ISF INTERIM EVALUATION REPORT

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In view of the requirements of Article 56 (3) of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014, the RA acted as follows regarding the selection of the independent expert to prepare the ISF Interim Evaluation Report.

Two procurement procedures were carried out since only one tender was received in the first procedure, although five potential tenderers were invited to participate. In accordance with the regulations in force, the procedure was repeated, in which eight potentional tenderers were invited. Nevertheless, only one tender was received prepared by the same tenderer who submitted the documents in the first procedure. The RP approved the conclusion of the contract with the sole tenderer.

The potential tenderers invited had to meet the following conditions:

- the tenderer must hold a degree, have an excellent command of English (negotiation level), and proven experience in the evaluation of EU-funded projects

- the expected reference: proof of the preparation of at least one evaluation report on an EU-funded project or programme in the 5 years prior to the date of the call for tender. Information on the evaluation(s) prepared shall also be provided in the CV, with indication of the place and time of publication; a reference declaration detailing the subject, the contractor and her contact details (phone, e-mail) shall also be submitted. The declaration and the CV must also state whether the performance was in accordance with the relevant regulations and the contract.

The tender received met the aforementioned criteria and was evaluated based on the previously set evaluation criterion. The procedure was done exclusively by the persons assigned to this task, in accordance with the regulations in force.

The implementation of Internal Security Fund (ISF) started after an accumulated delay of more than a year compared to what had initially been planned. Since the EU-regulation and the acceptance of the National Programme (NP) were delayed, delays also occurred at the launch of the calls. This was increased by the protracted evaluation process, including problems with the IT-system devised to manage the later calls for proposals and project implementation. As a consequence, by the time of this Interim Evaluation, activities are finished only in 8 projects. The delay in the activities is very clearly indicated at the level of the common indicators, where, in case of the majority of the projects, there are considerably less results than what was foreseen. As a result, many of the impact indicators are also irrelevant for the assessment of the efficacy or efficiency of the projects so far.

However, since the original delays of the programming period are typical "program starter" problems, many of the delays have been started to be made up by the time of this evaluation, and progress have been made in almost all planned fields of activity.

The program consists of 4 special objectives (SO) beside the special objective on operational support. There is a very clear difference between the special objectives on Visa policy and Border management (SO1 and SO2) and the special objectives on combating and preventing crime and risk management (SO5 and SO6). The difference is due to the fact that the main priorities of the programming documents (National Programme (furthermore: NP), Working Programs (furthermore: WPs)) concerning SO1 and SO2 gave a planned continuity for the development of border control and Schengen visa issuance in Hungary. Many of the existing needs were well-known by the Responsible Authority (RA) since the planning period for the ISF overlapped the last period of the External Borders Fund (EBF). The results of this latter Fund were assessed and utilized during the planning period. However, there were less such continuity in the case of SO5 and no continuity and experience on such projects at all in the case of SO6.

In the case of the specific objective on visa policy (SO1), steps were taken with respect to the improvement of visa issuance in line with the Schengen visa procedure requirements, and also to a customer-friendly modern process on visa issuance performed by highly qualified consular officers and visa administrators. All of the projects are run by state authorities. The projects include deployment of visa officials, IT-developments, training and exchange programs. No proposals arrived concerning the development of consulates for the ISF call, although such developments have been made from national budget.

In the case of the specific objective on border management (SO2), integrated border management is supported by equipment acquisitions. The compliance to the Schengen Acquis related to border management is progressed by trainings for the border management staff both with regards professional skills, communication and language skills. The further development of the criminal and intelligence network against illegal migration in order to fight against human smuggling at the borders is also progressed with the help of the Fund. Steps were also taken in order to enhance the cooperation of the border police intelligence network and the border guard units.

Under the special objective on Preventing and Combating Crime (SO5), priority is given to the development of risk analysis and the building of capacity and reactional capability. Acquisitions have been already made with the help of the Fund. The acquired devices and special vehicles will enable the

law enforcement agencies to increase the numbers of operations related to the EMPACT priorities. The coordination and cooperation between law enforcement authorities and other national authorities of Member States is also reinforced by the broadening of the international network of the agencies and by information exchanges and study visits. The system of victim support is also developed with the help of the Fund.

Under the specific objective on risks and crisis (SO6), developing reactional capability and risk analysis methodologies and practices are in the focus, alongside with enhancing cooperation and information exchange, and the extending of the international network of the beneficiaries. The development of the cyber-defence of the critical infrastructure is set as a priority. Increasing the number and the efficiency of trainings is also a main objective within this specific objective. Projects mostly aim at the procurement of equipment, information exchange and training, and the construction of the Central European CBRN-E Training Centre is also financed by an ISF project.

The intense consultation process that preceded the National Programme assured that the activities launched with the help of the Fund are assessed as relevant and they respond to the actual needs. There are continuous consultations with the main beneficiary organizations so that changing needs are constantly monitored and if needed, can be reacted to.

The objectives set in the National Programme were in coherence with other programs. An assessment of how the problems of the possible common areas shall be solved with the different Operative Programs and other interventions with similar objectives has been determined in the National Programme. The coherence during the implementation period is ensured mostly by the activity of the Monitoring Committee.

Complementarity with other interventions and especially with actions financed from national budget is systematically addressed in the National Programme for each and every national objective.

Preventing overlapping and double financing is a priority for the RA and built-in mechanisms during the evaluation period assure that such irregularities are excluded.

EU-added value is the most crucial in the case of the activities within the ISF that are aimed at the satisfaction of national obligations toward the EU, e.g. the projects that target the application of the Union's Acquis and EU standards. The added value of the Fund has an important mirroring impact in the case of many acquisitions made with the help of the Fund, since similar acquisitions for similar purposes are made from the national budget also. In this sense, the ISF plays a major role in making the already existing national policies more efficient. Some of the activities will presumably deliver benefits to the European level, e.g. the construction of the Central European CBRN-E Training Centre.

Sustainability requirements for acquisitions are built-in the calls and the Grant Agreements, but activities of more soft nature will probably also have a continuous impact by using and multiplying the knowledge, the expertise and the network accumulated with the help of the Fund.

The National Programme of Hungary and the 1st Working Programme (WP) cover almost all the priorities of the ISF, and projects have already been launched in most of the priority areas. However, this also means that the program can be assessed as very fragmented. It is recommended that instead of addressing all the priorities set by the ISF by at least one project, the RA should, according to the national or local needs, prioritize some of the objectives set by the directives of European Commission during the planning period, and focus on the attainment of these objectives.

SECTION I: CONTEXT OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ISF DURING 01/01/2014 - 30/06/2017

The National Strategy (1691/2013 (X.2.), Gov. Resolution) for ISF names - among others - the escalation of the civil war in Syria as an important determinant of the social and political context for the ISF. However, the extent of the migration pressure was not predicted in any of the documents.

A previously unpredictable effect of the migration crisis was also a reason for which most of the technical equipment available was deployed to the borders most affected by the migration flow (mostly the Southern borders of Hungary) leaving the other frontiers less well-equipped.

However, as the political interest of the government in security is rising, law enforcement organizations could rely upon an adequate state budget for anti-terror activities, which made some of them less interested in the ISF sources.

The most important action concerning border security is that a border fence was erected at the southern borders of Hungary in 2016. This was accompanied by the legal change that the illegal crossing of the fence became considered as a criminal act (Section 352/A, 352/C and 352/C of Act C of 2012 on the Criminal Code of Hungary).

As for the fight against crimes, Hungary, has vastly intensified the efforts to raise the feeling of the safety of the citizens on various crime-specific fields (e.g. property crimes, financial crimes, serious crimes), including on the fight against international criminality and, as a part of it, against terrorism (and radicalization).

Management of willful-caused crisis situations has also come into prominence recently and as such the security of industrial infrastructure, critical infrastructure protection and cyber-security fields are all subjects of relentless development as for improving their resilience.

SECTION II: CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME

The major challenges were caused by some unforeseen legal and technical developments both at the international and national level. The EU-regulation and the acceptance of the NP were delayed, causing delay in the launch of the calls.

During the programming the RA tried not to let the program be "too fragmented", but, in the meantime, they tried to cover all of the priorities set by the European Commission.

Hungary decided to implement the NP by 3 WPs, which guarantees more flexibility. However, because of the delays, some projects might not finish properly within the 1st WP as planned.

The most important challenge on the implementation of the NP was the previously unforeseen migration flow that caused the reinforcement of the Southern border in human capacities; as a result e.g. trainings suffered some delay because the border guards were ordered to in excess duty.

Since the creation of the NP, Act CXLIII of 2015 on Public Procurement has changed, and this affected many of the projects. The European regulation on the newly established systemic border control is also presented as a challenge.

Although the NP was prepared during an iterative consultation process, many project proposals, especially from law enforcement authorities that did not have a solid experience with project management, were not well-prepared according to the RA. Such proposals were re-sent for further clarification several times, which was a reason behind the lengthy evaluation process. The same kind of inexperience is to be blamed for difficulties during the implementation of the projects also by the same beneficiaries.

A further general problem that causes delays is the reorganizations within public administration, namely the dissolution of the Central Office for Administrative and Electronic Public Services (COAEPS) and its integration into the Ministry of Interior; therefore in cases of projects where the COAEPS was the Beneficiary, the former Grant Agreements had to be altered to administrative decision.

In case of SO5, when the National Strategy was created in 2013, the notion of "severe, organized and cross-border crime" was not used in this form yet in Hungary; severe crime or organized crime or cross-border crime were all potential categories to build upon developments; but this became a priority thereafter, which caused challenges in the making of the NP.

The RA used the IT system developed by the Prime Minister's Office (National System of the Program of the European Union, EUPR) for the selection phase. Technical problems with this system resulted in the slowing down of the selection process of the project proposals. This also led to a considerable delay in the signing of the Grant Agreements.

As a consequence, by the time of this Interim Evaluation, activities are finished only within 8 projects. The delay in the activities is very clearly indicated at the level of the project indicators, where, in case of the majority of the projects, there are no result or output indicators, or less than what was planned.

In some cases, although during the preceding consultation process there were demands from the part of the potential beneficiaries for a certain initiative, eventually no bids arrived for the call for proposals:

Under SO1 NO1 the extension, reconstruction and refurbishment of premises of visa issuance was planned in the National Programme, following the original inputs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, but later on, no project proposals arrived.

The revision of the existing training systems, in order to contribute to the systemic development of the training schemes within the Borders and Visa specific objectives, was an important priority of the RA and, during the consultation processes, stakeholder agencies were also interested in such developments. However, both calls for proposals that were issued can be assessed as unsuccessful. The first aimed at initiating activities that would serve the revision of training materials of visa administration consular officials involving experts, under SO1 NO1 where no project proposals arrived; while the second invited proposals to review the training system of the border police staff under SO2 NO3, where, although the RA was able to issue a supporting decision, the beneficiary withdrew from the implementation of the project.

Another deviation with regard to the original plans is that in case of SO6 NO3 the ISF was supposed to finance projects that aim at the mapping of good practices of risk analysis and threat assessment. However, no applications arrived for the first calls.

1	Effectiveness

1.1	Specific objective 1: Visa policy / ISF-B Article 3(2)(a)
	The overall question: How did the Fund contribute to the achievement of the following specific objectives: - Support a common visa policy to facilitate legitimate travel; - Provide a high quality of service to visa applicants; - Ensure equal treatment of third-country nationals and - Tackle illegal migration?
	The specific objective on visa policy aims at the improvement of visa issuance in line with Schengen visa procedure requirements, and also at a customer-friendly modern process on visa issuance performed by highly qualified consular officers and visa administrators. In order to support a common visa policy and facilitate legitimate travel, the RA supports activities that contribute to the further development of the national system of VIS information system; in order to provide a high quality of service for visa applicants, deployment of Visa experts is implemented with the help of the Fund, and the measures taken in order to progress the Schengen Acquis on Visa services, especially regional trainings contribute also both to the high quality of service to visa applicants and also to ensuring equal treatment of third country nationals. Illegal migration is tackled especially by temporary postings of liaison officers and visa experts, whose activity includes the fight against fraudulent documentation. 5 projects entered into the calls announced under SO1 and all of them were given support by the RA; an average 89% of their planned budget was approved by the RA. Due to the operational problems of the IT system and the quality of the applications, the evaluation, the issuance of supporting decisions and the signing of contracts were prolonged, which caused a considerable delay at the project level. A further general problem that causes delays is the reorganizations within public administration, namely the dissolution of the Central Office for Administrative and Electronic Public Services and its integration into the Ministry of Interior. Projects are also delayed by the public procurement process; but this means also that once the procurement is made, the delay presumably would be made up. In some cases, the main priorities of the ISF and the actions taken from national budget have different emphasis. In third country localities which are priorities for the national policy on visa issuance (because of naturalization processes of ethnic Hungarians, or because of national-economic policies) often several Member States are already present. Also, in some cases, the number of difficulties with Schengen visa issuance is relatively small and it is not the main source of visa-problems (rather student-visa applications are problematic).

1.1.1	What progress was made towards promoting the development and implementation of the common visa policy to facilitate legitimate travel, and how did the Fund contribute to achieving this progress?
	From the national budget, the reconstruction of 3 consulates in 2016 and in 2017 aimed at the provision of better service for visa applicants and also at fulfilling the intensified security requirements for visa issuance. The handling of visa applications has been outsourced to external service providers in order to provide better service to applicants. Also from the national budget, the development of an enhanced information service at consulates has been under progress: this included the development of the websites of several consulates. Many activities with the help of the Fund under SO1 contribute directly to the facilitation of legitimate travel. The regional trainings of consular officers provide up to date information for the officials on the Schengen Acquis; the short term deployment of consular officers contributes directly to the facilitation of legitimate travel by providing human resource to overwhelmed consulates, e.g. during peek season, in order to achieve the continuous visa processing and in order to assure that the practice of visa issuance follow both national and Schengen regulations, and in order to further progress a costumer-friendly and transparent visa processing. Visa officers can contribute to a more costumer-friendly visa issuance if their expertise and knowledge on visa protocols, and the simplification and standardization of visa issuance is constantly growing. The trainings for visa officers held with the help of the Fund enhance their knowledge; therefore it also facilitates legitimate travel.

1.1.2	What progress was made towards ensuring better consular coverage and harmonised practices on visa issuance between Member States, and how did the Fund contribute to achieving this progress?
	As planned in the National Programme, premises of representations in third countries are being improved and financed under the national budget; and also, several new consulates were opened under the national budget (e.g.: Mongolia), although the choice of the location was mostly driven by newly emerged national-economic interests rather than by the common visa policy of the EU. Since no project proposals arrived to the ISF for similar goals, this national contribution is essential for providing better services at the consulates. Liaison officers and document advisors working at consulates where Hungary does not represent other Member States have been deployed and the activity is also financed from the national budget. Within the framework of ISF, to ensure an efficient and customer-friendly visa issuance at the consulates, Hungary supports the deployment of consular officers for less than 3-month periods to consulates in third countries requiring a visa representing other Member States based upon visa representation agreements. Temporary postings were planned (e.g. in order to reflect upon the peak season) into the consular sections of the overwhelmed consulates guaranteeing the

persistent process of the Schengen visa requests enabling the decision-makers to meet the deadlines stipulated. Within the ISF, temporary postings of Consular Officers processing Schengen visa applications to the following stations: Shanghai, Tehran, Almaty, Chongqing, Mumbai, Istanbul, and Abuja was made possible.

Better consular coverage was also progressed by the ISF by the long term deployment of visa advisors with primary screening activity to locations Nairobi, Islamabad and Istanbul. By posting qualified visa consultants to Hungarian or other Schengen Member State consulates in third country locations the ISF contributes to the facilitation of the Schengen visa issuance.

Activities done with the help of the Fund are already reflected in the result indicator measuring the "number of consular cooperation activities developed with the help of the Fund" (SO1 R2), which rose from 0 to 7 in 2017 until the 30th of June (cut-off date). The "number of visa applicants having to apply for a Schengen visa outside of their country of residence as registered in the VIS" (impact indicator SO1 I1) is constantly falling from 358,049 in 2013 to 296,347 in 2016, and the tendency remains the same, since, according to the preliminary data received by the RA, the number until the cut-off date was 211,285.

The "number of countries in the world requiring a visa where the number of Member States present or represented" (SO1 I2) has increased by 8 in the period between 16th of October 2016 and 30th of June 2017 (no earlier data were gathered for this report).

1.1.3	What progress was made towards ensuring the application of the Union's acquis on visas and how did the Fund contribute to achieving this progress?
	The application of the Union's Acquis on visa is progressed mostly by trainings: basic training of consular officials is financed under national budget whilst further trainings (training of qualified consular officials on best practices, document security, changing legal background) and language trainings for visa staff were planned to be financed by ISF.
	The necessity of trainings addressing issues concerning the VIS system, best practices, furthering consular cooperation and typical visa frauds on the one hand, and language trainings for visa officers working in third countries on the other hand were especially emphasized during the planning of the NP by the RA, and such trainings have been already held with the help of the Fund. There is a considerable progress with respect to regional trainings provided for consular officials about the common visa policy, in accordance with the requirements of the European Visa Code. State officials are given training on the issuing of Schengen visas, providing the Hungarian consular service with quality and fully trained staff, knowledgeable on the common visa policy. The "number of staff trained in common visa policy-related aspects with the help of the Fund" (SO1 C2.1) rose from 39 in 2016 to 125 by the 30th of June 2017.
	The "number of training courses" (hours completed; SO1 C2.2) rose from 168 in 2016 to 192 until the 30th of June 2017. However, because of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs And Trade's new logic of action, which is that only one person per consulate is expected to participate in a training (making the workload at the consulate more balanced, with the participant being expected to play a multiplication role after the training), we can presume that the indicators will

be affected by the end of the programme. It can be assessed that the ISF source is very important to initiate progress concerning the application of Union's Acquis, since, presumably without the source, no or less trainings were organized, therefore the harmonized working of the consulates would be jeopardized.

Screening of visas and the revealing of fraudulent activities are considered to be the first steps in the integrated border management, therefore, short and long term deployments of visa specialists with screening activities are also made possible with the help of the Fund.

