

Annex – Indicative overview of the Specific Actions¹

BORDER MANAGEMENT AND VISA POLICY INSTRUMENT

S.A. 1.2.1 BMVI	Title: Innovation for sea/shore and/or land border surveillance (operational testing in pilot projects)	
Indicative amount: EUR 14 million		Type of partnership: Both (single and group of partner Member States)
<p>Description of the SA : This action aims at supporting testing, validating, deploying and/or transfer to other Member States new technologies and innovative solutions on border surveillance, in particular those resulting from Union-funded research projects.</p> <p>Expected impacts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enabled and/or quicker uptake of new technologies and innovation for border surveillance from past research and innovation, especially of Union-funded security research and innovation. - Improved border surveillance and related capabilities, in line with national and European capability development plans (either formally or informally existing). - Increased European open strategic autonomy on border surveillance technologies for identified needed capabilities. <p>For proposed projects building on previous Pre-Operational Validation and Pre-Commercial Procurement, the proposed activities should also engage Member States beyond the initial buyers group. The projects proposed under this specific action should not include research activities, but rather support the use of innovative solutions stemming from past research. As such, new technologies addressed in the proposed projects (which are not necessarily the only technologies involved, but should be the main ones) should be of Technological Readiness Level not lower than 8.</p>		
Single call or bundle with calls for other SA: Bundled with the call ISF S.A. 3.4.1		
Type of procedure: call for the expression of interest		Indicative date of the call for expression of interest: Q1 2022

S.A. 1.2.2 BMVI	Title: Technical equipment for EBCG national components (i.e. Member States authorities responsible for border management) to be put at Frontex's disposal	
Indicative amount: EUR 200 million		Type of partnership: Single Member States
<p>Description of the SA : This specific action will be a dedicated scheme aiming to provide Frontex, indirectly via Member States, with the necessary capabilities to support front line Member States and to implement operational activities in third countries. The standing corps of 10.000 officers needs to be equipped in order to</p>		

¹ The information provided in this Annex is indicative. The final description will be provided in each call for expression of interest to be launched.

operate and provide efficient support on the ground. Without in particular large scale equipment, the Agency cannot perform any air or sea border operations or provide any support in surveillance at land borders. So far, the Agency has largely relied on the Member States voluntary pledges of technical equipment, experiencing significant shortages. To overcome this issue, similarly to the specific actions supported under the Internal Security Fund – Borders and Visa (ISF-BV) (2015-2018), Member States will purchase large scale equipment which, in accordance with Article 64(14) of the EBCG Regulation, they will put mandatorily at the disposal of Frontex, upon the Agency’s request for up to 4 months per year. During the remaining 8 months, the equipment will serve for the execution of national border control tasks and operations.

The call for the expression of interest will specify the type of equipment addressing the Frontex’s operational needs identified by the Agency while taking into account also the planning Agency’s own acquisition and Member States’ assets already made available under the ISF B specific actions. The Agency will also advise DG HOME on the set of technical award criteria, which need to reflect the specificity of Frontex operations (for example, the likelihood for deployment).

The technical assessment of Member States’ offers will be outsourced to Frontex, after the admissibility checks are completed by the Commission - DG HOME. This specific action should be seen in the context of Frontex’s role in providing for the appropriate technical and operational assistance to Member States to increase their operational capacity to implement their obligations with regard to the control of the external borders and to face challenges at the EU external borders.

Single call or bundle with calls for other SA: Single call

Type of procedure: call for expression of interest

Indicative date of the call for expression of interest: Q1 2022

S.A. 1.2.3 BMVI	Title: Support to Member State' efforts aligning their IBM strategies with the multiannual Policy strategic cycle
------------------------	--

Indicative amount: EUR 10 million

Type of partnership: Groups of partner Member States or an individual Member State (depending on the action – see below)

Description of the SA :

Member States need to align their Integrated Border Management (IBM) strategies in the framework of multiannual strategic policy cycle for European Integrated Border Management (EU IBM). This process will require different administrative and organisational preparations and enhancement of national practices, including setting some coordination structure via task forces, possible studies.

In order to support Member States in this process, with this specific action, Member States will be able to express their interest in implementing projects under either one or both of the activities outlined below:

1. Applications of two or more Member States that aim at enhancing cooperation on EU IBM through exchange of best practices, sharing experiences and short study visits etc. This will be primary objective under this specific action.
2. Applications of a single Member State to support internally their implementation of IBM. This would include for instance needs concerning temporary human resources reinforcement or outsourcing other development costs in the context of specific additional strategic or situational analysis necessary for an optimal design of IBM, but also trainings and capacity building to

facilitate the integration of the IBM design in the organisation and business processes. The application can also cover activities aiming at the dissemination of the IBM strategic framework amongst the Member States's officers after the adoption of aligned IBM strategies.

This action aims to facilitate the development of a coherent coordinated and integrated approach to address the challenges in the areas of border management and return in accordance with the concept of EU IBM. The timing of the call (see below) will take into account the timeline of the multiannual policy cycle process in line with the procedure as set out in Article 8 of the EBCG Regulation when the Commission will adopt in Q3/Q4 2022 a communication establishing the multiannual strategic policy for European integrated border management. After that, the Agency will prepare a technical and operational strategy in close cooperation with Member States and the Commission. The Member States will then accordingly establish their national strategies through close cooperation between all national authorities responsible for the management of external borders and return.

