

NATIONAL PROGRAMME ISF

IDENTIFICATION OF THE DESIGNATED AUTHORITIES

Competent authorities responsible for management and control systems

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Management and control system

The Management and Control System for the period 2014 to 2020 is based on the system that was adopted for the SOLID Funds. This decision was taken on the fact that the system has been tried and tested, and the audit authority had issued a clean systems audit opinion. It has benefitted from a steep learning curve which takes into account best practices gathered, not only during the implementation of the SOLID funds, but also from other funds which fall under the responsibility of the Funds and Programmes Division. The system comprises the Funds and Programmes Division as the Responsible Authority (RA), the EU Payments Unit as the delegated authority for payments and the Internal Audit and Investigations Department as the Audit Authority. Each authority is a separate entity thus ensuring separation of duties, each authority having its own monitoring and or control tools.

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The national internal security strategies provide the direction and the requirements which need to be addressed so that Malta continues to enhance its capabilities for border control management and police cooperation. The assistance will cover various areas, including the VISA Information System (VIS) and VISMAIL and Malta's outreach in third countries through the setting up and refurbishment of consulates and training of officials. For border control management the focus will be on new and improved assets and integrated communication systems to enable the better control of Malta's territory while also safeguarding the Mediterranean region and the access to other European countries.

Malta will continue to abide with its obligations under the regulations and to take part in EU initiatives meant to further assist in the carrying out of activities of border control. Therefore the funds will also be used to make the necessary upgrades to ensure continued fulfilment of all legal obligations. These include the implementation of the Entry Exit System (EES), the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) and the Schengen Information System (SIS). Malta will also seek to overcome any gaps identified in the Vulnerability Assessment and Schengen Evaluations.

The Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) border security mission will continue to drive forward strategic objectives which include the use of Information, Integration, and Rapid Reaction to meet all threats and needs. Such approach ensures that the AFM's capabilities are arrayed so as to oppose and combat the highest risks. Through information the AFM obtains situational awareness and intelligence. Integration is achieved through analysis of information leading on to operational planning and execution with interaction of international and local law enforcement entities. Given the dynamic nature of border threats, the tenet of Rapid Reaction ensures that the AFM can, together with other law enforcement partners, respond quickly and appropriately to the changing situation at the Nation's borders.

With respect to prevention and combating crime, and the protection against terrorism and security-related risks, the Fund will be used to strengthen Malta's capabilities in detecting and combating organized crime and terrorism. This will be achieved through the introduction of new upgraded equipment and the provision of the relevant training on the use of the equipment, infrastructure and systems for the collection, analysis and dissemination of data. Areas identified through Europol's SOCTA will also be tackled in order to enhance Malta's capabilities. In addition, various divisions within the Malta Police Force (MPF), the AFM and the Customs Department will be assisted through the Fund in order to be provided with equipment that will help in crime prevention and to better assist in risk and crises management and prevention.

By means of the ISF Police, the Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit (FIAU) will implement a digitised compliance system which will enable them to combat money laundering, financing of terrorism as well as other financial crime, such as fraud and corruption and at the same time will facilitate and make more efficient the gathering of information from obliged entities for supervisory purposes.

This fund will also enable the Malta Security Service (MSS) to replace and upgrade its current infrastructure, ICT systems, carry out information gathering and be in a better position to fulfil its remit of protecting national and EU security. It will also help to further enhance cooperation and communication links with other law enforcement agencies, both locally and in other Member States, in the fight against cross-border crime.

The Civil Protection Department (CPD) will also be assisted to enhance its Terrorism Crisis Response so that in the event of a terrorist attack involving Chemical, Biological, Radiation or Nuclear (CBRN) elements, the effects will

be rapidly mitigated. This will ensure that besides saving human life, critical infrastructure is protected and the situation returns to normal in the shortest span possible.

The Fund will also allow for research and the collection of information on networks and means of operation of people smuggling organisations.

The Funds will be approximately divided in the following percentages, excluding technical assistance and operational support: 6% for VISA, 94% for Borders, 68% for Preventing and Combating Crime and 32% for Risks and Crisis.

2. BASELINE SITUATION IN THE MEMBER STATE

Summary of the current state of play as of December 2013 in the Member State for the fields relevant to the Fund

MT's border management is important both nationally & for the EU. Following accession, the importance of MT's position resurfaced at the forefront of the EU's southern border, especially for irregular immigration. The target for borders & visa is to ensure safe passage & secure EU borders.

The entities involved in border & common visa policy are the AFM, MPF & Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs (MFEA). Their budgets for 2014 were (recurrent & capital €'000): 41,071 & 3,973; 53,108 & 1,407; 24,112 & 1,327. MFEA is tasked with issuing of visas; MPF is responsible for border control through the immigration section at key entry points and in Malta; the AFM is tasked with offshore sea and air border surveillance.

MT has a single air border entry point & two main sea ports, including one terminal for seaborne & cruise liner passengers & Freeport for cargo. A number of yacht marinas are present. The Border Control Points (BCPs) are Valetta Sea Passenger Terminal, Freeport, yacht marinas & the International Airport.

In 2013 air passenger movements amounted to 4,052,000 (arrivals 2,016,196; departures 2,015,304; transit 20,500). 3,540,225 movements were within the EU, whilst 2,374,957 were with Schengen countries (the remainder 1,403,913 - European non Schengen; 133,416 - Africa; 118,600 - mid east & 614 - Asian).

As regards to sea vessels, 11,011 arrived in MT; 3,250 from Schengen countries; 7,165 from other non-Schengen countries (596 classified as MT). With regard to cruise liners, 380,277 passengers were in transit, whilst 51,120 landed in MT; 328,717 were of EU nationality whilst 102,680 were non EU nationals.

VISA

The entity responsible for issuing Schengen visas is the MFEA & its foreign missions abroad. The Central Visa Unit (CVU) within Identity Malta is the lead authority in terms of national visa policy. The national visa system (N-VIS), coordinating consular cooperation agreements, cooperation agreements with external service providers &

coordination of training requirements is managed by MFEA.

Responsibility for border control lies with the Immigration Section within MPF with the Commissioner being designated as Principal Immigration Officer. Offshore sea & air border surveillance is carried out by AFM which is the entity designated as the lead agency for Integrated Maritime Surveillance & is required to coordinate national actions in support of initiatives including EUROSUR & CISE.

Investment has been made by MT in the protection & control of external borders, some funded through the External Border Fund (EBF), in human resources (HR), infrastructure & logistical means to enhance capabilities. More remains to be done to consolidate, especially due to technological advances & to meet obligations and initiatives.

In terms of visa policy, N-VIS and access to C-VIS (Central VIS) has been implemented in all consular posts and has been rolled out in accordance with CION plan, while VISMAIL has been developed & implemented through an EBF AP 12 project.

Consular coverage in Schengen visa issuance is well established. MT has 14 missions & consular posts within the EU area & 25 within a third country region. MT has a number of consular cooperation agreements signed with Austria, Italy, Spain, France, Greece, Poland, Belgium & Germany which cover approximately 50 countries. Over the past 6 years MT has issued the following Schengen visas: 2012 -54,751; 2013 - 81,988; 2014 - 56,932; 2015 - 41,223; 2016 - 28,083; 2017 - 38,132. Schengen visas represent 85% of the total issued. The increasing demand for Schengen visas and full compliance with the visa code requires that MT improve its consular capacity.

EBF AP 11, MFEA 2 projects: the secure capture & transmission of biometric information from an out-sourced office in Libya; and a mobile consulate for regions where there is no need for a full-blown consulate. MT has 9 agreements in place with external service providers in the Russia, India, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, UAE, China, Israel, Tunis & Algeria.

EBF AP 12 & 13, MFEA 1 project: to increase the number of consular posts in Shanghai, Abu Dhabi, Misurata, Benghazi & invest in new regions (Algeria & Kuwait).