The work of such experts facilitate the progress of the application of the Union's Acquis on visas by helping the staff of the consulates in the handling of secure documentations and verifying them. The beneficiary found that all of the temporary postings so far had been very useful at the consulates, and according to them, the numbers achieved (the number of visas issued and the speed of issuance) could not have been accomplished otherwise.

The results to be achieved set in the National Programme: the increased knowledge on common visa policy and visa issuing; the forums and trainings involving authorities of third countries; and a training programme revised are partially already achieved and they will be fully achieved by the end of the programme.

1.1.4	What progress was made towards Member States' contribution to strengthening the cooperation between Member States operating in third countries as regards the flows of third-country nationals into the territory of Member States, including prevention and tackling of illegal immigration, as well as the cooperation with third countries, and how did the Fund contribute to achieving this progress?
	The Immigration and Asylum Office, beside the projects financed from the ISF, deploys professional diplomats: presently 14 migration experts are deployed into 12 locations, by supporting the consulates with issues related to migration questions. This is financed from the national budget.

The long term deployments of qualified visa consultants with the help of the Fund to Hungarian or other Schengen Member State consulates in third country locations contributes to the prevention and tackling of illegal immigration and enhancing cooperation activities. Visa consultants are delegated to the places selected (Islamabad, Istanbul, Nairobi) to provide support to the staff of the consular department of the embassy, thus making the visa procedure swifter and more professional. The consultants support the staff of consulates during Schengen visa processes, making the authentication of supporting documents and the detection of visa fraud more effective. Deployed officers provide support also to the consulates near the locality of their deployment, and at the consulates of the V4 countries nearby, and also can be contacted by the consulates of Member States representing Hungary.

According to the beneficiary, although the number of visa issues in which the consultants cooperated was lower than anticipated (which is seen by the RA as a problem), however, consultants cooperated in almost all the visa issues at their stations and supported also the consulates of Hungary and other Member States in the region. An added value of the project

can be in the future that, due to the networking of the consultants, the number of potential consulates where visa consultancy could be made possible will be growing.

Visa and document experts are also deployed with the help of the Fund in order to assist with the filtering of identification frauds. In the case of some locations (e.g.: Nigeria) the number of filtered frauds is higher than expected which suggests that the choice of the location was successful.

As for the indicators, the "number of specialized posts in third countries supported by the Fund" (SO1 C3) was 3 in 2016, and it remained so until the 30th of June 2017. There were no "Schengen Evaluation missions in the area of visa carried out with or without the support of the Internal Security Fund" (SO1 R5=0) in the period under scrutiny.

No information is yet provided on the "number of persons with fraudulent documents applying for a Schengen visa" (SO1 R6) at the moment; the total number of persons applying for a Schengen visa was 211,285 between the 16th of October 2016 and the 30th of June 2017.

The results anticipated in the National Programme about consular cooperation, with regards the 3 workshops and meetings aiming at improving the exchange of information have already been achieved; the 8 document and visa advisor posts in third countries will be presumably reached by the end of the Programme.

1.1.5	What progress was made towards supporting the common visa policy by setting up and running IT systems, their communication infrastructure and equipment, and how did the Fund contribute to achieving this progress?
	The Central National Visa System is maintained and developed, including IT-developments required for visa issuance and equipment necessary for collecting biometric data, from national budget by the Immigration and Asylum Office.

There were no project proposals received by the RA of the ISF Fund regarding construction projects or improving security at the consulates, therefore, SO1 R4 is 0, however such enhancements were realized from the national budget.

In order to comply with the national obligations under the VIS Regulation ((EC) No 767/2008), the development and upgrading of the VIS and VISMail tools is going on with the help of the Fund. The ISF resources are to cover the hardware and software development, resulting in a more efficient data exchange between the consulates with visa issuance functions operating in third countries and N.VIS, as well as amongst the central elements of the national databases.

The database and application servers intended to be purchased will ensure the continued and adequate speed and reliable unit management so that HU can comply with the obligations of the VIS Regulation. As a result, efficiency of data exchanges and data access provided by the visa N.VIS will increase at consulates, border crossings, and the national visa authority. |

	Despite the actual delay of the acquisition of the softwares and hardvers, the developments planned will probably be made during the actual WP.

1.1.6	How did the operating support provided for in Article 10 of the Regulation (EU) No 515/2014 contribute to the achievement of the specific objective on common visa policy?
	There were no projects for operating support that aimed at achieving the specific objective on common visa policy.

1.2	Specific objective 2: Borders / ISF-B Article 3(2)(b)
	The overall question: How did the Fund contribute to the following specific objectives: - Supporting integrated border management, including promoting further harmonisation of border management-related measures in accordance with common Union standards and through the sharing of information between Member States and between Member States and the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union? - Ensuring, on one hand, a uniform and high level of control and protection of the external borders, including by the tackling of illegal immigration and, on the other hand, the smooth crossing of the external borders in conformity with the Schengen acquis, while guaranteeing access to international protection for those needing it, in accordance with the obligations contracted by the Member States in the field of human rights, including the principle of non-refoulement?
	Supporting integrated border management is progressed by equipment acquisitions and investments necessary for the reliable and secure operation of the communication, thus improving communication and data exchange between the organizations and institutions participating in border management more secure. The revision of the border management system within the ISF is a priority for the RA, since it is assessed as an important step toward the harmonization of border management related issues and the knowledge accumulated within this revision is expected to serve as the ground for future projects. The compliance to the Schengen Acquis related to border management is ensured by the continuous trainings for the border management staff both with regards professional skills and with regards communication skills. The preparation for the acquisitions of new ABC gates with the help of the Fund also contributes to the smooth crossing of borders in accordance with the common Union standards. The development of the already existing national elements of the EUROSUR system is planned in order to enhance the efficient and quick reactions to the changes in crimes related to illegal migration, thus contributing to the uniform and high level of control and protection of the

external borders by tackling illegal migration; the project was withdrawn due to unsuccessful procurement after the end of the reporting period; the operational capacity of the national elements of the EUROSUR system are assessed to be satisfactory.

The further development of the criminal and intelligence network against illegal migration at the borders was also set as a priority. The elements of the telecommunication network necessary for the cooperation of the intelligence network and the border guard units are being improved with the help of the Fund.

Guaranteeing access to international protection for those needing it, including the principle of non-refoulement is a priority within the AMIF programme, the ISF is rather dedicated to issues of security, and facilitating legitimate travel, although human rights issues are also tackled within the trainings.

15 projects gained support under SO2. On average, the originally planned budget of the projects was cut by 18% by the RA as a result of thorough evaluation in line with the principles of cost-efficiency and eligibility. All of the projects are run by state authorities.

1.2.1	What progress was made towards promoting the development, implementation and enforcement of policies with a view to ensure the absence of any controls on persons when crossing the internal borders, and how did the Fund contribute to achieving this progress?
	To ensure the absence of any controls on persons when crossing the internal borders has been progressed mainly through actions under the national budget. Many immediate actions to tackle illegal migration have been taken and financed under the national budget for this purpose: the most important ones being the strengthening of the Serbian borders; and the establishment of the border guard units. It can be assessed that law enforcement organizations have a rather stable financial and technical background for the basic tasks. The ISF is mostly being used for actions that aim at making the service more efficient or actions with long term impacts.

Beside the stable financial background, the achievements within the former External Borders Fund also contribute to the fact that border control agencies and infrastructures have a solid background. With the help of the ISF, the handling of the existing backdrops can be tackled, and many already existing projects can be continued. Most of the activities within ISF projects under SO2 (except for some trainings and for the constructions of border crossing points), and most of the measures taken in order to improve the surveillance of the external borders aim at completing the absence of any controls on persons when crossing the internal borders, thus, most importantly, measures taken in the field of the fight against illegal migration and measures taken in order to improve the cooperation between the border guards and the criminal intelligence bodies have to be emphasized here. |

1.2.2	What progress was made towards carrying out checks on persons and monitoring efficiently the crossing of external borders, and how did the Fund contribute to achieving this progress?
	All the measures taken in order to improve the quality and effectiveness of border checks contribute to the efficient monitoring of border crossings. A border crossing point at the Serbian border is being developed an is to be opened in 2018 totally from national budget; under ENPI (European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument) cooperation, but with a complementing national contribution, a border crossing point was opened in 2016 at the Ukrainian border. The National Police Headquarters IT-equipment acquisitions from national budget contribute to the development of the already existing Border Check and Registry System (HERR), which is used at the border crossing points.

ISF projects that aim at the building of national capacity (NO6) contribute to efficient checks on persons and monitoring efficiently the crossing of external borders by purchasing vehicle toolkits, and mobile and desktop devices for passport control on the external borders, furthermore equipments for systematic control and purchase of Schnegen buses. By these acquisitions, the implementation of the NP contributes both to the more efficient checks on persons at the border crossing points and also to the searching of persons committing illegal border crossing at the border crossing points. A new border crossing point (BCP) is designed and constructed at the Ukrainian border (at Nagyhódos) also with the help of the Fund. Establishing and opening the BCP will presumably facilitate the daily life for local residents; therefore it is going to make the border crossing easier and faster.

There is a clear progress in carrying out checks on persons and monitoring efficiently the crossing of external borders, which can be measured against the common indicator SO2 C2: the "number of border control infrastructure and means developed or upgraded with the help of the Fund" increased from 11 (in financial year 2016) to 33 until the 30th of June 2017. All of the developments are equipment purchases.

There were no projects within which ABC gates were constructed yet, therefore "the number of border crossings of the external borders through ABC gates supported by the Instrument out of the total number of border crossings" (SO2 R2) was 0 until 2016, and remained so in 2017. However, a feasibility study is being prepared with the help of the Fund, for the establishment of ABC gates, which will serve as the ground for future developments.

The number of irregular border crossings detected at EU external borders (SO2 I3) between the border crossing points was 26108 in 2016; this is a clear fall back from 207653 in 2015, which peak was due to the migration crisis. The decrease is continuous according to the preliminary data for the financial year 2017 (until the 30th of June), which is 6985.

The number of irregular border crossings detected at EU external borders at the BCP's was 220 in 2016, which is a significant rise from 2015's 74. The preliminary number for 2017 (until the 30th of June) is 701, which clearly indicates that the tendency is constant. Both changes with regards the numbers of this indicator reflect the erection of the border fence at the southern border.

The "number of persons using fraudulent travel documents detected at the border crossing points" (SO2 I5) is 824 in 2017 until the 30th of June, according to the preliminary data |

	gathered by the RA. This is a very high number with respect to both the 2013's baseline of 396, and the similar numbers of 2014 (398), 2015 (468), and 2016 (339).

1.2.3	What progress was made towards establishing gradually an integrated management system for external borders, based on solidarity and responsibility, and how did the Fund contribute to achieving this progress?
	Developments and operation of EUROSUR were handled as a priority during the planning period of the ISF and were expected to improve the integrated border management system. Maintenance of the already existing elements of the EUROSUR system is ensured from national budget, equipment were bought by the National Police Headquarters (NPHQ) under national budget. Also, the National Police Headquarters develop their risk analysis methodology in order that it complies with the CIRAM methodology: the CIRAM 2.0 documentation was translated into Hungarian in 2016, an executive summary was created. The NPHQ organized region-wide trainings for their analysts on the CIRAM methodology.

Within ISF, during the scrutinized period the development of EUROSUR county coordination centres was planned to be financed under NO1. Projects running under NO2 on information exchange are also expected to contribute to the integrated boarder management system.

Although, because of the withdrawal of the beneficiary from a project aiming at the development of EUROSUR county coordination centers, there are no developments with regards the EUROSUR currently going on within the ISF, however, due to earlier developments from the EBF sources and also from national budget, the operational capacity of the national elements of the EUROSUR system are assessed to be satisfactory.

With the help of the Fund, information technology and telecommunication equipment that are necessary for proper border control and criminal investigation activities are being procured. An aim is the intensification of the practical cooperation between the different law enforcement agencies. Such cooperation is already going on with the help of the Fund between the border guards and the criminal intelligence bodies.

The RA's intention was to plan the NP in a way that the 1st WP was supposed to include planning and revision projects that could serve as a ground for future acquisition projects. A good example for that is the Revision of Border Surveillance System, which is also run with the help of the Fund. This revision aims to overview the elements of the border control system, as well as the efficiency of the complete system, and to compose a study with the involvement of external experts on the possibilities of modifying the system or building a new one. The study provides an opportunity to articulate proposals in connection with the optimal running and maintenance of the border control system, to implement goal oriented developments and re-structuring that adequately address the challenges presented by the national and EU strategies.

As a result of the actions, the NP envisaged an increased number of authorities sharing data on a daily base, which is already in progress. |

	A further envisaged result in the NP was the revision of risk analysis methods, which will shortly begin with the help of the Fund, and which contributes to the introduction of the CIRAM methodology by the National Police Headquarters by preparing a handbook for the CIRAM.
	Cooperation is progressed by the participation in Frontex Coordinated Operations with a moderate volume (5 equipment used in such operations in 2017 so far); but, due to the general delay of the whole programme and the delays of the procurement processes, there has not been enough time and occasion to use equipment purchased with the support of the Fund in such actions: the indicator SO2 R5 is: 0/5.

1.2.4	What progress was made towards ensuring the application of the Union's acquis on border management, and how did the Fund contribute to achieving this progress?
	Progress at the national level regarding the application of the Union's Acquis on border management includes an order issued by the National Police Headquarters (24/2015. (X. 15.) about the use of Schengen Handbook in border management. Information on the Schengen handbook for border management is contained in the curriculum at the National Public University, which assures that professionals graduating in higher education will have an up-to-date knowledge on the Union's Acquis. Basic training of border policing staff is also financed under the national budget, which is especially important with regards the training of the newly established border guards, which is an extra number of people to be trained, and they get a 6 month long training.
	Within the ISF, the application of the Union's Acquis on border management is mostly supported by training and exchange programmes. One complex training project is in progress, which is a very similar project to its "predecessor" within the External Borders Fund. Many different trainings are planned and some of them have already been held within the ISF, on a wild variety of topics for border officers.
	Training about the prevention of human smuggling of minors at the borders has also been held within the ISF. The training includes advanced professional training for border guards containing best practices for detection of human smuggling of minors at the borders or other illegal acts connected to unauthorized border crossing of minors, in bundle with quick and effective measures tailored at protection of victims. According to the project manager of the beneficiary, a direct impact of the project will be a more efficient check on minors at the borders.
	Union's Acquis on border management are progressed by exchange programmes also. In this respect, the Fund facilitates exchanges on new methods, tools and technologies of migration management with other Member States.
	Progress is very visible in terms of indicators: according to the RA's database, the indicator SO2 R1 "regarding the number of staff trained" rose to 45 and "the number of training courses

in aspects related to border management with the help of the Instrument" rose to 4 as of the 30th of June 2017; these numbers are proportionate to the expected progress (115 trained staff and 8 courses are to be reached by these particular trainings).

According to the data of the National Police Headquarters, the "Number of Schengen Evaluation recommendations in the area of borders addressed with the support of the Fund, as compared to the total number of recommendations issued" (SO2 R4) is: 5/23. There were no Schengen Evaluation missions in the area of borders carried out with the support of the Fund (SO2 R3=0) both in 2016 and 2017.

The main results to be achieved with regard to the Schengen Acquis in border management set in the NP were the creation of 3 methodologies and training curriculums on border control, and also raising the number of highly qualified staff, by trainings, to 3750, are likely to be reached by the end of the programme.

1.2.5	What progress was made towards contributing to reinforcing situational awareness at the external borders and the reaction capabilities of Member States, and how did the Fund contribute to achieving this progress?
	The developments made by the National Police Headquarters from national resources for making their risk analysis methodology comply with the CIRAM recommendations is an important contribution to the reinforcing of situational awareness by the Member State. The maintenance of the N.SIS II and subsystems, which is also financed under the national budget, is an important contribution to situational awareness. Situational awareness is supported also by in-depth checks, based on risk analysis, by the Law Enforcement agencies, and considered as an important priority for the national government. Within the framework of ISF, the actions under the National Objective 6 on national capacity, especially those that target the reinforcement of "reaction capability" contribute to this aim.. The enhancement of situational awareness is the goal of several acquisitions of equipments and vehicles with the help of the Fund: acquisition of Schengen buses is already going on. The buses will presumably contribute to the improvement of border crossing. The acquisition of a mobile thermal surveillance system (three cameras for the Ukrainian and six for the Serbian external border section) serve the reinforcement of border protection systems The surveillance system will be put into practice, and the staff will be trained by the beginning of 2018. The overwhelming goal of these actions is to increase the number of revealed illegal border crossing activities in the future.

1.2.6	What progress was made towards setting up and running IT systems, their communication infrastructure and equipment that support border checks and border surveillance at the external borders, and how did the Fund contribute to achieving this progress?

Safe operation of N.SIS II and subsystems was set as a priority in the National Strategy for ISF and the IT support of N.SIS II is mostly financed under the national budget.

The NP for the ISF also handles the safe and secure operation of the national elements of N.SIS II as a priority, and the further development of the security of the system is progressed from the Fund, mostly by informational developments.

Beside the progress made under SO3 (operational support), the modernization of the IT equipment of the SIRENE Bureau was made with the help of the Fund. As a result, the administration time of the exchange of electronic messages transmitted by the SIRENE Bureau will be reduced.

Large scale developments of the national system of the SIS II infrastructure are also going on with the help of the Fund. These developments include the acquisition of both software and hardware devices and also infrastructural development of the national SIS II (N.COPY) by increasing the size of the server and the storage capacity, and database background, as well as upgrading the system to a higher version number. These activities aim to implement the development of the IT system in order to ensure the continuous and secure operation of N.SIS II and the systems connected.

Developments of the EUROSUR system, both from national budget and from the Fund are also IT contributions. Developments in the EUROSUR are constantly being made from the national budget, however, since there were not yet developments concerning the EUROSUR from the Fund, the "number of national border surveillance infrastructure established or further developed in the framework of EUROSUR" was 0 until 2016, and remained so until the 30th of June 2017, (SO2 I1).

