



Brussels, 12.12.2022
C(2022) 8993 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 12.12.2022

on the financing of the components of the Thematic Facility under the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy, and adoption of the work programme for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 and amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)8459 on the financing of the components of the Thematic Facility under the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy, and adoption of the work programme covering the years 2021 and 2022 for actions implemented under direct and indirect management and the years 2021 to 2024 for actions implemented under shared management

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 12.12.2022

on the financing of the components of the Thematic Facility under the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy, and adoption of the work programme for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 and amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)8459 on the financing of the components of the Thematic Facility under the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy, and adoption of the work programme covering the years 2021 and 2022 for actions implemented under direct and indirect management and the years 2021 to 2024 for actions implemented under shared management

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012¹, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard Regulation (EU) No 2021/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy², and in particular Article 8(7) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The Decision on the financing of the Thematic Facility under the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy, and which constitutes the multiannual work programme for 2021 and 2022 for actions implemented under direct and indirect management and the years 2021 to 2024 for actions implemented under shared management was adopted by Decision C(2021) 8459 on 25 November 2021. This Decision was amended by Decision C(2022) 3163 of 19 May 2022. Further to the postponing of the Frontex Specific Action implementation, it is necessary to amend Decision C(2021) 8459 to remove this Specific Action.
- (2) In order to ensure the implementation of the components of the Thematic Facility under the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for 2023, 2024 and 2025. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1.

² OJ L 251, 15.7.2021, p. 48.

- (3) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures³ adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU.
- (4) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (5) Pursuant to Article 62(1)(c) of the Financial Regulation indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the work programme. Pursuant to Article 62(1), point (b) of the Financial Regulation shared management is to be used for the implementation of the work programme, and in particular for the implementation of the specific actions.
- (6) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regards to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of the Financial Regulation. To this end, such entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of the Financial Regulation⁴ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of the Financial Regulation before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (7) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (8) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (9) This Decision constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis* in which Ireland does not take part; Ireland is therefore not bound by this Decision or subject to its application.
- (10) This Decision constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis*. Given that Regulation (EU) 2021/1148 builds upon the Schengen *acquis*, in accordance with Article 4 of Protocol No 22 on the Position of Denmark, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Denmark notified by letter of 24 September 2021 the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2021/1148 in its national law. Denmark is therefore bound by this Decision.
- (11) As regards Iceland and Norway, this Decision constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis*⁵ within the meaning of the Agreement concluded by the Council of the European Union and the Republic of Iceland and the Kingdom of Norway concerning the latter's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis* which fall within the area referred to in Article 1, Points A and B of Council Decision 1999/437/EC⁶.

³ www.sanctionsmap.eu Note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy the OJ prevails.

⁴ Except for the cases of Article 154(6) of the Financial Regulation, where the Commission may decide, not to require an ex-ante assessment

⁵ OJ L 176, 10.7.1999, p. 36.

⁶ Council Decision 1999/437/EC of 17 May 1999 on certain arrangements for the application of the Agreement concluded by the Council of the European Union and the Republic of Iceland and the

- (12) However, pursuant to Article 7(6) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1148, participation of Iceland and Norway in the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy requires arrangements to specify the nature and modes of such participation in accordance with the relevant provisions of their respective association agreements. Therefore this Decision should apply to Iceland and Norway only once such arrangements are concluded.
- (13) As regards Switzerland, this Decision constitutes a development of provisions of the Schengen *acquis* within the meaning of the Agreement between the European Union, the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on the Swiss Confederation's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis*⁷ which fall within the area referred to in Article 1, points A and B of Decision 1999/437/EC read in conjunction with Article 3 of Council Decision 2008/146/EC⁸.
- (14) However, pursuant to Article 7(6) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1148, participation of Switzerland in the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy requires arrangements to specify the nature and modes of such participation in accordance with the relevant provisions of their respective association agreements. Therefore this Decision should apply to Switzerland only once such arrangements are concluded.
- (15) As regards Liechtenstein, this Decision constitutes a development of the provisions of the Schengen *acquis* within the meaning of the Protocol between the European Union, the European Community, the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein on the accession of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Agreement between the European Union, the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on Liechtenstein's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis*⁹ which fall within the area referred to in Article 1, points A and B of Decision 1999/437/EC read in conjunction with Article 3 of Council Decision 2011/350/EU¹⁰.
- (16) However, pursuant to Article 7(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1148, participation of Liechtenstein in the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy requires arrangements to specify the nature and modes of such participation in accordance with the relevant provisions of their respective association agreements. Therefore this Decision should apply to Liechtenstein only once such arrangements are concluded.

