SFC2021 Programme for AMIF, ISF and BMVI

CCI number	2021MT65BVPR001
Title in English	Programme Malta - BMVI
Title in national language(s)	MT - Programm għal Malta - BMVI
Version	2.0
First year	2021
Last year	2027
Eligible from	1 Jan 2021
Eligible until	31 Dec 2029
Commission decision number	C(2023)6441
Commission decision date	19 Sept 2023
Member State amending decision number	
MS amending decision entry into force date	
Non substantial transfer (Article 24(5) CPR)	No
Clerical or editorial corrections (24/6) CPR)	No
Thematic facility (Article 11 AMIF Reg., Article 8 BMVI Reg., Article 8 ISF Reg.)	Yes
Approved by monitoring committee	No

Table of Contents

1. Programme strategy: main challenges and policy responses

Reference: points (a)(iii), (iv), (v) and (ix) Article 22(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR)

Malta's external borders have been susceptible to emerging humanitarian challenges, often brought about by migration flows. Relative to its small size and resident population, Malta registered the highest immigration rates in 2019 (56 immigrants per 1000 inhabitants) compared to its European counterparts[1]. Irregular migrant arrivals remained constantly high over the last ten years, with a 24% increase registered in 2020 compared to 2011 figures.

Political upheavals in North African countries have rendered the situation volatile and unpredictable, reaffirming the need to be proactive and vigilant for effective control of EU borders. This necessitates the need to continue investing in strengthening operational systems to ensure a better state of readiness and provide new capabilities with further consolidation in the deployment of resources.

Irregular migration also further heightens security and health concerns at the local level. Maltese authorities continue to prevent and sanction infringement of migratory laws through thorough checks at border control points. Hence, regular patrolling and good cross-border communication is essential. These operations require rigorous training of staff involved in the disembarkation process complemented with advanced technology to mitigate external threats.

Border Management

Malta has a single air border entry point and two main seaports comprising of Valletta port and Freeport. The total number of air passenger movements recorded up till the end of 2019[2] was 7,310,289[3], equivalent to a 44% increase in passenger flows compared to 2013 figures.

Government sought to increase the capabilities of its designated authorities both through national and European funds. During the 2014 – 2020 period, various investments were implemented through ISF to modernise and improve border management including investment in large scale IT systems such as the European Travel Information System (ETIAS) and the Entry/Exit System (EES), expanding the local control fleet, addressing the gaps identified in the Vulnerability Assessment and Schengen Evaluations through the commissioning of optronic devices, amongst others.

Border surveillance in Malta is carried out by the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) whereas border checks are managed by the Malta Police Force (MPF). Since 2012, Government developed a strategy on Integrated Border Management (IBM) which outlines the salient features of border management in line with the EU's strategy for controlling borders. The priorities identified in this Programme reflect the main challenges and gaps identified in the revised IBM strategy and the strategic framework within which European IBM is implemented.

AFM is tasked with coordinating Search and Rescue (SAR) operations and disembarkations of irregular migrants with the latter raising considerable pressure on local capacities following the surge in migratory flows. Malta also participates in FRONTEX missions and deploys border guards under the remit of the Standing Corps. The National Coordination Centre (NCC) within the MPF Headquarters hosts the EUROSUR main system node and reports incidents in accordance with the EUROSUR Commission Implementing Regulation 2021/581. AFM are to report incidents through the EUROSUR sub node. Following the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 on the European Border and Coast Guard, Malta was required to enhance its NCC in compliance with the widening scope of border control. This transition requires modifications in the structure and operations of the MPF and AFM, and the enrolment of Customs, which necessitate adequate coordination of duties.

In accordance with integrated planning obligations in Article 9 under the EBCG Regulation 2019/1896, Malta drafted the national capability development plan (CDP) on border management with Frontex's support. The plan has been uploaded to the CDP Frontex Platform. Furthermore, the national integrated

border management strategy (NIBMS) of 2019 is in place and is being revised through national funds in preparation for the upcoming Multiannual Strategic Policy Cycle for European IBM. The revised strategy will be linked to the CDP for border control resources and contingency planning for the influx of migrants, which was subject to a testing simulation exercise in October 2022. MT will ensure consistency of the BMVI programme with the national CDP and the NIBMS.

Pursuant to the EU's commitment on protecting external borders, local authorities sought to develop the necessary means to ensure the adequate transposition of EU law pertaining to border management. MT's priority is to apply and implement, including the transposition, of EU large scale IT systems and their interoperability.

To develop interoperability of EU IT systems, investment in 'smart border' measures was also supported under the 2014 – 2020 ISF National Programme (NP), through automated border control gates at the Malta International Airport. Besides complying with EU Regulations, these interventions are meant to boost the security level at BCPs.

Schengen Evaluation Recommendations (SCHEVAL)

Malta addressed most of the 2016 SCHEVAL recommendations on external border management. Action is underway to address the pending recommendations with financial implications through national funds particularly recommendation no. 24 [4], involving the implementation of the NCC. Progress is ongoing on integrating the EUROSUR national situational picture following the necessary transition and consolidation of roles. The procedure will reach full compliance with the connectivity of the Customs Department to EUROSUR. NCC functions are in the process of being aligned with the Regulation. Further detail on actions to be financed through BMVI, contributing to recommendation no. 26 are provided in section 2.

All of the SCHEVAL recommendations on the VISA information system which have financial implications have been completed through national funds, following the commissioning of recommendation no. 9 involving the system upgrade of the VIS to automate searches in the SIS and other databases to avoid possible errors.

For future evaluations, this Programme will prioritize and take into account, as much as possible, the implementation of any Schengen Evaluations and Vulnerability Assessment recommendations under the scope of the Fund that have financial implications.

In accordance with EU Reg. 2019/817, Government shall also aim to strengthen cooperation between relevant national authorities in preparation for the implementation of the interoperability project, involving the integration of EU large-scale IT systems.

In terms of capacity building, a total of 5 border guard training courses based on FRONTEX Common Core Curriculum were delivered in 2020 through national funds to 70 officers working in the field of border management. The need to strengthen capacity building measures on the use of new technologies remains necessary to maintain a modern European Border and Coast Guard.

Since migratory flows are still evolving and rapidly changing also in light of the consequences of the recent refugee influx from Ukraine, any emerging needs will also be considered during the implementation of the programme.

Situation analysis on VISA in Malta

Border management is also extended to the Common Visa Policy. Diplomatic missions and Consular posts act as the first port of call for those seeking to apply for a visa. The Central Visa Unit, within the Identity Malta Agency (IMA), is responsible for adopting, managing and implementing EU visa policy in close cooperation with the Ministry responsible for Foreign Affairs and ensures that EU visa policy is

adequately adhered to particularly for visa issuing procedures by foreign representations of Malta. IMA is also responsible for issuing residence permits for TCNs and residency documentation for EU Nationals[5].

Cooperating with diplomatic missions in third countries and other MSs is relevant for collecting reliable information on visas and socio-economic data such as health, social security and entry-exit registrations. In terms of visa policy, N-VIS (National Visa Information System) and access to C-VIS (Central Visa Information System) are implemented in all consular posts. With regard to updates in Visa Information System Mail (VISMAIL) following the guidelines issued by eu-LISA, Government enhanced the existing system through national funds, which is used by all Member States' Consulates to share information on Schengen visas.

Malta has 12 agreements with an External Service Provider (ESP) in Russia, India, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, UAE, China, Israel, Tunisia, Algeria, United Kingdom, Egypt and Philippines[6] which initiates the VISA application process on behalf of the VISA Unit as well ensures coherence across diplomatic representations. In order to increase outreach in third countries, representation agreements entered into with other MSs remain necessary at national level, particularly when Malta is not represented in such countries. In this regard, efforts are underway to increase the number of ESP agreements following consultations with relevant embassies.

Consular coverage in Schengen visa issuance countries is well established for Malta whereby a total of 39 consular missions and posts are established. 26 of these consular missions are located in a third country region and are also responsible for issuing Schengen visas. Malta also has consular cooperation agreements signed with 103 representations including Schengen MSs[7]. The increasing demand for Schengen visas and compliance with the visa code requires that Malta increases its consular capacity. In this regard, under the 2014 – 2020 ISF NP, Government sought to further equip consular missions with modernized technology and security needs and establish new consular posts in various countries such as Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Ghana, in line with the Schengen Evaluation recommendations.

Moreover, staff working within consulates receive regular training from technical experts, also financed through EU funds, focusing on providing personnel with the right tools to process visa applications and carrying out the necessary scrutiny that is required. Further upgrades to N-VIS were also executed through EU funds to introduce web facilities, document management systems and parallel vetting of visa applications amongst others. Building on these investments, further support is required to sustain the developments made thus far and in order to further simplify and facilitate the visa application procedures.

Challenges and policy responses on VISA

An important challenge encountered in VISA policy in Malta is the need to update the VIS and to establish national set ups to comply with the VIS Regulations (EU) 2021/1133 and 2021/1134. The requirement to ensure that the VIS is interoperable with other EU and national border control systems remains critical in view of the EU's large-scale interoperability project. The increasing demand for Schengen visas and the requirement for full compliance with the visa code attests the need for Malta to continue exploring the possibility of increasing its consular coverage and simplify the visa application process. Consolidation of internal efforts on Schengen and Visa policy remains important to strengthen the efficiency and capacity of consular posts.