The "number of incidents reported by Member States to the European Situational Picture" (SO2 I2) is 0 in 2017 until the 30th of June. The "reported number of illegal immigration, including on incidents relating to a risk to the lives of migrants" was 99 between October 2016 and the 30th of June 2017; and 1 incident of crisis situation was reported during the same period.

No information has been sent yet to the external evaluator on the "number of searches in the Schengen Information System" (SO2 I4) in 2017; in the financial year of 2016 the number was: 79355011, which is a moderate increase from the previous years; however, this is rather the impact of the developments made from the EBF sources, not yet those of the ISF, but the tendency is nonetheless positive.

1.2.7	How did the operating support provided for in Article 10 of the Regulation (EU) No 515/2014 contribute to the achievement of the specific objective on border management?
	Operating support was planned to be used on the one hand to support the renewal of the SIS II informational infrastructure, this way, facilitating the handling of migration flow through the external borders; on the other hand, to change the equipment supporting border surveillance used at the external borders.

So far, progress was made in both kinds of acquisitions. The reconstruction of the Hungarian external border surveillance system was started with the help of the Fund. Thermal cameras and also handheld thermal cameras will be purchased from the operational support. By changing the obsolete handheld thermal cameras to modern, easy-to-use handheld devices reactional capability and reliability will be increased.

The operating support for the procurement of the handheld thermal cameras is a logical continuation of the older procurements within the Schengen Fund and the EBF. Since the older cameras became outdated and their maintenance was getting un-economic, the need for new cameras was not questioned by any of the actors, and the planning of the procurement was discussed already at an early stage of the planning of the WP. The number of the procured cameras (55) was also agreed by both the beneficiary and the RA.

This operating support contributes to the constant maintenance of the system of thermal cameras; the acquisitions target the change of the already amortized equipment at the borders; therefore helping to tackle irregular migration at the Schengen borders.

The partial renewal of the infrastructure of SIS II by scheduled replacement of certain network depreciated devices is also made with the help of the operational support. By upgrading the equipment, product support will be available for the most important elements of the IT system. Activities include purchasing aggregating routers, external and internal switches through an open public procurement procedure and performing the necessary system integration.

1.3	Specific objective 5: Crime / ISF-P Article 3(2)(a)
	The overall question: How did the Fund contribute to the following specific objectives: - Prevention of cross-border, serious and organised crime, including terrorism? - Reinforcement of the coordination and cooperation between law enforcement authorities and other national authorities of Member States, including with Europol or other relevant Union bodies, and with relevant third countries and international organisations?
	This is the biggest SO in terms of project number, and according to the RA the programme is rather fragmented. This is the SO that the most beneficiaries other than state-maintained agencies (NGOs and educational institutions) appear (20% of the projects). 49 applications were submitted for the support of projects dealing with cross-border, serious and organized crime. 4 applications were rejected; 2 were withdrawn before concluding the project selection phase. Out of the successful applications, an average of 84% of the budgets was committed by the RA. The budget-cut was usually applied when beneficiaries had planned ineligible costs or too high costs for certain acquisitions. In the field of the prevention of cross-border, serious and organized crime, including terrorism, the priority is given to the further development of risk analysis and the building of capacity and reactional capability. Acquisitions have already been made with the help of the Fund. The acquired devices and special vehicles will enable the law enforcement agencies to increase the numbers of operations related to the EMPACT priorities. Rendering the system of trainings more

efficient is also a priority, and research activities are also supported from the Fund. Developments that support asset recovery, prevention of radicalization and terrorism, informational security, operational capacity and victim support are also addressed from the Fund.

The coordination and cooperation between law enforcement authorities and other national authorities of Member States is reinforced by the broadening of international network of the stakeholders; by the enhancement of information exchange; and by the participation in activities that involve joint investigations. Several information exchanges and study visits were already made possible with the help of the Fund at the Europol.

1.3.1	What progress was made towards the achievement of the expected results of strengthening Member States' capacity to combat cross-border, serious and organised crime, including terrorism and to reinforce their mutual cooperation in this field, and how did the Fund contribute to the achievement of this progress?
	From the national budget, the number of additional asset-recovery officers employed at the Asset Recovery Office of the National Bureau of Investigation has increased from considerably. Participation in the EU Crime Prevention Network is also processed by the law enforcement agencies from the national budget. The developments with the help of the Fund will help operational capability and mobility. Emphasis is given to help the building of on-site capacities, e.g. data processing, field interviews and arresting criminals. Developing these capacities also contributes to various activities may performed later in office environment e.g. handling of evidence, follow-up interviews, in-depth analysis. Capacity building is essential in the fight against organized crime, since organized crime groups are usually well-equipped. Also, the RA assesses that the fight against serious crime is the most effective by the harmonizing the actions of different specialized units (e.g. crime specific (anti-drug, illegal migration etc. plus unit with special functions: asset recovery officers, surveillance unit, fugitive seekers, analysts etc.). Therefore, in order to achieve results in the fight against cross border, serious and organized crime, the intention of the RA was to enhance the capacity of the different units of the law enforcement agencies, paying special attention to equipments enabling technical data gathering and specially equipped vehicles for cover operations. Therefore, under the projects on preventing and combating cross-border, serious and organized crime, emphasize is given to operational capacity building by technical investments that target the procurement of vehicles, special equipment and IT equipment. The overwhelming aim of the actions undertaken with the help of the Fund is that thanks to the investments, EMPACT priorities could be better served in the future both at the national and the international level. The target groups of the acquisitions are always members of the units of law enforcement agencies dealing with the nationally relevant EMPACT priorities, e.g. the fight against drugs, illegal migration, trafficking in human beings (THB), cyber crimes and the mentioned units with supportive functions (e.g. asset recovery). Progress has already been made in all of these fields from both investigative and intelligence aspects as some specific technical and IT equipments are procured. At this point, no concluded actions can be reported related to Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) and EMPACT operations: (SO5 R1 is 0 until the 30th of June 2017); upon "the field of value of

frozen, seized and confiscated criminal assets" the projects were not fully implemented by the cut-off date therefore SO5 I1 is also 0.

"The number of projects in the area of crime prevention" (SO5 C3), according to the information gathered from the RA by the external evaluator, is 1.

"Results of actions supported by the Fund leading to the disruption of organized crime groups", as these result indicators are to be measured after at least a year-long application of the attained equipment (SO5 R3) is 0.

Since the sustainability period of the finished projects have just begun, therefore the indicators SO5I2 on the "number of police-recorded offences, suspects, prosecutions and convictions resulting from actions within the scope of the Fund" and SO5I3 "Quantity of drugs seizure within the scope of the Fund on organized crime" do not reflect the impact of the projects, however, the equipments procured are expected to be used in operations in the near future.

2 new JITs/EMPACT operational projects (known to be under preparation by the beneficiaries) are anticipated to be the next visible results of the mentioned capacity-building projects.

The NP predicted 160 cross-border operations by the end of the Programme. This is only supposed to be measured during the sustainability period but according to the estimate of the RA, the numbers will very likely be reached, and probably over-accomplished.

So far, 2 law enforcement authorities finished their projects within this national objective and built their capacities, but at least 4 further law enforcement authorities will enhance their ability of higher level response.

The goal of reaching 3,000 persons by campaigns has not yet been achieved but presumably will be by a recently launched project that deals with de-radicalization.

1.3.2	What progress was made towards developing administrative and operational coordination and cooperation among Member States' public authorities, Europol or other relevant Union bodies and, where appropriate, with third countries and international organisations, and how did the Fund contribute to the achievement of this progress?
	The "Robotzsaru Neo" (Robocop Neo) information management system of the National Police Headquarters was developed from national budget and contributes to the internal dataflow of the law enforcement agencies. The extending access of the SIENA network system was also developed from the national budget.
	ISF sources in the NP were planned to be used for, under SO5 NO2, progressing large scale IT developments and to support conducting studies and finance the deployment of liaison officers and the organization of conferences on exchange of information. As for the first aspect, the programme will not fulfil thoroughly the expectations, since, because of the delays of the whole programme, many projects that could have been supported here were eventually carried out from national budget. Most of the actual developments so far target facilitating information exchange by developing human resources, especially by joint exercises or exchange

programmes. (e.g. international surveillance exercises, cooperation with Europol).

The progress is not tangible yet at the level of result indicators, since there has not yet been any joint investigation (JIT) teams or EMPACT (European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats) operation projects supported by the Fund, therefore SO5 R1 is 0.

The "number of projects supported by the Fund, aiming to improve law enforcement and information exchange, which are related to Europol data systems, repositories, or communication" is also 0 (SO5 C4) so far.

"The number of SIENA cases initiated" (SO5 I6) for period between the 16th October 2016 and the 30th June 2017 (last evaluated period) was of a relatively low figure according to the data of the RA – however, the external evaluator observes that the same data reported from 2014 to 2016 were growing constantly.

The same applies for the "number of SIENA messages exchanged": these were constantly rising from 2014 to 2016 and almost doubled in two years, however, the preliminary number for the last evaluated period is a much lower account, but the contradiction between the numbers is probably due to the different data management practices of the different data providing sources.

The intensity of sharing information also has a double-faced tendency: the indicator SO5 I7, with regards "the number of EIS searches performed by Member States" rose in the period of 2014-2016, and according to the sources of the RA, it was just narrowly surpassed in the last evaluated period.

"The number of persons and objects inserted in the EIS by Member States per year" fell from 2014 to 2016 though the number for last evaluated period is higher.

With regards "the number of suspected and convicted persons and objects inserted in the EIS by Member States per year", it fell in the pre-evaluation years, however the RA reports a heaving tendency for the last evaluated period.

As for "the volume of exchange of information in the Prüm framework" (SO5 I5) during the last evaluated period, Hungary reported results on the total number of DNA matches ('hits') and the total number of fingerprint matches ('hits').

It can be assessed that the impact indicators can not be used as a reliable source for the progress so far, first of all because of data gathering problems because the national authorities collect the data on calendar year basis, not according financial years, but also because the impact of many of the projects launched can be expected to appear just after the end of the projects.

However, since the planned results set for the NO2 in the National Programme can be assessed as relevant ones in terms of enhancing cooperation and coordination, some assessment can still be made measuring progress against these results.

The expected results included the deployment of 2 liaison officers. This has already been achieved with the help of the Fund.

The NP expected that 45 officers would also participate at international forums, conferences, and in the work of international networks, organizations with the assistance of the Fund; this number has already been reached.

The goal of creating 2 new connections to on-line databases has not been accomplished from ISF sources because the originally planned IT developments are already accomplished from the national budget.

1.3.3	What progress was made towards developing training schemes, such as those regarding technical and professional skills and knowledge of obligations on human rights and fundamental freedoms, in implementation of EU training policies, including through specific Union law enforcement exchange programmes, and how did the Fund contribute to the achievement of this progress?
	The national budget covers the basic education for the police candidates: there are 4 schools at the secondary level, and a university for higher education. The basic and academic trainings provided for the customs officers are also covered from the national budget, and secret service agencies also have their one-year-long professional training financed nationally. The further trainings financed from the ISF run under the NO3 and cover a wide range of areas: trainings aimed at technical skills (e.g. special driving skills, applying special intelligence techniques) and professional skills (e.g. money laundering; asset recovery). Trainings organized with the participation of Hungarian and foreigner experts are a priority, since these trainings can develop criminal intelligence abilities; enable participants to acquire the best practices in connection with operative possibilities, and also to perform their tasks more effectively during investigations and in joint international operations. Providing language trainings (e.g. English with law-enforcement-specific vocabulary) is also an important priority of the Fund. Trainings about THB and victim support are also distinguished and prioritized within the scope of the Fund. There were no trainings aimed specifically at human rights obligations and fundamental freedoms until the cut-off-date, although after the cut-off date a project was launched containing such module, and this topic is also present in various trainings focus on applying police measures (e.g. how to conduct arrests, rules of transporting apprehended individuals etc.) and these trainings are financed from national budget. There is considerable progress in the implementation of the NP in terms of numbers. Until October 2016, there were no "trainings on cross-border related topics with the help of the Fund" (SO5 R2), but in 2017, 279 law enforcement officials were trained, among whom 83 participated in trainings related to THB and sexual exploitation of women and children; 25 participated in trainings related to money laundering; about 50 to organized crime; about 20 to

	information exchange; about 101 to operational cooperation. Altogether 1,943 hours of trainings were delivered. Among this, 83 hours dealt with THB and sexual exploitation of women and children; 75 with money laundering; 100 with organized crime; 1,300 with information exchange and 385 with operational cooperation. As for the results foreseen by the National Programme, there are already 3 training materials prepared, which means that the previewed 5 materials are likely to be reached by the end of the programme. 279 officials have been already trained on cross-border related topics and the final goal of 1,400 will presumably be reached. A further expected result of the programme was the building of 1 training centre, which is also in progress.

1.3.4	What progress was made towards putting in place measures, safeguard mechanisms and best practices for the identification and support of witnesses and victims of crime, including victims of terrorism, and how did the Fund contribute to the achievement of this progress?
	The Ministry of Justice created the Centre for Victim Support in 2017, which besides its prime function to serve as an information and service hub does provide legal and practical assistance for victims of crime. The National Crisis and Information Service developed an international toll-free line for THB victims. Also from the national budget, the Ministry of Justice holds trainings for officers who work as service providers in the field of victim support. NGOs, with financial aid from the government, contributed to the increase in the number of shelters. Progress from the ISF budget was made by SO5 NO4 for victim support. Within the framework of the ISF, this priority was narrowed down to the support and identification of victims of THB and victims of other crimes (e.g. drug trafficking, financial crimes etc.) are assisted from state-funded programmes. The projects under this national objective are of smaller a range and they target cooperation (common workshops) between law enforcement agencies and NGOs; international information and experience exchange between law enforcement agencies (with Switzerland); and a complex campaign and so far, workshops and field trips were held within the framework of these projects. Since some of the projects started already with considerable delay, in most cases not many quantifiable results yet are available. There are also two projects on trainings about THB and victim support, and some of these planned trainings were already held within the projects. A different type of contribution is made by the construction of an IT platform that links all the relevant governmental, non-governmental and international agencies. The aim is the construction of a database that can help the filtering and assistance of victims, and it also serves as a databank for analyzing the basic trends of THB. By the cut-off date there are 2 project proposals with Grant Agreements being drafted and ready to be implemented in the area of crime prevention, therefore although the indicator SO5

C3 currently is 0 but results will likely soon manifested. The preliminary "number of protected or assisted crime victims" (SO5 I4) for 2017, until the cut-off date is 53.

The following statements can be made with regards the results to be achieved set in the national objectives: the 1 on-line operational IT platform and database as a result of this action is already made.

The 1 advanced trans-referral mechanism with at least 1 country, namely, with Switzerland is also being developed.

The set goal of reaching 500,000 persons will probably be fulfilled by the THB awareness campaign.

Improved cooperation and communication among governmental bodies and NGOs on local level in 4 counties will also be achieved by the ongoing project.

1.4	Specific objective 6: Risks & crisis / ISF-P Article 3(2)(b)
	The overall question: How did the Fund contribute to improve the capacity of Member States to manage effectively security-related risks and crises, and protecting people and critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks and other security-related incidents?
	In order to improve the national capacity to manage effectively security-related risks and crises, developing reactional capability and risk analysis methodologies and practices are in the focus of the RA, alongside with enhancing cooperation and information exchange, and the extending of the international network of the beneficiaries. The RA handled the development of the cyber-defence of the critical infrastructure as a priority. Increasing the number and the efficiency of trainings is also a main objective within this specific objective.

The programming was complex first of all because only 15% of the overall budget was to be spent on this special objective; and also because, in contrast with the other special objectives, in case of SO6 there were no similar antecedent programmes (such as the EBF for SO1 and SO2 or the CIPS and ISEC in the case of SO5). An important feature is also the fact that the pool of potential beneficiaries for the projects under this specific objective is very limited: Counter Terrorism Centre; National Directorate General for Disaster Management; Special Service for National Security.

Stakeholder agencies at the beginning less willing to propose projects for the SO6 calls than previously anticipated, which is, according to the RA, attributed to the fact that the agencies probably feel that the financial framework for this component is insufficient for developing a thorough risk assessment systems.

8 projects applied for the announced calls so far, all of them were supported, with an average of 83% of the original application value.

1.4.1	What progress was made towards reinforcing Member States' administrative and operational capability to protect critical infrastructure in all sectors of economic activity, including through public-private partnerships and improved coordination, cooperation, exchange and dissemination of know-how and experience within the Union and with relevant third countries, and how did the Fund contribute to the achievement of this progress?
	Outside ISF there is a project targeting the renovation and partially equipping state-owned buildings to host prospective centers relevant to industrial information security in each county under the auspices of the National Directorate General for Disaster Management. A new institute with country-wide coordinative and reactive profile, the National Cyber Security Centre was established within the structure of the Special Service for National Security to enhance the efforts against e-crimes and cyber attacks. Thirdly, the Counter Terrorism Centre has also been further developed (profile, HR and equipment-wise) to bear with all the functions, manpower and means to guarantee the safety of citizens.

Within ISF, the aim of SO6 is the protection of citizens and critical infrastructure. Under SO5, a protocol on the defence of crowded places is being prepared, and this serves similar aims. Also the SO5, investigation-wise addresses the threats reside in some specific forms of cyber-crime (e-fraud, misuse of bankcards, on-line sexual exploitation of minors), whilst SO6 responds to challenges of cyber-security as another aspect of cyber-crime concentrated on the protection sphere.

Projects within SO6 mostly target the procurement of equipment, exchange of information and organizing/participating in trainings. The construction of the Central European CBRN-E Training Centre is also running from a project and is an important priority for the RA.

Till the cut-off date preparatory work has been started in most of the projects, so no real progress could be detected at the level of the indicators. The "number of tools put in place and/or further upgraded with the help of the Instrument to facilitate the protection of critical infrastructure in all sectors of the economy" (SO6 R1) is 0, and the "number of expert meetings, workshops, seminars, conferences, publications, websites and online consultations organized with the help of the Instrument" (SO6 R2) is also 0 so far.

