

## SFC2021 Programme for AMIF, ISF and BMVI

CCI number	2021MT65ISPR001
Title in English	Programme Malta - ISF
Title in national language(s)	MT - Programm għal Malta - ISF
Version	3.0
First year	2021
Last year	2027
Eligible from	1 Jan 2021
Eligible until	31 Dec 2029
Commission decision number	
Commission decision date	
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.)	No
Approved by monitoring committee	Yes

## Table of Contents

1. Programme strategy: main challenges and policy responses.....	4
2. Specific Objectives & Technical Assistance.....	9
2.1. Specific objective: 1. Exchange of information .....	10
2.1.1. Description of the specific objective .....	10
2.1.2. Indicators .....	16
Table 1: Output indicators .....	16
Table 2: Result indicators .....	17
2.1.3. Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention .....	18
Table 3: Indicative breakdown .....	18
2.1. Specific objective: 2. Cross-border cooperation.....	19
2.1.1. Description of the specific objective .....	19
2.1.2. Indicators .....	21
Table 1: Output indicators .....	21
Table 2: Result indicators .....	22
2.1.3. Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention .....	25
Table 3: Indicative breakdown .....	25
2.1. Specific objective: 3. Preventing and combating crime .....	26
2.1.1. Description of the specific objective .....	26
2.1.2. Indicators .....	30
Table 1: Output indicators .....	30
Table 2: Result indicators .....	31
2.1.3. Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention .....	32
Table 3: Indicative breakdown .....	32
2.2. Technical assistance: TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR).....	33
2.2.1. Description.....	33
2.2.2. Indicative breakdown of technical assistance pursuant to Article 37 CPR .....	35
Table 4: Indicative breakdown .....	35
3. Financing plan .....	36
3.1. Financial appropriations by year .....	36
Table 5: Financial appropriations per year .....	36
3.2. Total financial allocations .....	37
Table 6: Total financial allocations by fund and national contribution.....	37
3.3. Transfers .....	38
4. Enabling conditions .....	40
Table 9: Horizontal enabling conditions .....	40
5. Programme authorities.....	48
Table 10: Programme authorities .....	48
6. Partnership .....	49
7. Communication and visibility .....	51
8. Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs .....	53
Appendix 1: Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates .....	54
A. Summary of the main elements .....	54
B. Details by type of operation.....	55
C. Calculation of the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates .....	56
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.) .....	56
2. Please specify why the proposed method and calculation based on Article 94(2) CPR is relevant to the type of operation.....	57
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.....	58

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. ....	59
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.....	60
Appendix 2: Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs .....	61
A. Summary of the main elements .....	61
B. Details by type of operation.....	62
Appendix 3 .....	63
Thematic facility (Article 11 AMIF Reg., Article 8 BMVI Reg., Article 8 ISF Reg.) .....	63
DOCUMENTS .....	64

## 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)

Increasing the protection of citizens and reinforcing the principles of national security remain fundamental priorities against emerging threats that undermine fundamental rights, equality and accountability. Over the years, Government has taken a proactive approach to develop strategies that increase resilience and protection against cyber threats or cyber-attacks, money laundering and cross-border crime through the Crime Prevention Strategy, Counter Terrorism Strategy and Cyber Security Strategy, which seek to improve the overall protection of citizens and ensure that accountability for any criminal offences prevails.

The Malta Police Force (MPF), the Customs Department, and the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) are the main entities responsible for combatting cross border crime.

With regard to financial cross border crime, the Financial Crimes Investigations Department within the MPF is the main national authority responsible for anti-money laundering and terrorist financing in complementarity with the Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit (FIAU).

Over the years, efforts to fight corruption, increase transparency, and uphold operational institutional autonomy, have been ongoing. A National Coordinating Committee on Combating Money Laundering and Funding for Terrorism (NCC) was set up through other funds to oversee national actions related with anti-money laundering (AML) and countering financing of terrorism (CFT). This approach will contribute towards regulating and combatting money laundering through improved exchange of information among Law Enforcement Authorities (LEA) and effective cross border cooperation. Government also sought to support financial investigations against money laundering through a strategic framework that builds upon the one established in 2018 which aims to address and mitigate traditional and emerging risks associated with money laundering, terrorism financing and targeted financial sanctions (TFS)[1]. In view of the Venice Commission recommendations and CSR 2 of the 2019 Country Report, such efforts continue to be foreseen and implemented through the ambitious reforms under Malta's Recovery and Resilience Plan.