Building on training initiatives supported by the 2014 - 2020 ISF NP, continued efforts are required to enhance national abilities and performance in view of regulatory developments in visa policy that necessitate improvements in the quality and efficiency of consular posts. Furthermore, consular staff shall continue to be made aware of the circumstances in which valid visas for certain territories are issued, in line with the 2016 SCHEVAL recommendations on Visa Information system which justifies the need for further regular training provision.

Pursuant to the 2017 ISF mid-term review needs assessment, the need to expand further Malta's VISA

outreach in the African region remains important. In this regard, Government shall aim to continue strengthening its relations with the African region while also considering the further expansion of its consular posts within the Middle Eastern region.

Strategy, complementarity and synergies with other Funds

All specific objectives of the BMVI regulation have been identified as areas of support under this programme, taking into account lessons learnt, stakeholder feedback, national policies and the broad areas identified in the BMVI Programme Fiche for Malta issued by the European Commission.

Complementarity will be sought with the Customs Control Equipment Instrument and Union Actions on Inter-agency cooperation and IT systems for border and visa management respectively. Risk of double funding between the RRP and BMVI Programme is avoided through effective monitoring mechanisms. Further information is outlined in Malta's Partnership Agreement 2021-2027.

Lessons Learnt

Challenges related with implementation were experienced during the 14-20 programming period, notably on IT systems. There was a mismatch in the IT systems that were in place and the guidelines that were subsequently developed by the CION, which led to delays in the implementation of large-scale IT systems. The retention of technical data such as sort codes is foreseen to enable a smoother implementation of such actions in the future programme. Malta also has limited capacity and expertise in the security field, and all the project implementation is often undertaken over and above the mainstream duties and tasks which professionals have within the AFM and the MPF.

Challenges in Administrative capacity

Based on lessons learnt from previous programmes, strengthening human resource capacity is a key requirement for an effective management and control system, where the focus on providing continuous training to both staff and key stakeholders remains crucial. Furthermore, in line with the 2017 ISF mid-term review, further assistance to guide project beneficiaries at application stage is required to ensure their successful and timely implementation.

Training in the field of project management, auditing, simplification, online systems, public procurement, evaluation, monitoring and communication, amongst others shall be envisaged as capacity building measures to be financed through Technical Assistance. Furthermore, in view of the technical nature of the funding instrument, Government may seek external expertise, as necessary, to assist in the successful implementation of the programme.

Simplification measures

On simplification measures, the possible use of the simplified cost options (SCOs) is being considered at the national level, including SCOs developed at a Union level, to facilitate the implementation of interventions taking into account the local context, including in areas such as salaries and training.

Where the total cost of an operation does not exceed EUR 200 000, the contribution provided to the beneficiary from the funds will take the form of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates, except for operations for which the support constitutes State aid. Where flat-rate financing is used, only the categories of costs to which the flat-rate applies may be reimbursed in accordance with reimbursement of eligible costs actually incurred by a beneficiary.

During the implementation of the Programme the MA will promote the strategic use of public procurement to reach the objectives of the Fund. Beneficiaries should be encouraged to use more quality-related and lifecycle cost criteria. When feasible, environmental (e.g. green public procurement criteria) and social considerations as well as innovation incentives should be incorporated into public procurement

procedures.

Governance

The MA is guided by a set of rules, controls and procedures to ensure good governance in the administration and management of EU funded programmes. Measures to mitigate the risks of fraud and other misconducts are applied by the MA through the use of tailored IT instruments, as outlined in the 2014 – 2020 Anti-Fraud Strategy and Policy[8] which aim to maintain high legal, ethical and moral standards and to adhere to the principles of integrity, honesty and objectivity. The MA also prepares a risk assessment register which includes foreseeable risks and mitigating controls.

As for measures addressing conflicts of interests, the MA is guided by the Code of Ethics[9] and the Public Service Management Code (PSMC)[10] which sets standards of behaviour for all staff and covers conflicts of interest and confidentiality agreements. Declarations of Integrity, Confidentiality and Impartiality are also signed by all the staff of the MA.

[1] Eurostat, *Immigrants, 2019.*
[2] 2019 is being used as the baseline in view of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 which significantly disrupted air passenger movements.
[3] MIA, Annual Statistical Summary, 2019.
[4] This also addresses vulnerability assessment MT 004.
[5] MHAS, *National Integrated Border Management Strategy (NIBMS)* 2019.
[6] Source: MFEA, 2021.
[7] Source: MFEA, 2021.
[8] *And any subsequent amendments*. Source: *Anti-Fraud Strategy:* Responsible Authority, Funds and Programmes Division, 2018.
[9] Chapter 595 of 2019, Public Administration Act incorporates a Code of Ethics in the first Schedule.
[10] Office of the Prime Minister, *Public Service Management Code.*

2. Specific Objectives & Technical Assistance

Reference: Article 22(2) and (4) CPR

Selected	Specific objective or Technical assistance	Type of action
☒	1. European integrated border management	Regular actions
☒	1. European integrated border management	Specific actions
☒	1. European integrated border management	Annex IV actions
☒	1. European integrated border management	Operating support
☐	1. European integrated border management	STS
☐	1. European integrated border management	Emergency assistance
☒	1. European integrated border management	ETIAS regulation Art. 85(2)
☒	1. European integrated border management	ETIAS regulation Art. 85(3)
☒	2. Common visa policy	Regular actions
☐	2. Common visa policy	Specific actions
☒	2. Common visa policy	Annex IV actions
☒	2. Common visa policy	Operating support
☐	2. Common visa policy	Emergency assistance
☒	TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)	
☐	TA.37. Technical assistance - not linked to costs (Art. 37 CPR)	

2.1. Specific objective: 1. European integrated border management

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

Malta's external borders are exposed to both intrinsic and extrinsic vulnerabilities that shape the dynamics of its geo-political structures and which are directly affected by its size and the fact that it is an island on the periphery between the European and African continents. Pressure on human resources is further amplified by the extent of Malta's sea borders, which increases the chances of high influxes of irregular migrants fleeing North African countries by boat. Being a small island state, Malta's geographic position raises additional challenges which require adequate resilience against the emergence of international threats such as cross border crime.

Integrated Border Control Management

Over the years, Government sought to invest in safeguarding its borders through enforced border management tools that helped facilitate legitimate border crossings as well as prevent illegal migration. During the 2014 – 2020 programming period, Malta invested in modern technological facilities and systems to increase controls and border surveillance as well as familiarise officers with the latest technological developments to keep them abreast with new challenges and opportunities emerging in the field of border management.

Notwithstanding the investment that has already been made in enhancing border management and control, further support is required to address the challenges of improving situational awareness, facilitating exchange of information and developing risk analysis, amongst others. Thus, efforts to enhance national core capabilities in terms of information sharing and border clearance to adopt a more efficient and effective approach for safeguarding borders is required. In this regard, supporting the centralisation of operating networks as well as improving communication between relevant stakeholders remains important for the efficient and holistic use of data resources. Within this context, investments carried out under the 2014 – 2020 ISF NP involving the setting up of a new Joint Operations Centre, the upgrade of an offshore patrol vessel, and Kingair maritime patrol aircraft sought to contribute towards improving the European situational picture, whereby a total of 145 incidents of illegal migrants rescued at sea were reported between 2017 and 2020 by AFM through the EUROSUR[1]. In line with Regulation 2019/1896, systematic reporting is being carried out on all unauthorized border crossings through the main and sub EUROSUR node whereby incidents related to boat arrivals, refusal of entries at all border crossing points and cross border crime are reported through the NCC. Malta is working to improve the information on the full situational picture at the NCC, which is being developed through national funds as outlined in section 1. Further discussions are ongoing to determine reporting mechanisms on detected secondary movements, if applicable, as the majority of these cannot be classified as unauthorized at the moment of border crossing. Support through BMVI shall complement actions contributing towards strengthening border control operations and improving the national and wider situational picture.

Addressing Schengen Evaluation Recommendations

Efforts to address gaps identified in Schengen evaluation reports on external border control will continue to be prioritized through the BMVI programme to strengthen the operability and effectiveness of the maritime fleet. Within this context, the BMVI shall contribute towards enhancing the existing coastal surveillance system, in line with the 2017 ISF needs assessment report and Schengen Evaluation, to maximise coverage for surveillance platforms.

The current coastal surveillance infrastructure has been in place for over 10 years, with a legacy system

that requires upgrading to increase efficiency, effectiveness and accommodate modernized equipment. This shall also facilitate communication with other information systems such as EUROSUR, through an integrated coastal Vessel Traffic Information System (VTS), whereby graphical situational awareness of all vessels is collected through Automatic Identification System (AIS) and Radar Data from different coastal zones across Malta[2]. The expected results of this intervention are to increase the coverage of territorial waters through maintained infrastructure and effective detection range for improved target investigation as well as maximise use of operational equipment.