There were no terrorist attacks (SO6 I1) in Hungary within the period under scrutiny.

Nevertheless, since projects were already launched with the help of the Fund, with respect to the results to be achieved named in the national objectives, the following statements can be made: as for the protection of critical infrastructure, the expected results, by the end of the Programme, are 2 upgraded event management centers. The construction of 1 of them is already in progress, so there is a chance that the planned result will be achieved.

Equipping numerous CBRN-E specialists with a wider scale, higher level defense-relief response capabilities and a specially equipped minivan/minibus were planned results. The project is in progress and the goals set will presumably be reached.

As for the results to be achieved with respect to cooperation and exchange of know-how, the following statements can be made: the number of officers participating in international forums,

conferences, and in the work of international networks, organizations is 0 so far but the goal of 6 will be achieved by the end of the Programme.

The planned construction of the international CBRN-E training centre is in progress, so this result will also be achieved.

1 specialized educational cabinet related to critical infrastructure protection was planned as a result, but until now, no applications were submitted for the calls for proposals so the achievement of this result is doubtful.

Out of the planned preparation of reviewed/customized/developed curricula, training materials on 2 specific fields of crisis management (e.g. CBRN-E, industrial security) 1 has already been achieved.

1.4.2	What progress was made towards establishing secure links and effective coordination between existing sector-specific early warning and crisis cooperation actors at Union and national level, and how did the Fund contribute to the achievement of this progress?
	No actions under this objective are planned to be financed by ISF.

1.4.3	What progress was made towards improving the administrative and operational capacity of the Member States and the Union to develop comprehensive threat and risk assessments, and how did the Fund contribute to the achievement of this progress?
	The national budget covers the development of national risk analysis and the threat assessment system by mapping the relevant experiences, revision of current methodology and establishing the rules of procedure. This has been started already in 2014 by preparing a comprehensive report by the National Directorate General for Disaster Management on the methodology of the national crisis assessment and its results. ISF was supposed to finance projects that target the mapping of good practices. However, because of the delays, some planned projects were eventually financed from the national budget instead of ISF; also, as the RA purports, the money offered was not attractive enough for the potential beneficiaries. These are probably the reasons behind the fact that no applications arrived for the first calls. Therefore, the RA decided to raise the amount of money for the forthcoming call and slightly widened the scope of actions to be financed in order to render the call more persuasive and the prospective projects more complex. By the time of the writing of this Report project proposals for the new call have already arrived. The lack of progress so far is reflected also in the indicators: as already indicated, SO6 R2 and SO6 C2 are 0 so far.

	This also means that the results to be achieved named in the national objectives, the 5 officers participating in international workshops, forums, conferences, and in the work of international networks, organizations in the topic, will not be reached during the first WP.

2	Efficiency

2	The overall question: Were the results of the Fund achieved at reasonable cost?
	Measures taken in order to ensure efficiency and to reach the results at reasonable costs had already been introduced when the calls for proposal were published. During the project evaluation phase, the RA and the Evaluation Committee provided strict requirements concerning the eligible projects in terms of the type of activities, the type of (public) procurement procedure, and the eligible costs. As already described in "Effectiveness", during the evaluation period, most of the budgets prepared by the project proposals were cut if the costs described were not proven to be reasonable. The strict entering criteria for the project proposals and the thorough evaluation process ensured that the eligible costs were reasonable within the analyzed period. Beneficiaries have to prepare their Project Implementation Report every second months which is the main general monitoring mechanism for the RA to constantly follow-up on the projects. Due to the considerable and cumulative delay, the number of projects that have been completed by the end of the period scrutinized is only 8. Therefore, a thorough quantitative analysis based on cost-effectiveness cannot be made at this point. As for the 8 finished projects, a varying absorbance of the budget can be observed: 3 projects used 87% to 99% of their planned budget; the activities in the other projects absorbed less. Absorbance of 4 projects was approximately 60%, and in one project the rate was 70%. In most cases, low absorbance was due to savings on accommodation, travel costs, and not because some elements were not fulfilled in the projects. According to the information available, the same results and quality could not have been reached at a lower cost. The products were procured and the services were provided at competitive prices, procurement procedures were carried out according to the national rules, and the salaries in the projects were also defined by the labour market. The most serious general challenge for the overall efficiency, beside the delays, appears at acquisition projects that involve public procurements. Public procurement processes are key elements in investment projects. These processes are introduced in order to have fair competition and lower market price, however, the processes often cause extra delays, sometimes the beneficiaries do not prepare the public procurement in an adequate way, which could result in irregularities and ineligibility without the intervention of the RA.

Most of the beneficiaries are public authorities, and a considerable ratio of them surprisingly did not apply for the costs of the project management (they were covered by their annual budget). Taking the findings of the beneficiary survey into consideration, the external evaluator considers the costs justified given the outputs that have been achieved. It can be assessed that the results of the already finished projects have been achieved at reasonable costs.

No fraud has been reported in any of the projects; suspicion of irregularities, however, were detected, and after concluding the RA examination procedures, the RA took measures to ensure that no financial harm was caused to the EU.

2.1	To what extent were the expected results of the Fund achieved at reasonable cost in terms of deployed financial and human resources?
	Many measures already introduced at the programming period served the aim that the results of the Fund would be achieved at reasonable cost. As for the evaluation phase of the projects, an independent Evaluation Committee, set up by the RA, evaluated all applications both financially and technically. The members and observers of the Evaluation Committee are experts of the specific law enforcement fields (police officers, IT specialists, training experts, financial assistants, procurement advisors etc.) but can have no interests in the projects. The financial evaluation process consisted of a review of cost-effectiveness of the expenditures, the eligibility of the costs and the financial contribution of the organization applying. Moreover, the Evaluation Committee has a right to reduce the exaggerating costs, which right has been exercised several times during the scrutinized period. An overall 87 applications arrived to the calls during the scrutinized period. 11 of them were rejected by the evaluators, and further 3 projects were withdrawn during the evaluation process. During the evaluation process, in almost 80% of the proposals, the budget was cut by the evaluators and this decision was accepted by the Evaluation Committee. The average reduction was 19% in the case of the projects involved. In the case of 30 projects, the reduction was less than 10%, in the case of 18, it was between 10 and 30 %, and in the case of the remaining 16 projects, the reduction was substantial. Eventually, the projects applied for HUF 9,188,130,626 and with the reductions, the planned costs of the Fund were reduced to 7,085,010,963 by the time of the signing of the contracts. The evaluation also ranged on the thorough analysis of the technical details in order to prevent any unnecessary acquisitions; during the evaluation, the RA also took into consideration earlier procurements in the area (e.g. from EBF). For the control of the personal costs, the Evaluation Committee used the Hungarian wage scale of the related profession. The over-estimated costs could be filtered due to the procurement regulation that obligated the beneficiaries to call for tenders (and within that for three offers) in case the cost of a specific activity is above HUF 1 million.

Similarly, the RA always watched very carefully whether the project is eligible to be entirely financed from the Fund, or whether apportionment keys should be used.

According to the reflections of some of the beneficiaries, the time assured for the writing of the proposals (4-6 weeks) was insufficient to conduct thorough market research and careful planning in terms of finding the effective solutions. However, the RA reflected that although the application period was relatively short, the representatives of the RA had conducted face-to-face interviews with all the potential beneficiaries (more than 50 such meetings were held) and all the prospective project goals were transparently available on the webpage of the RA months prior.

According to the survey conducted by the external evaluator, beneficiaries were asked to comment on the efficiency of their projects. In the survey, they had to mark, on a scale from 1 (very insufficient) to 5 (satisfactory) whether the money for their project was enough for achieving the goals of the project. Out of the 20 beneficiaries who answered this question, the average answer was 3.85. Among the respondents, there were 3 beneficiaries very unsatisfied (2 points), and 6 beneficiaries very satisfied (5 points) with their actual budget. Most of the beneficiaries were confident also that their activities could not have been accomplished at a lower price (1.6 as an average on a scale from 1"not at all" to 5 "to a great extent"). However, the fact that 7 out of the 8 already finished projects spent less than their initially planned budget also shows that the budgets approved by the RA are sufficient for the activities planned by the beneficiaries.

2.2	What measures were put in place to prevent, detect, report and follow up on cases of fraud and other irregularities, and how did they perform?

The main general mechanism for the constant follow-up of the project is the Project Implementation Report, which is due every two months for the projects.

The reports have to explain every activity within the period scrutinized, with a special emphasis on any changes to the original plans, and there has to be a solid reason for these changes. The RA has a right to suspend the approvement of certain costs, can ask for further clarification, and if this is not adequately given, it can reject the payment.

The RA also conducts operational and financial on-the-spot checks from time-to-time. These checks are carried out in line with the European Commission Implementing Regulation on general principles of controls and in line with the Control Strategy of the RA; they are conducted based on the annual control plan of the RA (on the basis of risk assessment and meeting the criteria for representativeness, non-statistical sampling method) and on ad hoc on-the-spot controls when necessary.

In every financial year, there are two yearly control-plans (a financial and an operational one). The checks usually take one working day, and involve staff from the RA both from the financial and from the professional side. Irregularities detected vary in the extent of their seriousness; the most characteristic type of irregularity concerns procurement processes. During the checks, special attention is paid to the supervision of the operational/professional implementation of the project, to the invoices and other conclusive accounting documents, to the observation of national

	and community rules, with special regard to the rules on the accountability of expenditures, public procurements, and to the prevention, detection and correction of irregularities.
	Ad hoc checks are also to be performed if required by some findings during the monitoring of the projects. The problems tackled usually also concern issues of public procurement. In the case of SO3, 3 such checks were concluded until the 30th of June.
	In some cases, the beneficiaries were dissatisfied with the way their project proposal budget was cut by the RA. According to their complaints, the practice of the RA by reducing the budget without consulting the beneficiary and without letting them restructure the project could lead to inefficiencies, although the above mentioned facts about the savings of the already finished projects do not confirm such statements. Beneficiaries complained that they were thus compelled to reduce their budget in the activities that would not concern any indicators, however, this raises quality questions (for example, the planned curriculum will be produced by the end of the project but with less developed methodology which will be less useful according to the beneficiary). The RA reiterates thought that numerous questions (over an average of 10) had been sent to each of the applicants to clarify and justify the questioned elements/debated costs and just only in cases of having these been replied inadequately, got the budgets reduced proportionally.
	Public procurement processes are key elements in investment projects. These processes are introduced in order to have fair competition and lower market price, however, in many cases, public procurement processes are among the reasons for many of the delays within the projects, and beneficiaries sometimes have the impression that their project is less cost-effective in terms of human resources and time spent with the public procurement processes.
	To conclude, the measures taken can be assessed as satisfactory, since no fraud has been reported, and many irregularities could be tackled by the interventions.

3		Relevance

3	The overall question: Did the objectives of the interventions funded by the Fund correspond to the actual needs?
	All the projects financed from the ISF can be assessed as relevant. Especially in the case of SO1 and SO2, planning could rely on the achievements of the EBF that ensured relevance, as did the intense consultation process that preceded the National Programme, so that many of the ideas of the stakeholders could become visible to the RA. The process within the National Strategy related to the ISF was prepared in 2014 also contributed to the preparation of relevant plans.
	There were, however, some exceptions, when, for some reason, no proposals arrived for the call, e.g. under SO6 NO3, the RA published a call for proposals on research activities related to industrial infrastructure, but no project proposal was filed. Also, although the RA considers that the reviewing of the training system of the border police staff is an important and relevant aim, and launched a call for proposals for this aim, and also issued a supporting decision, the beneficiary

withdrew from the implementation of the project. The division of the NP into consecutive working programmes is an important tool with which the changing needs, if these occur, can be handled.

Beneficiaries of the projects also assess that their activities are relevant.

3.1	Did the objectives set by the Member State in their National Programmes respond to the identified needs?
	As for border management and visa policy, many of the existing needs were well-known by the RA since the planning period for the ISF was the same as the last period of the implementation of the EBF. The results of this latter were assessed and utilized during the planning period e.g. a former project established the plans for a border crossing point financed from ISF.
	Also, there were several consultations that preceded the preparation of the National Programme. This served the aim of tailoring the programme to the existing practical needs of the stakeholders. The planning process lasted more than a year, and within this period, not only consultations were held by the RA where they invited all the main possible beneficiaries to explain them the main priorities of the ISF, but the main agencies were encouraged to add their needs.
	The survey lead by the external evaluator also delivers evidence on questions of relevancy from the perspective of the beneficiaries. Beneficiaries were asked whether they felt that the goals set were accurate, and whether these were still relevant. Beneficiaries feel that the goals set by the NP are still relevant: on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means "not relevant at all" and 5 is for "very relevant", the average of the 20 respondents chose was 4,55 for this question. Only as regards to one project was 3 chosen, in all other cases it was 4 or 5. They are satisfied almost to the same extent with the relevancy of their own projects: on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means "not relevant at all" and 5 is for "very relevant", the average of the 20 respondents was 4,42 for this question, which can be assessed as satisfaction with the relevancy.

3.2	Which measures did the Member State put in place to address changing needs?
	The most important change so far is that, because of the delays, some planned projects were eventually financed from the national budget instead of ISF. This change was handled by the RA that extra calls – sometimes with slightly modified actions to be supported – were launched within the first WP in order to utilize the potential of the Fund. Also, in the case of some unsuccessful calls, changes will be introduced for the second WP (e.g. SO6 risk assessment) for the same purpose.
	In order to address changing needs, it happened that the RA required the elaboration of a feasibility study in order to prove the need for a given development (e.g. SO2, installment of ABC-gates), so this could serve as a good basis for a future project that aimed the implementation of the development within 2nd WP).

	As for SO5, tackling the future changes was an important dimension during the programming, and the RA decided not to enumerate all the activities that could be financed from the Fund, rather the kinds of activities eligible for support were mentioned as possible examples. This way the RA did not exclude any yet unknown areas and this attitude proved to be useful in the case of such crimes as trafficking of arms and environmental crimes, which, in the time of the planning period had not been as important types of crimes as they later became.

The flexibility provided by the division of the implementation of the NP into 2-3-year-long WPs makes it possible to handle the changing needs occurred during the years. |

4	Coherence

4	The overall question: Were the objectives set in the national programme coherent with the ones set in other programmes funded by EU resources and applying to similar areas of work? Was the coherence ensured also during the implementation of the Fund?
	The objectives set in the National Programme were in coherence with other programmes, most importantly, with the IPA (Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance) programme (cross-border programmes with Serbia), and the ENPI (European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument) programme, involving cross-border cooperation with Ukraine, and the coherence was also assured with the operative programmes that have similar objectives, most notably the EEOP (Environmental and Energy Efficiency Operative Programme), PADOP (Public Administration and Development Operative Programme) and the EDIOP (Economic Development and Innovation Operative Programme).

During the programming stage, an assessment of how the problems of the possible overlapping areas shall be solved with the different operative programmes was determined in the NP. The RA also holds, whenever necessary, consultations on EU calls other than the ISF.

The coherence during the implementation period is ensured by the activity of the Monitoring Committee and by actively consulting with all the relevant stakeholders whenever meainingful programming questions encountered, such as modification of the priorities, distribution of top-up funding.

Because of the measures taken both during the programming and the implementation period, contradictions between the different programmes were prevented. |

4.1	Was an assessment of other interventions with similar objectives carried out and taken into account during the programming stage?
	During the programming stage, the ISF programming started within the larger framework of preparing the ground for different interventions, such as the State Reform Operative Program. The most important interventions that target similar objectives are the IPA programme (cross-border programmes with Serbia) and the ENPI programme (involving cross-border cooperation with Ukraine). Furthermore, there are several relevant operative programmes, most importantly the EEOP, which have priorities concerning industrial security, and the EDIOP, PADOP that amongst its many objectives is to support the fight against corruption and the EDIOP that include supporting innovation and research. An assessment of how the problems of the possible overlapping areas shall be solved is determined in the NP. According to this, only the actions targeting the prevention and the handling of man-made disasters are to be supported under the ISF and the aspects of industrial security concerning climate change may receive support in Hungary under the EEOP. As for corruption, a decision was made that ISF would contribute the fight of handling the law enforcement-specific corruption, whereas corruption in general is handled by the PADOP. As for drug policies, it was decided that ISF should support projects that would enhance the capacity to fight against organized crime groups, drug trafficking and drug smuggling to reduce the supply, whilst naming the Human Resources Development Operational Programme as the source for the fight against the phenomena mainly through investing into the health care and the supporting/rehabilitation aspect of substance abuse, centering its endeavors primly on the demand. ISF also supports the prevention of organized and serious crime. The NP was compiled in line with the National Crime Prevention Strategy to support the harmonization of the measures planned on the national level. As for border crossing points, coherence was ensured in a way that the roads leading to the borders are financed under the Integrated Transport Development Operational Programme, whilst ISF focuses on the BCP developments at the Serbian and Ukrainian borders (incl. infrastructure and equipment of the BCPs concerned, but excluding roads leading to the border). All developments at the borders have to be harmonized with the developments of the road network co-financed by the European Structural and Investment Funds or national budget, in the framework of the Border Control Inter-ministerial Working Group led by the Ministry of Interior.

4.2	Were coordination mechanisms between the Fund and other interventions with similar objectives established for the implementing period?
	In line with the practice of the EBF, the RA set up a Monitoring Committee, chaired by the State Secretary of the Ministry of Interior (second line manager of the Responsible Person) to monitor the implementation of the Fund. The members of the Committee are delegated by the relevant ministries, the main beneficiaries and NGOs, along the Responsible Person. The Monitoring

Committee enhances information exchange, supervises the implementation, the achievement of the objectives and priorities and when it is necessary formulates proposals to ensure the most effective implementation of the programme.

The Ministry of Interior is a member of the Monitoring Committee and also of the Committee for Development Coordination, which is chaired by the Prime Minister's Office. Both are regularly held meetings for the harmonization of the use of EU resources of different Funds and the representative of the Prime Minister's Office is also a member of the ISF Monitoring Committee.