Kingdom of Norway concerning the association of those two States with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis* ([OJ L 176, 10.7.1999, p. 31](#)).

⁷ OJ L 53, 27.2.2008, p. 52.

⁸ Council Decision 2008/146/EC of 28 January 2008 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Community, of the Agreement between the European Union, the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on the Swiss Confederation's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis* (OJ L 53, 27.2.2008, p. 1).

⁹ OJ L 160, 18.6.2011, p. 21.

¹⁰ Council Decision 2011/350/EU of 7 March 2011 on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol between the European Union, the European Community, the Swiss Confederation and the Principality of Liechtenstein on the accession of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the Agreement between the European Union, the European Community and the Swiss Confederation on the Swiss Confederation's association with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen *acquis*, relating to the abolition of checks at internal borders and movement of persons (OJ L 160, 18.6.2011, p. 19).

- (17) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee for the Home Affairs Funds, established by Article 32 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1148.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
Amendments to Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)8459

Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)8459, as amended by Decision C(2022)3163, is amended as follows:

- (1) In the title of the Decision, the text “covering the years 2021 and 2022 for actions implemented under direct and indirect management and the years 2021 to 2024 for actions implemented under shared management” is replaced by “covering the years 2021 and 2022”
- (2) In Article 1, the text “covering the years 2021 and 2022 for actions implemented under direct and indirect management and the years 2021 to 2024 for actions implemented under shared management” is replaced by “covering the years 2021 and 2022”.
- (3) Article 2 is replaced by the following:

“Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the work programme for the years 2021 and 2022 referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 429 654 448.90 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the line 11 02 01 of the general budget of the Union, as follows:

- (a) EUR 154 105 394.15 for 2021;
- (b) EUR 275 549 054.77 for 2022.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2022 following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority.”;

- (4) In point 1 ‘Introduction’ of the Annex to the Decision, the table is replaced by the following one:

Implementation arrangements	Budget line 11 02 01 (EUR)
Grants (including EUR 124,2 million for emergency assistance)	EUR 140 326 286.42
Procurement	17 904 000.00
Indirect management ¹¹	7 100 000.00
Shared management	264 124 162.50
Other actions and expenditure	200 000.00
TOTAL	429 654 448.92

¹¹ Part of the emergency assistance budget accounted for under the heading “Grants” may be transferred to the heading “Indirect Management” in accordance with Article 4 of the Financing Decision

(5) Point 5 of the Annex is replaced by the following one:

“ 5. Actions implemented under shared management

Pursuant to Article 15 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1148, Member States may receive funding for specific actions in addition to their allocation through the national programmes.

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for specific actions in the years 2021 and 2022 is EUR 264 124 162.50.

Type of applicants targeted by the specific actions

All Member States participating in the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy.

Description of the activities to be funded by the specific actions

The specific actions will fund transnational or national projects that bring Union added value in accordance with the objectives of the Fund.

They will contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Integrated Border Management Fund and focus on specific topics including:

- Innovation for border surveillance, facilitation/automation of border crossings and border control processes, and for support to Member States Integrated Border Management strategies. This can include testing, validation, further piloting and/or deployment of new technologies or methods;
- Support for establishment of shared technical copies of the Schengen Information System (SIS) by Member States and biometrics;
- Support to comply with the implementation of interoperability relevant legal framework;
- Visa policy – consular cooperation and trainings.