Actions implemented under this SO will contribute towards **implementation measures 1(ai)** and **1(d)** through the actions outlined in **Annex III (1a)** and **(1b)** which will be implemented through the following funding priority:

·*Enhancing border control operations and capabilities*

Foreseen investments will necessitate the upgrade of the current coastal radar system supported by an integrated electro-optical surveillance system to allow for better communication and control of vessels plying through Maltese territorial sea. Such actions will contribute to output indicator **O.1.2** and result indicator **R.1.18.**

Enhancing Border Surveillance

Government will aim to support actions that contribute towards the flagship initiative on reinforcing national capacities for checks and surveillance at external borders. This shall build upon investments financed through the 2014 – 2020 ISF NP supporting maritime border surveillance, whereby Government will aim to continue upgrading the AFM's existing aviation fleet for enhanced maritime surveillance with modernised equipment such as sensors, mission computers, receivers and simulators which contribute towards improving the state of readiness, in the context of carrying out border surveillance at sea, and will be in compliance with the technical standards set out by FRONTEX. Such equipment shall be registered in the technical equipment pool of the European Border Coast Guard Agency, as applicable. The expected result of this intervention will be to increase capabilities by strengthening trained personnel and efficiency in the deployment of resources.

Actions implemented with the support of the Fund will contribute towards **implementation measure (1ai)** and **(1g)** through the actions outlined in **Annex III (1b)** which will be implemented through the following funding priority:

·*Strengthening the European Situational Awareness picture through improved border surveillance equipment*

This intervention will aim to continue building on the EU's strategy on integrated border management, by utilizing digital technologies, equipment and systems related to border control while developing emergency products and systems used for maritime border surveillance. This shall also extend to capacity building measures. This action will contribute towards output indicator **O.1.8** and **O.1.8.1** and result indicators **R.1.14** and **R.1.19**.

Capacity Building on border management

Pursuant to Regulation 2019/1896, competent authorities will aim to address the challenge of strengthening the national component of FRONTEX while maintaining a modern and up-to-standard European Border and Coast Guard through training and deployment of staff. This is also in line with the

BMVI flagship initiative on national capacity. Such initiatives build on similar training measures provided to national staff and border guards to enhance external border control operations and improve coordination within AFM's military fleet.

Since 2014, a total of 198 officers attended courses in the aviation field ranging from initial pilot training to use of rotary wing and fixed wing simulators[3]. A 30% increase in illegal border crossings has been registered since 2011 following changes in migratory flows, which emphasizes the importance to continue investing in capacity building initiatives. Government shall aim to continue increasing its resilience and participation in external European networks to increase vigilance and effective control of EU borders. This lies at the core of Malta's *National Integrated Border Management Strategy (NIBMS)* which focuses on enhancing existing capabilities and operational systems.

With a view to further supporting national capacity, Government may also consider enhancing cooperation with EU agencies such as by making use of FRONTEX support, particularly in times of disproportionate migratory challenges, in the form of joint operations to effectively mitigate external risks. Within the context of search and rescue operations, Government shall aim to enhance AFM's capability to cater for the eventuality of system failures or emergencies through the provision of training simulations for AFM's Rotary and Fixed Wing pilots. The expected result of such training programmes will be to reduce reaction time particularly in critical situations when immediate action is required.

Such initiatives will contribute towards the **implementation measure 1(b)** through the actions outlined under **Annex III(1c)**, which will be implemented through the following funding priority:

·*Increasing capacity building initiatives on integrated border management*

Comprehensive training in the field of border management supporting the aviation fleet will be supported through BMVI to cater for increased operational needs and capabilities. Such initiatives would build on training initiatives provided to national staff and border guards to enhance external border control operations and improve coordination within AFM's military fleet. These interventions will contribute towards output indicator **O.1.8** and **O.1.8.1** and result indicator **R.1.19**.

Strengthening Checks at Border Control Points

As part of the interoperability project, investments aimed towards addressing illegitimate border crossings continue to be prioritised through the BMVI. Government has already invested in 'smart borders' through the 2014 – 2020 ISF B NP, following the installation of four automated border control gates at the Malta International Airport which sought to facilitate border checks on Schengen travellers and minimize risks of falsified documents to enter and/or leave the country, in line with the recommendation of the 2016 SCHEVAL on external borders. In order to continue strengthening checks at BCPs, Government aims to complement these gates with self-service systems to be installed at BCPs to facilitate the management of travellers' flows at the border. Such systems will eventually feed into the EES to ensure interoperability. The expected result of this intervention is to improve verification mechanisms through self-service systems and reduce waiting time to facilitate passenger flows.

Such intervention will contribute towards **implementation measure 1(ai)** through the actions outlined in Annex III(1b), which will be implemented through the following funding priority:

·*Increasing security at borders and facilitating the authentication procedure for verifying travel documentation at BCPs*

The installation of these self-service systems will assist administrative processes to validate travel information. These will contribute towards output indicators **O.1.1, O.1.1.1**,**O.1.8 and O.1.8.1** and result indicator **R.1.17, R.1.19** and **R.1.20**.

In order to maintain an adequate risk analysis system for border control, Government shall continue to invest in enhancing the existing risk analysis system in order for its operations to be in compliance with CIRAM (Common Integrated Risk Analysis Model) whereby risks analyses channels related to border control will be integrated in a consolidated system that is used by all competent authorities responsible for border control. Within this context, FRONTEX is supporting Government to further enhance the main node and sub-node of EUROSUR for the purpose of conducting risk analysis in line with the requirements of the Frontex Regulation and the EUROSUR Implementing Act to achieve near to real time data collection.

Complementary national actions addressing the components of FRONTEX

As proposed in the EBCG Regulation and in line with FRONTEX methodologies, Government has prepared a national capability development plan based on lessons learnt and past experience in the field of border management. This not only aims to reinforce the resources that are required to enhance national capabilities but also coordinate resources between the type of operations that are executed by the respective authorities in order to maximise external border checks and surveillance as well as detect illegal border crossings. The national development capability plan is being funded through national funds and dovetails with the priorities identified in the BMVI, the NIBMS and future Frontex capability roadmap.

Pursuant to the Schengen Acquis, competent authorities will aim to continue supporting the Agency's missions through the deployment of Malta based border guards to form part of the Standing Corps regime, in accordance with national capabilities. These officers will participate in joint operations or rapid border interventions. At present, Malta has fulfilled its category 2 contribution of the *Standing Corps*, by deploying 1 Border Guard Officer and 1 Advance Level Document Officer (ALDO) from MPF. As for category 3, Malta is obliged to contribute a minimum of 14 up to 22 officers in accordance with Annex III of the Frontex Regulation of 2019. Malta is able to contribute up to 48 Border Guard Officers, 16 Information Officers, 2 Motor Vehicle Crime Detection Officers, and 3 Tactical Support Officers. As for category 4, Malta has to deploy 6 border guards as a last resort if all category 2 and 3 officers of the total Standing Corps are deployed[4].

Pre-deployment training is also provided through national funds to all those seconded to FRONTEX missions. Within the context of the national border management strategy, and in line with the support that AFM has contributed over the years to FRONTEX missions, continuous support may be considered by Government through bilateral agreements with FRONTEX on the deployment of assets and border control guards, as necessary. Continued bilateral cooperation with other MSs may also lead to increased coordination on border surveillance and information sharing.

Support to Comply with the Implementation of the Relevant Interoperability Legal Framework (Specific Action – BMVI/2021/SA/1.5.4/025)

In addition to the actions identified above, assistance is required to support Malta as a Schengen country to comply with the implementation of the interoperability legal framework, through the following two aspects: preparing the end-users of EU IT system for handling properly the information on identities contained in other systems as a result of interoperability (funded through other financial sources); and extending the capacity of the SIRENE offices to resolve yellow links during the period that makes the Multi Identity Detector (MID) operational, foreseen under BMVI. The European Commission approved

the requested funding under this Specific Action in February 2023. The expected result of this intervention will be to fulfil the obligations as stipulated in Regulation 2019/817[6].

This Specific Action implemented with the support of the Fund will contribute towards **implementation measure (1e)** through the actions outlined in **Annex III (3c and e)**. This Specific Action will contribute towards output indicator O.1.8 and O.1.8.1 and result indicator R.1.19.

Operating Support – Large-scale IT systems for border management purposes[5]

BMVI will support the operation and maintenance of large-scale EU IT systems including SIS, ETIAS and EES. Operating support will be used to maintain and operate large-scale IT systems and their communication infrastructures, including their interoperability. This will require further support to maintain its existing border infrastructure and enhance connectivity with other border operating systems. Such support will aim to improve exchange of information between competent national authorities while maintaining the operational upkeep of large-scale IT systems.

The main beneficiary benefitting from operating support will be the relevant entities including the Malta Police Force within the Ministry responsible for National Security since it is the leading entity responsible for managing issues of national security concerns.

Such interventions will contribute to **implementation measure 1(e)** through the actions outlined in **Annex III (3i)**, which will be implemented through the following funding priority:

·*Strengthening interoperability between large-scale IT systems and European border control communication systems*.

Operating support will involve operational management and maintenance of large-scale IT systems, which will contribute towards output indicator **O.1.11** and **R.1.20**.

In line with Article 53 of the CPR, grants will be used to support the interventions foreseen. The use of financial instruments is not envisaged due to the small size of the programme, nature of initiatives and limited economies of scale.

[1] Source: AFM, 2021.

[2] MHAS, *NIBMS*, 2019.

[3] Source: AFM, 2021.

[4] Source: MHSR, 2022.

[5] Refer to EC Note on the eligible costs under operating support (Ref. Ares(2021)7753967).