Moreover, Government embarked on a number of initiatives through national and European funds to reinforce the capabilities of LEAs on the fight against organised crime including the upgrading of equipment and network channels within MPF; improving the automated case management system; equipping MPF offices with facilities for operating EU IT systems; enhancing the Cyber Crime Unit; and commissioning research on smuggling and terrorism.

Under the 2014 – 2020 ISF National Programme (NP), crime analysis software was also developed to improve the detection and reporting arrangements of financial and economic crimes. Nonetheless, the need to continue investing in this sector remains important to improve the methodology for assessing money laundering in particular against emerging risks such as cryptocurrencies, and enhance coordination of resources and comprehensive decision making. Based on lessons learnt and in line with the 2017 ISF mid-term review, further assistance to facilitate project implementation is required through simplification measures particularly at application stage to reduce clarifications and ensure timely implementation.

Competent Authorities have transposed EU jurisdiction into national law such as the Passenger Name Record Directive EU 2016/681. Furthermore, Directive 2019/1153 has been transposed into national law through LN 312 of 2021 on facilitating the use of financial and other information for the prevention, detection and prosecution of certain criminal offences. Efforts are also underway in transposing the Whistle-Blower Directive through a drafted bill that will aim to align the current legislation with the directive.

*Schengen Evaluation Recommendations*

Efforts were stepped up in relation to addressing the 2016 Schengen evaluation recommendations to the extent that no further 2016 recommendations remain outstanding. Nonetheless, work is underway to integrate national databases with international databases, in line with 2021 SCHEVAL recommendations, foreseen to be implemented through the mid-term review allocation.

Following the 2024 mid-term review, the ISF Programme continues to prioritize and take into account, as much as possible, the implementation of any Schengen Evaluations Recommendations under the scope of the Fund that have financial implications.

In light of possible security related challenges resulting from the invasion of Ukraine and the refugee influx from Ukraine, any emerging needs will also be considered during the implementation of the programme.

#### *Exchange of information between law enforcement authorities*

Actions mitigating corruption, in line with the 2019 and 2020 CSRs, are being implemented according to the National Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy[2] which strategy aims to enhance analytical capabilities, provide secure communication channels, maximise national cooperation and enhance cross border cooperation.

Pursuant to Decision 2007/845/JHA and the 2018 National AML/CFT Strategy, Government established the Asset Recovery Bureau (ARB) in August 2018, to confiscate wealth acquired through crime and manage frozen assets. Since its inception up till December 2020, the Bureau registered 156 cases[3]. In order to improve the investigative attributes of the Bureau, further investments towards strengthening its operational capacity are necessary. The need to facilitate access to financial information among relevant Government entities is also deemed important for complex investigations on corruption and economic crime cases to be adequately investigated.

Cybercrime also requires pragmatic measures to detect and investigate illegal online contents, more so in instances involving online child sexual abuses. Through the 2014 – 2020 ISF NP, reinforcing the Cybercrime unit was imperative for enhancing the quality of investigations and review the practices adopted for addressing sensitive cases such as online child abuse. However, further efforts to ensure that long term sustainable measures are in place to curb the growing challenges of cybercrime such as those associated with encrypted devices, remain important.

Measures towards implementing the obligations of the Passenger Name Record (PNR) Directive were adopted through the PNR System, financed under the 2014 – 2020 ISF NP, to exchange information and facilitate analysis of data by air carriers. By the end of 2020, a total of 68 incidents were flagged through the PNR system[4]. The need to continue strengthening the consolidation of information exchange systems particularly on criminal records remains necessary to facilitate the adoption of a single window approach for the collection of sensitive data.

#### *Mid-term review – strategic analysis*

Whereas previous investments in enhancing exchange of information and existing communication channels were pertinent in standardizing procedures, further measures are required to develop common rules, setting up harmonized structures, effective management tools and adopt consistent use of communication channels to improve cross-border cooperation and facilitate exchange of information among law enforcement authorities. Complementary technical enhancements of national security information systems remain strategic in ensuring accountability of data inputting, eliminating mismanagement of data, facilitate access of information and sharing of reliable data.