Single call or bundle with calls for other SA: Single call

Type of procedure: call for expression of interest

Indicative date of the call for expression of interest: Q3 2022

S.A. 1.5.2 BMVI **Title:** Artificial intelligence

Indicative amount: EUR 1,8 million

Type of partnership: Single Member State

Description of the SA:

The purpose is to fund the development of an operational system that answers questions of visa applicants using artificial intelligence (this is called a "chatbot"). The expected result is the first release of an operational chatbot by participating Member States. The funds will be used to cover part of the costs incurred by Member States for the development and testing of the system. What the chatbot should do is currently being determined: part of these functionalities are common to all Member States but others are specific to each individual Member State. Each Member State project would be able to run individually but respecting the same common functionalities and architecture. Participating Member States would also be required to meet to exchange experiences. The call would be limited to the funding of up to five individual Member States.

Single call or bundle with calls for other SA: Single call

Type of procedure: call for the expression of interest

Indicative date of the call for expression of interest: Q1 2022

S.A. 1.5.3 BMVI **Title:** Integrated solutions for transit border crossing: support to Member States for automation of border controls in Sea or Land Border Crossing Points affected by a recent major change of traveler flows and/or an increase of border crossing time for some or all categories of travelers

Indicative amount: EUR 22 million

Type of partnership: Single Member State

Description of the SA:

The purpose is to support Member States with recent increases of traffic flows at the EU external borders. These increases are e.g. due to BREXIT, in particular for Netherlands, France and Belgium or for cases such as border crossing points at the Slovenia/Croatia border, where the problem is not that they will have more travelers, but that since those are mostly visa-exempted, it will take more time with

Entry-Exit System (EES), due to the biometric enrolment at the borders. The projects proposed for funding under this specific actions should:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Justify the need for intervention by presenting the average increase in traffic over the past years. - Indicate how the intervention would help resolving bottlenecks at border crossing points of Member States facing similar situations. 	
Single call or bundle with calls for other SA: Joint call, bundled with BMVI S.A. 1.5.5	
Type of procedure: call for expression of interest	Indicative date of the call for expression of interest: Q1 2022

S.A. 1.5.4 BMVI	Title: Support to implement specific elements of the interoperability legal framework	
Indicative amount: EUR 32.5 million	Type of partnership: Single Member State	
Description of the SA:		
<p>The objective of the action is to fund the actions required at Member State level to implement the two interoperability Regulations no 2019/817 and 818. The action will be implemented following the provision of a (maximum) amount for each of the countries operating a border crossing point and participating in the BMVI. The action will allocate funding to countries² to support the adaptation of national business processes, national handbooks and manuals, training of end users on process/handbook definition, as well as the adaptation of the Supplementary Information Request at the National Entries (SIRENE) offices for handling yellow links during the multiple-identity detector (MID) transitional period.</p> <p>The first purpose of this action is to ensure that the technical components delivered by interoperability are used appropriately and deliver value. The Commission has commissioned an interoperability handbook and each country will need to detail ("instantiate") this handbook. The expected outputs are all deliverables that define how the work in border control, migration, visa and police checks needs to be performed effectively and efficiently with interoperable systems: business process definitions at a detailed level, corresponding handbooks and manuals, as well as the necessary training material.</p> <p>The second purpose of this action is to cover what needs to be done by the SIRENE offices during the MID transitional period. The expected outputs are the correctly resolved "yellow links". Yellow links are the cases where the same biometrics are found to correspond with different (claimed) identities. The SIRENE offices deal with the cases where one of the identities is contained in a Schengen Information System (SIS) alert. The means used could be process definitions, IT tools, additional personnel.</p> <p>Member States should ensure that the activities supported under this specific action are fully complementary to the investments under the BMVI (and ISF) programmes.</p>		
Single call or bundle with calls for other SA: Single call		
Type of procedure: allocation of funding to all Member States. Information that Member States will receive an additional amount to implement a set of defined activities.	Indicative date for information to Member States on the allocation of funding to their programmes: Q1 2022	