Finally, the representative of the Ministry of Economy, who has wide overview over all the Funds of the EU, is also member of all the three forums (Committee for Development Coordination, Evaluation Committee, and Monitoring Committee).

On the other hand, the RA holds, whenever necessary, consultations on EU calls other than the ISF, e.g. regarding calls that can be directly applied at the European Commissions by the beneficiaries; and on other calls that are open to law enforcement agencies, e.g. calls of the European Anti-fraud Office (OLAF). The possible synergies with the different operation programmes are also constantly under analysis.

At the project level there is occasional coordination and cooperation between the projects funded from ISF and between projects funded from other Funds; e.g. participants in projects with a focus on research and development are likely to have experience with other Funds (e.g. Horizon 2020); however, these kinds of coordination are not systemic.

4.3	Were the actions implemented through the Fund coherent with and non-contradictory to other interventions with similar objectives?
	Coordination between the different EU Funds and the careful checking by the RA both during the programming and the implementation period assured that actions within different EU-priorities do not contradict to each other and that double financing is avoided. Contradictory issues did not appear at all during the implementation period so far.

5	Complementarity

5	The overall question: Were the objectives set in the national programme and the corresponding implemented actions complementary to those set in the framework of other policies - in particular those pursued by the Member State?
	Complementarity with national policies and especially with actions financed from the national budget is systematically addressed in the NP at each and every national objective. The pool of

potential beneficiary organizations for the ISF is, by its nature, limited in many times to the organizations carrying out the relevant actions from the national budget also, which fact enhances the complementarity of the activities carried out with the help of the Fund with national policy actions. The communication between the RA and the project beneficiaries is very intensive through the whole implementation period.

The relationship between the activity of the whole organization and the project funded with the help of the Fund was also assessed by the external evaluator. This assessment delivered the result that the projects complement the activities done by the beneficiary organization from national budget.

Preventing overlapping and double financing is a priority for the RA and built-in mechanisms during the evaluation period assure that such irregularities are excluded.

However, the governmental logic of action and governmental decisions sometimes have different emphasis than the main priorities of the ISF. For example, in third country localities which are priorities for the national policy on visa issuance (because of naturalization processes of ethnic Hungarians, or because of national-economic policies) often several Member States are already present, therefore the national need for consular development in terms of the locality do not necessarily coincide with the priorities of the Fund.

5.1	Was an assessment of other interventions with complementary objectives carried out and taken into account during the programming stage?
	Project beneficiaries had to, in their application, support their project plan by showing how they would complement actions taking place either from the national budget or from other sources.
	The assessment of other interventions with complementary objectives during the programming stage was carried out by the RA. The NP contains, alongside with the plans for each national objective to be reached, the measures to be taken from national budget and the complementing measures that the ISF would provide.
	The communication between the main stakeholders and the RA was continuous and intensive preceding the creation of the NP.
	A different, but still relevant issue is whether the beneficiaries work in an organization where the projects can smoothly fit in and efficiently complement the everyday working mechanisms of the organization. Information on this issue is delivered by the questionnaire sent to the beneficiaries. When the external evaluator asked the beneficiaries whether their tasks and goals are similar to the goals of their organization, the answers were rather positive. Their average answer of 3.8 (on a scale from 1, meaning "not at all" to 5, meaning "to a big extent") shows that the harmony is not perfect. It seems however that low answers were given mostly in case of projects that are executed within an organization that is less experienced with programs similar to the ISF.

Also from the perspective of the beneficiaries, an important sign is whether they consider their project goals to be important goals for their organizations as well.

An overwhelming majority (18 out of 20) of the beneficiaries claimed that their goals are important goals of their organization. 9 beneficiaries, claimed that the organization could not fulfil these tasks without the help provided by the Fund, the other 9 beneficiary purports that their organization would try to provide sources to achieve these goals even if ISF sources were not available.

A previously unforeseen amount of governmental funding was made available for public administration and law enforcement agencies in 2015-2016. This had two major inseparable consequences: first, because of the delay of the programme, many of the projects originally foreseen as ISF projects were financed from the national budget, and secondly, it made the impact of ISF on the whole array of actions at the national level less visible.

As a consequence, most of the main, direct and immediate actions are taken from the national budget, whereas ISF sources are used to systemically address A., the improvement of the efficiency of the already existing instruments and actions; B., revisions, plans that serve as a basis for solid and future development; and C., activities that contribute to the fulfilment of duties of the national government related to Union's Acquis and Union standards.

5.2	Were coordination mechanisms between the Fund and other interventions with similar objectives established to ensure their complementarity for the implementing period?
	The above-mentioned coordination methods that assured coherence during the planning period take place regularly during the implementation period and they are set for ensuring complementarity in the implementation period as well. During the implementation period, the communication is very intensive between the RA and the beneficiaries in general. The RA assessed the new needs via intensive consultation with the beneficiaries preceding the 2nd WP. The results of actions emanate from other EU-sources are also taken into consideration during the whole implementation period. Actions from ISF are complementary in the case of the deployment of liaison officers or visa experts to consulates in terms of the places of deployment but also in terms of the deployed visa professionals' special tasks. However, due to the fact that consulates often need human manpower, sometimes there is an expectation toward deployed officers practically to work on similar kinds of issues as the regular staff of the consulates do which is not charged to the Fund (shared financing by the set apportionment key). The equipments procured with the help of the Fund in several cases complement the same type of equipment the beneficiaries already possess (especially the mobile equipment needed for systemic border control). In such cases the use of each equipment is planned in a way to exclude double financing on one hand, and technical compatibility to the already existing devices in use is checked on the other hand.

However, complementarity is frequently handled at the project level by the beneficiaries. For instance, in the case of a project on THB trainings, the beneficiary mentioned several partners (e.g. UNHCR, National Police Headquarters) which they are in constant contact with, and are aware of the field-specific programmes of each other. Another example for good complementarity is in the project, which aims at the construction of a web-based system for the management of THB victims. This innovative project financed from the ISF in fact mirrors the actions set in Governmental Decree 354/2012 on Human Trafficking (no funding was provided from the end of Hungary therefore no double financing is recorded).

5.3	Were mechanisms aimed to prevent overlapping of financial instruments put in place?

In order to prevent overlapping and double financing and to ensure consistency of the programmes, the strategic documents, planned objectives were communicated to all the Management Authorities of other EU Funds, and the representative of the RA participates in the working group preparing the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) operative programmes. In the implementation phase the participation of the Ministry of Interior in the Monitoring Committee is also ensured. The Ministry also takes part in the elaboration of the Annual Development Plans and calls for proposals.

At the level of the RA, special care is taken in order to prevent overlapping of financial instruments, e.g. in the case of equipment procurement, applicants had to reason for the exact number of equipment during the evaluation process; especially if the technical equipment to be procured within the ISF complements the same kind of equipment, procured from national budget for the same target group, to prove that there is no double financing.

The biggest possible financial overlapping issues to be handled, at least theoretically, are the projects that include activities that cannot totally be financed from ISF. Among them the most important is the problem of in-depth border control. The RA has established a protocol according to which projects that presumably could use their equipment/vehicles in the future for in-depth control should also divide the budget proportionally by using an apportionment key. In almost every case, potential beneficiaries have eventually withdrawn such project-elements since they found it difficult in terms of administration. In the cases of the large organizations, the thus remaining necessary instruments that cannot be financed from the ISF, can usually be bought from other (governmental) sources.

A further problem of complementarity at the project level occurs usually with the construction of BCPs, since the new buildings would serve as work stations also for officers whose future activity cannot be financed from the ISF (e.g. customs service). The RA expects from the beneficiary to plan the exact ratio for which the different personnel would use the different buildings, and therefore the financing can be shared between ISF and the national budget. It can be assessed that the RA has established a frame within which issues of overlapping financing can be handled, but in practice, the number of projects where this issue is present is very limited, since the beneficiaries rather choose to withdraw or not even to apply with such conceptions.

6	EU added value

6	The overall question: Was any added value brought about by the EU support?
	The added value of the Fund has a mirroring impact in the case of many acquisitions made with the help of the Fund, since similar acquisitions for similar purposes are made from the national budget also. In this sense, the ISF plays a major role in making the already existing national policies more efficient. EU-added value is the most crucial in the case of the ISF projects that are aimed at the satisfaction of national obligations toward the EU, e.g. the projects that aim at the application of the Union's Acquis and EU standards, training and exchange (information and expert) programs. Especially information exchange programmes and further training projects would have been carried out with a much lower intensity and regularity without the help of the Fund. The beneficiaries of completed projects must give their assessment regarding the EU-added value to their project in their final report to the RA. There are only 8 finished projects to the cut-off date; out of them, 5 beneficiaries stated that their project could not have been implemented without the EU-support. 2 beneficiaries said that without the EU-support, the activities could have been implemented with a much narrower focus; and 1 beneficiary said that the EU-support contributed to the better efficiency of their project. The answers given to the external survey sent to the beneficiaries provide similar results and some of the beneficiaries also stated that their project can deliver European-level benefits (e.g. for foreign partner agencies).

6.1	What are the main types of added value resulting from the support of the Fund (volume, scope, role, process)?
	Many activities (deployment of liaison officers and visa specialists, trainings etc.) going on under SO1, SO2 and SO3 help the multiplication of knowledge on and conformity with the Schengen Acquis and EU requirements and complement the existing national policy by facilitating the fulfilment of the above duties. They also make the progress quicker and more efficient. With respect to trainings and exchange programmes, the Fund can be considered as the most important tool for building international network. Equipment acquisitions are also good examples that accentuate the added value as e.g. in case of the projects under SO5 and SO6, some of the infrastructures and the devices used by the law enforcement agencies required up-date so that only advanced level equipment is sufficient to efficiently combat against organized criminal groups and terrorists bearing with similarly high level technology. Acquisitions within the Fund, aiming at the enhancement of capacity and

| | response capability to prevent and fight against organized crime and terrorism and also at the enhancement of the capacity of protecting critical infrastructure, complement the already existing equipment or devices procured from national budget for similar purposes.

Due to the nature of the programme, the scope of the involved beneficiaries is limited mostly to state authorities and the overwhelming majority of them are the main organs of the execution of national policy in general already showing that widening the scope of involved actors is yet a challenge for the RA.

Educational institutions and NGOs participate mostly in projects related to SO5 (see Table 2)., although the proportion of NGOs taking part in these projects is lower than it was in the programmes of CIPS and ISEC, which were similar programmes in the field of police cooperation. However, the RA has launched open calls for proposals to provide more opportunities for the NGO sector.

With the help of the Fund, beside central agencies, regional, departmental and local organs can also be developed.

The long implementation period of the Fund gives way for projects that can build upon each other hence this can also be assessed as an important added value. With this advantage, in some cases, the RA plans to achieve synergies by launching projects that can serve as ground for future acquisition projects (see the already mentioned study on the ABC-gates (see Section IV.1.2.2) or the revision of the border surveillance system (see Section IV. 1.2.3). Also, this extended time frame of the Fund makes it possible to launch complex, multi-annual projects.

The EU-added value is probably crucial in some smaller, but important developments, e.g. the reconstruction of power supply systems at the Ukrainian and Serbian border branch offices that had long been acknowledged by the stakeholders as a necessary but not a very urgent development. Even if national resources and capacities are scarce, the reconstruction can be started with the help of the Fund. |

| 6.2 | Would the Member State have carried out the actions required to implement the EU policies in the areas supported by the Fund without its financial support? |
| | As the interviews confirmed, the beneficiaries assume that most of the vehicle or equipment acquisitions, or purchases of devices that contribute to border control and border surveillance, would have certainly been carried out had there been only national resources, although, probably at a much slower pace.

As already referred to at the second sub-question "Complementarity", the projects realized from ISF sources can be divided into several categories in terms of their functionality. One among them is the fulfilment of the different obligations of the national government toward the EU, which is facilitated and made more efficient by these ISF actions. Without the support provided by the Fund for projects meant to progress the Union's Acquis – projects aiming at trainings or exchanges of know-how and experience –, the same results might not be realized from the |

national budget with the same intensity.

A further assessment that can be made here is that developments of IT systems that are needed in order to comply with the EU-requirements, but cannot produce direct and spectacular results at the national level, supposedly would not easily get support from the governmental budget, therefore, projects of this nature can be assessed as presenting an important added value.

The above assessments are validated also by the findings of the questionnaire sent to the beneficiaries by the external evaluator. Out of the 20 answers to the survey asking beneficiaries, almost half of them presumed that the activities within their projects are seen as important activities and their organization would try to achieve the goals by other means also; however, only 1 respondent said that the general objectives of the organization are the same as the project goals. 9 respondents said that although the goals are respected by their organization, they would have not sufficient financial means to pursue them without the ISF source. The beneficiaries of projects involving capacity building by acquisitions (projects under NO1 of SO5; and several projects under SO2) are rather confident that their activities would also gain support from other sources even without the help of the ISF. On the other hand, beneficiaries involved in trainings, exchange programmes or deployment of officers in order to achieve the Union's Acquis are less confident whether their activities could be implemented with the same intensity without the help of the Fund.

6.3	What would be the most likely consequences of an interruption of the support provided by the Fund?
	To give an estimation of the consequences of an interruption, one should turn to the effects that were caused by the overall delay of the programme, already mentioned as an important context for the implementation thereof. As already referred to, the delay caused that many of the previously planned projects which were considered priorities for the national government completed from the national budget, thus being a reason for some of the deviations from what had originally been planned. This indicates that many of the projects eventually made from the Fund are priorities to a less extent for the national policy.

Generally speaking, from the results of the survey conducted by the external evaluator and from the strategic documents, it can be assessed that an interruption would slow down many processes, and it would have an impact on the number and scope of procured vehicles and equipment, or IT-development. As already referred to, almost half of the beneficiaries who returned the survey had doubts whether their project would be pursued within their organization if there were no ISF support.

Going more into detail, the consequences of an interruption of the support provided by the Fund would be dependent on two main factors. First of all, on the type of project (whether it is about capacity building or a "softer" project), and secondly, on the general budgetary conditions of the beneficiaries.

For some organizations, e.g. the National Police Headquarters, an interruption would cause less problems because of the already mentioned satisfactory level of their budget (from national |

| | sources); in their projects, an interruption would slow down the procurement processes, but they would presumably be carried on. However, there are beneficiaries who are more dependent upon the resources of ISF, and their projects probably could not gain support from elsewhere. Here again, we have to quote the answers of the beneficiaries to the survey: it seems that the beneficiaries of the "softer" (trainings, human resources developments as contrasted to acquisitions) projects feel themselves less confident as to whether other sources beside the ISF source would be available for their developments.

Referring again to the different functions of ISF sources within the national field, it can be assessed that an interruption of support would slow down the device and vehicle acquisition projects, but it would not jeopardize them to a great extent; on the contrary, it would probably seriously impact the IT-developments financed from the Fund; and certainly would discontinue financing further trainings in the area of border management. |
|---|---|

6.4	To which extent have actions supported by the Fund resulted in a benefit at the Union level?
	Because of the delays, only 8 projects have been completed, so it is very early to tell about impacts at the European level; projections on the future can, however, be made.

Out of the 20 beneficiaries who returned their responses to the survey, 13 were sure that their project will have an impact at the European level also, and only 1 was confident that there will not be any such impact. Most of the beneficiaries, however, do not foresee any specific future contribution, rather they think that generally, cooperation among the different agencies and Member States will be better as a consequence of their projects. One beneficiary stated that some results of their projects (e-learning curriculum) are constructed taking into consideration that later it could be offered for international organizations/platforms (Frontex, CEPOL, etc.) to use them. An important future benefit for the whole Central European region will certainly be the establishment of the CBRN-E Training Centre.

Since the external border section of Hungary is relatively big, all the developments with regard to external border surveillance system and improvement of border checks contribute to the Integrated Border Management system of the EU. Exchange programmes of personnel are expected to have an important impact, although this impact is very hard to formalize: namely, that deployed officers within the framework of exchange programmes or visiting programmes can build informal relationships during the programmes, can know whom to turn to at a foreign or international agency. This surely have a positive impact on the intensity of future cooperation but no real measures are deployed to gather numerical data of such progress. |

6.5	What was the added value of the operating support?
	A final assessment cannot be made since there are 3 projects under SO3 on operational support, and although all 3 of them started in 2016, all of them had problems with the public procurement

| | processes so they also differ from the planned timeline.

There were no projects for operating support that aimed at achieving the specific objective on common visa policy. All the 3 projects that were started under the SO3 for operating support, contribute directly to border management.

2 of the projects complement each other and contribute to the border surveillance system: one of them is about developing the external border (stabile) surveillance camera system, the other one is about the acquisition of hand-held thermic cameras.

The operating support for the procurement of these cameras is a logical continuation of the previous procurements within the Schengen Fund and the EBF. Since the older cameras were getting outdated and their maintenance was getting un-economic, the need for new cameras was not questioned by any of the actors, and the planning of the procurement was discussed already at an early stage of the designing of the 1st WP.

Both projects target the changing of obsolete devices to modern, easy-to-use devices of high operational reliability, thus the operating support contributes to the constant maintenance of the system of thermic cameras; basically, both projects target the change of the already amortized equipment at the borders, therefore helping to tackle irregular migration at the Schengen borders.

The third project aims at the partial renewal of the infrastructure of SIS II by scheduled replacement of certain network devices due to depreciation. By upgrading the equipment, product support will be available for the most important elements of the IT system.

The added value of the operating support results first and foremost in higher efficiency, since the reparation of the older equipment is not cost-effective in the long run, so the investment could have been postponed without the Fund, but would resulted in a deteriorating use of the surveillance system. |

| 7 | Sustainability |

| 7 | The overall question:
Are the positive effects of the projects supported by the Fund likely to last when its support will be over? |
| | The sustainability requirements for investments and the sustainability periods were laid down already in the proposal-period, which assures that the easy-to-be-measured elements within the projects were already planned in a way that they qualify for the sustainability requirements.

Beneficiaries were also expected to plan their budget for the maintenance costs of the equipment procured from ISF. The Grant Agreement contains regulation about the sustainability duties and also about the sustainability period. Project indicators also include impact-type of indicators, and |

their fulfilment will be checked by the RA in the sustainability period of the projects.