13 EBF projects in total implemented: e.g. preparation of Consular Offices to a state of readiness for biometric capture; setting-up &/or upgrading of security & infrastructure at Consular posts; procurement of equipment & training for the detection of false/forged documents; investment in mobile biometric capture stations; training & equipment in preparation for VIS GOLIVE.

Borders

The large number of TCNs who reach MT by boat in an irregular manner poses particular challenges. MT's geographic and demographic characteristics create the challenge for MT and the EU. Population density stands at almost 1,300 persons/km², making it the most densely populated EU MS. Since 2002, irregular migrant arrivals remained consistently high, ex. 1730 in 2011; 2255 in 2012; 2435 in 2013 and 568 in 2014. These facts, combined with the geo-political context and volatile situation, necessitates further investments in border management in MT.

The National Coordination Centre (NCC) is tasked with providing situational awareness, ensuring adequate reaction capability, coordinating external border control surveillance activities, establishing & updating the National Situational Picture (NSP) & sharing the NSP with neighbouring MS NCCs & Frontex. EUROSUR node was deployed at the NCC in '12 Q4. Investment by AFM included 10 EBF projects, as well as expenditure funded through national & other funds (EBF SA, Frontex & US).

For border surveillance at sea, MPF deploy 5 sea craft & AFM deploy 6 aircraft and 15 sea craft which result in the detection of, & eventual interception of, migrants & cross-border crime.

The greatest need is to modernise border management with the use of new technologies and tools at the borders. An Entry Exit system *PISCES* is in place. MT set up an API system in order to facilitate the checking of records at BCPs through an EBF project while EU API legislation has been transposed into local legislation.

Relevant Schengen acquis systems are in place & operational, necessitating investment at BCPs & deployment of

modern technologies. Since 2012 MT was subject to 5 Schengen Evaluations. Results were positive whilst identifying weaknesses in infrastructure, equipment for the detection of false/forged documents & training. Most recommendations have been dealt with. With respect to training, MT implemented a plan covering the key players in border activities by end 2013. Investment drew on national & EU funds, including an EBF project strengthening the capacity of consular outposts to detect false & falsified documents.

SIS has been operational since 2007. Investments included an EBF project supporting the integration of national systems with SIS II & EBF SA facilitating SIS II implementation. Staff is well versed with the system & has been trained by experts. SIRENE office avails of an automated Case Management System which is being assessed for enhancements in view of its potential to offer extended functions. Staffing levels at the national section of the SIS have increased following the implementation of SIS II & technical support for SIS II & SIRENE II is provided by the system developers. It is to be noted that as of April 2013-April 2014, the collective amount of hits for MT amounts to 313,310. With respect to the SIRENE Office, during the same annual period the total amount of information exchanges was 33,277.

During 2013, 6 Border Guard training courses based on FRONTEX Common Curriculum were held for which 98 Immigration Officers/Police from Seaport & Airport, 58 from the AFM & a Customs Official attended. To complement the training, documentation training was held in 2014. The proposal for more training is based on the need to provide border security staff with the knowledge required to help maintain a high level of border management & security.

Police

The prevention of serious & organised crime & the protection of critical infrastructure from terrorist & other security risks is important for MT and the EU.

MSS are the lead entity for intelligence for national and EU security risks; whilst operational aspects are carried out by MPF for organised crime and terrorism; and by the Customs Department with regard to import control. Support is provided by the specialised units within AFM. CPD provide timely intervention in case of an incident, particularly CBRN.

MPF responsibilities include preserving public order & peace, preventing commission of offences & promoting & enforcing the observation of laws.

MSS play a part in critical infrastructure protection through the detection & analysis of risks to national security & assists similar foreign services in their operations, particularly against terrorism. MSS identified the need to enhance & strengthen the gathering of intelligence, its analysis & collation capabilities through the use of data management & analysis tools. This need reflects the resources available, which are limited & need to be upgraded. Investment in MSS facilities and network infrastructure are envisaged to address these gaps.

AFM is a major component of the defence & security architecture. A critical role is played by Ammo & Explosive, Storage & Disposal (AESD), which has the specialisation & capabilities in the disposal of explosives, including counter-terrorist IEDs. AESD has 3 roles: supervision of explosives, improvised/explosives ordinance disposal & diving. In 2014 it was involved in 445 operations (bomb threats 16, suspected IED 19, recovery of EO 2, security searches 261, diving details 139, recovery of UXO 6).

The AESD Company is experiencing HR & equipment gaps that can impact operations and preventive actions. The actions required are to enhance the security of explosives to ensure that they do not fall into the wrong hands, terrorist or criminal organisations.

Law enforcement is a key component for the Customs Department, e.g. in the areas of drug trafficking, trade in counterfeit goods & fight against non-proliferation.

One of CPD's focus areas is the protection of critical infrastructure. This is achieved through a timely intervention in an incident & having the ability to neutralise a terrorist incident in the least possible time. ISF will be used to bolster the CBRN team within CPD, which is equipped to deal with chemical incidents that may occur in industries & small terrorist incidents. Training forms a key part of this initiative where the train the trainer methodology will enable CBRN instructors to train internal personnel & other emergency services such as MPF & AFM.

There is a discrepancy between the importance of MT as a banking centre & the national capability in the field of preventing financial & economic crimes. The MPF Economic Crimes Unit is in need of strengthening capacity, in

terms of staffing and equipment for analysis & information sharing.

MPF provides training to law enforcement agencies (LEAs), including Border Guards & Customs, in the fields of police cooperation, information sharing, the use of SIS/SIRENE, cross-border surveillance & joint operations. MPF participates in LETS programme to enhance the level of training & harmonise with other EUMS.

MPF organises training for officers employed in community policing, maintaining public order & in the prevention, detection, investigation & prosecution of crimes & contraventions. This training includes recruits courses as well as refresher/ad hoc training for police officers. The recruits' training includes 12 hours of training on police cooperation (8 on Europol, 2 on Schengen police cooperation, judicial cooperation & the Schengen Information System & Interpol). Refresher courses provide updates in these areas & changes brought by recommendations from Schengen Evaluations & procedures agreed upon in the SISVIS Committee on SIS/SIRENE matters. The current training materials are based on the common curricula/guidelines/modules developed by CEPOL & adapted to the local needs.

MT participates in EPOL through the MPF, Customs Department, AFM & the Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit (FIAU) in their respective areas of interest. Apart from using & contributing to information in EPOL IS, MT exchanges information with EPOL & other partners. MT participates in Twins, Terminal, Hydra, Dolphin, Sustrans, Soya, Smoke, Piracy, Cyborg, Cola & Checkpoint & in EMPACT projects

The need for ad hoc train the trainer courses in areas like border management aspects, police cooperation, cybercrime, protection of human rights & freedoms, as well as investigation of organized trans-border crime is recognized. Training offered by FRONTEX, CEPOL & other Area of Freedom Security and Justice (AFSJ) agencies is also followed. During 2014, CEPOL, MS & Frontex developed a standard EU level of knowledge & skills for all law enforcement officials.

With regard to cybercrime, action is required to address the following gaps: upgrade of equipment & systems to enable simultaneous searches & on site extraction of data; mobile laboratories; replacement/enhancement of workstations; secure storage systems for retaining of evidence; equipment allowing extraction of information from mobile devices; equipment & systems to enable secure & effective setup to allow the fulfilment of the Global Alliance against Online Child Sexual Exploitation.

MT is participating in the EU policy cycle on serious & organised crime & has identified the following areas as priorities: the disruption of irregular immigration; combating cocaine & heroin trafficking; card fraud; child & sexual exploitation (cybercrime); MTIC (missing trader intra-community) fraud & excise. In these areas MT acknowledges that better national infrastructure for data collection & analysis would result in improved performance of the involved entities, namely MPF & the Customs Department.

3. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

Specific objective	1 - Support a common visa policy
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MT's strategy in terms of supporting a common visa policy is geared towards keeping the standards it has always maintained while adapting to the new technologies which will be introduced. This ensures that the systems are enhanced to adapt to technologies that will be developed and that will have to be linked to the N-VIS. N-VIS was first launched in 2004, the system needs to be revamped in view of emerging technology, to ensure better efficiencies at consular level and better synergies with other national systems. It is the aim of MFEA and CVU to continue to ensure the proper functioning of visa issuing procedures in all diplomatic and consular posts. A strategic goal is to further consolidate and strengthen the current administrative and operational capacity in order to ensure that visas continue to be issued in full compliance with Regulation 810/2009. The issuance of Schengen visas is the primary activity of the consulates included in programme. With the turnover of staff; introduction of staff at diplomatic/consular levels and local staff; and the constant changes in technology and increasing security threats, means that training on Schengen and Immigration matters needs to be ongoing, intensive and more hands-on.

It is envisaged that apart from an ongoing training programme for consular and local staff, an additional training programme will be undertaken. This consolidation is aimed at ensuring that Malta's consular posts continuously maintain high standards in line with Schengen obligations. In this respect, MT plans to simplify and improve the administrative processes involved in terms of the issuance of visas, to reduce administrative bottlenecks and aid the further development of tourism and the economy in general.

Malta will increase its consular coverage as a result of ongoing discussions for further representation with Austria, Italy, Spain, France, Belgium, Greece and Germany and other MS; further collaboration with external service providers, establishment of new consular posts, for further consular coverage, as well as the refurbishment of consular offices. In view of the increasing security threats within particular regions, MFEA will be seeking to increase physical security in a number of consular posts to address the Schengen Evaluation recommendations.

In line with ensuring the sustainability of current operations, it is envisaged that capacity building initiatives will be carried out throughout the duration of the programme by means of holistic training programmes aimed at equipping the consular staff with all the knowledge they need.

National objective	1 - National capacity
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The exchange of visa data is considered as a crucial part of the efficient monitoring of the crossing of external borders, more so since Malta is a Schengen state. Hence, in support of the EU Visa policy, attention will be given for the correct implementation of the VIS which is the main tool utilised to exchange visa data amongst Schengen states. The N-VIS will be entirely renewed, both at hardware and at software levels, in view of emerging technologies and new requirements. This will ensure better efficiencies at consular level and better synergies with

other systems. Furthermore it is envisaged that with a new system, new functionality can be introduced so that proper monitoring of the visa code implementation can be carried out by the various stakeholders.

The national priorities below will be met with national funds, supplemented with Union funds:

Funding priority:

- Re-write and technology refresh of the current N-VIS

Target

To have a renewed NVIS system to ensure efficiency at consular level and which will be able to support emerging technologies and new requirements.

National objective	2 - Union acquis
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MT will continue to strive to keep the positive reports received following the latest Schengen Evaluations (Schevals) wherein minor issues were identified and are being rectified. In order to keep this positive feedback, the national priority is to continue to train personnel on visa policy and its correct application, to ensure that standards are upheld for the benefit of all those making use of this service. It will also ensure that the persons in need of a visa are clearly guided and assisted in their requests while also carrying out thorough checks and monitoring of the persons applying for a visa to maintain all the necessary controls prior to the crossing of borders. More often than not, Maltese Consulates are manned by a very limited number of MFEA officials, making training a critical factor in order to keep up standards, changes in immigration and security risks. Such officials need to be trained and knowledgeable in the required tasks.

Funding priorities

- Training courses for officers involved in Schengen visa policy and its application.
- Training in the fields of Schengen and Immigration, Visa processes and IT systems, Document examination, Capture of biometric data, Interviewing skills & related topics

Target

To train approximately 150 staff members

National objective	3 - Consular cooperation
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MT recognises the need for further enhancements of its consular coverage to be able to continue to address the needs of all those requiring a Schengen visa. The national priority is the refurbishment in consular coverage, setting up of a new consulate, further cooperation with other Schengen partners and further outreach through the use of external service providers.

The setting-up of new consular posts or upgrading/ refurbishing/ relocating of existing posts must be in line with Schengen standards and respond to emerging risks and technologies. In this respect, it is envisaged that support would be required to maintain consular posts in line with the relevant Schengen obligations.

The Maltese context of consular cooperation requires more consideration due to the distinctiveness of the Maltese Islands in particular when strategies are drawn up, this essentially means that Malta needs to focus more on improving existing consular cooperation agreements with the aim of facilitating the visa process and expanding Malta's consular network.

National capacity in the security sector will be strengthened at consular levels with the strengthening of physical security of existing consular posts in view of the ever increasing security situation in particular regions and changes in technology.

Furthermore, Malta will further enhance its diplomatic and consular network through refurbishment of consular sections and opening of a new consulate and further collaboration/cooperation with other Schengen partners.

Funding priorities

- Establishment of new consular posts, as well as refurbishment/ relocation/ upgrading of consular posts based on a needs assessment
- Equip these consulates with the technology needs and security setups in line with Schengen standards.

Only the proportion of the costs related to the issuance of Schengen visas will be supported through EU funds.

Target

Establishment of a new consular post

Refurbishment of four consular posts

Specific objective	2 - Borders
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MT's border strategy is stipulated by the obligation to maintain an effective role at the forefront of the EU southern border. Events taking place in North Africa and the Middle East have rendered the political and security situation volatile and unpredictable, reaffirming the need to be proactive to ensure vigilance and effective control of EU borders. The strategy is focused on support, enhancement and further development of the key entities involved in the sector. A drive towards ensuring readiness and capability to meet obligations with respect to Border Information Systems features within MT's strategy. The enhancement of existing and additional assets and operational systems are envisaged actions. These will contribute towards ensuring a better state of readiness and provide new capabilities with further consolidation in the deployment of resources. Capacity building and training also feature in MT's strategy. MT will continue to prioritise the needs and gaps identified in the Vulnerability Assessment and Schengen Evaluations.

AFM aims to enhance its border control Operations Centre (OPSCEN) to launch more effective and efficient border control operations and achieve a considerable upgrade in the management of assets. It is important that the current air and sea capabilities including the hangars of the AFM are enhanced to achieve this strategy to enable quicker and more efficient transportation of troops for rapid intervention. The planned actions include an upgrade to the current communication systems to enhance the command and control of assets, yielding higher preparedness for border control operations, increasing participation in border missions with third countries and achieving better control of the Southern border. By improving the reaction capability of the Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) in force and the procurement of a new OPV with helicopter capability, procurement of a third twin engine helicopter, procurement of a fixed wing aircraft, construction of operations centre for AFM and integrated communications system, design and building of new aircraft hangar; overall operational command will be assured.

Interventions by MPF are aimed towards facilitating the legal crossing of MT's external borders, including the introduction of new border management systems such as the ABC Gates and the Entry Exit System, European Travel Information and Authorisation System and the Schengen Information System. MT will take up any new developments and introduce such systems as required to ensure compliance with applicable regulations. MT will strengthen its surveillance and IT infrastructure particularly in the context of EUROSUR. Enhancements to the country's communication systems will be undertaken, together with investment in on-board surveillance equipment for assets deployed on border duties. Finally, the strategy will strengthen and ensure compliance with applicable regulations via the investment in related systems, equipment and training.

National objective	1 - EUROSUR
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A EUROSUR node was deployed at the MT National Coordination Centre in the Fourth Quarter of 2012. In order to keep the system updated, it is MT's intention to further equip itself with technology which could be used to gather information that can be made available to the other MS by means of the EUROSUR system.

The national priority is for all MT entities (AFM, MPF, Customs Department) to be able to gather all the information and feed it into EUROSUR. Other national priorities include investments to upgrade the current coast surveillance systems infrastructures to add additional radio receiving and transmitting stations around the coast to

provide a better communication coverage for surveillance platforms. Another national priority is to upgrade the reaction capability of the OPV in service to enable sustained border control operations for long periods of time, since this is the largest and main AFM sea platform available capable of transporting the largest amount of people on board. These national priorities will be supplemented by EU funds.