[6] Regulation (EU) 2019/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 on establishing a framework for interoperability between EU information systems in the field of borders and visa and amending Regulations (EC) No 767/2008, (EU) 2016/399, (EU) 2017/2226, (EU) 2018/1240, (EU) 2018/1726 and (EU) 2018/1861 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Decisions 2004/512/EC and 2008/633/JHA.

2.1. Specific objective 1. European integrated border management

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 1: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
O.1.1	Number of items of equipment purchased for border crossing points	number	6	12
O.1.1.1	of which number of Automated Border Control gates / self-service systems / e- gates purchased	number	6	12
O.1.2	Number of infrastructure maintained / repaired	number	0	5
O.1.3	Number of hotspot areas supported	number	0	0
O.1.4	Number of facilities for border crossing points constructed / upgraded	number	0	0
O.1.5	Number of aerial vehicles purchased	number	0	0
O.1.5.1	of which number of unmanned aerial vehicles purchased	number	0	0
O.1.6	Number of maritime transport means purchased	number	0	0
O.1.7	Number of land transport means purchased	number	0	0
O.1.8	Number of participants supported	number	27	180
O.1.8.1	of which number of participants in training activities	number	27	180
O.1.9	Number of joint liaison officers deployed to third countries	number	0	0
O.1.10	Number of IT functionalities developed / maintained / upgraded	number	0	0
O.1.11	Number of large-scale IT systems developed / maintained / upgraded	number	3	3
O.1.11.1	of which number of large-scale IT systems developed	number	0	0
O.1.12	Number of cooperation projects with third countries	number	0	0
O.1.13	Number of persons who have applied for international protection at border crossing points	number	0	6

2.1. Specific objective 1. European integrated border management

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 2: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
R.1.14	Number of items of equipment registered in the Technical Equipment Pool of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency	number	0	number	2021	1	number	AFM Statistical data	
R.1.15	Number of items of equipment put at the disposal of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency	number	0	number	0	0	number	N/A	
R.1.16	Number of initiated / improved forms of cooperation of national authorities with the Eurosur National Coordination Centre (NCC)	number	0	number	0	0	number	N/A	
R.1.17	Number of border crossings through Automated Border Control gates and e-gates	number	0	share	2021	4,000,000	number	Malta International Airport Statistics	
R.1.18	Number of addressed recommendations from Schengen Evaluations and from vulnerability assessments in the area of border management	number	0	number	2021	100	percentage	N/A	
R.1.19	Number of participants who report three months	number	0	share	2021	144	number	Armed Forces of Malta and Malta	

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
	after the training activity that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training							Police Force Statistical Records	
R.1.20	Number of persons refused entry by border authorities	number	0	number	2021	265	number	Malta Police Force Records	

2.1. Specific objective 1. European integrated border management

2.1.3. Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Reference: Article 22(5) CPR; and Article 16(12) AMIF Regulation, Article 13(12) ISF Regulation or Article 13(18) BMVI Regulation

Table 3: Indicative breakdown

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	001.Border checks	2,926,633.76
Intervention field	002.Border surveillance - air equipment	5,325,000.00
Intervention field	003.Border surveillance - land equipment	0.00
Intervention field	004.Border surveillance - maritime equipment	0.00
Intervention field	005.Border surveillance - automated border surveillance systems	3,660,245.21
Intervention field	006.Border surveillance - other measures	0.00
Intervention field	007.Technical and operational measures within the Schengen area which are related to border control	0.00
Intervention field	008.Situational awareness and exchange of information	13,514,754.79
Intervention field	009.Risk analysis	0.00
Intervention field	010.Processing of data and information	0.00
Intervention field	011.Hotspot areas	0.00
Intervention field	012.Measures related to the identification and referral of vulnerable persons	0.00
Intervention field	013.Measures related to the identification and referral of persons who are in need of, or wish to apply for, international protection	0.00
Intervention field	014.European Border and Coast Guard development	2,775,000.00
Intervention field	015.Inter-agency cooperation - national level	0.00
Intervention field	016.Inter-agency cooperation - European Union level	0.00
Intervention field	017.Inter-agency cooperation - with third countries	0.00
Intervention field	018.Joint deployment of immigration liaison officers	0.00
Intervention field	019.Large-scale IT systems - Eurodac for border management purposes	0.00

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	020.Large-scale IT systems - Entry-exit System (EES)	0.00
Intervention field	021.Large-scale IT systems - European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) - others	0.00
Intervention field	022.Large-scale IT systems - European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) - Article 85(2) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1240	0.00
Intervention field	023.Large-scale IT systems - European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) - Article 85(3) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1240	0.00
Intervention field	024.Large-scale IT systems - Schengen Information System (SIS)	0.00
Intervention field	025.Large-scale IT systems - Interoperability	561,818.87
Intervention field	026.Operating support - Integrated border management	0.00
Intervention field	027.Operating support - Large-scale IT systems for border management purposes	1,865,821.50
Intervention field	028.Operating support - Special Transit Scheme	0.00
Intervention field	029.Data quality and data subjects' rights to information, access to, rectification and erasure of,their personal data, and to the retriction of the processing thereof	0.00

2.1. Specific objective: 2. Common visa policy

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

The exchange of visa data is critical for the efficient monitoring of border crossings. This is facilitated through Malta's diplomatic representations in 39 missions abroad, however, further efforts are required in this area to adopt a more harmonised approach on common visa policy.

Capacity building on visa related matters

Malta will continue to strive to keep the positive reports received during the Schengen Evaluations and in order to keep this positive feedback, the need to uphold and improve the standards on visa policy and its application remains important. Therefore, officers shall continue to remain abreast with developments in the Schengen acquis through continuous training and capacity building measures in the field of visa policy to ensure that standards are kept for the benefit of those making use of this service. It also ensures that those who make use of the service are clearly guided and assisted in their request while also carrying out a thorough check and monitoring of persons applying for visa. Besides having a limited number of personnel working in Maltese consulates, the demand for Schengen visas continues to grow with a total of 137,922 Schengen visas issued since 2015, representing 74% of the totals issued till 2020[1].

Within this context, capacity building initiatives on visa policy at consular missions abroad can be instrumental for consular officers to acquire a comprehensive understanding of all operations as well as to expedite the VISA application process. This consolidation is aimed at ensuring that Malta's consular posts continuously maintain high standards in line with Schengen acquis. This is also in conformity with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, whereby visa applications shall be processed in a professional manner without prejudicing on the basis of sex, race or ethnic origin. Consular staff shall aim to be more vigilant when processing visa applications on legitimate persons applying for visas, while maintaining rigorous checks to detect illegal immigrants.

Pursuant to the recommendation suggested in the 2016 SCHEVAL on data protection, in particular on self-auditing (R.14), Malta will aim to extend training in self-auditing to develop internal audit procedures to further facilitate compliance and due diligence with Visa Code and the VIS Regulation. This will enable consular staff to acquire the necessary skills to setup processes that increase efficiency and reliability. The expected results of training initiatives will primarily aim to improve efficiency in the provision of visa related services as well as due diligence in visa processing.

Such actions will contribute towards **implementation measure 2(a)** and will be implemented through the actions outlined in **Annex III (2c)**, through the following funding priority:

·*Strengthening national capacity on visa related matters*

The intervention will continue to offer regular training programmes 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 the VISA Code Regulation, while maintaining a sound audit trail. This action will contribute towards output indicator **O.2.2** and **O.2.2.1** and result indicator **R.2.12**.

Support a common visa policy

The exchange of visa data is considered as a crucial part of the efficient monitoring of the crossing of

external borders. In support of EU visa policy, attention shall continue to be given to further enhance the implementation of the Visa Information System (VIS) while improving its synergy with other national policies and EU large scale IT systems. In order to ensure business continuity, parts of the N-VIS System were replaced to enable better linkage with the EES in order to have a clearer situational analysis of all data. Following such enhancements, the VISA approval/rejection process improved and is currently on average 6.7 days. Nonetheless, the challenge to maintain the upkeep of such large-scale IT systems and their interoperability remains relevant which necessitates actions involving IT system modifications and upgrades. Within this context, and in furtherance to the 2016 SCHEVAL recommendation, Government shall aim to sustain the interfacing between the VIS and other EU large-scale IT systems such as the SIS and the EURODAC to enable competent authorities to process and retrieve data on visa applications. Such interoperability also facilitates the detection of irregular migrants in the Schengen area and refusal of visa applications.

Such action will contribute towards **implementation measure 2(e)** which will be implemented through the actions identified in **Annex III(3d)**, through the following funding priority:

·*Upgrading N-VIS to facilitate its interoperability with other EU large-scale IT systems*

This intervention shall entail the necessary upgrades to the national VIS database in accordance with the VIS Regulation (and any subsequent amendments) to improve efficiency at consular level as well as facilitate its synergy with other national systems such as the Entry/Exit system. Furthermore, the interoperability project also necessitated additional changes to searches that are now automated and, in synergy with other systems such as SIS. Therefore, pursuant to Article 12 (3) and Annex IV of the BMVI Regulation, the BMVI Programme will aim to support actions that improve the interoperability of ICT systems. The expected results will aim to improve interoperability with other EU large-scale IT systems and enhance security. This will contribute towards output indicator **O.2.5** and **O.2.5.1**.