Funding allocated for specific actions shall not be used for other actions in the Member State's programme, except in duly justified circumstances and as approved by the Commission through the amendment of the Member State's programme.

Complementarities with similar actions funded under the national programmes shall also be specified so to avoid duplications.

Implementation

The actions will be implemented by one or more Member States participating in the Integrated Border Management Fund via funding received in addition to the allocation under the Member States' programmes, in line with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1148. ”

Article 2

The work programme

The multiannual financing decision, constituting the multiannual work programme for the implementation of the components of the Thematic Facility under the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy for 2023, 2024 and 2025, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

Article 3

Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the work programme for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 referred to in Article 2 is set EUR 1 034 696 862 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the line 11 02 01 of the general budget of the Union, as follows:

budget line 11 02 01:

- (a) EUR 349 209 437 for 2023;
- (b) EUR 308 039 820 for 2024;
- (c) EUR 377 447 605 for 2025.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations:

- (a) as provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2023, following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths;
- (b) as provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2024 and 2025 following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority.

Article 4

Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annex, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down respectively in point 4 of that Annex.

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of shared management is described in point 5 of that Annex.

Article 5

Flexibility clause

Cumulated changes to the allocations to actions not exceeding 10% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 3 of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and the objective of the work programme.

The increase of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this Decision shall not exceed 20 %.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 6

Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annex. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in the Annex.

Done at Brussels, 12.12.2022

For the Commission

Ylva JOHANSSON

Member of the Commission



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 12.12.2022
C(2022) 8993 final

ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

Commission Implementing Decision

on the financing of the components of the Thematic Facility under the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy, and adoption of the work programme for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 and amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2021)8459 on the financing of the components of the Thematic Facility under the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy, and adoption of the work programme covering the years 2021 and 2022 for actions implemented under direct and indirect management and the years 2021 to 2024 for actions implemented under shared management

ANNEX

Multiannual work programme for the implementation of the components of the Thematic Facility under the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy for 2023, 2024 and 2025

(referred to in Article 1)

1. INTRODUCTION

On the basis of the objectives given in the Regulation (EU) No 2021/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for 2023, 2024 and 2025 as follows:

- for grants (implemented under direct management) (point 2),
- for procurement (implemented under direct management) (point 3),
- for actions implemented under indirect management (point 4),
- for actions implemented under shared management (point 5),
- for other actions or expenditure (point 6).

Financial assistance to be provided in the event of an emergency situation² is described in points 2.6 and 4.2.

Legal basis

Regulation (EU) 2021/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy

All Member States, with the exception of Ireland and Schengen associated countries³, are participating in the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy: hence entities established in these participating countries can take part as beneficiaries in the actions that are supported under this work programme. Entities established in Ireland can only participate on a no-cost basis.

All actions funded under this work programme, including those carried out in third countries, should be implemented in full compliance with the rights and principles enshrined in the Union *acquis*, and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and should be in line with the international obligations of the Union and the Member States arising from the international instruments to which they are part, in particular by ensuring compliance with the principles of non-discrimination and *non-refoulement*.

Consistency, complementarity and synergies will also be maintained with other relevant EU funds and programmes, including for instance with relevant actions of the Justice programme,

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (OJ L 251, 15.7.2021, p. 48).

² Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1148

³ Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein.

Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund or the Internal Security Fund. Moreover, in accordance with Articles 5(3) and 20 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1148, actions in and in relation with third countries will be carried out in synergy and full coherence with the principles and general objectives of the Union's external action, its foreign policy and its international cooperation policy and their actions outside the Union supported from Union funds.