Funding priorities

- Upgrade the current infrastructure used in border control such as the design, build and equipping of an AFM Command, Control and Communications Operation Centre (OPSCEN).
- Upgrade the Integrated Communications System (ICS) with new IT equipment and radio facilities
- Upgrade the reaction capability of the OPV in service to enable sustained border control operations for long periods of time

Target

Update and enhance border management

Reduce reaction time for border control

National objective	2 - Information exchange
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In line with MT's border strategy, the continued operation of mission-critical border IT systems is crucial as is the good communication and exchange of information between the relevant authorities.

The national priorities are:

- Improved communication
- Cooperation between services with joint actions and other initiatives
- Training, meetings, joint seminars between the different agencies

Projects will not be financed under this National Objective, the Objective and National Priorities will be met through other National Objectives.

National objective	3 - Common Union standards
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Developments at EU level in relation to the Smart Borders package may result in an impact on Malta's border systems by way of additional requirements for interaction and/or data access. Such an impact would need to be assessed at national level and corresponding actions need to be developed in order to safeguard continuity of

operation and smooth interoperability of existing and envisaged new systems. As an enhancement to the current existing systems and structures, the installation of an Automated Border Control (ABC) System relates to the implementation of a fully automated system which authenticates the travel documents, establishes that the traveller is the rightful holder of the document, queries border control systems and helps to verify the conditions governing entry.

Funding priorities:

- The installation of an ABC System

Target

To have a fully functioning ABC System in place

National objective	4 - Union acquis
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MT will ensure the implementation of the union acquis related to border management and implementation of the recommendations following Schengen Evaluations. Projects will not be financed under this National Objective, implementation of the union acquis will be met through other National Objectives.

National objective	5 - Future challenges
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MT will keep monitoring any issues and challenges in the area of border management identified by EU agencies, so that the necessary measures can be undertaken. Projects will not be financed under this National Objective, initiatives to address such challenges will be met through other National Objectives or National Initiatives.

National objective	6 - National capacity
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The recurrent influx of irregular immigrants requires that MT continuously monitors and protects its external borders whilst ensuring continued operations. These complement the strategy being implemented in the consolidation of assets in the management of border control of the EU southern border.

The procurement of a third maritime patrol aircraft and helicopter would help alleviate border control pressures due to enhanced air operational readiness and cover. Investment in design and build infrastructure is also envisaged, particularly to gain efficiencies, speed up deployment and improve capabilities. This will enable better reaction time and return to service of the aircraft operated by AFM. A further action is to continue the enhancement of AFM's border control assets to complement the only existing craft within the maritime fleet of the AFM capable of

conducting sustained border control operations for long periods of time. It will also fill up the operational gaps that currently transpire due to maintenance exigencies or other out of action reasons. This development, together with the enhancement of the operational capabilities of the other OPV, and with the assets being envisaged, will ensure a consolidated approach towards border control management and have a great impact on the availability and sustainability of the AFM to carry out border control operations in the area of responsibility of the MT Government and the EU. MT will also procure equipment identified in the Vulnerability Assessment and Schengen Evaluations, to address the shortfalls of existing technical equipment.

MT will ensure the development and implementation of the EU EES & ETIAS. Support to the quick and effective upgrading of the national components of the SIS, in line with the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2018/1861 will also be provided. Funding for these priorities will be provided as stipulated under Section 7.

Continuous support will also be given to existing IT systems to ensure their effective operation within a secure environment.

Specific Actions Borders: EUR 6,400,000 awarded under Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/446.

Funding priorities

- A third twin engine helicopter
- Design and building of a hangar & ancillary facilities for the upkeep of fixed wing & rotary aircraft
- Construction & commissioning of a new OPV
- Equipment to address the gaps identified in the Vulnerability Assessment & Schengen Evaluations
- Development & implementation of the EU EES, ETIAS & SIS
- Support of border management IT systems

Target

Capacity is set to increase by 3.5%

To procure equipment to address the vulnerabilities identified in the Vulnerability Assessment and Schengen Evaluations

Development, support & implementation of the EU EES, ETIAS and SIS & existing/new Border Management IT systems.

Specific action	2 - FRONTEX equipment
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A fixed wing patrol aircraft for €14,000,000 will be procured to complement the current fleet in order to conduct and support current and future border control missions. The aircraft will have an operational endurance of more than 2.5hrs and will be able to display digital maps of the operational area on board as well as perform day and night operations with a one hour readiness for emergency take off. The aircraft will also have a modular option of embarking light cargo and conveying border guards in support of other boarder control operations within the EU MS. The aircraft will be equipped with a multitude of sensors and equipment such as electro optical/infrared and radar sensors, full range of radio bandwidth and SATCOMS. The mission system is designed to integrate all sensors into layers that can be displayed to the operator on the digital maps of the operational area on board. This allows for better maritime domain awareness. These systems will continue to enhance the sharing of information from external borders amongst border control agencies and other MS and FRONTEX.

Specific objective	3 - Operating support
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Malta hereby confirms its compliance with the Union acquis on borders and visa.

Malta hereby confirms its compliance with Union Standards and guidelines for good governance on borders and visa, in particular the Schengen catalogue for external border control, the Practical Handbook for borders guards and the Handbook on visa.

National objective	1 - Operating support for VISA
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Operating support is needed to support recurrent costs which are incurred in relation to equipment used for the issuance of Schengen visas. There are a number of recurring costs which are incurred by consulates in order to maintain the systems they have in place such as NVIS. In addition, over a certain period of time updates are needed in relation to the ICT equipment they make use of.

Operating support will also be used for the costs of 3 members of staff within MFEA and 23 Locally Engaged Personnel working within consulates who provide for the Schengen implementation, including processing and issuing of Schengen visas, identifying false and falsified documents and due diligence.

Operating support will be mainly used in the following actions:

- Support and maintenance of N-VIS
- Operational Costs for the Administration of Schengen and Visa Matters

National objective	2 - Operating support for borders
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The operating support for borders will be used to maintain the equipment which will be purchased through the funds. Some of the equipment purchased will also be covered by maintenance agreements with the suppliers in order to make sure that the equipment keeps the standards for which it was procured.

Operating support will be mainly used in the following actions:

- The Operating support will cover costs of the preventative maintenance of the ABC Gates.

Specific objective	5 - Preventing and combating crime
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The prevention and fight against crime involves a number of stakeholders: MPF, AFM, MSS, the Customs Department and FIAU.

MSS aims to protect national security against threats from organised crime, espionage, terrorism and sabotage, and acts in the interest of the economic well-being of Malta, public safety and assisting other national and EU law enforcement agencies in countering serious crime.

MPF will continue to be equipped, trained and motivated to face challenges, bolstering preventive and security measures by increasing police on the beat particularly in areas susceptible to crime, and the introduction of a covert surveillance vehicle and security cameras. Investment will range from the procurement of equipment to strengthen the forensic unit as well as the development of the PNR System.

Economic and financial crimes & drug trafficking are increasing. In 2014 there were 564 initiated investigations by the Economic Crime Unit, out of which 161 related to fraud, 74 to misappropriation and 26 to forgery. 854 persons were interviewed and 160 persons arraigned in court on related offences. With regards to drug trafficking, the specialised drug unit arraigned 114 persons on trafficking and 355 on possession. Actions to improve the MPF's capabilities in controlling and suppressing such offences are envisaged also in the light of hindering organised crime's access to funds. In fact child sexual exploitation, financial crime, cocaine and heroin trafficking and illegal immigration are Malta's participation priorities for the EU Policy Cycle 2014-2017.

Options considered include the procurement of systems facilitating the detection of patterns of crime, threats & risks; improved command & control capabilities for MSS; focused effort to reduce the illicit use of internet; the procurement of surveillance systems; strengthening of tools used by LEAs.