Strengthening consular coverage

Malta recognizes the need for further enhancements of its consular coverage to be able to address the needs of all those requiring Schengen visa. In this regard, complementary interventions aimed towards fostering consular network in third countries may also be considered through the BMVI thereby contributing to the BMVI flagship initiative on increasing consular coverage in visa-required third countries. Such initiatives will build upon actions implemented under the 2014 -2020 ISF NP, following the expansion of a number of current consular posts in China, Egypt, Tunisia, Turkey and USA, and the establishment of two new consulates in Ghana and Morocco. The need to modernise existing consular cooperation agreements remains important, with the aim of facilitating visa processes and expanding Malta's consular network.

Such actions will contribute towards **implementation measure (2c)** focusing on the actions outlined in **Annex III(2a)**, through the following funding priority:

·*Modernisation/Refurbishment existing consular posts*

Pursuant to Article 13 (17) and Annex IV of the BMVI Regulation, interventions under this SO will focus on upgrading of existing consular posts in line with Schengen standards while responding to emerging risks and technologies. Actions will contribute towards output indicator **O.2.6** and result indicator **R.2.8** and **R.2.8.1**.

Complementary actions on digitalisation of VISA applications

Complementary measures aimed towards addressing the challenges of simplification and improving the administrative processes involved in issuing visas to reduce administrative bottlenecks while facilitating legitimate travel are foreseen. The simplification of visa applications through the adoption of new technologies including digital means is another area that still needs to be developed not only to facilitate the application procedures but also to contribute towards gathering biometric data in line with VIS. In this regard, Malta will consider complementing the envisaged actions with harmonised standards for travel facilitation and investments in technical capacity for checking biometrics encoded in electronic travel documents, as necessary, during the implementation of the programme.

Investments in this area contribute towards addressing the need to improve the quality of services for visa applicants and may contribute towards the BMVI flagship initiative on modernising the visa procedure through digitalisation. This may extend towards the possibility of equipping consular posts with the necessary resources required to identify forged documents.

Such actions will contribute towards **implementation measure (2b)** focusing on the actions outlined in **Annex III (2b)**, through the following funding priority:

· *The digitalisation of visa policy*

These actions will aim to facilitate the visa application process also through the setting up of online visa applications, particularly in view of Government's thrust towards the digital transition, thereby contributing towards output indicator **O.2.1** and result indicator **R.2.10**.

Malta will aim to ensure that the recommendations suggested in the Schengen Evaluations are followed for the benefit of all of those making use of this service at all stages of the visa application process. In this regard, it will also be ensured that persons in need of a visa are clearly guided and assisted while assuring that persons crossing borders are adequately monitored and checked prior to crossing.

Operating Support for Visa Policy – Staff Costs[2]

Citizens travelling from outside the EU are required to present a valid visa when travelling within the Schengen area. For this purpose, Government follows procedures delineated in EU obligations such as the VISA Code Regulation to facilitate compliance with the Schengen acquis. Within this context, Government aims to support actions that address the challenges of strengthening consular cooperation and exchange of information on Visa related matters as well as consolidated the administrative and operational capacity of diplomatic representations. Such initiatives will contribute towards the BMVI flagship initiative on cooperation measures within the EU including training and deployment of staff.

With the support of EU funds through the 2014 – 2020 ISF B NP, Government has already deployed a number of officers in various consulates located in third countries to facilitate visa processing and provide guidance to visa applicants. Such deployment is foreseen to be financed through operating support in view of the operational logistics involved in the service provided. The expected result of this intervention is to improve efficiency in the provision of visa related services. In this regard, operating support will also aim to cover salary costs of members of staff working within consular posts on Schengen related matters including the processing and issuing of Schengen visas, identifying false and falsified documents and performing due diligence. This will aim to further strengthen capacity within consular posts in providing timely and appropriate operational support on Schengen and Visa related matters.

Operating Support – Maintenance of Large-scale IT systems[3]

Operating support is foreseen to support the implementation costs incurred in relation to equipment used for the issuance of Schengen visas, including updates which may be required to maintain IT systems such as N-VIS, amongst others, in accordance with the VIS Regulation.

The main beneficiary of this type of support are the units responsible for Schengen and Visa and Information Management within the Ministry responsible for Foreign Affairs since it is the main entity responsible for the processing of visas and the carrying out of consular cooperation.

Such actions will contribute to **implementation measures 2(c)** and **2(e)** which will be implemented through the actions outlined in **Annex III (2j)** and **(3(i)**, through the following funding priorities:

·*Maintaining large-scale IT systems such as N-VIS, in line with VIS Regulation*

·*Supporting the administrative costs of consular posts on Schengen and Visa matters*

The expected result of such actions will be to ensure the sustainability of EU large-scale IT systems and enhancing the administrative resources of consular posts. These will contribute to output indicators **O.2.3**, **O.2.3.1**, and **O.2.5.**

In line with Article 53 of the CPR, grants will be used to support the interventions foreseen. The use of financial instruments is not envisaged due to the small size of the programme, nature of initiatives and limited economies of scale.

[1] Source: MFEA, February 2021.

[2] Operating support shall support staff costs including actual salaries and social security charges and other statutory costs included in the remuneration provided in line with National law, as per EC Note on the eligible costs under operating support (Ref. Ares(2021)7753967).

[3] Operating support shall include operational management and maintenance of large-scale IT systems and their communication infrastructures, including the interoperability of those systems and rental of secure premises (Ref. Ares(2021)7753967).

2.1. Specific objective 2. Common visa policy

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 1: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
O.2.1	Number of projects supporting the digitalisation of visa processing	number	0	1
O.2.2	Number of participants supported	number	4	48
O.2.2.1	of which number of participants in training activities	number	4	48
O.2.3	Number of staff deployed to consulates in third countries	number	27	30
O.2.3.1	of which number of staff deployed for visa processing	number	21	23
O.2.4	Number of IT functionalities developed / maintained / upgraded	number	0	0
O.2.5	Number of large-scale IT systems developed / maintained / upgraded	number	0	1
O.2.5.1	of which number of large-scale IT systems developed	number	0	1
O.2.6	Number of infrastructure maintained / repaired	number	0	2
O.2.7	Number of real estates rented / depreciated	number	0	0

2.1. Specific objective 2. Common visa policy

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 2: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
R.2.8	Number of new / upgraded consulates outside the Schengen area	number	0	number	2021	2	number	Infrastructure and Security Unit within the Ministry responsible for Foreign Affairs	
R.2.8.1	of which number of consulates upgraded to enhance client-friendliness for Visa applicants	number	0	number	2021	2	number	Infrastructure and Security Unit within the Ministry responsible for Foreign Affairs	
R.2.9	Number of addressed recommendations from Schengen Evaluations in the area of the common visa policy	number	0	number	2021	100	percentage	N/A	
R.2.10	Number of visa applications using digital means	number	0	share	2021	21,280	number	Schengen Visa Unit within the Ministry responsible for Foreign Affairs	
R.2.11	Number of initiated / improved forms of cooperation set up among Member States in visa processing	number	0	number	0	0	number	N/A	
R.2.12	Number of participants who report three months after the training activity	number	0	share	2021	38	number	Schengen VISA Unit within the Ministry	

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
	that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training							responsible for Foreign Affairs	

2.1. Specific objective 2. Common visa policy

2.1.3. Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Reference: Article 22(5) CPR; and Article 16(12) AMIF Regulation, Article 13(12) ISF Regulation or Article 13(18) BMVI Regulation

Table 3: Indicative breakdown

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	001.Improving visa application processing	375,000.00
Intervention field	002.Enhancing the efficiency, client-friendly environment and security at consulates	540,135.00
Intervention field	003.Document security / document advisors	0.00
Intervention field	004.Consular cooperation	0.00
Intervention field	005.Consular coverage	1,844,692.50
Intervention field	006.Large-scale IT systems - Visa Information System (VIS)	810,000.00
Intervention field	007.Other ICT systems for visa application processing purposes	0.00
Intervention field	008.Operating support - Common visa policy	1,600,000.00
Intervention field	009.Operating support - Large-scale IT systems for visa application processing purposes	460,988.00
Intervention field	010.Operating support - Special Transit Scheme	0.00
Intervention field	011.Issuance of visas with limited territorial validity	0.00
Intervention field	012.Data quality and data subjects' rights to information, access to, rectification and erasure of, their personal data, and to the restriction of the processing thereof	0.00

2.2. Technical assistance: TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)

Reference: point (f) of Article 22(3), Article 36(5), Article 37, and Article 95 CPR

2.2.1. Description

The scope of Technical Assistance is to attain an effective implementation of the programme through preparatory, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and control actions of the financed interventions. The implementation of the BMVI Programme shall thus be based on effective and efficient practices through clear and transparent processes that seek to reduce administrative burden, strengthen organisational capacity and improve exchange of information and communication among the main stakeholders.