During the project implementation in their bi-monthly due progress reports, the beneficiaries have to reflect on any changes that would later challenge their sustainability duties.

However, sustainability is much less prescribed in the case of the "softer" projects designed with a clearly accountable way, and it seems to be very dependent on the given organization whether the results achieved within a training or information exchange programme will be used/spread with the help of the Fund. Also to be noted, that during project evaluation phase, the RA consequently drew the attention of the beneficiaries onto the relevance of sustainability at this type of projects, too.

The same applies here in many cases as it was assumed concerning EU-added value: most of the exchange and further training programmes progressing the harmonization of visa issuance, cross-border and police cooperation are less likely to continue in the future with the same intensity as with the help of the Fund, however, the knowledge and expertise accumulated with the help of these activities will probably have a continuous impact.

7.1	What were the main measures adopted by the Member State to ensure the sustainability of the results of the projects implemented with support of the Fund (both at programming and implementation stage)?
	The call for proposals included the sustainability expectations of the RA. The regulation laid down that infrastructures developed with the help of ISF support have to be used for 10 years for the same purpose; the same prescribed time period was 5 years for equipment attained and 3 years related to IT-developments. Beneficiaries have to make insurance with regard to the acquisitions gained with the help of the Fund over HUF 3 million and sustain this insurance through the whole sustainability period.

There are no general prescriptions regarding the sustainability of projects of a softer nature.

The RA and the Evaluation Committee paid much attention to the issue of sustainability during the evaluation of the proposals and sustainability duties are also included in the Grant Agreement.

Further and different types of sustainability checks were stipulated at the end of the proposal evaluation process and at the decision, depending on the nature of the project: e.g. in case of some trainings, information exchanges and deployment of officers, the RA proposed that the beneficiary enter into an agreement preventing the departure of the officers in order to keep the acquired knowledge within the organization after the project.

The project proposals had to show exact plans of the beneficiaries about the utilization of the equipment/vehicles, etc. to be procured. In some special cases, when it is known that the general situation will change during the sustainability period (e.g. after Romania joins the Schengen zone), the beneficiaries had to explain how this situation will be handled (where the equipment that will no longer be needed on that special part of the border, will be used).

The RA also emphasized, that operational cost (as opposed to development) cannot be supported from most of the projects (except for SO3), therefore beneficiaries were expected to plan their |

budget for the maintenance costs of the equipment procured from ISF, and also to show how the beneficiary will maintain the acquisitions after the project concluded.

The contract between the beneficiaries and the RA states that all projects that include investment with the help of the Fund have to fulfil their sustainability duties. Beneficiaries with sustainability duties are required to submit project sustainability reports through the sustainability period, and they need to show how the acquisitions are used and whether their use is in line with the project aims during the entire sustainability period.

Sustainability is also ensured by the fact that projects with sustainability duties are considered complete only at the end of the sustainability period.

7.2	Were mechanisms put in place to ensure a sustainability check at programming and implementation stage?
	Measures taken to ensure sustainability were expected to be addressed by the beneficiaries in their proposal along the lines detailed in the previous (7.1) sub-question. During the implementation period, beside the bi-monthly progress reports, beneficiaries have to prepare a yearly sustainability report until the end of the sustainability period. The RA may also conduct on-the-spot checks. In the bi-monthly due interim report of the projects, beneficiaries have to report on whether any changes occurred with regard to what had been foreseen previously during the implementation. The reported changes are also analyzed by the RA from the sustainability perspective. However, in the final report, beneficiaries have to explain the sustainability of the results of their projects. Given the low number (8) of the projects that were completed, and that their sustainability period just begun at the time of the evaluation, an overall assessment of the sustainability of the programme cannot be performed, however, the activities of the individual projects can be assessed at this point. The aim of 3 already finished projects was the acquisition of equipment and vehicles. The sustainability in the case of these projects is assured by the planning for maintenance costs by the beneficiaries; in the case of vehicles, the continuous use of record of mileage forms will provide information during the sustainability period on the use of the vehicles; vehicles are also supposed to participate in operations that support the fight on EMPACT-priorities and this shall also be documented. In the case of training and exchange programmes, most of the beneficiaries stated that, according to their contract, they are not obligated to check for later sustainability. However, in some cases, especially when written materials (e.g. a study report) were produced, the impact of the project is expected to be continuous since the materials will be used by the professionals working in the field. However, in the case of some training projects, the sustainability of the results seems to be dependent upon the effort of the beneficiaries to use the experiences accumulated during the

projects as an asset in the future. The survey conducted by the external evaluator reached some beneficiaries with still on-going projects, therefore, in these cases only estimations can be made about the sustainability.

Project indicators also include impact-type of indicators, and their fulfilment will be checked by the RA in the sustainability period of the projects.

7.3	To what extent are the outcomes/benefits of the actions sustained by the Fund expected to continue thereafter?
	Here again, because of the considerable delays of the launch of the projects and the very low number of already finished projects, just some basic estimations can be made.

Beneficiaries are quite confident about the sustainability of their future results: out of the 20 beneficiaries who returned the survey to the external evaluator, most (17) thought that the achievements of their projects would be sustained, and only 3 said they did not know.

In the case of projects that target procurement of equipment, the projects usually end by the procurement, and the real objective of the project is usually the use of the procured goods/built-up infrastructure, therefore, sustainability is guaranteed by the nature of the projects.

In the case of exchange programmes and trainings, the practice of the beneficiaries is to raise the multiplier effect by organizing an internal training about the results of the project financed from the ISF. A similar multiplier effect is foreseen by the managers of a project that aims at the deployment of visa officials. Accumulated knowledge through the exchange programmes, and the personal network with international agencies are to be used in the future also, but the extent of this will be dependent upon the willingness of the organization to facilitate this kind of usage.

There are cases where the result of the project appears in the national public administration, e.g. in the case of a project concerning victim protection, a new ministerial regulation (by the Ministry of Justice) would prescribe to the stakeholders to use the web-based database prepared during the project. |

7.4	What measures were adopted to ensure the continuity of the activities carried out thanks to the operating support?
	Since all the actions under SO3 (operation support) are projects involving acquisition of equipment or IT-devices, the measures ensuring sustainability for the operation support are the same as for all similar acquisitions with the help of the Fund: the prescribed time period is 5 years for equipment attained and 3 years related to IT-developments.

The operating support contributes to constant maintenance of the system of thermic cameras; basically, the two projects that target the change of the already amortized equipment at the |

| | borders, help tackling irregular migration at the Schengen borders. The acquisitions fit and complement the national policy on border surveillance and, after the end of the project, will become part of the surveillance system, therefore, their use for the purposes outlined in the project proposal will be assured.

The partial renewal of the infrastructure of SIS II by scheduled replacement of certain network devices due to depreciation, with the help of the operating support, will contribute to the more secure and fast operation of the SIS II. |
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8	Simplification and reduction of administrative burden

8	The overall question: Were the management procedures of the Fund simplified and the administrative burden reduced for its beneficiaries?
	The simplification of management procedures included developments in the IT systems dedicated to assist project selection (EUPR system, National System of the Programme of the European Union, also used for operational programmes) and project monitoring (BAMIR, Monitoring Information System of the Internal Funds). During both the application and implementation phases, administration is expected to be thoroughly electronic for the beneficiaries, who have to fulfil their administrative duties through the two systems. All the information that can be useful for the potential beneficiaries is available on the Hungarian website of the ISF.

The simplification cost options could be implemented only to a limited extent. The main reason behind this is that some of the simplifications made possible by the Fund could not be introduced by the RA. The plans for unit scale costs in the case of the trainings were rejected by the Directorate General for Audit of European Funds, the national Audit Authority for European Union Funds; lump sums could not be introduced with regards deployments and exchanges because of the big differences of costs of the possible destinations. Therefore, only a couple of new measures were introduced. The flat rate calculation utilized with regard to indirect costs made the administration easier for the projects. Out of the 20 beneficiaries who responded to the survey of the external evaluator, 12 already had experience with similar EU-Funds (e.g. EBF). Among them, 5 found that the administrative duties were as difficult as that of their previous experiences; 5 found these more difficult in the case of the ISF, and only 2 found that the procedure was made simpler in ISF. |

8.1	Did the innovative procedures introduced by the Fund (simplified cost option, multiannual programming, national eligibility rules, more comprehensive national programmes allowing for flexibility, operating support and Special Transit Scheme for Lithuania) lead to simplification for the beneficiaries of the Fund?

The multiannual programming made the administration for the RA easier, and it prepared a better margin both in terms of professional work and financing. Multiannuality means more flexibility also in terms of timing, which, because of the large delays of the projects, is deemed to be essential. Multiannuality also means that longer projects can be planned, if necessary. The NP is implemented via WPs that are documents at the ministerial, not at the governmental level, which also makes it more flexible if changes needed to be conducted.

For the selection phase, the RA used the IT system developed by the Prime Minister's Office (EUPR), but after the grant agreements are sealed, during the project implementation phase, the beneficiaries have to fulfil their administrative duties through IT system developed by the RA (BAMIR). Both the beneficiaries and the RA consider that getting the IT systems to work properly was a lengthy process, and many errors hindered and slowed down the proper administration. However, the fact that, if the system works properly, administration is expected to be thoroughly electronic, is welcomed by the beneficiaries, especially in the case of the bi-monthly project implementation reports. Beneficiaries also highlighted that the submission of proposals required less paperwork from them. A beneficiary highlighted as a positive change that the paying mechanisms was also changed, and made easier. The introduction of a flat rate was emphasized as a positive feature by certain beneficiaries, however, they added that it is not used as many times as they would prefer.

The RA assesses that simplified costs could be a good option but the introduction in many cases was hindered by circumstances independent of the RA. The most important element of simplified costs that is introduced is a flat rate utilized with regard to the indirect costs. The RA also planned to introduce unit scale costs in the case of the trainings, but the idea was rejected by the Directorate General for Audit of European Funds. The introduction of simplified cost options was considered by the RA in the case of exchange projects, but given the very big difference between the possible locations of the projects, no simplification could be made. Therefore, simplified costs are not yet being used in the budgets in general.

Eligibility rules for ISF are harmonized with the ones in Government Decree No. 272/2014 (XI.5.) on the Use of the Funds of Structural Funds., .

The harmonization is also asserted at the level of regulation for the public procurement processes, and, just like with the Structural Funds, the value of using a procurement professional is maximized proportionately (1%) with the overall value of the direct cost of the project; however, beneficiaries find it unfair since the values of their projects are usually much smaller than that of the projects within the SF.

The possibility of technical assistance is also perceived as a good option, however, the government decided to finance the wages of the staff from the national budget, therefore, the RA does not use this source (see Table 2) for remuneration except for the employee of the Audit Authority.

In the survey conducted by the external expert, beneficiaries could tell on a scale from 1 to 5 their opinion about how the RA supported them throughout the project, where 1 was "not at all" and 5 was "absolutely". The average answer is 3.75, but it has to be mentioned however, that during the interviews conducted with the beneficiaries, a more positive attitude was detected toward the RA by the external evaluator.

Beneficiaries were also asked in the survey whether administrative requirements of the ISF were easier to meet than they had been before in the case of similar Funds. It has to be mentioned here that only 12 beneficiaries out of the 20 had previous experience with the other similar Funds. Among them, the number of those who found that in the case of ISF it was easier is the same as those who think it was more difficult (5-5), whereas 2 beneficiaries did not see a difference.

Description of three 'success stories', among all the projects funded

Example 1
Project number: HU/2016/PR/0042

Prevention of human trafficking of minors

Beneficiary: National University of Public Service

Under Special Objective 2, NO4- Union's Acquis

Contract signing date: 30.11.2016.

Project ending date: 28.02.2018.

Initial proposed budget: 30,272,691 HUF

Budget approved by the RA: 28,150,276 HUF

The aim of the project is providing advanced professional training for border guards containing best practice for detection of smuggling of minors or other illegal acts at the borders in bundle with quick and effective measures tailored at protection of victims.

Previous experience of police officers not having sufficient knowledge about the legal context concerning smuggling of minors was one factor that initiated the project proposal, but it was also inspired by the problems raised by some NGOs, e.g. problems of going abroad with a minor when parents are divorced. According to the project leader, professional stakeholders felt that, at least until the peak of the refugee crisis in 2015, smuggling of minors across borders was not a priority within law enforcement agencies in Hungary. The main reason for the project is, according to the beneficiary, that Europol's data show that Hungary is third in the EU on the list of minor victims of human trafficking; and also, Hungary is a transit country from Romania, which is the first on the same list.

The two main activities of the project are training for border guards and training material development.

The training material is planned to include legal, criminal aspects, knowledge on the actual situation, as well as psychological training, and the aim is to prepare material that is usable for the target group, i.e. border guard officers with secondary school degrees.

For reaching this main aim, the project includes a survey that was sent to the target group. It included questions with regard to the knowledge of the target group, but also questions on their needs. The participants of the trainings to be held in the near future were also selected with the help of some

Example 1

questions about the willingness of the members to participate in such trainings.

Beside this quantitative survey, the project also included qualitative research, by means of one study visit to the Europol, and also qualitative research (by means of interviews) with local stakeholders and officers about their experiences.

The further steps of the project rely on the experiences gained through the research. By the time of the end of the period scrutinized, preparations for the e-learning module were in progress, the research report was prepared, and 4 out of the 4 planned conferences and workshops had been held. During fall 2017, the pilot training is foreseen, and then, by the beginning of 2018, five training sessions are planned. The project is assessed as an example of success story. Different stages were very systemically planned within the project; and according to the estimations of the RA, the project certainly not have been carried out without the support of the Fund.

Example 2

Project number: HU/2016/PR/0016

Visit and change of experiences at Europol and FIOD

Beneficiary: NTCA (National Tax and Customs Administration of Hungary)

Under Special Objective 5: Preventing and combating crime,

National objective 2: Exchange of information

Contract signing date: 28.07.2016.

Project ending date: 30.06.2018.

Initial proposed budget: 30,272,691 HUF

Budget approved by the RA: 28,150,276 HUF

The aim of the project is to organize a trainee programme at EUROPOL and a management-level visit to the Dutch Fiscal Information and Investigation Service (FIOD) in order to enhance the law enforcement cooperation between the countries and to provide an opportunity for experts to familiarize themselves in detail with the applied methods and IT tools.

The main activities include 8 three-month long trainee programmes at Europol and a four-day study visit at the FIOD for 15 managers.

Example 2

Direct target group: 23 employees of the Criminal and Investigation Directorate of NTCA who are professionals in the fields of combating financial crimes and money-laundering.

The project is fully in line with the realization of the objectives stated in the ISF NP, as the trainee programme and the personal exchange of experiences facilitate the exchange of information and a more active professional cooperation between EU Agencies and Member States.

The case study is based on the field visit paid by the external evaluator to the management of the project, where two members of the project management team and one member of the target group were interviewed and on the information accumulated from the BAMIR information system.

The beneficiary had many project experiences from the previous External Borders Fund, although circumstances have changed for them because custom issues are excluded from the ISF Borders and Visa, therefore they had a very narrow field within the National Programme, under only ISF Police, that they could apply for. However, at NTCA there is an expectation from the management to participate in as many projects as possible. Besides the project scrutinized here the NCTA runs 4 projects. Although in the case of other projects they have problems with implementing as per the timeline, this project runs as originally planned.

Within the framework of the project, 8 employees can visit the Europol centre and a trip for 15 managers was organized to the FIOD. During the evaluation process of the project, the RA asked several clarification questions, first and foremost because of the number of the managers who intended to participate in the study visits; the beneficiary could successfully prove that the number is due to the number of the regional departments of the organization. The study visit to the FIOD was successfully completed in 2016. The participants in their follow-up reports described an increase of data exchange between their regional departments and the Europol, especially with regard to the data sent by the Hungarian authorities to the Europol.

As for the 3-month visits to the Europol, by the time of the evaluation, 4 visits have already taken place.

Members of the target group spend the first two weeks getting to know the working practice of Europol, the SIENA and the Europol Information System (EIS) systems. Participants have to prove their knowledge at a test after this first period, and it is only thereafter that they can get involved in the actual visit activity at the Europol. According to members of the target group, a very useful element of their visit experience was that they now know how an investigation is constructed at the Europol, i.e. what the necessary information is that will guide them better when they provide information for the Europol desk officers.

Since the project has been going on for a while, some of the participants have already come back from the exchange. One of them already teaches the usage of the SIENA and the EIS to colleagues who are not participants of the project. This can be seen as a multiplier effect of the project. At the management level, the experiences of the project led the management to the conclusion that uploading more data to the international IT systems is a priority.

Example 2
Informal relations have been built during the visits, which probably facilitates international cooperation in the future, since participants will have acquaintances at the Europol, whom they will easily contact if necessary.

After the visit, participants are expected to spread the knowledge they acquired during the visit. The only negative feedback from participants concerned the length of the visit which they consider not long enough for deep knowledge exchange. |

Example 3
Project number: HU/2016/PR/0041

Web-based system for the management of victims of human trafficking

Beneficiary: Ministry of Justice

Under Special Objective 5: Preventing and combating crime,

National objective 4: Victim support

Contract signing date: 11.11.2016.

Project ending date: 30.09.2017.

Initial proposed budget: 38,558,541 HUF

Budget approved by the RA: 17,932,574 HUF

The aim of the project is to construct an IT platform for data exchange between all the main governmental and NGO actors involved in the fight against human trafficking, with the involvement of international actors. A unified (anonym) database is constructed, which helps the filtering of victims, their follow-up and directing them within the victim support system and the new IT platform also helps the statistical analysis of human trafficking trends. The structure of the database follows Government Decree No. 354/2012. (XII.13.) on the Identification of Victims of Human Trafficking, therefore, it is in coherence with the national field and it complements the already existing practice by making the service more efficient and reliable. An important goal was the creation of a filtering methodology for the possible duplication of data, which had been considered a main drawback of the traditional data-gathering process.