To keep abreast with developments, including in the field of technology, socio-cultural change, migration and the changing nature of criminality itself, ongoing training is envisaged to ensure sufficient preparedness to meet the challenges that such developments bring. MPF and the Customs Department will participate in the LETS and Policy Cycle 2014-2017. Through such participation, Malta will contribute in the wider fight taking place across the EU.

The AESD is the army unit that has the necessary equipment that is utilised in cases of risk and crises, since it is the sole agency with specialisation & capabilities in the disposal of explosives, including counter-terrorist improvised explosive devices. The risk will increase in the light of commitments related to international activities that will be held in Malta.

It is the intention to strengthen the capabilities of the Customs Department which control imports and exports passing through Malta's BCPs by providing capital equipment for the carrying of non-intrusive controls through scanning equipment that could better detect illicit activities crossing borders.

The principal national objective is to increase the capacity of competent services. MPF will strengthen its capacity, investigative and analytical capabilities and deter crime with new surveillance systems. Live transmission of feeds allow better surveillance of activities at different events and other areas of security. Information will be shared with the competent authorities. On the other hand forensic handheld devices will assist the MPF on the scene of the crime.

In line with the EU List of Strategic Union Priorities, to make the best use of MT resources, the Units within AFM responsible for handling, removal and disposal of all explosives materials need to be strengthened. Priorities are to increase the capacity to handle and dispose of explosive ordnance and provide equipment allowing for the possibility of tackling simultaneous operations and other improvements. The section will be able to tackle conventional munitions more effectively and be able to make the area/ordnance safe without exposing the operator to certain risks.

Customs Department, which control imports and exports passing through MT's BCPs, will be strengthened. This involves the deterrence, detection and interdiction of illicit trafficking of nuclear and radiological materials, the fight against arms trafficking, drug trafficking and counterfeit goods.

FIAU will be strengthened through the provision of new IT systems that could see an increase in the effectiveness of the Unit in enforcing compliance with Anti-Money Laundering and Countering Terrorist Financing regime. In addition, the FIAU's financial analysis section which is responsible for the receipt of Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) will be strengthened with new software and hardware to handle in a better way the STRs received and for the better exchange of this information with National and European stakeholders.

MT will look into the possibility of organising actions to combat radicalisation towards terrorism and violent extremism and actions for the protection of soft targets as foreseen in the Action Plan on the protection of public spaces if funds will be made available throughout the programme.

Funding priorities

- Transmission systems (transfer data) through surveillance vehicle and equipment, networks and analysis tools

- Provide more equipment to assist the Rapid Intervention Unit and other Units to deliver better service by providing protective vests and equipment to carry out their tasks.
- New response vehicle, response robots and ancillary equipment.
- Capital equipment to the Customs Department for non-intrusive controls through scanning equipment
- New software and hardware for the FIAU
- To procure special forensic devices to identify, detect illicit substances and narcotics

Target

Actions preventing and combating crime

National objective	2 - C - exchange of information
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The scope of this NO is to have the timely exchange of information between all national and EU agencies' systems involved in the fight against serious organised crime and terrorism. EU funds will support the below actions.

Close cooperation & effective communications with local LEAs and security services from other MS is crucial in combating threats. The infrastructure & systems available to the MSS need to be enhanced to ensure effective operations. The actions are aimed at strengthening the data centre, network infrastructure, operations control room and ICT systems.

Enhancement of information systems between different units within MPF is envisaged to increase the operational capabilities in criminal investigations. The Cyber Crime Unit will be reinforced. MPF will extend the access of Europol and Interpol databases to its competent units and those of other LEAs in order to allow searches on a hit/no hit basis. Through the development of the necessary IT solutions there will be an increase in the exchange of information with other MS and the interoperability with the IT systems and databases developed by the EU or other MS.

Passenger Information Units (PIU) will be set up to develop and implement a Passenger Name Record IT system, as referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 513/2014. MPF shall also develop of a full Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) to identify ridge detail on the basis of fingerprints held in SIS II.

Funding priorities

- Upgrade the equipment, networks and include new systems to be able to process large amounts of data from different sources
- Equipment for data storage, software/ hardware for analysis, visualisation and dissemination of data to help in discovering networks, patterns and trends
- Improve the MPF International Relations Unit case management system to permit querying all relevant local, regional and international databases and include an integrated system for all channels of police cooperation (Europol, Interpol, Sirene, bilateral and other current e.g. cybercrime contact points and

potential future channels) and the various contact points. When developing such system, the UMF II (and future UMF projects derived standards) standards will be considered

- Investment in multipurpose vehicles and equipment to be used by the Cyber Crime Unit to seize and analyse digital evidence
- Upgrade MSS infrastructure to improve its information management, scrutiny and decision making capabilities
- Equipment for the National and European Information Systems within MPF to sustain the information systems utilised, as well as provide additional equipment to the IT Operations Room
- Development and implementation of the PNR System and AFIS

Target

Ensure the timely and seamless exchange of information between services

National objective	3 - C - training
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MT has always emphasised the importance of crime-related training across its LEAs. Increasing awareness of institutions and agencies dealing with, or involved in, the sector is also considered a national priority and a recurrent need. Training initiatives mainly financed through national funds is an activity that concerns new recruits and in-service officers. MT will participate in the European Law Enforcement Training Scheme (LETS). In addition, it is MT's aim to provide training to Maltese Police Officers within the cybercrime unit on online child abuse. Projects will not be financed under this National Objective, the Objective and National Priorities will be met through other National Objectives/initiatives

National objective	4 - C - victim support
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A Victim Support Unit within the MPF was established in January 2017, and officially launched by the MHAS on the 19th April 2017, as part of its transformation process, the MPF, a primary actor within the criminal justice system and the agency which generally is the first to come in contact with victims of crime. The functions of the Victim Support Unit are to provide a single point of contact for victims of crime, especially the most vulnerable victims, shortly after lodging a police report, provide crisis counselling services to victims of crime, implement tools and procedures that will help police officers to provide for the rights, support and protection to victims. The VSU will assist victims through their needs and concerns and provides them with adequate support amongst other services.

The national priorities are to:

- Adopt and implement the EU Directives concerning victims
- Allow continued access to support services
- Continued participation in victim/ witness protection programmes

Projects will not be financed under this National Objective, the Objective and National Priorities will be met through other National initiatives.

National objective	5 - C - threat and risk assessment
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MT is committed to carry out risk assessments and analyse threats as part of its combat against criminal activities. A key player in this field is the MPF's International Relations Unit, which houses Interpol, Europol and SIRENE offices under one roof. Actions aimed at improving the MPF's capabilities in carrying out risk assessments will no doubt have a positive impact on the extent of information shared with other LEAs.

The principal issue in this field is the constant need for upgrading of available tools and resources. A good situational analysis which could then be exchanged with other MS is dependent on specialised tools to allow the authorities to collate the necessary information and disseminate information to counterparts in other States and eventually assist in subsequent investigations. It is therefore envisaged that an extension is made to the Case Management System. The action is required by law enforcement agencies in order to be in a position to share information in-between the Interpol, Europol and SIRENE Bureau. This enhancement will permit a substantial reduction in paperwork, given cases shall be organised, maintained and accessed in an electronic format. As a by-product, security shall be enhanced since information accessed shall be audited. The business process will also be streamlined and information will flow from one authority to another (Europol, Interpol and SIRENE). It is hoped that through an integrated system, risk management indicators may enhance the possibility to identify areas that today it is very difficult as communication is done manually, through e-mail or physical paper-based files.

An extension of the automated Case Management system will run concurrently with the extended access to the Europol Information System (EIS) which provides knowledge and investigative facilities of cross border crime.