² for the situation of the Schengen associated countries see the Cover Note

S.A. 1.5.5 BMVI		Title: Facilitation/automation of border crossing	
Indicative amount: EUR 25.25 million		Type of partnership: Single Member State	
Description of the SA :			
<p>The purpose is to support Member States optimizing border controls by automation of processes and application of national facilitation programmes (NFPs):</p> <p>Project proposals can be submitted for one or both subjects below:</p> <p><i>1.5.5.1 Support to Member States for the implementation of national facilitation programmes and to facilitate their mutual recognition</i></p> <p>The purpose is to support Member States in developing and implementing national facilitation programmes (NFPs) as defined in Article 8(d) of the Schengen Borders Code and the mutual recognition of these programmes. Article 8(d) of the Schengen Borders Code is only applicable when EES is operational (at earliest September 2022), meaning that these kind of NFPs can only be applied from then onwards. These NFPs can be a form of a trusted traveler programme which can speed up the border control process. The duration of the project implementation can run until the end of the BMVI programming period.</p> <p><i>1.5.5.2 Support to pilot projects for facilitation/automation of border controls at land and maritime borders</i></p> <p>The purpose is to implement pilot projects in Member States for the facilitation/automation of border controls at land and maritime borders. These pilot projects shall contribute to the optimization of border controls. In the final report the “modus operandi” should be documented and repeated in similar places. If equipment and software is procured (rather than rented or used “on trial” for the pilot), the installation stays and continues to be operated. A pilot project will take about 5-6 months. Up to 15 pilot projects are expected to be undertaken, split equally over the different types of borders (land and sea). Satisfaction surveys to travellers could complement the pilot projects to evaluate the results.</p>			
Single call or bundle with calls for other SA: Joint call, bundled with BMVI S.A. 1.5.3			
Type of procedure: call for expression of interest		Indicative date of the call for expression of interest: Q1 2022	

S.A. 1.5.7 BMVI		Title: SIS shared technical copies and biometrics	
Indicative amount: EUR 5.5 million		Type of partnership: Depending on the lot (specified below)	
Description of the SA :			
<p>The purpose is to support Member States in the implementation of various aspects of the SIS and SIRENE through the support projects in the areas listed below. Project proposals can be submitted for one, two or all of the subjects below:</p> <p><i>1.5.7.1 SIS shared technical copies</i></p> <p>Projects by a group of Member States. The purpose of this action is to enable two or more Member States to study the implementation of the concept of shared backup National SIS (N.SIS) or shared back-up copies as provided for in Article 4 (1) of the SIS Regulations. The Member States should assess the interactions between the shared back-up SIS and copies with the Central SIS (and its backup) and should involve eu-LISA in this process.</p>			

1.5.7.2 Implementation of robot process automation in SIRENE procedures

Projects either by a group of Member States or by a single Member State. The purpose of this action is to enable the SIRENE offices to study and implement further automation in their case handling and management using the latest technologies including the development, installation and use of digital assistants (robot process automation).

1.5.7.3 SIS modernisation of equipment for the capturing of biometrics

Projects either by a group of Member States or by a single Member State. The purpose of this action is to support Member States to modernize their biometric data capturing equipment used primarily to capture biometric data for inclusion in the SIS.

Single call or bundle with calls for other SA: Single call

Type of procedure: call for expression of interest

Indicative date of the call for expression of interest: Q1 2022

S.A. 2.3.1 BMVI | Title: Visa policy - digitalization, consular cooperation and other

Indicative amount: EUR 3 million

Type of partnership: Group of Member States

Description of the SA :

Focus of the call will be on:

2.3.1.1. The development of curricula and organisation of Visa Code training for Member States' officials dealing with visa applications. The objective is to improve the knowledge and implementation of the revised Visa code that came into force in February 2020.

2.31.1.2 Pilots to test and use new technology for checking the authenticity of supporting documents.

Member States are invited to regroup to propose joint actions, as these topics are of interest for all Member States. Due to the recent revision of the Visa Code, there is a need to reinforce training and knowledge of Member States staff dealing with Schengen Visas on these issues.

In the context of digitalisation, new methods to authenticate scanned supporting documents will be needed. A joint action in this area would be of added value for all Member States.

Single call or bundle with calls for other SA: Single call

Type of procedure: call for expression of interest

Indicative date of the call for expression of interest: Q1 2022

S.A. 1.5.8 BMVI | Title: Support for border management for Latvia, Lithuania and Poland

Indicative amount: EUR 185 million

Type of partnership: single Member State (3 individual actions for Lithuania, Latvia and Poland)

Description of the SA :

In accordance with the work programme for the Thematic Facility 2021-2022, specific actions will contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Integrated Border Management Fund and focus on specific topics including innovation of border surveillance and support to Member States Integration Border Management Strategies.

The joint communication on state-sponsored instrumentalisation of migrants at the EU external border of 23 November 2021 (JOIN(2021)32 final) indicates that the Commission is in dialogue with Lithuania,

Poland and Latvia about how EU funding can help, based on a full needs assessment. In addition to the €360 million foreseen for these Member States under the BMVI for the programmes 2021-2027, a further top-up of around €200 million will be available for 2021 and 2022³.

Latvia, Lithuania and Poland are invited to propose a specific action project to address their needs on their external border with Belarus as listed but not limited to the means listed below. To reinforce the protection of the EU external border with Belarus by means of

- enhanced and expanded surveillance means and systems;
- material for increased patrols both aerial and ground patrols;
- secure communication and interoperable systems for border control and surveillance;
- means of transport of the services controlling the border and irregular migrants;
- facilities and services to irregular migrants in the territory, who have not claimed asylum; and
- other material that does not constitute a physical barrier.

Single call or bundle with calls for other SA: Specific call addressed to Lithuania, Latvia and Poland

Type of procedure: call for expression of interest

Indicative date of the call for expression of interest: Q1 2022

³ 15 million of this top-up is made available under ISF-Borders