As regards actions in and in relation to third countries, the Commission and the Member States, together with the European External Action Service, will, in accordance with their respective responsibilities, ensure coordination with relevant Union policies, strategies and instruments. They should, in particular, ensure that actions in and in relation to third countries:

- are carried out in synergy and in coherence with other actions outside the Union supported through other Union instruments;
- are coherent with external Union policy, respect the principle of policy coherence for development and are consistent with the strategic programming documents for the region or country in question;
- focus on measures that are not development-oriented; and
- serve the interests of internal Union policies and are consistent with activities undertaken within the Union.

Budget line(s)

11 02 01

Implementation arrangements	Budget line 11 02 01 (EUR)
Grants*	105 500 000.00
Procurement	24 720 000.00
Indirect management*	4 000 000.00
Shared management*	899 976 862
Other actions and expenditure	500 000.00
TOTAL	1 034 696 862
* Potential emergency assistance is included under grants, indirect, and shared management.	

Objectives pursued

The general objective is to ensure strong and effective European integrated border management at the external borders, with a view to managing those borders efficiently in full compliance with fundamental rights, thereby contributing to ensuring a high level of internal security within the Union, while safeguarding the free movement of persons within it and fully respecting the relevant Union *acquis* and the international obligations of the Union and the Member States arising from the international instruments to which they are party.

Expected results

The work programme, via the support provided from the thematic facility, will contribute to addressing the challenges and needs involved in meeting the objectives of the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy and more specifically will contribute to

1. support effective European integrated border management at the external borders, implemented by the European Border and Coast Guard as a shared responsibility of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the national authorities responsible for border management, to facilitate legitimate border crossings, to prevent and detect irregular immigration and cross-border crime and to effectively manage migratory flows;
2. support the common visa policy to ensure a harmonised approach with regard to the issuance of visas and to facilitate legitimate travel, while helping to prevent migratory and security risks.

Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming

The Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy, should support activities that respect the climate and environmental standards and priorities of the Union and would do no significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁴.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (OJ L 198, 22.6.2020, p. 13).

2. GRANTS

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is EUR 105 500 000.00

2.1. Direct award - Pilot projects for Digitalisation of travel documents travel facilitation, and residence permits

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Applicant targeted by the direct award and description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195(c) of the Financial Regulation. Applicants will be public authorities.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁵ ('the Financial Regulation')

This action includes two components:

1. a pilot project for digitalisation of travel documents and travel facilitation, and
2. a pilot project digitalisation of residence permits, as by 2024 they may be included in the Visa Information System.

These real-life situation pilot projects will deliver proof of concept on digitalisation of travel documents and travel facilitations that could be replicated on an EU wide scale.

Member States will be invited to carry out pilot projects on issuing and verifying digital travel documents to facilitate border controls at airports and land and sea borders. An expert group, setting out the required specifications based on the ICAO Digital Travel Credentials (DTC), will select the best-qualified Member States.

The Member States awarded with a grant will share the results of the pilot projects with all other Member States. The pilot project will inform efforts of other Member States to update their own infrastructure, technological capabilities and processes and should inform the legislative process on digitalising travel documents.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

2.2. Direct award – support to Liechtenstein under the Regulation (EU) 2021/1148

Type of applicants targeted

Applicant targeted by the direct award and description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation.

⁵ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).

Applicants will be public authorities that are responsible for the implementation of the Schengen acquis on borders and visa such as the National Police and the Migration and Passport Office as well as departments responsible for EU IT systems relevant for Schengen such as the Office for Information Technology.

Article 6(7) of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1148 provides that arrangements should be made to specify the nature and modes of the participation in the Instrument of countries associated with the implementation, application and development of the Schengen acquis, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the respective association agreements.

The Commission brought forward a proposal for a recommendation to authorise the opening of the negotiations with the Schengen associated countries. The Council examined the proposal and approved a mandate. Negotiations are ongoing. As part of the discussion, parties are expected to establish a mechanism whereby the Union contribution allocated to Liechtenstein is reallocated to the thematic facility of the Instrument and Liechtenstein can access those funds for actions.