Funding priority

- Extension of the Case Management system used by the MPF

Target

Have an integrated Case Management System that is accessible to all the services and that can interact with all the necessary European offices and agencies. This will be financed through the National Objective 'Exchange of Information'

Specific objective	6 - Risks and crisis
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MT has adopted Council Directive 2008/114/EC, transposed into local legislation through Legal Notice (LN) 434 of 2011. The LN provides for the establishment of the Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit entrusted with carrying out the identification of critical infrastructure and collating a national critical infrastructure plan. The protection of critical infrastructure has increased in importance given global trade and the level of threat from external forces (e.g. terrorism). Currently a detailed national risk assessment is being carried out that will be used as a basis for updating the national strategy.

The CPD is required to fulfil a number of functions that are directly or indirectly related to the protection of critical infrastructure. These functions include the response to risks and crises (e.g. CBRN), contingency plans, organise and ensure adequate capability and coordinated processes to address risks and crisis, to assess risks and vulnerabilities, and to raise public awareness of civil protection issues. The CPD's strategic plan has identified a number of gaps and corresponding envisaged actions, particularly in terms of equipment, capacity building and training to gain new capabilities.

MPF is in charge of maintaining MT safe and secure country. Therefore, through its risk analysis and quick response to crises, it makes sure to eliminate or minimise any risk threats that may arise. The Counter Terrorism Unit is the police unit responsible for the collection, collation, analysis and dissemination of intelligence with a view of combating terrorism, extremism, radicalisation and ancillary matters. The unit is also responsible for investigating related cases. The same unit liaises with the Critical Infrastructure Protection Directorate on Critical Infrastructure Protection issues.

It is necessary to protect equipment and facilities used in crime prevention to safeguard them from misuse or unlawful accessibility and to ensure the security of ammo and explosives storage facility which is AFM's central facility for firearms and munitions.

Research and the collection of information on the networks and operations of criminal organisations involved in people smuggling and terrorism will also be addressed.

The target is to increase the MT resources dedicated to the protection of critical infrastructure amongst other priorities.

National objective	1 - R - prevention and combating
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Several issues being faced by MT relate to the need to increase capabilities available to key stakeholders, to strengthen their fight in preventing and combating risk and crisis. This is particularly the case given the increasing level of complexity and sophistication of organised crime and terrorist activities against EU interests.

National priorities are to ensure that the CPD is fully equipped and prepared in case of a CBRN incident to ensure public safety and that the public is alerted appropriately. The following important actions will be financed with the support of the EU funds.

The CPD highlighted the need to update and replace Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) equipment which is approaching its end of life cycle. The procurement of new equipment in turn calls for the need of providing the personnel with technical training in more effective fire-fighting methodologies which are essential to allow the full use of the new equipment. In addition, the training will provide the personnel with new methods on how the HAZMAT Section dealing with emergencies involving hazardous materials, such as a terrorist attack involving lethal or toxic chemicals, could tackle such incidents. In the event of a terrorist attack involving CBRN agents, the intervention to save the victims involved and to render the immediate environment where the attack took place safe will be up to the CPD.

Funding priorities

- New HAZMAT equipment (e.g. vehicles, suits)
- Training of HAZMAT personnel on new methods and techniques, done by a leading EU civil protection agency
- Have the general public alerted on how to react to mass decontamination through an open day which would also serve as a learning experience to the HAZMAT team.

Target

To be equipped with State of the art CBRM equipment

To implement the CBRN Action Plan

Provision of information to the general public

National objective	2 - R - exchange of information
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The actions under this objective are described under Specific Objective 5.

National objective	3 - R - training
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The actions under this objective are described under Specific Objective 5.

National objective	4 - R - victim support
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The actions under this objective are described under Specific Objective 5.

National objective	5 - R - infrastructure
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The actions under this objective include the protection of critical infrastructure, updating the risk assessment and ensuring adequate resources and training. The action below is an example of protecting critical infrastructure and will be supported with EU funds

The need to ensure that explosives are more secure is imperative for Malta, especially considering a number of European and international events that take place in MT. The need is to protect equipment and facilities used in crime prevention to safeguard them from misuse or unlawful accessibility by improving the security of ammo and explosives storage facility which is AFM's central facility for firearms and munitions. Such added protection would mitigate the risk of such materials falling into the wrong hands through unauthorised access.

Funding priority

- The strengthening of the integrity of Fort Mosta, which is the storage facility for the AFM, through physical means to ensure that all levels of security are strengthened.

Target

Implementation of the Action Plan on enhancing the security of explosives

National objective	6 - R - early warning and crisis
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The action under this priority is to obtain:

- Information data and analysis of potential risks and crises.

The following action will be supported by EU funds.

Given the increase in people smuggling for migration and potentially the threat of terrorism, there is a need for an action that researches and collects information on the networks and means of operating of these criminal organisations, especially for Libya. The intention is to make use of this information to improve knowledge about the situation in Libya for the benefit of all stakeholders. It will develop insights into the main smuggling networks and their area of operation, and develop insights into the situation of migrants and their treatment by smugglers.

Funding priorities

- Research and the collection of information on the networks and operations of criminal organisations involved in people smuggling and terrorism

Target

To improve the 24/7 immediate response capability

National objective	7 - R - threat and risk assessment
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The MT Government carried out a comprehensive risk assessment on infrastructure and vital equipment, as well as various aspects including social, health, civil life and security. This risk assessment was used to develop various strategies, action plans and exercise materials for all the services concerned. This assessment was financed through national funds.

INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

Specific objective	NO/SA	Main action	Name of action	Start of planning phase	Start of implementation phase	Start of closing phase
SO1 - Support a common visa policy	NO1 - National capacity	1	Re-Engineering of the National Visa Information System (N-VIS)	2014	2018	2022
SO1 - Support a common visa policy	NO2 - Union acquis	1	Training in Schengen and Immigration Matters	2017	2018	2022
SO1 - Support a common visa policy	NO3 - Consular cooperation	1	Opening of new/refurbishment of consulates	2018	2018	2022
SO2 - Borders	NO1 - EUROSUR	1	Improving the reaction capability of OPV	2014	2016	2020
SO2 - Borders	NO1 - EUROSUR	2	Integrated communications system	2015	2017	2021
SO2 - Borders	NO1 - EUROSUR	3	AFM Joint Operations Centre	2016	2017	2021
SO2 - Borders	NO3 - Common Union standards	1	ABC Gates	2015	2018	2021
SO2 - Borders	NO6 - National capacity	1	Hangar and facilities at airwing	2015	2018	2022
SO2 - Borders	NO6 - National capacity	2	Improving border surveillance in Malta	2020	2020	2022
SO2 - Borders	NO6 - National capacity	3	Procurement of OPV	2015	2016	2020
SO2 - Borders	SA2 - FRONTEX equipment	3	Fixed wing aircraft	2015	2015	2017
SO3 - Operating support	NO1 - Operating support for VISA	1	Ongoing enhancements of the national visa management system	2014	2018	2022
SO3 - Operating support	NO1 - Operating support for VISA	2	Operational costs for the administration of Schengen and Visa matters	2018	2018	2022
SO3 - Operating support	NO2 - Operating support for borders	1	Operating Costs of the Automated Border Control Gates	2015	2018	2021
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	NO1 - C - prevention and combating	1	Implement an integrated software platform for managing compliance supervisory activities in Malta	2015	2016	2022
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	NO1 - C - prevention and combating	2	Procurement of Forensics	2016	2017	2019
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	NO1 - C - prevention and combating	3	Purchase of MPF surveillance equipment	2015	2016	2020
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	NO2 - C - exchange of information	1	Enhancing the capabilities of the Cyber Crime Unit	2015	2016	2021
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	NO2 - C - exchange of information	2	Project by MSS	2015	2018	2021
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	NO2 - C - exchange of information	3	AFIS	2020	2020	2022
SO6 - Risks and crisis	NO1 - R - prevention and combating	1	Bolstering of the HAZMAT Section within the Civil Protection Department	2016	2017	2019
SO6 - Risks and crisis	NO5 - R - infrastructure	1	AFM - Security of Ammo and Explosives storage	2015	2016	2021
SO6 - Risks and crisis	NO6 - R - early warning and crisis	1	Research on the network of criminal organisations involved in people smuggling	2015	2016	2018

