

Interim Evaluation of the Internal Security Fund

Monitoring Committee, 24 November 2017

Strategy and Implementation Division



Internal Security Fund
Co-Financing Rate: 75% EU Funds 25% Beneficiary's
Funds
Sustainable Management of Internal Security



Interim Evaluation of the Internal Security Fund

Regulatory Framework - Regulation (EU) No 514/2014

Article 57 - By 31 December 2017 – submit to the Commission an interim evaluation report on the implementation of actions and progress towards achieving the objectives of their national programmes

Article 56 - The evaluations shall be carried out by experts who are functionally independent of the Responsible Authorities, the Audit Authorities and the Delegated Authorities. Those experts may be affiliated to an autonomous public institution responsible for the monitoring, evaluation and audit of the administration. The Commission shall provide guidance on how to carry out evaluations.

The Strategy and Implementation Division (MEAE) was designated as the evaluator to carry out the interim evaluation on ISF.

Interim Evaluation of the Internal Security Fund

Purpose :

- Assess the progress made and results achieved through the implementation of the Fund between 1 January 2014 and 30 June 2017.

Methodology:

- Questionnaires were compiled to target the RA, Policy Makers (Line Ministries) and Beneficiaries;
- Interviews with relevant stakeholders as necessary; and
- Questionnaires were analysed and, clarifications were sought directly with the responsible entities, as necessary.

State of Play

- Finalising draft report particularly indicators and conclusions.

Interim Evaluation of the Internal Security Fund

Context

- 8 calls issued, Committed: 86% ISF-Borders and Visa, 57% ISF-Police, Supporting: 6 projects ISF-Borders and Visa, 13 projects ISF-Police.
- Early stage of implementation.

Effectiveness

- SO1 – Visa – 0 projects
- SO2 – Borders – 6 projects: improve border management, upgrade communications system and develop a joint military operations centre
- SO 3 – Operating Support
- SO5 – Preventing and combating crime – 11 projects: improve equipment, digital infrastructure and increase operational capacity
- SO6 – Risks and crisis – 2 projects: strengthen knowledge on people smuggling and improve Malta's HAZMAT capabilities

Efficiency

Actual project costs and HR were in line with planned budget and HR forecasts.

Interim Evaluation of the Internal Security Fund

Relevance

- Projects being implemented address the objectives of the National Programme, relevant national policies and needs.

Coherence

- Managing Authorities for ESIF Funds fall under MEAE; and
- the Inter Ministerial Coordination Committee (IMCC) brings together all stakeholders involved in the coordination, management and implementation of Union funds.

Complementarity

- Ensured at programming stage and implementation stage through the IMCC.

EU added value

- Contributing towards addressing the challenges brought about by the migration crisis.

Interim Evaluation of the Internal Security Fund

Sustainability

- Agreements between the beneficiaries and the RA as well as the spill over effects of capacity building measures

Simplification and reduction of administrative burden

- Efforts to reduce administrative burden for beneficiaries in line with regulatory requirements example reduction in number of progress reports

Assessment of the Mid-term Review

- The mid-term report was submitted by the RA on 15 September 2017 which mainly focus on proposed changes with a view to address relevant emerging needs.

Indicators and financials

- These are currently being finalised

Interim Evaluation of the Internal Security Fund

Main challenges:

- Implementation of measures in line with Directive 2016/681 on the establishment of PNR (Passenger Name Record) system;
- Demarcation between different SOs – the outcomes of projects may contribute to more than one objective under both ISF-Borders and Visas and ISF-Police leading to administrative burden and challenges in reporting ;
- Procurement challenges - various restrictions within this sector because of security issues and limitations with respect to suppliers;

Interim Evaluation of the Internal Security Fund

Main challenges:

- Slow implementation in the initial stages of the projects' life-cycle;
and
- Apportionment as utilisation of equipment for more than one purpose creates additional administrative burden.

Deviations:

- No major changes.

Interim Evaluation of the Internal Security Fund

Next Steps

- Participate at the evaluation network meeting on 30 November 2017;
- Update report taking into account any relevant feedback from Evaluation Network; and
- Upload report in the SFC .



 **EU funds** | 2014
for Malta | 2020

THE CENTRE
POINT
—
YOUR BUSINESS ADDRESS



Internal Security Fund

**Co-Financing Rate: 75% EU Funds 25% Beneficiary's
Funds**

Sustainable Management of Internal Security