There is agreement between the parties that in light of the specific situation of the external border of Liechtenstein, the size of its allocation and the administrative burden of implementing a programme under the Common Provisions Regulation, it is more appropriate to envisage support for actions to ensure compliance with the Schengen *acquis* through grants for the period 2021-2027.

Once the agreement between the European Union and these countries is signed, Liechtenstein will be invited to present applications for grants.

Description of the activities to be funded under the direct award

The list of activities may include:

- Participation in the European Border and Coast Guard standing Corps
- Purchase of border control infrastructure and equipment, e.g. mobile fingerprint scanners/devices
- Support for development, upgrade, maintenance and operating costs of EU large-scale IT systems for border management
- Interoperability of EU information systems
- Implementation of recommendations from the “Schengen Evaluation”

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

2.3. Calls for proposals to support the further development of national quality assurance mechanisms

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Legal entities such as:

- public bodies
- non-profit making private entities
- profit making private entities (including non-public implementing agencies, industrial or service/consultant companies)
- international organisations

The list of legal entities may be further restricted in the calls for proposals. In particular, some categories may be only eligible as co-applicant.

Geographical conditions:

- Legal entities established in a Member State participating in the Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI) established by Regulation (EU) 2021/1148 (all Member States except Ireland) or an overseas country or territory linked to it⁶ can participate in this call for proposals.
- Legal entities established in third countries associated to the BMVI can participate in this call for proposals.
- International organisations may be established outside the Member States participating in the BMVI.
- Legal entities (other than international organisations) set out in third countries can participate in this call for proposals under the conditions established in Article 20(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1148.
 1. only as part of a consortium composed of at least two independent entities, at least one of which is established in a Member State
 2. only for the third countries which are relevant for the call for proposals. These countries will be further specified in the calls for proposals.

Description of the activities to be funded under the calls for proposals

This action offers the possibility for the development of new quality assurance mechanisms, and/or for the further development of national quality assurance mechanisms, with the aim to ensure the implementation of Schengen acquis, in particular in the area of external border management.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

2.4. Calls for proposal -Projects on innovative solutions ensuring the well-functioning of the Schengen area

Type of applicants targeted

Legal entities:

- national authorities carrying out technical and operational measures within the

⁶ An “overseas country or territory linked to a participating Member State” is understood pursuant to Article 355 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

Schengen area which are related to border control

Description of the activities to be funded

Actions supporting the use of measures alternative to standard controls at the internal borders.

These actions can cover costs related to: mobile and stationary equipment, trainings, procurement, IT solutions and modern technologies.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

2.5. Direct awards to support the European Network of Immigration Liaison Officers according to Regulation (EU) 2019/1240 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁷

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The direct awards will be awarded to legal persons formally designated by the Steering Board of the Immigration Liaison Officers, and in line with Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation.

These legal persons will be public bodies or agencies of the Member States participating in the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy. In duly justified cases, where their participation is necessary to achieve the objectives of the programme and if explicitly mentioned in the invitation letter to the direct award, legal persons established in third countries may participate, but only as co-applicants.

The international organisations may only participate as co-applicants.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The European Network of Immigration Liaison Officers consists of liaison officer deployments to third countries by the competent authorities of a Member State, or by the Commission or by a Union agency to deal with immigration-related issues. Immigration Liaison Officers collect migration-related information, coordinate the provision of capacity-building activities to third countries, and render assistance to return and readmission related tasks (Article 3 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1240).

Support should aim at facilitating the following main clusters of actions identified in the Biennial Work Programme 2021-2022, which have been established by the Steering Board of the European Network of Immigration Liaison Officers according to Article 8(2), point

⁷ Regulation (EU) 2019/1240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on the creation of a European network of immigration liaison officers (OJ L 198, 25.7.2019, p. 88).

