

Annex – Indicative overview of the Specific Actions¹ launched and to be launched in 2023 and early 2024

ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION FUND

No calls planned yet.

BORDER MANAGEMENT AND VISA POLICY INSTRUMENT

S.A. 1.1.1 BMVI	Title: Support to the Special Transit Scheme in accordance with Article 17(5) BMVI Regulation	
Indicative amount: EUR 25 million	Type of partnership: Single MS	
Description of the SA		
<p>Russia's military aggression against Ukraine caused serious disruptions, including in the management of the Special Transit Scheme. This implies security risks and the need to implement risk management measures, as well as increased costs linked to Council Decision (EU) 2022/1500 on the suspension in whole of the application of the Agreement between the European Community and the Russian Federation on the facilitation of the issuance of visas to the citizens of the European Union and the Russian Federation. The Specific Action aims to offer support about these challenges and to mitigate them, based on Article 17(5) of the BMVI Regulation.</p> <p>Hence, the two priorities identified in the call launched on 21 December 2022, are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Risk management measures 2. Additional compensation for the foregone visa fees 		
Single call or bundle with calls for other SA: Single call		
Type of procedure: Call directly addressed to the Member State concerned (Lithuania)	Publication: call launched on 21/12/2022 with deadline 27/01/2023.	

S.A. 1.1.3 BMVI	Title: Integrated solutions for the facilitation and automation of border crossing	
Indicative amount: EUR 34.8 million (combining actions foreseen under the 2021-2022 and the 2023-2025 BMVI Thematic Facility Work Programmes)	Type of partnership: Both (single and group of partner Member States)	
Description of the SA		
The start of operations of the new EU information systems, namely the Entry/Exit System (EES) and the		

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

European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), will contribute to improving border management and security at the external borders of the EU. Since the EES aims to replace passport stamping and to automate border control procedures, it is expected that it will lead to a reduction in waiting times for the crossing of the EU's external borders, making travelling to European countries using the EES more efficient to the traveller.

However, it is likely that the EES will result in an increase in waiting times in the short term, since third-country nationals travelling for the first time for a short stay in the EU will be required to have their biometric data (fingerprints and facial image) recorded at the border. This specific action aims to assist Member States with the optimisation of border controls and reduction of waiting times, particularly during the first months after the start of operations of EES and ETIAS.

Lot 1 (1.1.3.1): Support for facilitation and/or automation of border controls at land and maritime borders affected by a major, recent and unforeseen increase of traveller flows and/or of border crossing times for some or all categories of travellers

Applications can be submitted by a single Member State. The purpose of this lot is to assist Member States with enhancing facilitation and/or automation of border controls at external land and maritime borders. Applicants can only be Member States who have experienced in the past five years, or are expected to experience significant increases of traffic flows and/or of border crossing times at the EU external borders. The projects proposed for funding under this lot should: a) justify the need for intervention by presenting data on the experienced or anticipated average increase in traffic or border crossing times; and b) indicate how the intervention would help to resolve bottlenecks at border crossing points.

Lot 2 (1.1.3.2): Support to Member States for the implementation of national facilitation programmes and to contribute to their mutual recognition

Applications can be submitted either by a group of Member States or by a single Member State. The purpose of this lot is to help Member States with the development and implementation of national facilitation programmes (NFPs) as defined in Article 8d of the Schengen Borders Code (SBC)² and the mutual recognition of these programmes. The NFPs represent a privileged 'trusted traveller programme', where certain non-EU nationals who frequently travel to Europe benefit from derogations from thorough checks upon arrival under certain conditions, thereby contributing to reduce waiting times for the crossing of the EU's external borders.