The basic idea behind the project was that there had been a lack of relevant statistical data available for the stakeholders. During the project, a working group was established where all the involved partners were invited with the goal of learning their views on what they would prefer to appear in the database. |

Example 3

All the 8 planned working group meetings were held by the time-period scrutinized. The topics of the working group meetings were mostly professional issues, but there was one working group meeting devoted entirely to IT-problems.

An important element of the project is the initiation of the changing of the decree already mentioned in a way that, in the future, it will dedicate this web database as the means of mandatory data gathering and it will also broaden the agencies entitled to be involved in the victim identification process.

By the time of the writing of the report the only remaining activity to be performed was the concluding conference, which was organized in a timely manner. All the project indicators were reached or expected to be reached in the near future by the time of the field visit of the independent evaluator.

The aim of the project itself was only the construction of the database, but the beneficiary already entered the introduction of the system into its training programme. Therefore, the trainings organized by the Ministry of Justice for experts in victim support will include explanation on how to use the new database.

The project is also a good example of the internal coherence of the ISF, since within another project, which focuses on trainings in victim support, the database is also introduced.

Description of one 'failure', among all the projects funded

Example
Project number: HU/2016/PR/0038
VIS IT hardware structure upgrade
Beneficiary: Immigration and Asylum Office; consortium partner: Central Office for Administrative and Electronic Public Services
Under Special Objective 1, NO 1 - national capacity
Contract signing date: 07.10.2016
Initial project ending date planned: 30.11.2016
Initial proposed budget: 77,746,770 HUF
Budget approved by the RA: 77,746,770 HUF
The following example was chosen as a failure because theoretically, it could have been a very easy-to-do acquisition project that could have been well foreseen and planned, but it became one of the projects with the most difficulties.

The project's aim is, in order to fulfil the national obligations to the VIS Regulation ((EC) No. 767/2008), to cover the hardware and software development, which would presumably result in a more efficient data exchange between the consulates with visa issuance functions operating in third countries and N.VIS, border crossing points as well as amongst the central elements of the national databases. The target group of the project is the personnel of the relevant organization using specialized branches of the national system; national authorities seeking data from CS.VIS;TCNs submitting visa applications to the competent national authorities. The purchase of the database and application servers is necessary to ensure the continued and adequate speed and reliable unit management so that Hungary can comply with the obligations of the VIS Regulation.

The expected result is that the efficiency of data exchanges and data access provided by the visa N.VIS will increase at consulates, border crossings, and the national visa authority.

The project was planned as a relatively short project achievable in 5 months (the project activities could have started three months before the actual signing of the contract with the RA). However, the beneficiary asked for the modification of the deadline soon after the signing of the contract. After the modification, the new deadline was 30.06.2017 A further modification was introduced in May 2017, with the new deadline being 31.12.2017. However, just at the end of the period scrutinized, the beneficiary asked in its interim project report for a further prolongation of the deadline to 30.06.2018.

So, although the project was originally supposed to terminate in 2016, by the end of the scrutinized period, (June 30, 2017), they were just in the middle of the public procurement process necessary for |

Example
the fulfilment of the goals. One reason behind these delays, it can be assessed, is that the project was not carefully planned. During the programming period, the beneficiary had not planned to use the ISF sources for this project, and when they eventually decided to prepare their proposal, the application proved to be unprepared: neither did it contain an analysis of the existing situation, nor did it present data that could underlie the project proposal. This made the evaluation process exceedingly long. Even at the end of this process, the final application's budget turned out to be lacking some crucial parts, especially concerning the software to be procured. The main beneficiary did not pay enough attention to the discussions with its consortium partner, the Central Office for Administrative and Electronic Public Services, the maintenance service provider for the servers. Both partners assumed that the other would take care of some essential elements of the project, and it turned out just after the start of the project that many incompatibilities still had to be handled. The consortium partner was unwilling to sign the consortium agreement because of the above problems residing in the insufficient preceding discussions. Complications with the EUPR/EPTK system also slowed down the evaluation process. After the signing of the contract, the beneficiary did not find enough experts for the immediate start of the activity. The "holes" found in the budget during the evaluation process had to be filled by the beneficiary organization's budget, for activities that could have been eligible for ISF funding, thus careful planning could have caused a better absorption rate for the Fund and less spending from national budget. A further impeding element for the project was the reorganization of public administration by the government that involved the main beneficiary, the Immigration and Asylum Office, and its consortium partner, the Central Office for Administrative and Electronic Public Services. This all resulted in the fact that although by its nature this could have been an "easy project", in fact, no real progress has been made during the scrutinized period.

Section VI: Methodology

For the evaluation, the documentations of the different stages of the programming and implementation were assessed. The most important document sources in this respect are: The Governmental Strategy for the Internal Borders Fund; The National Programme; the 1st Working Program. The reports of the RA during the implementation period (especially the report of Annual Accounts and Annual Implementation Report) were also important sources for assessing the implementation period.

The BAMIR on-line data base containing all the documents required by the RA from each project including the Grant Agreements, which were also scrutinized along the 2-monthly progress reports in order to assess progress at the level of the projects.

The relevant progress made from sources independent from the ISF was assessed with the help of background interviews made with project beneficiaries and experts; by the questionnaire prepared by the external evaluator, also sent to the beneficiaries; and, where possible, with the help of desk research and further consultations with representatives of some of the main organs responsible for carrying out the national policy.

Data collection for the indicators was organized by the RA. Beneficiaries are required to provide information on their project indicators in their interim reports. Indicators not listed as project indicators (especially impact indicators) were collected by the RA on request of the external evaluator from the different organizations. Approximately 70% of the impact indicators for the year 2017 until the 30th of June (as required) could be collected this way. Beside the indicators, where relevant and possible, the effectiveness of the activities was assessed against the results expected to be reached by the NP for each national objective (some of the questions did not necessarily apply to only one and to a whole national objective).

Data collection from the beneficiaries involved both qualitative and quantitative methodologies.

As for the qualitative methods, in-depth interviews were made and field visits were paid regarding 12 projects at 8 different beneficiaries. The sample was chosen in order to both represent the widest range of beneficiaries possible and also to represent the difference among the projects in terms of their objectives, type of activities and the volume of the project. The guideline of the interviews contained questions both about the planning and about the implementation of the project, the main goals to be reached, the main problems arising; the relationship between the beneficiary and the RA, and assumptions on other relevant activities going on in the field at the national level. Interviews and field visits were done by the external evaluator.

Quantitative methods were also used as a survey prepared by the external evaluator was sent to all the beneficiaries whose projects started already in 2016. This date was chosen by the external evaluator in order to assure that only beneficiaries with enough experience over the program answer to the questions. Thus the questionnaire was sent to the beneficiaries of 50 projects. 20 beneficiaries sent back their answers, which can be considered a mid-low response rate. The questionnaire contained questions tackling the goal of the project, the added value and the relevancy attributed to the project; beneficiaries were also asked to give their assumptions whether the tasks set in the NP were still relevant, and on, the objectives set by the ISF and the progress in the relevant fields independent from

the ISF.

The documentations, the field visits and the results of the surveys were all used during the preparation of the evaluation.

SECTION VII: MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Main conclusions

Conclusion 1
The ISF as a programme has a clear-cut role and place complementing national actions. Beside capacity building, an important contribution of the ISF is the launch of projects that aim at the satisfaction of national obligations toward the EU as such activities enhance the application of the EU Acquis. Information and expert exchange programmes and joint trainings with the help of the Fund are useful contributions to the enhancement of cooperation with other Member States, and these are the projects that are the most likely not to be continued with the same intensity without the help of the Fund.

Conclusion 2
The NP of Hungary and the 1st WP cover almost all the priorities of the ISF, and projects have been already launched in most of the priority areas. However, this also means that the Programme can be assessed as very fragmented, especially in the case of the SO5 on preventing and combating crime. Both the planning and the implementation of a fragmented programme requires much more administrative capacity at the level of the RA and also at the project level, than would, presumably, a programme covering less priorities, but with more and bigger projects per priorities.

The implementation of the programme so far is characterized by the delays accumulated by different actors and in different domains. Delays occurred right from the beginning at the level of the EU Commission at the time of the central planning, at the level of the RA during the evaluation of the proposals submitted for the calls, and all this is accompanied by delays in several individual projects during the implementation mostly attributed to the beneficiaries. This, together with the fragmentation, resulted in the fact that although many projects were launched by the time of this interim evaluation, almost no impacts of the projects can be measured yet. |

Conclusion 3
In the case of short-term exchange programmes and temporary deployments, the time of the programme is assessed by several actors as being too short. This issue has been raised both by beneficiary organizations and also by the members of the target group participating in exchange programmes. Similarly, the short-term deployment of liaison officers or visa experts can be assessed as under-efficient, since too much time is consumed by the integration, and the necessary networking at the beginning of the programme. These activities take the same amount of time (at least several weeks, or even months) irrespectively from the duration of the programme.

Conclusion 4

Conclusion 5

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Recommendations

Recommendations 1
A careful revision of the programme is useful in order to assess the changing needs of the different potential beneficiaries and decide upon the kinds of projects and beneficiaries to be emphasized in the future. The Fund is a very efficient tool for progressing the harmonization of European actions, therefore, such activities should also have a central role in the future. Exchange programmes and joint actions enhance the cooperation among the Member States and with international agencies, hence shall also remain in the focus of the Fund.

Recommendations 2
The second recommendation concerns the idea that the next NP should be more narrowly targeted. Namely, instead of addressing all the priorities set by the ISF by individual projects, the RA should, according to the national/local needs, prioritize some of the objectives set by the EU during the planning period, and focus on the attainment of these objectives. Thus a less fragmented net of projects could be created, where each priority addressed would be tackled by several projects and from more perspectives and dimensions. Also, in order to assure enough time for preparation and systemic planning, deadlines and cut-off dates should be determined more flexibly for the whole programme: if an initial delay is detected, flexibility in determining the future deadlines could be expected. This would leave more time for planning and for proposal-making, and also for the implementation of the individual projects. Regularly organized meetings for projects running under the ISF and a common information sharing platform for the beneficiaries could also serve better information and knowledge management during the implementation of the programme.

Recommendations 3
In the case of exchange programmes and temporary deployment of officers, a minimum stay of the target group should be determined in order to raise the long-term efficiency of the given programme, but all this should be done without conflicting the interests of the sending organizations, since even smaller scale exchange programs can present challenge for the organizations in terms of human resource management. The social psychological knowledge on group dynamics, and the conclusions and proposals of relevant studies on how an individual can start operating within an organization, and how a "daily routine" can also be developed support the idea that there is a minimum period in the case of certain exchange programmes that can be assessed as efficient. The multiplication of the experience accumulated through these projects should also become an overall objective.

Recommendations 4

Recommendations 5

Provide an assessment of the mid-term review carried out in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014. If relevant, summarize the main changes having an impact on your activities in the policy areas covered by the Fund, and how your NP was/will be adjusted.

The mid-term review was conducted by a strenuous evaluation and as such provided an opportunity to re-assess the overall security situation of Hungary.

As regards both the border management and the police field, the most imposing challenge, in comparison to baseline year 2013, was the illegal migration putting immense pressure on the external borders and consequently on the border guard and the intelligence/investigative branch of the Hungarian law enforcement sector. This, conjugated with the raising terrorism threat perceived Europe-wide, imparted the government, fully in line with the national politics, to tone the safety of the citizens of Hungary and Europe.

The mid-term review confirmed that projects have commenced under each priority, acknowledging that the programme is relevant to the specific fields and that the objectives do not derive from the preference of the beneficiaries. On account of the widespread profile of the NP and the iterative consultations have frequently been held to reflect upcoming needs, there is no necessity to a comprehensive modification; minor re-priorization, however, is suggested along the following traits.

Related to border management, further financial means are very much desired from the European Commission to implement the large, wide-scale IT system developments (e.g. EES, ETIAS). Secondary, the constituting of a pragmatic IBM strategy shall be reliant on a well-founded national strategy, yet this new action is to be inserted into the NP. Similarly, the introduction of developments on systematic checks at borders is to be clearly named within the wording of the NP.

The review also assured that there is no need to modify the NP in terms of improving the data connections between Automatic Number-Plate Recognition system and SIS or of further developing the latter systems, as the current NP grants place for these kinds of actions, too. Analogically, no re-phrasing is needed to support implementing the SCHEVAL results, as such developments can also be supported under the current structure.

As for police cooperation, the significance of the fight against cyber-crime has become and prognostized to remain one of the top priorities. The PNR program is also identified as priority, especially time-wise, and it is also to be noted that the conducted analysis forecasts that the cost of the complex development is to be shared between the EU and national budget. Thirdly, in the future more attention shall be given to timing, as because of the prolonged programming, a few IT developments have been concluded from national budget being those of urgency and in no position to await catching-up with the belating administration. Nevertheless, none of the listed revelations generate a must on modifying the NP.

Lastly, improving interoperability of the various IT systems under the borders and the police priorities has been identified as the biggest technical challenge; to address this, the RA decided get a study composed mapping and assessing each relevant system, its operators and the technical barriers which this way may ease the prospective initiation of such developments under the fund.

1 - Indicators by specific objectives

SO	Type	Ind ID	Indicator description	Meas unit	Baseline value	Source of data	2014	2015	2016	2017
SO1	R	SO1R1	Number of Schengen Evaluation missions in the area of visa carried out with support of the Internal Security Fund ("Fund")	Number		Commission Unit HOME C.2 Border Management and Schengen				0.00
SO1	R	SO1R2	Number of consular cooperation activities developed with the help of the Fund	Number	0.00	AIR (indicator SO1 C1)	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.00
SO1	R	SO1R3	Number of staff trained in aspects related to the common visa policy with the help of the Fund	Number	0.00	AIR (indicator SO1 C2.1)	0.00	0.00	39.00	125.00
SO1	R	SO1R3	Number of training courses in aspects related to the common visa policy with the help of the Fund	Number	0.00	AIR (indicator SO1 C2.2)	0.00	0.00	168.00	192.00
SO1	R	SO1R4	Number of consulates developed or upgraded with the help of the Fund out of the total number of consulates	Number	0.00	AIR (indicator SO1 C4.1)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO1	R	SO1R4	Percentage of consulates developed or upgraded with the help of the Fund out of the total number of consulates	Percentage	0.00	AIR (indicator SO1 C4.2)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO1	R	SO1R5	(a) Number of Schengen Evaluation recommendations in the area of visa addressed with the support of the Fund	Number	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO1	R	SO1R5	(b) Total number of Schengen Evaluation recommendations issued	Number	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO1	R	SO1R5	Number of Schengen Evaluation recommendations in the area of visa addressed with the support of the Fund, as compared to the total number of recommendations issued	Ratio		/	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO1	R	SO1R6	Number of persons using fraudulent travel documents detected at consulates supported by the Fund: (a) Number of persons with fraudulent documents applying for a Schengen visa	Number		Member States				
SO1	R	SO1R6	(b) Total number of persons applying for a Schengen visa	Number	358,049.00	Member States	311,167.00	291,800.00	296,347.00	211,285.00

SO	Type	Ind ID	Indicator description	Meas unit	Baseline value	Source of data	2014	2015	2016	2017
SO1	R	SO1R6	(c) Percentage of persons with fraudulent documents applying for a Schengen visa	Ratio		/	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO1	I	SO1I1	Number of visa applicants having to apply for a Schengen visa outside of their country of residence	Number	358,049.00	Member States	311,167.00	291,800.00	296,347.00	211,285.00
SO1	I	SO1I2	Number of visa required countries in the world where the number of Member States present or represented has increased	Number		Commission Unit HOME B.2 Visa Policy Policy / VIS system				
SO2	R	SO2R1	Number of staff trained in borders management related aspects with the help of the Fund	Number	0.00	AIR (indicator SO2 C1.1)	0.00	0.00	0.00	45.00
SO2	R	SO2R1	Number of training courses in border management related aspects with the help of the Fund	Number	0.00	AIR (indicator SO2 C1.2)	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00
SO2	R	SO2R2	Number of border crossings of the external borders through ABC gates supported from the Fund	Number	0.00	AIR (indicator SO2 C3.1)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO2	R	SO2R2	Total number of border crossings	Number	0.00	AIR (indicator SO2 C3.2)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
SO2	R	SO2R3	Number of Schengen Evaluation missions in the area of borders carried out with the support of the Fund	Number		Commission Unit HOME B.2 Visa Policy Policy / VIS system	0.00	1.00	0.00	
SO2	R	SO2R4	(a) Number of Schengen Evaluation recommendations in the area of borders addressed with the support of the Fund	Number		Member States		5.00	5.00	5.00
SO2	R	SO2R4	(b) Total number of Schengen Evaluation recommendations in the area of borders issued	Number	19.00	Member States	19.00	23.00	23.00	23.00
SO2	R	SO2R4	Number of Schengen Evaluation recommendations in the area of borders addressed with the support of the Fund, as compared to the total number of recommendations issued	Ratio		/	0.00	0.22	0.22	0.22
SO2	R	SO2R5	(a) Number of equipment items used during Frontex Coordinated Operations which were purchased with support of the Fund	Number		Frontex				
SO2	R	SO2R5	(b) Total number of equipment items used for Frontex	Number		Frontex				