(a), of Regulation (EU) 2019/1240:

1. gathering, sharing and analysing information for use either at strategic or operational level;
2. targeted provision of capacity-building activities to authorities and other stakeholders in third countries;
3. rendering assistance to authorities of Member States in implementing EU migration and visa policy.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

2.6. Emergency assistance⁸

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award for emergency assistance

The following entities can submit applications for emergency assistance: Member States, international organisations or Union agencies. Other entities can be involved in the implementation of the action as co-applicants. The action grant will be awarded directly (without a call for proposals), in accordance with Article 195(a) or (b), of the Financial Regulation. The direct award of this grant is justified by the emergency support operations as described below or other exceptional and duly justified emergencies.

Where a Member State submits a request to use emergency assistance as an allocation to its national programme, and the Commission so decides, the budget will be implemented in shared management.

N.B. For international organisations and organisations assimilated to international organisations in accordance with Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, the budget will be implemented in indirect management (see point 4).

Description of the activities to be funded by the emergency assistance direct awards

Emergency assistance will address urgent and specific needs in the event of duly justified emergency situations, as required by and under conditions of Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1148.

'Emergency situation' means a situation resulting from urgent and exceptional pressure, in which a large or disproportionate number of third-country nationals have crossed, are crossing or are expected to cross the external borders of one or more Member States or in which incidents related to irregular immigration or cross-border crime occur at the external borders of one or more Member States, and those incidents have a decisive impact on border security to such an extent that they risk jeopardising the functioning of the Schengen area, or any other situation in respect of which it has been duly substantiated that immediate action at the external borders within the objectives of the Instrument is required.⁹

The emergency assistance will be provided for as long as the emergency situation lasts.

The emergency assistance will be provided in the form of action grants awarded directly without a call for proposals, following a proposal for action, including a request for funding, submitted to the Commission by one of the eligible entities.

⁸ Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1148

⁹ Article 7(2) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1148

--

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

Selection and award criteria

Selection criteria

In accordance with Article 198 of the Financial Regulation, proposals for action shall be evaluated on the basis of the following selection criteria:

- financial capacity - applicants and co-applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period for which the grant is awarded and to participate in its funding.
- operational capacity - applicants and co-applicants must have the professional competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed action.

In accordance with Article 198(5) of the Financial Regulation, the verification of the financial and operational capacity shall not apply to public bodies and international organisations.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 199 of the Financial Regulation, proposals for an action will be evaluated on the basis of a duly justified emergency situation and the relevance of the proposal with regard to the objectives and the expected impact of the proposed activities on the situation in the countries concerned.

Co-financing rate and other information

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

Up to 100% of the total eligible expenditure.

Other information

Where necessary for the implementation of an action, emergency assistance may cover expenditure which was incurred prior to the date of submission of the grant application or the request for assistance for that action, provided that that expenditure was not incurred prior to 1 January 2021.

3. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts in 2023, 2024 and 2025 is EUR 24 720 000

IT development and procurement strategy choices will be subject to pre-approval by the European Commission Information Technology and Cybersecurity Board, following the IT governance process established in the European Commission.

3.1. Actions implemented by procurement contracts

General description of the contracts envisaged:

In 2023, 2024 and 2025, the Commission intends to undertake actions through contracts following public procurement (calls for tender, as well as specific contracts under existing framework contracts, with the possibility to launch calls for the award of new framework contracts)

These procurement activities will cover the following activities:

- Support to the European Network of Immigration Liaison Officers (ILO), including support to the ILO secretariat and organisation of meetings;
- Actions supporting the Schengen Evaluation and monitoring mechanism, including administrative expenditures and related activities (training, monitoring, synergies, etc.);
- Communication campaigns and actions, including on the European Travel and Information Authorisation System (ETIAS), on the Entry/Exit system, on the Schengen Information System (SIS), on the Visa Information System (VIS) and on the roll-out of the Schengen strategy and on Border Management/Integrated Border Management Fund (IBMF)/Border management and visa (internal and external communication);
- Studies, evaluations (including on SIS Recast, EES, ETIAS) and other actions (including impact assessment, meetings, pilot projects, conferences, fora, etc.);
- Eurobarometer on Schengen Governance, including surveys and follow-up communication actions, Schengen Forum.