5. COMMON INDICATORS AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC INDICATORS:

Specific objective	1 - Support a common visa policy			
Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Target value	Source of data
C1 - Number of consular cooperation activities developed with the help of the Fund	Number	0.00	0.00	Projects
C2.1 - Number of staff trained in common visa policy related aspects with the help of the Fund	Number	0.00	150.00	Projects
C2.2 - Number of training courses (hours completed)	Number	0.00	600.00	Projects
C3 - Number of specialised posts in third countries supported by the Fund	Number	0.00	0.00	Projects
C4.1 - Number of consulates developed or upgraded with the help of the Fund out of the total number of consulates	Number	0.00	5.00	Projects
C4.2 - Percentage of consulates developed or upgraded with the help of the Fund out of the total number of consulates	%	0.00	5.00	Projects

Specific objective	2 - Borders			
Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Target value	Source of data
C1.1 - Number of staff trained in borders management related aspects with the help of the Fund	Number	0.00	80.00	Projects
C1.2 - Number of training courses in borders management related aspects with the help of the Fund	Number	0.00	4.00	Projects
C2 - Number of border control (checks and surveillance) infrastructure and means developed or upgraded with the help of the Fund	Number	0.00	9.00	Projects
C3.1 - Number of border crossings of the external borders through ABC gates supported from the Fund	Number	0.00	100,000.00	Projects
C3.2 - Total number of border crossings	Number	0.00	1,260,000.00	Projects
C4 - Number of national border surveillance infrastructure established/further developed in the framework of EUROSUR	Number	1.00	12.00	Projects
C5 - Number of incidents reported by the Member State to the European Situational Picture	Number	1.00	20.00	MT Authorities
S.1 - Description of Programme Specific Indicator S.1	Percentage	0.00	0.00	Project Reporting

Specific objective	5 - Preventing and combating crime			
Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Target value	Source of data

Specific objective	5 - Preventing and combating crime			
Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Target value	Source of data
C1 - Number of JITs and EMPACT operational projects supported by the Fund, including the participating Member States and authorities	Number	0.00	0.00	Projects
C2.1 - Number of law enforcement officials trained on cross-border-related topics with the help of the Fund	Number	0.00	0.00	Projects
C2.2 - Duration of the training (carried out) on cross-border related topics with the help of the fund	Person days	0.00	0.00	Projects
C3.1 - Number of projects in the area of crime prevention	Number	0.00	13.00	Projects
C3.2 - Financial value of projects in the area of crime prevention	EUR	0.00	6,566,592.02	Projects
C4 - Number of projects supported by the Fund, aiming to improve law enforcement information exchanges which are related to Europol data systems, repositories or communication tools (e.g. data loaders, extending access to SIENA, projects aiming to improving input to analysis work files etc.)	Number	0.00	7.00	Projects

Specific objective	6 - Risks and crisis			
Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline value	Target value	Source of data
C1 - Number of tools put in place or upgraded with the help of the Fund to facilitate the protection of critical infrastructure by Member States in all sectors of the economy	Number	0.00	3.00	Projects
C2 - Number of projects relating to the assessment and management of risks in the field of internal security supported by the Fund	Number	0.00	3.00	Projects
C3 - Number of expert meetings, workshops, seminars, conferences, publications, websites and (online) consultations organised with the help of the Fund	Number	0.00	10.00	Projects

6. FRAMEWORK FOR PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME BY THE MEMBER STATE

6.1 Partnership involvement in the preparation of the programme

In view of the nature of the Fund in question, preparation of the programme involved a partnership approach with respective entities that operate in the fields of Border Control and Police Cooperation. The partnership achieved a wide consultation with all the stakeholders, wherein various meetings were held as a group as well as individually with each entity involved.

All stakeholders were involved from the very early stages of the drafting process through the compilation of the Malta Key Policy Issues Paper. A number of entities were invited during the Policy Dialogue and were consulted in respect to the finalisation of the minutes of the said Dialogue.

All the strategies and key requirements identified in the field of border control and police cooperation were provided by the said entities which were also asked to provide their specific planned strategies for the next 7 years and what actions/ areas would need to be undertaken to achieve these strategies. Since the subject matter is tackled by various sub-divisions within the said stakeholders a Key contact person for the relevant Ministries was identified which gathered all the information required. A feedback template was disseminated, as well as guidelines for compilation of template and a worked example to facilitate compilation, was also provided.

6.2 Monitoring committee

As per Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 Article 12 (4), a Monitoring Committee (MC) was set up whereby stakeholders from all the relevant sectors would be members of the MC. The MC will be chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for European Affairs, or the RA in his absence. Members from Government bodies representing the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs, Ministry for Home Affairs, National Security and Law Enforcement as well the Ministry for Finance sit on the MC. The members of the MC keep abreast of all the developments that would be undertaken by the Programme in the field of internal security. Coordination will be also ensured with the security research activities under FP7 and Horizon 2020, and other funding instruments.

The Terms of reference were drafted by the RA and approved by the members of the MC. The MC is expected to meet at least once a year, and presentations would be provided on the implementation, monitoring and evaluation aspects of the ISF. The Chairperson would also be empowered to call for additional MCs if and when these are deemed relevant.

6.3 Common monitoring and evaluation framework

The RA will make use of various monitoring tools to evaluate the implementation of the NP. In cases of changes in national context and characteristics prevalent over its implementation, RA will revise the NP after consultation with the relevant stakeholders and the MC and shall submit the revised version to CION for approval.

The achievements of the programme will be monitored through the indicators that will be contributed by the projects. An information system will contain details on the indicators to be achieved and the achievements will be reported by the beneficiaries and monitored by the RA through the system.

On a day to day basis the projects will be assisted by the staff within RA. Bilateral meetings with beneficiaries may be carried out, based on the context and risk of the project, so to ensure that RA is made aware of any issues hampering the implementation of the projects.

The Beneficiaries will document the monitoring of their project in reports which will have to be presented to RA. These will in turn be verified by RA through on the spot checks to assess the correct implementation of the projects, whilst also conducting physical checks where applicable.

All the information gathered will be translated into annual reports and any other report requested by CION.

6.4 Partnership involvement in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national programme

During implementation the RA will keep informed all the stakeholders in the various fields in which the Programme will be giving assistance that is the Foreign and European Affairs, the Home Affairs, National Security and Law Enforcement and Finance on the achievements or otherwise that will be made by the Programme. This will be achieved primarily through the MC whose membership is expected to ensure a broad coverage of stakeholders involved in the area. The MC will also discuss the implementation, monitoring and evaluation aspects of the ISF ensuring a broad consultation process.

6.5 Information and publicity

MT will ensure that a website or a website portal is provided with information on and access to the NP; inform potential beneficiaries about funding opportunities under the national programme; and publicise to Union citizens the role and achievements of the Specific Regulations through information and communication actions on the results and impact of the national programme.

MT will ensure transparency on the implementation of the NP and maintain a list of actions supported by each national programme which will be accessible through the website or the website portal.

Further information and publicity actions may also be carried out during the course of the programme.

Building on the web strategy followed during the programming period 07-13, the RA shall provide information about the ISF Programme on the dedicated joint webpage under the general website created for the Funds and Programmes Division (acting as the RA) namely eufunds.gov.mt. A new joint webpage has been developed for the new programming period 2014-2020. The new website will be in line with the EU Web Accessibility Directive (2016) and compliant with the responsive design perspective.

The new webpage shall include information on the overall objectives of the ISF Programme, and featuring a section with the latest news (including photos and videos) about activities carried out locally. It will also include links to the programme and incorporate copies of all relevant documentation about ISF funded projects.