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

Type of procedure: Call for expression of interest	Indicative date of the call for expression of interest: end Q1 2023. A follow-up call is envisaged for 2024, subject to the results of this call and availability of funds.
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S.A. 1.1.5 BMVI	Title: Innovation: promoting new technologies and border checks/surveillance taking up research results
Indicative amount: EUR 15 million	Type of partnership: Both (single and group of partner Member States)

² Regulation (EU) 2017/2225 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2017 amending Regulation (EU) 2016/399 as regards the use of the Entry/Exit System.

Description of the SA

The objective of this Specific Action is to provide support to Member States to take up (i.e. test, validate, further pilot, and/or deploy or procure) innovative solutions, technologies or systems for border checks and/or border surveillance, that come from the results of EU-funded civil security research and innovation (see: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/internal-security/innovation-and-security-research_en). This Specific Action focuses on co-funding technical, organisational and/or social solutions with compulsory innovative elements at least at European level, and thus should not be used to purchase “off-the-shelf” technology or normally commercially available technology, that can be purchased with other Actions of this Instrument or with other EU Funds or Instruments.

Project proposals should build on the outcomes of research and innovation on border management, especially taking up results of EU research and innovation on civil security, in order to ensure or improve:

- Improved security of external borders;
- Improved security, efficiency and/or experience of border checks at external borders;
- Improved facilitation of travel across external borders;
- Improved surveillance of external borders.

Innovative solutions in proposed projects should promote and respect fundamental rights, including but not limiting to privacy, as well as be in full respect of EU and national applicable legislation and guidelines.

Purchase of products and services that are normally commercially available, unless being part of an integration effort in an innovative solution or system, cannot be supported by this action.

Proposed projects can include activities such as testing, validation, and/or further piloting (including in groups of Member States) in real environment; procurement; installation and integration in legacy systems; deployment, hands-on training on the use of the new solutions.

Expected results:

- Improved security of citizens, and EU economy;
- Improved security (as well as better cost- and energy- efficient management) of EU land, sea, and air borders;
- Improved border crossing experience for travellers and border authorities staff, while maintaining security and monitoring of movements across air, land and sea EU external borders, supporting the Schengen area, reducing illegal movements of people and goods across those borders and protecting fundamental rights of travellers, both EU citizens and Third Country Nationals;
- Uptake of relevant new technologies and solutions, especially from Union funded, security research and innovation programmes;
- Increased European open strategic autonomy in security technologies.

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

Type of procedure: call for expression of interest

Indicative date of the call for expression of interest: Q1 2024

S.A. 1.5.1 BMVI | **Title:** Support to implement specific elements of the interoperability legal framework

Indicative amount: EUR 15 million

Type of partnership: Both (single and group of partner Member States)

Description of the SA

The objective of the specific action is to fund the actions required at national level to implement both Interoperability Regulations (2019/817 and 818). The specific action will be implemented following the provision of a (maximum) amount for each of the countries or group of countries operating a border

crossing point and participating in the BMVI. The action will allocate funding to countries or group of countries to support the adaptation of national business processes, national handbooks and manuals, training of end users on process/handbook definition. The specific action will also support the technical adaptation of national systems necessary to use the interoperability components,

Building on the specific action in the 2021_2022 Thematic Facility work programme, the first purpose of this action is to ensure that the technical components delivered by interoperability are used appropriately and deliver value. The Commission has commissioned an interoperability handbook and each country will need to detail ("instantiate") this handbook. The expected outputs are all deliverables that define how the work in border, migration, visa and SIRENE context, but also by the ECRIS-TCN central authorities needs to be performed effectively and efficiently related to the interoperability components; : business process definitions at a detailed level, corresponding handbooks and manuals, as well as the necessary training material, in particular concerning the resolution of MID yellow links.

The second purpose of this action is to cover the necessary technical adaptation of national systems as well as the development/adaptation of software in order to use the interoperability components and tools in an effective and efficient manner).

Member States should ensure that the activities supported under this specific action are fully complementary to the investments under the BMVI (and ISF) programmes.