These activities will aim at monitoring the proper implementation of existing legislation or preparing, or accompanying new legislation, or responding to policy changes in the area covered by the Integrated Border Management Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy, in particular in the area of ‘Studies, communication campaigns, procurement and Schengen *acquis*’.

Implementation

Procurement will be implemented directly either by DG HOME or via sub-delegation or co-delegation to the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, to the Directorate-General for Informatics, to DG ESTAT, to the Publications Office, to DG Communication, DG FISMA, PMO, and DG HR.

4. ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED IN INDIRECT MANAGEMENT

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for indirect management actions in the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 is EUR 4 000 000.

4.1. Migration Partnership Facility (MPF)

Implementing entity

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is a specialised international organisation with sound experience in implementing regional migration dialogues with third countries and in managing funding and programmes linked to migration management. ICMPD successfully passed the Commission's ex-ante "pillar assessment" (assessment in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation) on its level of capacity of financial management and protection of financial interests and has been selected as the entity entrusted to implement this action in indirect management based on its competence and successful implementation of the predecessors to this action (Migration Partnership Facility I, II and III). Furthermore, ICMPD has established a strong network with Member States and partner countries relevant for migration engagement and has project-based offices in several partner countries.

Description

The Migration Partnership Facility (MPF) supports, in line with the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, the external dimension of the EU's migration policy with flexible support to Member States and partner countries with a particular focus on priority regions including the Neighbourhood, Eastern Partnership, EU candidate countries and potential candidates, Africa and Asia.

The MPF will continue offering tailor-made support for policy dialogue and operational cooperation with third countries. Examples of activities include: activities seeking to improve partner countries' policy and legal frameworks for migration and mobility; strengthened information, outreach and protection of migrants; review and development of legislation, policy documents/strategies, action plans, policy tools and instruments, standard operating procedures linked to migration management; capacity-building of partner country authorities in legal migration management (including migration monitoring); capacity-building of partner country authorities to reintegrate migrants with no right to stay in the EU; practices and policies on migrants' contributions to national development; partner countries' policy and legal frameworks as well as capacity-building on asylum policy and protection in line with international standards; support to migration dialogues and relevant needs identified in the dialogues with relevant partner countries.

The MPF will also continue to support the implementation of Talent Partnerships with priority partner countries in order to attract talented students, researchers and workers to the EU and promote the circulation of talent between the EU and targeted third countries. The Partnerships could combine direct support for mobility schemes and training with capacity building in areas such as labour market or skills intelligence, vocational education and training, integration of returning migrants, and diaspora mobilisation.

Projects supported through the Migration Partnership Facility will be implemented preferably via call(s) for proposals, open to public bodies of Member States, Member State-based organisations, and in some cases international organisations as lead applicants. Public authorities of priority partner countries, public bodies of the same or other Member States, international organisations or non-governmental organisations working on a non-profit basis

established in the EU or in the priority partner countries will be able to apply as co-applicants (future co-beneficiaries).

The overall strategic guidance, leadership and oversight for the implementation of the MPF is carried out by the MPF Steering Committee (SC). The SC consists of representatives of the European Commission (including DG HOME, the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations - DG NEAR - and the Directorate-General for International Partnerships - DG INTPA, and the European External Action Service - EEAS). The SC is chaired by DG HOME, while ICMPD acts as secretariat and provides technical support/assistance for its functioning.

Actions eligible for funding by the Facility shall be in line with the objectives of the AMIF, the ISF and the BMVI, and each Fund will support actions falling within its remit.

4.2. Emergency assistance¹⁰

Implementing entity

International organisations and non-profit organisations assimilated with international organisations in accordance with Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, which submit an application for which the action is awarded. This concerns entities which have been subject to an ex ante assessment pursuant to Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a framework partnership agreement in force concluded with the Commission pursuant to Council Regulation (EU) 2016/369¹¹, or those that are covered by the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement concluded with the United Nations.