#### *Implementation of Malta's EPRIS Infrastructure – Specific Action ISF/2025/SA/1.1.1/003*

The implementation of the Prüm II Regulation introduces significant challenges for Member States, particularly in balancing the mandatory introduction of new data categories with the need to advance the automated exchange of police records through systems such as EPRIS. Strategic measures are required to

provide targeted support for activities that go beyond the minimum requirements of Prüm II, with a focus on enhancing the development and implementation of automated police record exchanges and ensuring effective interoperability at the national and EU levels.

#### *Cross-border joint operations*

Cooperation mechanisms that facilitate the fulfilment of measures contributing towards the EU Policy Cycle/EMPACT remain important. In this regard, a harmonized approach on the transfer of information between relevant national and EU actors involved in crisis operations continues to be a priority, more so ahead of the EU's interoperability project being undertaken which will require improved efficiency and accountability of intelligence data.

With regard to human trafficking and child sexual exploitation, under the 2014-2020 programmes, measures aimed at the setting up of a Victim-ID function within the Cyber Crime Unit and research undertaken on people smuggling were supported. Support to victims of human trafficking will be provided through the AMIF Programme whereby capacity building measures to relevant stakeholders and support services are foreseen.

Drug trafficking is another form of organised crime that requires bold action at both national and European levels. In order to disrupt the expansion of the illicit drugs market, Government adopted the National Drug Policy in 2008[5], which aims to ensure a high level of security, health protection, well-being and social cohesion. In 2020, the number of arraigned persons on possession of drugs was 169 and the number of persons arraigned only on drug trafficking was 97[6]. In order to enhance the detection of illicit drug trafficking and counterfeit goods, the Customs Department invested in x-ray scanning equipment which has effectively contributed towards the seizure of large amounts of illicit drugs in 2019. This is further attested through the MPF's operations undertaken by the drugs squad unit whereby in 2020, a total of € 45m worth of drugs was detected.

#### *Preventing and combatting crime*

LEAs continue to require tailored crime-related training initiatives, in line with the 2016 SCHEVAL recommendation on police cooperation. This is necessary to increase expertise, exchange best practices and reinforce decision making, including for financial intelligence networks, where the challenge to continue strengthening their internal capabilities remains strategic to ensure compliance with the AML and CFT regime. This is also in line with the legislative framework of Directive 2015/849 which was transposed into national law through LN 27 of 2020.

In Malta no cases of radicalisation have to date been reported. Nevertheless in 2018 Government launched the Radicalisation Awareness Network – Malta which later became the Prevent Network Malta. This proactive approach complements the work of RAN-EU initiatives and aims to prevent eradicate terrorism through increased awareness as well as through inclusion efforts while producing an action plan to feed into the National Counter Terrorism Strategy.

In line with the ISF flagship activity, the protection and preservation of public spaces and the resilience of critical entities against potential threats posed by unsecured equipment, such as drones, remains important for security purposes.

#### *Strategy, Complementarity and synergy with other Funds*

All three specific objectives 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 ISF Programme Fiche for Malta issued by the European Commission in 2019.

Interventions financed through the ISF complement reforms supported through other funding instruments to increase transparency and Governance, including Malta's RRP. The latter will foster interventions to

mitigate risks of money laundering, corruption, and address the digital transition. Risk of double funding between the RRP and ISF Programme is avoided through effective monitoring mechanisms. Further information on complementarity is outlined in Malta's Partnership Agreement.

### *Lessons Learnt*

The sensitive nature of the activities financed through the ISF Programme raised procurement difficulties which were further amplified with the effects of the COVID19 pandemic, due to travel restrictions and increases in prices of certain equipment/material. Adequate planning will continue to be promoted as a principle while ensuring that training on procurement practices remains accessible to all beneficiaries. The limitation of local supply of equipment and services often led to the creation of very restricted solutions which focus on addressing immediate developmental needs. More sustainable planning and foresight was experienced in the recent stages of the programme; however a more structured and resilient EU outlook is required.

### *Challenges in administrative capacity*

Based on lessons learnt from previous programming periods, further coordination is required to avoid fragmentation. Adequate implementation of EU funded Programmes depends on the skills and expertise of the persons working within the entities involved in the process. Consequently, strengthening expertise within relevant entities involved in the management and control of the Fund will continue to be prioritized for the 2021 – 2027 period. This shall be supported through the development of capacity building initiatives for managing authorities (MAs) and implementing bodies involved in the Management, Control and Audit of the Programme.