6.6 Coordination and complementarity with other instruments

For the 2014-2020 programming period, coordination between the ESI Funds and other Union and National funding instruments will be ensured through the framework of the Inter Ministerial Coordination Committee (IMCC) already set up under the 2007-2013 period. As necessary, the existing structures will be optimised to take account of the different Union instruments that will be launched in the 2014-2020 period.

The aim of the IMCC is to maximise resources whilst reducing the risk of overlap and/or duplication of effort by providing direction on the demarcation between different funds and programmes, undertaking ad hoc consultation where potential overlaps are identified and exchanging information about any changes required to the individual programmes and that could have an impact, by way of overlap, on other programmes. The IMCC also provides a forum for the sharing of knowledge of any new funds.

The IMCC is expected to meet on a regular basis. Members on the IMCC include representatives from the managing authorities, the intermediate bodies, national contact points for the various funding programmes which are implemented in Malta. Other *ad hoc* technical experts may be asked to participate in meetings of the IMCC (or parts thereof) so as to give clarifications and presentations on particular issues which might be required. If the need arises, the IMCC may also appoint *ad hoc* subcommittees to deal with issues of a very specific nature.

In addition to the active participation in the IMCC which brings together all the representatives of the funding programmes available for MT, other funding programmes such as the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development fall under the direct responsibility of the Funds and Programmes Division which is also in charge of ISF. Similarly centralised funds such as the EU Civil Protection Mechanism are also coordinated by the Funds and Programmes Division, therefore excluding all the possibility of double funding as it is the same entity which processes payment applications, apart from also verifying that projects complement each other and are directed under the most suitable funding programme.

With respect to mechanisms to assist beneficiaries use the funds in a complementary way, the Planning and Priorities Coordination Division and the Funds and Programmes Division within the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs, are always available to provide advice to potential applicants and beneficiaries on the opportunities of support available through the different funds and queries are referred between units according to their responsibilities.

6.7 Beneficiaries

6.7.1 List of main types of beneficiaries of the programme:

The main types of beneficiaries of the programme are:

State authorities

Local public bodies

6.7.2 Direct award (if applicable)

Direct award will be utilised when only the entities having the exclusive responsibility for undertaking the actions identified can carry them out.

These are the MFEA in relation to Visas and consular cooperation, the AFM in relation to border control. Crime prevention and risk control lies with the MPF and the CPD, while prevention of security related crimes is the responsibility of the MSS. The AFM, through its Ammo & Explosives, Storage & Disposal is in charge of preventing large scale criminal acts. For cross border control of goods, the Customs Department is the authorised authority. In addition, the FIAU is a government agency set up to fight against money laundering and the funding of terrorism.

7. THE FINANCING PLAN OF THE PROGRAMME

Table 1: Financing plan ISF-Borders

Specific objective / national objective	Total
SO1.NO1 National capacity	492,000.00
SO1.NO2 Union acquis	525,000.00
SO1.NO3 Consular cooperation	3,825,000.00
TOTAL SO1 Support a common visa policy	4,842,000.00
SO2.NO1 EUROSUR	8,605,450.00
SO2.NO2 Information exchange	0.00
SO2.NO3 Common Union standards	1,205,000.00
SO2.NO4 Union acquis	
SO2.NO5 Future challenges	0.00
SO2.NO6 National capacity	55,083,314.82
TOTAL NO SO2 Borders	64,893,764.82
SO2.SA2 FRONTEX equipment	12,600,000.00
TOTAL SO2 Borders	77,493,764.82
SO3.NO1 Operating support for VISA	1,935,000.00
SO3.NO2 Operating support for borders	250,000.00
TOTAL SO3 Operating support	2,185,000.00
Technical assistance borders	3,154,897.00
TOTAL	87,675,661.82

(1) The amount under SO2 / NO6 includes an envelope of EUR 6 412 600 to be spent in accordance with Article 64(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 2017/2226. This specific allocation can support 100% of those costs (including costs of operating the system) and is provided exclusively for this purpose. It cannot be used to cover other needs/costs, including those referred to in subparagraphs a) to g) of article 64(2) and article 64 (3). This specific allocation shall not be taken into consideration in the calculation that determines the percentage of funding that may be used to finance operating support, according to Article 10 (1) of Regulation (EU) No 515/2014.

(2) The amount under SO2 / NO6 includes an envelope of EUR 3 216 666,66 that shall be used to support exclusively the costs incurred by Member States in accordance with Article 85(1) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1240. Such costs can be fully supported (up to 100%) by this extra allocation. This extra allocation cannot be used to cover other costs, including those referred to in Article 85(2) points a) to d) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1240, as well as ETIAS' operating costs.

(3) The amount under SO2 / NO6 includes an envelope of EUR 1 227 000 that shall be used to support the costs incurred by Member States for the quick and effective upgrading of the national components of the SIS, in line with the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2018/1861. Such costs can be fully supported (up to 100%) by this extra allocation.

(4) The amount under SO2 / NO6 includes the amount awarded for the new Specific Action(s) added to Annex II to Regulation (EU) No. 515/2014, as set out in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/446.

Table 2: Financial Plan ISF-Police

Specific objective / national objective	Total
SO5.NO1 C - prevention and combating	2,379,666.02
SO5.NO2 C - exchange of information	6,696,087.00
SO5.NO3 C - training	0.00
SO5.NO4 C - victim support	0.00
SO5.NO5 C - threat and risk assessment	0.00
TOTAL SO5 Preventing and combating crime	9,075,753.02
SO6.NO1 R - prevention and combating	56,000.00
SO6.NO2 R - exchange of information	0.00
SO6.NO3 R - training	0.00
SO6.NO4 R - victim support	0.00
SO6.NO5 R - infrastructure	446,250.00
SO6.NO6 R - early warning and crisis	99,999.73
SO6.NO7 R - threat and risk assessment	0.00
TOTAL SO6 Risks and crisis	602,249.73
Technical assistance police	548,955.25
TOTAL	10,226,958.00

Table 3: Total annual EU commitments (in €)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
ISF-Borders	0.00	15,340,624.00	14,345,288.00	10,626,748.00	14,756,612.33	15,614,756.08	16,991,633.41	87,675,661.82
ISF-Police	0.00	2,024,793.00	1,724,886.00	2,706,057.00	1,257,074.00	1,257,074.00	1,257,074.00	10,226,958.00

Justification for any deviation from the minimum shares set in the Specific Regulations

Through this modification to the ISF NP, the RA is proposing a budgetary shift from SO 6 Risks and Crises to SO 5 Preventing and Combating Crime, amongst others. This shift is in line with the flexibility allowed at implementation stage whereby the ring fencing for SO 6 is no longer applicable. The modification will see the removal of the establishment of a Command & Control Room at the Malta Police Force General Headquarters (Phase 1) and unplanned operations (phase 2) which were originally envisaged in the programme. Phase 1 of the project has been withdrawn by the beneficiary and the RA was also informed that support for Phase 2 of the project would also not be required, as the project concept for this phase would extend beyond the remit of the beneficiary as part of the priorities outlined in the Digitalisation Strategy 2019- 2021 for Malta. However, the RA has been notified that both phases of the project will be implemented, thus the needs originally outlined in the ISF programme, will continue to be addressed.

The shift towards SO 5 will enable the RA to focus its efforts on initiatives referred to in the vulnerability assessment and the mid-term review. Such interventions will aim to complement two new Specific Actions which are also proposed as part of this modification.

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
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LATEST VALIDATION RESULTS

Severity	Code	Message
Info		Programme version has been validated.
Warning	2.15	New EC decision is required for versions > 1. New EC decision is required when fields belonging to the EC decision are modified/added/removed. These fields are all fields except those used in the Authorities section and the Management and Control System field. For the Financial Plan, amounts within a Specific Objective can be modified without the need for a new EC Decision, as long as the total per Specific Objective stays the same.
Warning	2.24.5	Total NOSO6 (Risk and crisis) (602,249.73) should be minimum 10 % of Total Police Allocation (NOSO5 + NOSO6 + TA) (1,022,695.80).