Such organisations will have to demonstrate specific technical competence and experience appropriate and relevant for the action.

Description of the activities to be funded

The description of the activities to be funded, and the selection and award criteria, are as for emergency assistance grants (see point 2.6 above).

Co-financing rate and other information

The maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs is as for emergency assistance grants, i.e. 100%.

Actions implemented under this section will be provided in the form of contribution agreements following a proposal for action, including a request for funding, submitted to the Commission by one of the eligible entities. If the Commission were not in a position to sign a contribution agreement, a grant may be awarded in accordance with Title VIII of the Financial Regulation (notably Article 195).

¹⁰ Article 25 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1148

¹¹ Council Regulation (EU) 2016/369 of 15 March 2016 on the provision of emergency support within the Union (OJ L 070 16.3.2016, p. 1).

5. ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED UNDER SHARED MANAGEMENT

Pursuant to Article 15 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1148, Member States may receive funding for specific actions¹² in addition to their allocation through the national programmes and provided the conditions set out in this Article are fulfilled.

In line with the Article 17(5) of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1148, upon the reasoned request of Lithuania, the resources allocated for the Special Transit Scheme can be reviewed, and, where necessary adjusted, within the limits of the thematic facility budgetary resources.

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for specific actions in the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 is EUR 899 976 862.

Type of applicants targeted by the specific actions

All Member States participating in the Integrated Border Management Fund, the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy.

Description of the activities to be funded by the specific actions

The specific actions will fund transnational or national projects that bring Union added value in accordance with the objectives of the Fund.

They will contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Integrated Border Management Fund and may in particular focus on specific topics including:

- technical equipment for European Border and Coast Guard national components, i.e. Member States authorities responsible for border management, to be put at Frontex's disposal, in accordance with Article 64 (14) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896¹³;
- actions to support Member States implementing IT systems and interoperability, such as common data sets for biometrics, Sirene automation process, integrated solutions for transit facilitation/automation of border crossing, interoperability architecture, use of artificial intelligence, etc.;
- actions to support Member States to deal with high migratory pressure at the EU external borders, aiming at reinforcing border control capabilities;
- actions to support Lithuania in the implementation of the Special Transit Scheme, in application of Article 17(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1148;
- actions to support Member States in consular cooperation, visa policy and training;
- actions to contribute to the well-functioning of the Schengen area, e.g. to promote new technologies on border checks and surveillance, taking up the results of research;
- Support Member States to fulfil their obligations related to the Screening procedure, etc.

Funding allocated to specific actions should not be used for other actions in the Member

¹² As per Article 2(8) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1148: 'Specific actions' means transnational or national projects that bring Union added value in accordance with the objectives of the Instrument for which one, several or all Member States may receive an additional allocation to their programmes.

¹³ Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2019 on the European Border and Coast Guard and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1052/2013 and (EU) 2016/1624 (OJ L 295, 14.11.2019, p. 1).

State's programme, except in duly justified circumstances and as approved by the Commission through the amendment of the Member State's programme.

To ensure complementarity and synergies, the calls for expression of interest will outline the Union added value of specific actions and their expected results, bearing in mind actions in the policy areas concerned that are funded under the Member States programmes.

Implementation

The actions will be implemented by one or more Member States participating in the Integrated Border Management Fund via funding received in addition to the allocation under the Member States' programmes, in line with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1148.

6. OTHER ACTIONS AND EXPENDITURES

6.1. Administrative Agreement with JRC on “Development of a verification App for Visible Digital Seal (VDS) and the Digital Travel Credential (DTC)”

Indicative amount

EUR 500 000

Description

The European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) has already developed an application for the verification of the Visible Digital Seal on the visa sticker.

Under this new Administrative Agreement, the JRC will be asked to develop an additional iOS App and an App for live implementation of the Visible Digital Seal and for the Digital Travel Credential. Member States would benefit from this harmonized App.
--