In addition, given the specific link between the funds, the strengthening in capacity of the policy holders involved in the implementation of the Fund is also a critical requisite if an optimal use and investment of the funds is pursued. In light of the challenges experienced during the previous programming period, continuous training remains crucial for an efficient operation of resources.

Training in the field of project management, performance auditing, simplification measures, online database system, public procurement, evaluation, monitoring and communication practices, 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.

In line with Article 53(2) of the CPR, 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 support SOs (including professionalization efforts to address capacity gaps). Beneficiaries will 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 will 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. Adequate scrutiny is applied by the Project Selection Committee when selecting the project proposals submitted for financing through compliance with the general principles of governance including transparency, equal treatment, public procurement, and state aid amongst others. 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[7]. The policy aims to maintain high legal, ethical and moral standards, to adhere to the principles of integrity, honesty and objectivity. The MA also prepares a risk assessment register which includes all foreseeable risks and mitigating controls.

As for measures addressing conflicts of interests, the MA is guided by the Code of Ethics[8] and the Public Service Management Code (PSMC)[9] which set standards of behaviour for all staff and cover conflicts of interest and confidentiality agreements. Declarations of Integrity, Confidentiality and Impartiality are also signed by all the staff of the MA.

[1] Ministry for Finance. AML/CFT and TFS – Strategy and Action Plan for 2021 - 2023.

[2] Office of the Prime Minister, *National Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy*, 2021.

[3] Source: ARB, 2021.

[4] Source: MPF, 2021.

[5] Ministry for Family and Social Solidarity, *National Drugs Policy*, 2008.

[6] Source: Malta Police Force, January 2021.

[7] *And any subsequent reviews*.

[8] Chapter 595 of 2019, Public Administration Act incorporates a Code of Ethics in the first Schedule.

[9] 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Exchange of information	Regular actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Exchange of information	Specific actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Exchange of information	Annex IV actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Exchange of information	Operating support
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Exchange of information	Emergency assistance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Cross-border cooperation	Regular actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Cross-border cooperation	Specific actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Cross-border cooperation	Annex IV actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Cross-border cooperation	Operating support
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Cross-border cooperation	Emergency assistance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Preventing and combating crime	Regular actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Preventing and combating crime	Specific actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Preventing and combating crime	Annex IV actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Preventing and combating crime	Operating support
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Preventing and combating crime	Emergency assistance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	TA.37. Technical assistance - not linked to costs (Art. 37 CPR)	

## 2.1. Specific objective: 1. Exchange of information

### 2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

The safety of citizens and the protection against security threats are amongst the main objectives supported by Government. In this regard, a strategic approach is required to counter the occurrence of criminal offences through more vigilant and resilient measures implemented at the local level. The growing trend in digitalisation has certainly raised considerable concerns among various users which requires bold measures to curb cyber-attacks. Within this context, this Programme will support the increase in capabilities and resources of competent authorities both in terms of their administrative capacities and technical operations in order to be prepared for any future threats. This shall also be extended to financial institutions in light of emerging threats posed by money laundering and terrorist financing, amongst others.

Within this context, the Programme will also support measures addressing gaps in various sectors such as organised crime, amongst others, in order to equip competent authorities with the required capabilities to adequately investigate criminal offences. Such initiatives will complement the continued participation in European and international networks contributing towards the fulfilment of the EU Policy Cycle/EMPACT for enhanced law enforcement cooperation.

#### *Setting up an asset recovery facility*

Over the years, Government sought to facilitate data gathering from financial institutions through smart measures involving digital compliance systems for improved risk assessment operations, financed through the 2014 – 2020 ISF NP. Nonetheless, further support is required to strengthen the capabilities of such institutions to control and mitigate financial criminal risks. Within this context, improving law enforcement access to financial information by competent national authorities and enhancing their operational capacity is essential for the efficient collation of criminal information and the development of risk assessments.

The Economic Crimes Unit within the Financial Crimes Investigation Department (FCID) of the MPF carries out thorough financial investigations, whereby in 2020, the FCID registered a total of 387 cases out of which 204 related to fraud, 37 to misappropriation, and 21 to forgery and false declarations[1]. The remaining 125 cases consisted of 92 persons who were interviewed and 33 persons who were arraigned in court on related offences[2]. The work undertaken by the ECU complements the role of the Asset Recovery Bureau (ARB), whereby measures to increase its efficiency against organised crime will contribute towards effective confiscation and recovery of criminal profits.