Pursuant to Article 36(5) of the CPR, Technical Assistance of the Member States for the BMVI programme shall be reimbursed on the basis of 6% of the total eligible expenditure claimed in each payment application, pursuant to Article 91(3) of the CPR, for simplification purposes. In line with Article 12 (7) of the BMVI Regulation, Technical Assistance will be financed at 100% of the Union contribution. Technical Assistance shall be used to support the following actions:

· Actions relating to the preparation, selection, appraisal, management and monitoring of the programme or interventions such as delivery of information sessions and project award ceremonies;

· Actions involving audits and support for on-the-spot check controls of interventions;

· Actions relating to evaluations of the programme such as the mid-term and ex-post evaluations;

· Actions promoting the objectives of the fund organised *inter alia* at the local level followed by the dissemination of information. These types of actions can take the form of training sessions, workshops, and networking events involving the participation of the main stakeholders, amongst others;

· Actions supporting the installation and maintenance of the electronic information system used as a database for project beneficiaries and for the Managing Authority (MA) to monitor and evaluate the progress registered during project implementation. The system is also used to process claims for payments incurred during project execution. Training of the main stakeholders in the use of the information system shall also be provided;

· Actions involving the setting up and organisation of meetings of the monitoring committees related to the implementation of interventions, including costs of experts and other participants attending the committee meetings; and

· Actions supporting previous and future programming periods necessary for effective administration, in line with Article 36 (1) of CPR.

· Actions to support the strengthening of the MA and the institutional capacity of partners, in particular small local authorities, economic and social partners and NGOs, as relevant, in order to assist in their proper participation pertaining to the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Programmes. Support may take the form of inter alia, dedicated workshops, training sessions, coordination and networking structures or contributions to the cost of participating in meetings with regard to the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Programme.

The Authorities responsible for implementing the programme shall be supported in strengthening their administrative capacity through enhanced development of existing resources together with capacity building initiatives with a focus on the acquisition of relevant skills obtained from participating in training programmes organised both locally and abroad. Training sessions on the basic principles required for successful implementation of the approved interventions shall also be organised by the Managing Authority, which shall be extended to project beneficiaries.

Information and publicity constitute an integral part of the programme whereby the necessary actions shall

be adopted to increase the visibility of the programme's co-financing. This shall take the form of material such as: visibility stickers, banners, adverts, and other visibility materials as decided by the MA to be disseminated during public events in order to raise further awareness on the achievements being made through the Fund. The MA shall also maintain a website with all relevant information promoting the objectives of the Fund as well as the means to assist project beneficiaries in successfully implementing their projects.

2.2. Technical assistance TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)

2.2.2. Indicative breakdown of technical assistance pursuant to Article 37 CPR

Table 4: Indicative breakdown

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	001.Information and communication	130,536.32
Intervention field	002.Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	1,718,728.24
Intervention field	003.Evaluation and studies, data collection	87,024.22
Intervention field	004.Capacity building	239,316.59

3. Financing plan

Reference: point (g) Article 22(3) CPR

3.1. Financial appropriations by year

Table 5: Financial appropriations per year

Allocation type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Initial allocation		6,072,659.00	7,378,328.00	7,957,662.00	6,161,519.00	5,100,252.00	5,169,747.00	37,840,167.00
Mid-term review								
Thematic facility WPI			595,528.00					595,528.00
Thematic facility WPII								
Thematic facility WPIII								
Transfer (in)								
Transfer (out)								
Total		6,072,659.00	7,973,856.00	7,957,662.00	6,161,519.00	5,100,252.00	5,169,747.00	38,435,695.00

3.2. Total financial allocations

Table 6: Total financial allocations by fund and national contribution

Specific objective (SO)	Type of action	Basis for calculation Union support (total or public)	Union contribution (a)	National contribution (b)=(c)+(d)	Indicative breakdown of national contribution		Total (e)=(a)+(b)	Co-financing rate (f)=(a)/(e)
					Public (c)	Private (d)		
European integrated border management	Regular actions	Total	28,201,633.76	9,400,544.59	9,400,544.59		37,602,178.35	74.9999999934%
European integrated border management	Specific actions	Total	561,818.87	56,181.89	56,181.89		618,000.76	90.9090904678%
European integrated border management	Annex IV actions	Total						
European integrated border management	Operating support	Total	1,865,821.50				1,865,821.50	100.0000000000%
European integrated border management	ETIAS regulation Art. 85(2)	Total						
European integrated border management	ETIAS regulation Art. 85(3)	Total						
Total European integrated border management			30,629,274.13	9,456,726.48	9,456,726.48		40,086,000.61	76.4089050140%
Common visa policy	Regular actions	Total	915,135.00	305,045.00	305,045.00		1,220,180.00	75.0000000000%
Common visa policy	Annex IV actions	Total	2,654,692.50	294,965.83	294,965.83		2,949,658.33	90.0000001017%
Common visa policy	Operating support	Total	2,060,988.00	0.00	0.00		2,060,988.00	100.0000000000%
Total Common visa policy			5,630,815.50	600,010.83	600,010.83		6,230,826.33	90.3702848030%
Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)			2,175,605.37				2,175,605.37	100.0000000000%
Grand total			38,435,695.00	10,056,737.31	10,056,737.31		48,492,432.31	79.2612231828%

3.3. Transfers

Table 7: Transfers between shared management funds[1]

Transferring fund	Receiving fund						
	AMIF	ISF	ERDF	ESF+	CF	EMFAF	Total
BMVI							

[1]Cumulative amounts for all transfers during programming period.

Table 8: Transfers to instruments under direct or indirect management[1]

Instrument	Transfer Amount

[1]Cumulative amounts for all transfers during programming period.

4. Enabling conditions

Reference: point (i) of Article 22(3) CPR

Table 9: Horizontal enabling conditions

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
1. Effective monitoring mechanisms of the public procurement market	Yes	Monitoring mechanisms are in place that cover all public contracts and their procurement under the Funds in line with Union procurement legislation. That requirement includes: 1. Arrangements to ensure compilation of effective and reliable data on public procurement procedures above the Union thresholds in accordance with reporting obligations under Articles 83 and 84 of Directive 2014/24/EU and Articles 99 and 100 of Directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	LN 352 of 2016 – Public Procurement Regulations (https://legislation.mt/eli/ln/2016/352/eng?fbclid=IwAR12WxV0wrlgyoGAS32myHR90l30QKL9WK4fdQNaxXr-MPlD6CB50W-lyzU) LN 351 of 2016 – Public Procurement of Entities operating in the Water, Energy, Transport and Postal Services Sectors Regulations (https://legislation.mt/eli/ln/2016/351/eng?fbclid=IwAR3BiHHVgWUepdcv_b3WpSKz29G-fkneTzvMGj6eOlAlwww_SriXMFd0x8E) LN 411 of 2011 – Public Procurement of Contracting Authorities or Entities in the fields of Defence and Security Regulations	The Department of Contracts (DOC) is the single centralised public procurement institution for most functions on the national level. It is responsible for developing standard procedures and routines, for developing a procurement policy, preparing guidelines and instructions, the national contribution to EU advisory committees, the Maltese Public Procurement Network participation, collecting statistical data and advises Government on public procurement policy, amongst others. Arrangements are in place to ensure the compilation of effective and reliable data as per SL 601.03 (Articles 12)(1)(a) 12(2), 13(n) and 14) and SL 601.05 (Articles 33 and 34(n)). Within this context, a monitoring report is prepared and submitted to the European Commission based on statistical quantitative data extracted from Government's e-Procurement Platform. Qualitative information is collated directly from each Ministry and relevant bodies. In addition, both articles mentioned in the regulations outline the roles that the office of the Director of Contracts must fulfil to ensure adherence to the public procurement regulations as laid down in the legislations.
		2. Arrangements to ensure the data cover at least the following elements:	Yes	(Refer to previous documents.)	Arrangements are in place that enable the Department of Contracts (DoC) to extract

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
		a. Quality and intensity of competition: names of winning bidder, number of initial bidders and contractual value; b. Information on final price after completion and on participation of SMEs as direct bidders, where national systems provide such information.			information related to the names of the winning bidders, number of initial bidders and contractual value from the electronic Public Procurement System (ePPS). Following the adoption of the Public Procurement Regulations, Government enacted the ePPs to significantly reduce administrative burden in line with the concept of e-cohesion, as per the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013. Even though the national system does not automatically disclose information on final price after completion of projects, a specific module entitled Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS) is integrated within ePPS to enable the disclosure of data and documents at all stages of the contracting process by defining a common data model. This is aimed to increase contracting transparency, improve accountability and capture salient statistics with the scope of enhancing in-depth analysis of contracting data by a wide range of users. Information regarding the participation of SMEs as direct bidders can be extractable from the ePPS portal.
		3. Arrangements to ensure monitoring and analysis of the data by the competent national authorities in accordance with article 83 (2) of directive 2014/24/EU and article 99 (2) of directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	Contracts Circular No 19/2016 – The New Public Procurement Regulations 2016 (https://contracts.gov.mt/en/Circulars/2016/Documents/Circ19_2016.pdf)	The DOC is a single centralized public procurement institution for most functions on the national level. Complementing its monitoring and evaluation role are Ministerial Procurement Units which have been established within Ministries, as per Contracts Circular No 19/2016, to be responsible for procurement practices at Ministerial level while ensuring decentralisation of procurement practices.