This specific action will be subject to the same assessment procedure as the specific action on interoperability under the 2021-2022 BMVI Thematic Facility Work Programme, i.e. Member States will be required to submit an application outlining the project(s) to be implemented at national level so that the Commission can verify compliance with the scope of the specific action.

Single call or bundle with calls for other SA: Single call	
Type of procedure: allocation of funding to all Member States	Indicative date of the call for expression of interest: Q2 2023

S.A. 1.2.2 BMVI	Title: Technical equipment for European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG) national components to be put at Frontex' disposal
Indicative amount: EUR 200,4 million	Type of partnership: Single Member States
<p>Description of the SA</p> <p>To manage the challenges at EU external borders, sufficient and adequate equipment for border surveillance is needed. The European Union actively supports the build-up of a resilient and performant integrated border management at strategic and operational level. The reinforced mandate of the relevant EU agencies, in particular of Frontex (2019) and Europol (2022), the establishment of the European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG) standing corps - to be composed of 10 000 Frontex and national officers - and the capacities' investments, such as for the technical equipment pool (TEP) of Frontex, contribute to a European integrated border management.</p> <p>This specific action should be seen in the context of Frontex's role in providing for the appropriate technical and operational assistance to Member States in need, so as to reinforce their national capacity to implement their obligations with regard to the external borders control and to cope with the challenges at the EU external borders.</p>	

Through this specific action, Member States will purchase large-scale equipment to put at the Agency's disposal, in accordance with Article 64 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896.

The operational needs for 1) maritime, 2) land-based and 3) aerial means of transport and surveillance capacities have been identified in consultation with Frontex.

The call for expression of interest specifies the type of equipment and the proposed number of units.

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

Type of procedure: Call for expression of interest

Date of the call for expression of interest: Call launched on 10/12/2022 with deadline 20/01/2023. A follow-up call is envisaged for 2024, subject to the results of this call and availability of funds.

INTERNAL SECURITY FUND

S.A. 2.1.1 ISF | **Title:** Council Recommendation on operational law enforcement cooperation - ROLEC

Indicative amount: EUR 9 million

Type of partnership: Group of MS

Description of the SA

The purpose is to support Member States in the implementation of the Council recommendation on operational law enforcement cooperation, which covers a wide range of topics: (i) cross-border hot pursuit, (ii) cross-border surveillance, (iii) joint operations, (iv) police and customs cooperation centres / joint police stations, (v) support platform for joint patrols and other joint operations, (vi) access to information and communication, (vi) joint training and professional development.

Expected results:

- a strengthening of operational law enforcement cooperation (i.e. situations where law enforcement authorities (LEAs) of a MS operate in the territory of another MS, e.g. during a cross-border hot pursuit, cross-border surveillance, joint patrols/operations);
- effective access to information and communication by LEAs; ,
- development of joint trainings and professional development at EU level

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

Type of procedure: call for expression of interest

date of publication: call launched on 7/02/2023, with deadline 8/9/2023

S.A. 3.4.1 ISF | **Title: Innovation:** Artificial Intelligence for Law Enforcement - AILE

Indicative amount: EUR 2 million

Type of partnership: Both (single and group of partner Member States)

Description of the SA

In 2020 DG HOME invested EUR 20 million in projects on research and innovation on Artificial Intelligence for Law Enforcement, which funded three complementary projects: STARLIGHT, pop AI and

ALIGNER. STARLIGHT, the central one, includes 52 partners and is planned to become the European AI hub for LEAs as the centre of gravity for the European AI for LEA vision, to which all EU AI-related projects and actions that support the work of LEAs will plug in. STARLIGHT already embraced project AP4AI, the initiative of JHA agencies on accountability principles for AI for LEAs. STARLIGHT and the linked AP4AI, popAI and ALIGNER will finish by 2025 planning to having achieved strategic goals.

This Specific Action will also build on results of the above-mentioned research projects as well as other projects on AI coming from H2020.