SO	Type	Ind ID	Indicator description	Meas unit	Baseline value	Source of data	2014	2015	2016	2017
			Coordinated Operations							
SO2	R	SO2R5	Number of equipment items used during Frontex Coordinated Operations which were purchased with support of the Fund as compared to the total number of equipment items used for Frontex Coordinated Operations	Ratio		/				
SO2	I	SO2I1	Number of national border surveillance infrastructure established/further developed in the framework of EUROSUR:	Number	0.00	AIR (indicator SO2 C4)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO2	I	SO2I1	(a) National coordination centres	Number		AIR (indicator SO2 C4.a)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO2	I	SO2I1	(b) Regional coordination centres	Number		AIR (indicator SO2 C4.b)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO2	I	SO2I1	(c) Local coordination centres	Number		AIR (indicator SO2 C4.c)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO2	I	SO2I1	(d) Other types of coordination centres	Number		AIR (indicator SO2 C4.d)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO2	I	SO2I2	Number of incidents reported by the Member State to the European Situational Picture	Number	0.00	AIR (indicator SO2 C5)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
SO2	I	SO2I2	(a) Illegal immigration, including on incidents relating to a risk to the lives of migrants	Number	0.00	AIR (indicator SO2 C5.a)	0.00	0.00	0.00	99.00
SO2	I	SO2I2	(b) Cross-border crime	Number	0.00	AIR (indicator SO2 C5.b)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
SO2	I	SO2I2	(c) Crisis situations	Number	0.00	AIR (indicator SO2 C5.c)	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
SO2	I	SO2I3	Number of irregular border crossings detected at the EU external borders: between the border crossing points	Number	18,481.00	Frontex	42,366.00	207,653.00	26,108.00	6,985.00
SO2	I	SO2I3	Number of irregular border crossings detected at the EU external borders: at the border crossing points	Number	160.00	Frontex	323.00	74.00	220.00	701.00
SO2	I	SO2I4	Number of searches in Schengen Information System (SIS) II	Number		EU-Lisa and SIS II annual report	58,933,313.00	76,067,233.00	79,355,011.00	
SO2	I	SO2I5	Number of persons using fraudulent travel documents detected at the border crossing points	Number	396.00	Frontex	398.00	468.00	339.00	

SO	Type	Ind ID	Indicator description	Meas unit	Baseline value	Source of data	2014	2015	2016	2017
SO5	R	SO5R1	Number of joint investigation teams (JITs) and European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) operation projects supported by the Fund, including the participating Member States and authorities	Number	0.00	AIR (indicator SO5 C1)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO5	R	SO5R2	Number of law enforcement officials trained on cross-border related topics with the help of the Fund	Number	0.00	AIR (indicator SO5 C2.1)	0.00	0.00	0.00	279.00
SO5	R	SO5R2	Duration of the training (carried out) on cross-border related topics with the help of the fund	Number	0.00	AIR (indicator SO5 C2.2)	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,943.00
SO5	R	SO5R3	Results of actions supported by the Fund leading to the disruption of organised crime groups: 1. seizures of criminal commodities: Counterfeited goods	Amount in EUR	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO5	R	SO5R3	Contraband goods	Amount in EUR	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO5	R	SO5R3	Stolen goods	Amount in EUR	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO5	R	SO5R3	Firearms	Amount in EUR	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO5	R	SO5R3	Environmental crimes	Amount in EUR	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO5	R	SO5R3	Cannabis (in number of seizures)	Number	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO5	R	SO5R3	Heroin (in number of seizures)	Number	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO5	R	SO5R3	Cocaine (in number of seizures)	Number	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO5	R	SO5R3	Amphetamine - methamphetamine (in number of seizures)	Number	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO5	R	SO5R3	Ecstasy (in number of seizures)	Number	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO5	R	SO5R3	New psychoactive substances (in number of seizures)	Number	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

SO	Type	Ind ID	Indicator description	Meas unit	Baseline value	Source of data	2014	2015	2016	2017
SO5	R	SO5R3	LSD (in doses)	Number	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO5	R	SO5R3	2. seizures of cash (by value);	Amount in EUR	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO5	R	SO5R3	3. seizures of other assets (by estimated value);	Amount in EUR	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO5	R	SO5R3	4. takedowns of web domains (number);	Number	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO5	R	SO5R3	5. victims identified (for certain crime types);	Number	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO5	R	SO5R3	6. persons arrested	Number	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO5	I	SO5I1	Number/value of frozen, seized and confiscated criminal assets as a result of actions within the scope of Regulation (EU) 513/2014: 1. number of freezing orders executed;	Number	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO5	I	SO5I1	2. number of confiscation orders executed;	Number	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO5	I	SO5I1	3. estimated value of property frozen, at least of property frozen with a view to possible subsequent confiscation at the time of freezing;	Amount in EUR	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO5	I	SO5I1	4. estimated value of property recovered at the time of confiscation	Amount in EUR	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO5	I	SO5I1	5. number of cases where the confiscation order issued on basis of the Framework Decision 2006/783/JHA has not been executed	Number	0.00	Member States	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO5	I	SO5I2	Number of police-recorded offences, suspects, prosecutions and convictions resulting from actions falling within the scope of Regulation (EU) 513/2014: 1. Police-recorded offences	Number	163,661.00	Eurostat (crim_off_cat)	17,976.00	122,089.00	24,085.00	
SO5	I	SO5I2	2. Persons brought into formal contact with the police and/or criminal justice system	Number	145,106.00	Eurostat (crim_just_ctz)	94,641.00	108,144.00	21,905.00	

SO	Type	Ind ID	Indicator description	Meas unit	Baseline value	Source of data	2014	2015	2016	2017
SO5	I	SO5I2	3. Prosecuted persons	Number	76,387.00	Eurostat (crim_just_ctz)	66,065.00	75,473.00	15,286.00	
SO5	I	SO5I2	4. Convicted persons	Number	70,326.00	Eurostat (crim_just_ctz)	61,604.00	72,266.00	14,751.00	
SO5	I	SO5I3	Quantity of drugs seizure within the scope of the Fund on organised crime: 1. Cannabis seizures	Number		EMCDDA - European Drugs Report - Early Warning System (EWS) and European Database on New Drugs (EDND)	425.00	593.00	127.00	
SO5	I	SO5I3	2. Heroin seizures	Number		EMCDDA	55.00	24.00	3.00	
SO5	I	SO5I3	3. Cocaine seizures	Number		EMCDDA	32.00	33.00	6.00	
SO5	I	SO5I3	4. Amphetamine and methamphetamine seizures	Number		EMCDDA	13.00	30.00	7.00	
SO5	I	SO5I3	5. Ecstasy seizures	Number		EMCDDA	10,308.00	3,824.00	293.00	
SO5	I	SO5I3	6. New psychoactive substances notified	Number		EMCDDA				
SO5	I	SO5I3	7. LSD (doses)	Number	342.00	EMCDDA	764.00	516.00	83.00	
SO5	I	SO5I4	Number of protected or assisted crime victims: 1. Number of victims recorded by the law enforcement agencies	Number		Member States				53.00
SO5	I	SO5I4	2. Number of referrals by police to victim support services	Number		Member States				
SO5	I	SO5I4	3. Number of victims that request and receive support	Number		Member States				
SO5	I	SO5I4	4. Number of victims that request and do not receive support	Number		Member States				
SO5	I	SO5I5	Volume of exchange of information in the Prüm framework: 1. total number of DNA matches per year	Number of 'hits'		EC HOME D.1 (Statistical compilation)				920.00

SO	Type	Ind ID	Indicator description	Meas unit	Baseline value	Source of data	2014	2015	2016	2017
SO5	I	SO5I5	2. total number of fingerprint matches per year	Number of 'hits'		EC HOME D.1 (Statistical compilation)				11.00
SO5	I	SO5I5	3. total number of vehicle registration data matches per year	Number of 'hits'		EC HOME D.1 (Statistical compilation)				
SO5	I	SO5I6	Volume of exchange of information in the Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA) framework: 1. SIENA cases initiated per year by Member States, Europol and third parties	Number	3,119.00	Europol	2,523.00	5,503.00	7,349.00	375.00
SO5	I	SO5I6	2. SIENA messages exchanged per year by Member States, Europol and third parties	Number	151,948.00	Europol	137,029.00	216,400.00	264,713.00	12,842.00
SO5	I	SO5I7	Volume of sharing of data via the Europol Information System (EIS): 1. number of persons and objects inserted in the EIS by Member States per year	Number	1,575.00	Europol	1,435.00	933.00	602.00	1,653.00
SO5	I	SO5I7	2. number of person and objects inserted in the EIS by Member States per year (suspects, convicts)	Number	200.00	Europol	186.00	151.00	108.00	1,653.00
SO5	I	SO5I7	3. number of EIS searches performed by Member States per year	Number	84.00	Europol	97.00	93.00	122.00	141.00
SO6	R	SO6R1	Number and tools put in place and/or further upgraded with the help of the Instrument to facilitate the protection of critical infrastructure by Member States in all sectors of the economy	Number	0.00	AIR (indicator SO6 C1)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
SO6	R	SO6R2	Number of expert meetings, workshops, seminars, conferences, publications, websites and online consultations organised with the help of the Instrument.	Number	0.00	AIR (indicator SO6 C3)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO6	I	SO6I1	Volume of terrorist attacks: (a) number of failed and foiled terrorist attacks	Number		Europol - EU Terrorism situation and trend report	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SO6	I	SO6I1	(b) number of completed terrorist attacks	Number		Europol - EU Terrorism				0.00

SO	Type	Ind ID	Indicator description	Meas unit	Baseline value	Source of data	2014	2015	2016	2017
						situation and trend report				
SO6	I	SO6I1	(c) number of casualties resulting from terrorist attacks	Number		Europol - EU Terrorism situation and trend report	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

2 - Indicators on efficiency, added value and sustainability, as foreseen in Regulation (EU) No 514/2014

Ind ID	Indicator description	Meas unit	Baseline value	Source of data	2014	2015	2016	2017
H1	Number of Full Time Equivalent in the Responsible Authority, the Delegated Authority and the Audit Authority working on the implementation of the Fund and paid by the technical assistance or national budgets as compared to:	Number		Member States				
H1	(a) the number of projects implemented	Number		Member States	0.00	0.00	38.00	0.00
H1	(b) the amount of the funds claimed for the financial year	Amount in EUR		Member States		0.00	596,051.00	
H2	(a) Technical assistance plus the administrative (indirect) cost	Amount in EUR		Member States				
H2	(b) Amount of funds claimed for the financial year	Amount in EUR		Member States		0.00	596,051.00	
H2	Technical assistance plus the administrative (indirect) cost of projects as compared to the amount of funds claimed for the financial year	Ratio		/		0.00	0.00	
H3	Amount of the annual accounts submitted by the Member State compared to the	Amount in EUR		SFC2014				
H3	Total amount of funds allocated to the national programme.	Amount in EUR		SFC2014				
H3	Absorption rate of the Fund	Ratio		/				
H4	(a) Number of equipment in use 2 years after their acquisition (> than EUR 10.000)	Number		Member States				
H4	(b) Number of equipment acquired under the Fund (> than EUR 10.000)	Number		Member States				
H4	Number of equipment in use 2 years after their acquisition / number of equipment acquired under	Ratio		/				

Ind ID	Indicator description	Meas unit	Baseline value	Source of data	2014	2015	2016	2017
	the Fund (> than EUR 10.000)							
H5	(a) Maintenance cost of acquired equipment under the Fund	Amount in EUR		Member States				
H5	(b) Total EU contribution	Amount in EUR		Member States				
H5	Share of the maintenance cost of acquired equipment under the Fund in the total Union contribution to actions co-financed by the Fund	Ratio		/				

Table 1: Progress in financial implementation, by specific objectives (in Euro)

Financial report ISF-Borders

National objective / Specific Action	A Total paid	B Total paid	Total paid (A+B/SO programmed) (%)
SO1.NO1 National capacity	39,785.73	29,886.19	1.57%
SO1.NO2 Union acquis	126,380.50	79,463.88	39.98%
SO1.NO3 Consular cooperation	0.00	678,463.99	27.71%
TOTAL NO SO1	**166,166.23**	**787,814.06**	**12.91%**
SO1.SA1 Consular cooperation	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL SO1	**166,166.23**	**787,814.06**	**12.91%**
SO2.NO1 EUROSUR	0.00	6,507.73	0.32%
SO2.NO2 Information exchange	0.00	15,803.74	0.63%
SO2.NO3 Common Union standards	0.00	12,625.14	8.88%
SO2.NO4 Union acquis	0.00	290,677.38	8.06%
SO2.NO5 Future challenges	0.00	0.00	0.00%
SO2.NO6 National capacity	40,533.40	810,795.10	4.46%
TOTAL NO SO2	**40,533.40**	**1,136,409.09**	**4.29%**
SO2.SA2 FRONTEX equipment	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL SO2	**40,533.40**	**1,136,409.09**	**4.29%**
SO3.NO1 Operating support for VISA	0.00	0.00	
SO3.NO2 Operating support for borders	9,542.16		0.20%
TOTAL NO SO3	**9,542.16**	**0.00**	
TOTAL SO3	**9,542.16**	**0.00**	**0.20%**
Technical Assistance	0.00	0.00	0.00%

TOTAL	**216,241.79**	**1,924,223.15**	**5.24%**

Financial report ISF-Police

National objective / Specific Action	A Total paid	B Total paid	Total paid (A+B/SO programmed) (%)
SO5.NO1 C - prevention and combating	101,317.80	396,411.04	5.77%
SO5.NO2 C - exchange of information	124,803.25	41,443.32	5.17%
SO5.NO3 C - training	128,879.19	65,404.97	5.56%
SO5.NO4 C - victim support	0.00	23,312.52	7.71%
SO5.NO5 C - threat and risk assessment	0.00	47,601.49	4.44%
TOTAL NO SO5	**355,000.24**	**574,173.34**	
TOTAL SO5	**355,000.24**	**574,173.34**	**5.56%**
SO6.NO1 R - prevention and combating	0.00	0.00	0.00%
SO6.NO2 R - exchange of information	0.00	0.00	0.00%
SO6.NO3 R - training	24,809.29	38,333.91	4.31%
SO6.NO4 R - victim support	0.00	0.00	
SO6.NO5 R - infrastructure	0.00	0.00	
SO6.NO6 R - early warning and crisis	0.00	0.00	
SO6.NO7 R - threat and risk assessment	0.00	0.00	0.00%
TOTAL NO SO6	**24,809.29**	**38,333.91**	
TOTAL SO6	**24,809.29**	**38,333.91**	**1.86%**
Technical Assistance	0.00	0.00	0.00%
TOTAL	**379,809.53**	**612,507.25**	**4.80%**

Table 2: Number of projects and EU contribution to finished and open projects, by specific objectives (in Euro)

	Number of projects and EU contribution 01/01/2014-15/10/2016			
	Total Nr of finished projects	Total EU contribution to finished projects	Total Nr of open projects	Total EU contribution to open projects
SO1 - Support a common visa policy	0	0.00	4	166,166.23
SO2 - Borders	0	0.00	8	40,533.40
SO3 - Operating support	0	0.00	0	0.00
SO4 - Technical assistance - visa and borders	0	0.00	0	0.00
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	0	0.00	24	355,000.24
SO6 - Risks and crisis	0	0.00	2	24,809.29
SO7 - Technical assistance - police	0	0.00	0	0.00
SO8 - Special case: Operating support for the special transit scheme (Lithuania)	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total 1	**0**	**0.00**	**38**	**586,509.16**

	Number of projects and EU contribution 16/10/2016-30/06/2017			
	Total Nr of finished projects	Total EU contribution to finished projects	Total Nr of open projects	Total EU contribution to open projects
SO1 - Support a common visa policy	0	0.00	5	1,770,363.73
SO2 - Borders	0	0.00	18	7,749,615.48
SO3 - Operating support	0	0.00	3	2,312,392.71
SO4 - Technical assistance - visa and borders	0	0.00	0	0.00
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	5	342,091.90	30	5,077,826.04
SO6 - Risks and crisis	0	0.00	3	1,618,806.82

	Number of projects and EU contribution 16/10/2016-30/06/2017			
	Total Nr of finished projects	Total EU contribution to finished projects	Total Nr of open projects	Total EU contribution to open projects
SO7 - Technical assistance - police	0	0.00	0	0.00
SO8 - Special case: Operating support for the special transit scheme (Lithuania)	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total 2	**5**	**342,091.90**	**59**	**18,529,004.78**
Total 1+2	**5**	**342,091.90**	**97**	**19,115,513.94**

Table 3: Number of projects and EU contribution, by types of beneficiaries and by specific objectives (in Euro)

		Project beneficiaries 01/01/2014-15/10/2016			
		SO1: Visa policy	**SO2: Borders**	**SO5: Crime**	**SO6: Risks & crisis**
State/federal authorities	Nr of projects	4	8	21	2
State/federal authorities	EU contribution	166,166.23	40,533.40	340,574.65	24,809.29
Local public bodies	Nr of projects	0	0	0	0
Local public bodies	EU contribution	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Non-governmental organisations	Nr of projects	0	0	0	0
Non-governmental organisations	EU contribution	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
International public organisations	Nr of projects	0	0	0	0
International public organisations	EU contribution	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
National Red Cross	Nr of projects	0	0	0	0
National Red Cross	EU contribution	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
International Committee of the Red Cross	Nr of projects	0	0	0	0
International Committee of the Red Cross	EU contribution	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Nr of projects	0	0	0	0
The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	EU contribution	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Private and public law companies	Nr of projects	0	0	0	0
Private and public law companies	EU contribution	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Education/research organisations	Nr of projects	0	0	3	0
Education/research organisations	EU contribution	0.00	0.00	14,425.59	0.00

		Project beneficiaries 16/10/2016-30/06/2017			
		SO1: Visa policy	SO2: Borders	SO5: Crime	SO6: Risks & crisis
State/federal authorities	Nr of projects	5	18	30	3
State/federal authorities	EU contribution	1,770,363.73	7,749,615.48	5,115,517.88	1,618,806.82
Local public bodies	Nr of projects	0	0	0	0
Local public bodies	EU contribution	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Non-governmental organisations	Nr of projects	0	0	0	0
Non-governmental organisations	EU contribution	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
International public organisations	Nr of projects	0	0	2	0
International public organisations	EU contribution	0.00	0.00	203,532.98	0.00
National Red Cross	Nr of projects	0	0	0	0
National Red Cross	EU contribution	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
International Committee of the Red Cross	Nr of projects	0	0	0	0
International Committee of the Red Cross	EU contribution	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Nr of projects	0	0	0	0
The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	EU contribution	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Private and public law companies	Nr of projects	0	0	0	0
Private and public law companies	EU contribution	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Education/research organisations	Nr of projects	0	0	3	0
Education/research organisations	EU contribution	0.00	0.00	100,867.08	0.00

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By

Latest validation results

Severity	Code	Message
Info		Evaluation report version has been validated.