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					A separate Post-Contracts module titled the Contracts Register, includes information related to the contract signing and post-contract stage. The information contained within the Contracts Register can be made available through the aforementioned OCDS module. Thus, information pertaining to the full procurement cycle may be made available. In line with Article 83(2), procurement related information is consolidated in an EU Monitoring Report, prepared every three years for formal submission to the European Commission. This report gathers and systematises the collection of relevant procurement statistics across Government by the DOC via the ePPS, also addressing qualitative elements which are coordinated by this department through relevant Ministries.
		4. Arrangements to make the results of the analysis available to the public in accordance with article 83 (3) of directive 2014/24/EU and article 99 (3) directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	Article 12(1a), 13(n) and 14 of LN 352 of 2016 and Article 33 and 34(ni&ii, o) of LN 351 of 2016 (https://legislation.mt/eli/ln/2016/351/eng?fbclid=IwAR3BiHHVgWUepdcv_b3WpSKz29G-fkneTzvMGj6eOlAlwww_SriXMFd0x8E)	The necessary arrangements are in place with regard to the publication of results in line with SL 601.03 Articles 12(1a), 13(n) and 14 and SL 601.05 respectively (Article 33 and 34(n), (i & ii), o)). The EU monitoring report is prepared every three years and includes data on procurement above the EU threshold, in line with the Directive. The information extracted from this report is already made available to the public through the ePPS. Any data concerning procurement below the EU threshold is published in the Government Gazette.
		5. Arrangements to ensure that all information pointing to suspected bid-rigging situations is communicated to the	Yes	(Refer to previous documents.)	Arrangements are in place to detect suspected bid-rigging situations by competent bodies. In this regard, the

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
		competent national bodies in accordance with Article 83(2) of Directive 2014/24/EU and Article 99(2) of Directive 2014/25/EU.			Director of Contracts, in line with Regulation 12(2) of the Public Procurement Regulations, which stipulates that in cases of misconduct involving violations or systematic problems, the Director shall be empowered to report the matter to competent authorities. A Compliance and Monitoring Unit has been set up within DoC that tackles initial investigations, that could be followed up by the Malta Police Force, the Internal Audit and Investigations Department and the National Audit Office, on a case-by-case basis.
3. Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights	Yes	Effective mechanisms are in place to ensure compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ('the Charter') which include: 1. Arrangements to ensure compliance of the programmes supported by the Funds and their implementation with the relevant provisions of the Charter.	Yes	Covenant between MAs and Ministry responsible for Human Rights	With regard to arrangements to ensure compliance with the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, the Managing Authorities and the Ministry responsible for Human Rights have finalised a covenant to formalize the arrangements required for ensuring compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights. Furthermore, a monitoring unit within the Policy Development & Programme Implementation Directorate under the responsibility of the Ministry responsible for Human Rights has been set up to ensure compliance with the Charter. The Unit in liaison with the Human Rights Directorate will be receiving requests from the Managing Authority/s to assess and ensure that project proposals are compliant with the Charter provisions during both the preparation and the implementation of the Programmes and operations supported by EU Funds.
		2. Reporting arrangements to the monitoring committee regarding cases of	Yes	(Refer to previous document.)	The Ministry responsible for Human Rights will be represented on the

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
		non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the Charter and complaints regarding the Charter submitted in accordance with the arrangements made pursuant to Article 69(7).			Monitoring Committees of applicable programmes to report on cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds as well as complaints reported in accordance with Article 69(7) of the CPR. Furthermore, the Ministry will also form part of the Inter-ministerial Consultative Committee on EU Funds. Such provisions are stipulated in the agreement mentioned above. Furthermore, the Covenant also outlines the areas of cooperation between the MAs and the responsible entity for human rights throughout the programming period. With regard to reporting arrangements, the MA will inform the Monitoring Committees on: 1) The cases on non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the Charter and complaints regarding the Charter; 2) The assessment of the case/s; and 3) The action/s taken/to be taken. This report will be provided during the MC as part of the update on the implementation of the Enabling Conditions. Further information on the reporting arrangements to the Monitoring Committee can be found in the Covenant drafted between the MAs and the Ministry responsible for Human Rights.
4. Implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons	Yes	A national framework to ensure implementation of the UNCRPD is in place that includes: 1. Objectives with measurable goals, data collection and monitoring mechanisms.	Yes	Malta's 2021 - 2030 National Strategy on the Rights of Disabled Persons (https://inclusion.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Disability-Doc-ENG-SEP-21.pdf)	Malta's National Disability Strategy addresses aspirations stemming from the 2014 National Disability Policy and lays out a national plan to improve the quality of life of disabled persons and their families.

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
with disabilities (UNCRPD) in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC				Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act (Chapter 413 of the Laws of Malta) (https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/413/eng/pdf)	The Strategy includes several actions as well as timeframes for every specific action in line with the requirement of this criterion.

The Strategy will be implemented through a National Coordination Mechanism (Inter-Departmental Coordination Committee/Inter-Ministerial Administrative Committee on Disability) and consultations with stakeholders (Civil Society Participation Mechanism) as required by the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD). Implementation will be monitored through the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability's (CRPD) UNCRPD Monitoring Unit, and breaches addressed through CRPD's Directorate for Investigations, Compliance and Enforcement.

As outlined under Objective 2 of the Strategy, a National Disability Register will be set up to facilitate data collection. The register will also be linked to an Integrated Disability Assessment system. |
| | | 2. Arrangements to ensure that accessibility policy, legislation and standards are properly reflected in the preparation and implementation of the programmes. | Yes | Accessibility Standards for All in a Built Environment Regulations - Legal Notice 198 of 2019 (https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/413.3/20190828/eng) | From a legal point of view, several measures have been developed to ensure compliance with accessibility policy, including the development of Accessibility Standards for all in the Built Environment Regulations, 2019 (Subsidiary Legislation 413.03). |

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					As to the preparation of the programmes, consultations with CRPD were held as part of the consultations on the programme objectives to ensure that the accessibility policy, legislation and standards are properly reflected in the preparation of the programmes in line with Article 9 of the CPR.
					A monitoring mechanism for the implementation of Article 9 UNCRPD covering the ESI Funds cycle was set up for the 2014 – 2020 programming period between CRPD and the relevant Managing Authority (MA). A similar monitoring mechanism will continue to be implemented during the 2021-2027 programming period, in line with the Covenant that is in place between the MAs and CRPD covering the 2021-2027 period.
		3. Reporting arrangements to the monitoring committee regarding cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the UNCRPD and complaints regarding the UNCRPD submitted in accordance with the arrangements made pursuant to Article 69(7).	Yes	Covenant between MAs and CRPD	Reporting arrangements adopted for the 2021 – 2027 programming period will continue to build on the arrangements made in the 2014-2020 period, whereby project applications are sent to CRPD for vetting their compliance with the UNCRPD, and with necessary standards and procedures. In line with the Covenant, CRPD, the responsible entity, will be included as a member of the Monitoring Committee of applicable programmes to report on cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds as well as complaints reported in accordance with Article 69(7) of the CPR. It will also form part of the Inter-Ministerial Consultative Committee on EU Funds.

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					Further information on areas of cooperation between the MAs and CRPD throughout the programming period can be found in the Covenant.

5. Programme authorities

Reference: point (k) of Article 22(3) and Articles 71 and 84 CPR

Table 10: Programme authorities

Programme Authority	Name of the institution	Contact name	Position	Email
Managing authority	Funds and Programmes Division within the Ministry responsible for EU Funds	Anthony Camilleri	Director General	anthony.c.camilleri@gov.mt
Audit authority	Internal Audit and Investigations Department within the Office of the Prime Minister	Stefano Manicolo	Director General	stefano.manicolo.1@gov.mt
Body which receives payments from the Commission	The Managing Authority within the Funds and Programmes Division	Anthony Camilleri	Director General	anthony.c.camilleri@gov.mt

6. Partnership

Reference: point (h) of Article 22(3) CPR

In accordance with Article 8 of the CPR, Malta is committed to ensure that the partnership principle and multi-level governance approach is adopted throughout the preparation of the programmes. This entails consultations with relevant stakeholders, as defined in Article 3 of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 240/2014. Throughout the first half of 2019, bilateral consultations were held across Government with the involvement of the Ministry responsible for Home Affairs, National Security and Law Enforcement, the Ministry responsible for Finance and Employment, the Ministry responsible for Gozo and the Ministry responsible for Foreign and European Affairs, regarding the country's needs and policy developments as well as possible support of EU funding, including through the BMVI 2021 – 2027 Programme.

The consultation process was officially launched during the 5th Monitoring Committee organised by the Responsible Authority for the ISF programme 2014 - 2020 in June 2019. Present for the Monitoring Committee were members from Government bodies representing foreign and home affairs, national security and financial sectors together with Commission representatives, during which members were invited to submit any proposals that may be financed through the BMVI Programme.

In early 2020, over 145 entities, representing Government, urban and other public authorities, civil society, bodies representing social inclusion, fundamental rights, gender equality and non-discrimination amongst others were invited to participate in committee meetings focusing on the main policy objectives under the Common Provisions Regulation.

In identifying the strategies and key requirements in the field of integrated border management, relevant entities, including entities responsible for safeguarding fundamental rights, were consulted in the drafting phase in order to provide insights on the needs and challenges as well as any actions that would need to be undertaken to address these challenges. In order to keep the members of the Monitoring Committee abreast with the developments involved in the programming phase, another presentation was held on 6th November 2020 to explain the state of play of consultations and engage representatives in discussions on the programme.

