give you a visa, is lacking or insufficient proof of means of existence for the duration of stay in Schengen Area, nor for the return to home country. Such cases might involve:

- Failing to offer financial statements not older than one (1) month from the application date
- Lacking to enjoy a current account statement (presenting credit card statements in its place)
- Missing to possess enough funds in financial statements presented
- Presenting a traveler's cheque that does not have the candidate's name

Learn more about how to prove having the sufficient means of subsistence.

## 9. Unacceptable Birth Or Marriage Certificate

Additional cause for a failed Schengen Visa application is not being able to offer birth or marriage certificates that are accepted (not authenticated) by the embassy or consulate. Such cases include:

- Failing to offer a certificate endorsed by official authorities, i.e. Ministry Interior
- Failing to offer a certificate in non English language translated by the authorized translator
- Lacking to prove a civil certificate (offering a religious document instead)
- Not being able to offer a certificate showing both parents of the child
- Not being able to offer certificate that matches with the names of the parties presented on the submitted passports
- Not being able to offer a document of the legal sole custody order for the child (if a single parent)
- Not being able to offer the legal adoption documents for the adoptive child (for EU Spouse application)

## 10. Invalid Travel Insurance

The other reason that might lead to a Schengen Visa application fail, is the inability to present the appropriate travel insurance coverage for the duration of stay in the Schengen Area. Such cases might involve:

- Failing to provide a travel insurance cover in the anticipated amount
- Lacking to provide a travel insurance that does not cover the return of the candidate in home country
- The inability to provide a travel insurance whose policy is valid all over the Schengen Area
- The incapacity to show a travel insurance that covers the entire days of the trip in the Schengen Area

Learn more about Schengen travel insurance requirements.

## 11. Lacking to present a Proof of Accommodation

An additional factor that might lead for your visa to be refused is not being able to properly demonstrate you have a place to stay during your travel abroad. Such cases include:

- Not being able to present an evidence of a hotel reservation,
- Lacking to provide the invitation from the host (proof of sponsorship),
- Failing to present an evidence of a pre-paid tour.

Learn How to Get a Hotel Booking Confirmation Letter For Visa Application.

## 12. Unfavorable Schengen Visa Situation

What else could destroy one's Schengen Visa application is earlier history with the Schengen Visa. Such cases include:

- Failing to previously respect Schengen Visa limitations (i.e. Overstay in the Schengen Area, failing to follow the presented travel itinerary - by skipping to stay mostly in the main country of destination in the Schengen Area, and so on).
- Holding a passport with an active Schengen Visa.

Note: The information provided here is intended for assistance only and might be usable NOT ONLY for the purpose of applying for Schengen Visa but for any visa type of any world country.