The objective of this Specific Action is to provide support to Member States to test, validate, further pilot and/or deploy and use innovative technologies and/or methods when it comes to utilisation of Artificial Intelligence for Law Enforcement purposes and needs. The support will focus on co-funding technical, organisational and/or societal/ethical solutions with compulsory innovative elements at least at European level, and it will not be possible to purchase off the shelf technology available via other EU funding instruments (e.g. ISF Member States Programmes, ERDF, etc).

Projects proposals have to build on outcomes of security research and innovation, especially at the European level, in order to ensure the uptake in some of the following:

- Guidance, training and communication for law enforcement agencies on understanding of AI concept, on opportunities, purposes, needs, challenges.
- Guidance on cybersecurity approaches for AI for LEAs.
- Guidance and training for accountability principles, societal impact, trustworthy AI and compliance with future AI ACT.
- Tools, systems and technologies (min. TRL 8) for boosting AI for LEAs in Europe through further advancing on using well trained algorithms, high-quality datasets, an interoperable and standardized framework for long term sustainability of solutions, and by taking into account the creation of an AI hub for LEAs and possibly a future European data space for security.

This ISF Specific Action is needed to provide a post-research and innovation activity (which cannot be funded by the R&I instrument, Horizon) after 2025, and support exploitation of results on Artificial Intelligence for LEAs.

The Specific Action will also build on results of previous DG HOME studies on Artificial Intelligence carried out with procurement funding and other relevant activities:

- the Study on AI for border management and security;
- ISF ongoing, concluding in February 2023 tbc, "Study to Support the Technical, Legal and Financial Conceptualisation of a European Security Data Space for Innovation";
- results of Digital Europe Programme's (DEP) AI-based pilots call;
- results of the Study implemented by UNICRI and possibly results of the DEP call on security data space, to be open in December 2022.

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

Type of procedure: call for expression of interest

Indicative date of the call for expression of interest Q1 2024

S.A. 3.4.2 ISF

Title: Innovation: validating new technologies for preventing, detecting, and investigating organised crime - NTOC

Indicative amount: EUR 2 million

Type of partnership: Both (single and group of

	partner Member States)
Description of the SA	
<p>The objective of this specific action is to provide support to Member States to test, validate, further pilot and/or deploy innovative technologies, and/or methods for the countering organised crime. The support will focus on co-funding technical, organisational and/or social solutions with compulsory innovative elements at least at European level, and it will not be possible to purchase off the shelf technology available via other EU funding instruments (e.g. ISF Member States Programmes, ERDF).</p>	
<p>Projects proposals should build on outcomes of security research and innovation, especially taking up results of the EU Security Research (see: https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/internal-security/innovation-and-security-research_en), in order to ensure some of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improved fight against trafficking in cultural goods; - improved fight against firearms trafficking; - improved fight against organised environmental crime. 	
<p>And in all instances:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - training and guidance for law enforcement agencies. 	
<p>Purchase of products and services that are commercially available, unless being part of the integration effort in an innovative solution, are not supported by this action. Furthermore, this call will not support solutions built around AI technologies for LEAs.</p>	
<p>The specific action can include activities such as testing, validation, and/or further piloting (including in groups of MS) in real environment; procurement; installation and integration in legacy systems; deployment, hands-on training on the use of the new solutions.</p>	
<p>Expected results:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved security of citizens, and EU economy; - Enhanced situational awareness, intelligence picture and operations capabilities of law enforcement and relevant services; - Reinforced resistance of European society against organised crime; - Uptake of relevant new technologies and solutions, especially from Union funded, security research and innovation programmes; - Empowerment of society to co-responsibility for security, and deeper involvement of citizens; - Increased European open strategic autonomy in security technologies. 	
<p>Single call or bundle with calls for other SA: Single call</p>	
<p>Type of procedure: call for expression of interest</p>	<p>Indicative date of the call for expression of interest Q1 2024</p>