Taking into account the consultations held during the programming stage as well as the role of main entities with respect to the sectoral areas covered by BMVI, the following entities have been identified as the main partners:

(a) regional, local and other public authorities, including in the home affairs sector, national security, foreign affairs, finance as well as Gozo;

(b) economic and social partners as well as civil society; and

(c) relevant bodies representing environmental matters as well as those bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, fundamental rights, rights of persons with disabilities, gender equality and non-discrimination.

In line with Article 38 of the CPR, a Monitoring Committee for the new BMVI programme shall be set up within three months from the date of approval of the Programme which composition shall reflect the partnership principle and multi-level governance approach including entities representing data protection, as delineated in Article 8 of the CPR, to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the BMVI Programme, pursuant to Article 39 of the CPR. Initiatives undertaken during the previous programming period to involve relevant stakeholders promoting equality, the respect for fundamental rights and non-

discrimination, during the various stages of implementation, will continue under the new BMVI Programme in accordance with national practice.

Throughout the Programme's implementation, the members of the Monitoring Committee will meet at least once a year, to examine *inter alia* the progress registered in the programme's implementation including progress on targets and milestones, any challenges affecting the performance of the programme, the implementation of communication and visibility actions, fulfilment of enabling conditions and the progress in enhancing administrative capacity building, in line with Article 40 of the CPR. The Managing Authority will make use of various monitoring tools to evaluate the implementation of the Programme. In cases of changes in national context and characteristics prevalent over the programme's implementation, the Managing Authority may revise the Programme in line with the mechanisms established in the Monitoring Committee's terms of reference.

Bilateral meetings with beneficiaries may also be carried out, based on the context and risks of the project, with the objective of discussing any challenges encountered and progress registered throughout implementation. The relevant information will be used for the annual performance report (in line with Article 29 of the BMVI Regulation) and final performance report (in line with Article 43 of the CPR).

7. Communication and visibility

Reference: point (j) of Article 22(3) CPR

Communication and visibility measures for the BMVI programme shall build upon the *National Communication Strategy for 2014 – 2020* developed for ESIF funds as well as the communication measures adopted under the ISF 2014 - 2020 programme. Communication measures shall aim to enhance transparency, visibility and awareness among the main recipients of EU funds and the general public at large.

The objectives of the communication activities will include:

- Set up one cohesive and coherent web portal for all EU funds, facilitating usability and ensuring a more targeted approach in the messages that are to be conveyed on EU funding;

- Enhance the existing communication channels such as the website to continue acting as the source of information for Potential Applicants, Beneficiaries and the General Public;

- Inform Union citizens on the role and achievements of the BMVI Regulation through annual information and communication activities on the results and impact of the BMVI programme. Targeted activities may also be undertaken with a special focus smart potential, where possible and applicable;

- Assist all beneficiaries in understanding publicity requirements and adopting appropriate measures to meet them;

- Provide consistent messages and branding through the publication of Visual Identity Guidelines and publicity material to be used by all supported projects to ensure appropriate recognition of the funds received; and

- Promote the scope of the fund and the EU's contribution in meeting national objectives.

Communication shall also be undertaken in line with Article 24 of the BMVI Regulation for all other instances, relevant stakeholders shall comply with the necessary visibility guidelines as published by the Managing Authority. Due to the nature of the activities undertaken under this Fund, the main beneficiaries shall constitute Government departments or entities that shall adopt the necessary means to inform targeted cohorts and the general public about the union co-financing element in their respective projects.

In line with Article 49 of the CPR, the Managing Authority shall upload information on the Programme's specific objectives, activities, funding opportunities and achievements within six months of the Programme's approval on the website. Within the same web portal, a timetable with the list of planned calls for proposals, except for projects awarded through the direct award procedure, shall be uploaded at least three times a year, in line with Article 49 of the CPR. This shall be followed by the upload of the selected list of operations to be implemented under the BMVI programme which shall be updated every four months by the appointed communication officer. A national communication coordinator has thus been nominated to act as a contact point for all CPR funds.

Pursuant to EU Regulations No. 1048/2014 and 1049/2014 on information and publicity measures and Article 50 of the CPR, the necessary references to the EU's publicity criteria shall be adopted throughout the Programme's implementation. In addition, beneficiaries shall also be responsible for informing the public about the financial assistance received under the BMVI programme should the operation involving physical investment or purchase of equipment exceed the €100,000 threshold, whereby a plaque of decent size or billboard shall be installed following the start of the operation or purchased equipment installed.

Specific visibility requirements may be established for operations supported by the Fund where this is

justified for reasons of security and public order, as per Article 69(5) of the CPR. For all other operations that fall outside the €100,000 threshold, visibility measures including displaying at least one poster of a minimum A3 size or equivalent electronic display with information on the support received from the Fund. For operations of strategic importance where costs exceed €10,000,000, beneficiaries shall ensure that a communication activity involving both the Commission and the Managing Authority is organized to promote further the results of the project.

Some of the communication channels that shall be adopted by the Managing Authority to reach out to the targeted audience may include the following: audio-visual and print media, social/online/digital media, promotional material, signage, information sessions, and participation in public events amongst others. Both Maltese and English may be employed as communicating channel languages, taking into consideration the specific situation. The indicative budget allocated for such interventions is foreseen to be approximately 10% out of the total budget allocated for Technical Assistance, as outlined in section 2.2. This allocation shall also finance evaluation measures required for assessing progress on the impact of communication activities, in terms of raised awareness and achievement of output indicators. By 2024, it is foreseen that one (1) launch event and one (1) annual event will be organised reaching a total of eight (8) communication activities by 2029. In addition, by 2029 an evaluation on the success of such promotional activities is also foreseen.

8. Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

Reference: Articles 94 and 95 CPR

Intended use of Articles 94 and 95 CPR	Yes	No
From the adoption, the programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates under the priority according to Article 94 CPR	☐	☒
From the adoption, the programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs according to Article 95 CPR	☐	☒

Appendix 1: Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates

A. Summary of the main elements

Specific objective	Estimated proportion of the total financial allocation within the specific objective to which the SCO will be applied in %	Type(s) of operation covered		Indicator triggering reimbursement (2)		Unit of measurement for the indicator triggering reimbursement	Type of SCO (standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates)	Amount (in EUR) or percentage (in case of flat rates) of the SCO
		Code(1)	Description	Code(2)	Description			

(1) This refers to the code in Annex VI of the AMIF, BMVI and ISF Regulations

(2) This refers to the code of a common indicator, if applicable

Appendix 1: Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates

B. Details by type of operation

C. Calculation of the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates

1. Source of data used to calculate the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates (who produced, collected and recorded the data, where the data is stored, cut-off dates, validation, etc.)

2. Please specify why the proposed method and calculation based on Article 94(2) CPR is relevant to the type of operation.

3. Please specify how the calculations were made, in particular including any assumptions made in terms of quality or quantities. Where relevant, statistical evidence and benchmarks should be used and, if requested, provided in a format that is usable by the Commission.

4. Please explain how you have ensured that only eligible expenditure was included in the calculation of the standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate.

5. Assessment of the audit authority(ies) of the calculation methodology and amounts and the arrangements to ensure the verification, quality, collection and storage of data.

Appendix 2: Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs

A. Summary of the main elements

Specific objective	The amount covered by the financing not linked to costs	Type(s) of operation covered		Conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbusresment by the Commission	Indicators		Unit of measurement for the conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission	Envisaged type of reimbursement method used to reimburse the beneficiary(ies)
		Code(1)	Description		Code(2)	Description		

(1) Refers to the code in Annex VI of the AMIF, BMVI and ISF Regulations.

(2) Refers to the code of a common indicator, if applicable.

B. Details by type of operation

Appendix 3

Thematic facility (Article 11 AMIF Reg., Article 8 BMVI Reg., Article 8 ISF Reg.)

Procedure reference	Programme version	Status	Accept/Decline date	Comments
C(2022)3163 - 19 May 2022 - 1	1.1	Accepted	12 May 2023	

Specific objective	Modality	Type of intervention	Union contribution	Pre-financing rate	Description of the action
1. European integrated border management	Specific actions	Large-scale IT systems - Interoperability	561,818.87		BMVI/2021/SA/1.5.4/025 - Support to comply with the implementation of the relevant interoperability legal framework" under BMVI. The objective of this Specific Action is to support Schengen countries to comply with the implementation of the interoperability legal framework. The action has two aspects: 1) preparing the end-users of EU IT system for handling properly the information on identities contained in other systems as a result of interoperability and 2) extending the capacity of the SIRENE offices to resolve yellow links during the period that makes the Multiple Identity Detector (MID) operational. Malta implements the second aspect.
TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)			33,709.13		technical assistance

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent by
Ref.ARES(2023)1066851 - Notification Letter MT	Supplementary Information	25 May 2023	Ref.ARES(2023)1066851 - Notification Letter MT	Ares(2023)4886170	Ref.ARES(2023)1066851 - Notification Letter MT	13 Jul 2023	Pace, Maria Pia
BMVI - Letter describing amendments under version 2.0	Supplementary Information	13 Jul 2023	Ref: MEFL/EF/SID/30/2022	Ares(2023)4886170	BMVI - Notification letter for programme amendment	13 Jul 2023	Pace, Maria Pia
Programme snapshot 2021MT65BVPR001 2.0	Snapshot of data before send	13 Jul 2023		Ares(2023)4886170	Programme_snapshot_2021MT65BVPR001_2.0_en.pdf	13 Jul 2023	Pace, Maria Pia