Within this context, Government, through this programme, will finance the development of an asset recovery facility, including new technology and equipment to cater for digitalised assets. This will aim to strengthen the ARB's operational capacity, assemble and administer criminal proceeds to preserve and protect confiscated assets prior to their disposal in favour of Government, as envisaged in Government's budgetary plan for 2021[3]. The scope of this facility is to put into practice the principle that 'Crime Does Not Pay', whereby criminals are deprived from using assets originating from proceeds of crime. Furthermore, maintaining regular communication with other financial institutions will enable the Bureau to obtain a more detailed perspective of the case in hand to assist investigations. In this regard, the programme will also support the provision of specialised training on financial investigations in order to improve analytical skills and expertise to combat serious financial crimes. Complementary actions being supported through the Technical Support Instrument that aim to sanction evasion in the use of crypto currencies will continue to strengthen the role of ARB for effective screening procedures. The expected

results of such interventions will aim to contribute towards strengthening efficiency and coordination on criminal investigations against organised crime followed by better management of confiscated assets.

Such action will contribute towards **implementation measure 1(a)** focusing on the actions outlined in **Annex III(c) and (h)**, through the following funding priority:

- *Setting up an asset recovery facility to administer criminal proceeds to manage confiscated assets*

Through the setting up of the storage facility, acquisition of new technology, involving software for data mining and associated investigative training, the Bureau will strengthen its capabilities and effectiveness against financial crimes, and will contribute towards output indicators **O.1.1** and result indicators **R.1.6**, **R.1.7** and **R.1.8**.

#### *Strengthening information sharing and communication systems*

Building on investments financed through the 2014-2020 ISF NP to enhance national intelligence units, Government, through this programme, will also continue reinforcing the analytical capabilities of these units, particularly the Malta Security Services (MSS). This shall contribute towards addressing the challenge of serious organised crime while strengthening close cooperation and effective communications with local LEAs and security services from other MSs. Frequent joint operations with other services from EU MSs necessitate the use of reliable information technology to ensure that sensitive information is shared across compatible platforms. Past investments sought to improve the resilience of business operations through specialised equipment and operating systems which were necessary for undertaking specialised investigative missions. In this regard, the programme will also support the continuation of such intervention to ensure that these institutions are equipped with the latest technology to better support legislative responsibilities, especially in the fight against serious and organised crime, thereby contributing towards the priority actions identified in Annex IV of the ISF Regulation. The expected result of this intervention will be to improve the operational performance of the intelligence network through improved ICT systems for better management of sensitive cases as well as facilitate cooperation and communication links with other competent authorities, both locally and in other EU Member States.

Such interventions will contribute towards **implementation measure 1(d)** focusing on the actions outlined in **Annex III (a)**, through the following funding priority:

- *Reinforce the capabilities of LEAs such as the Malta Security Services to enhance information sharing and secure communication systems*

This investment will aim to enhance the effective operations and actions performed by the MSS by strengthening ICT solutions with specialized technologies, including operating support, which will contribute towards output indicator **O.1.3** and result indicators **R.1.7** and **R.1.8**.

#### *Setting up of data repository system for information exchange*

Government's thrust towards digitalisation will continue to be prioritised through this SO in order to address the challenge of adopting a single window approach for data gathering and exchange of information. In order to enhance internal cooperation within the different units operating on criminal investigations, Government will develop an integrated case management solution (record management

system), in line with the 2020 Police Transformation Strategy[4]. This shall entail the setting up of a repository system for recording and collecting evidence in all cases that are being investigated by the Police. The need to simplify procedures and develop a centralised system for record keeping purposes will not only replace existing paper-based solutions but also embark on new ways of record keeping thus facilitating criminal investigative proceedings. This will significantly improve intelligence gathering through enhanced ICT systems to enable reporting in real time as well as complement online reporting to increase transparency.

Modern law enforcement practices bring about significant operational changes. In this regard, Government will aim to set up data management information systems to put data and technology at the centre of the operations. Modern laboratory operations will be supported through the development of a software-based solution and a resource planning tool (Laboratory Information Management System) that will facilitate compliance with regulatory standards, quality assurance and data and time tracking.

Training on the use of such systems for better operability is also envisaged. The expected results of these actions will aim to contribute towards improving collaboration on the flow of information by setting up ICT systems between specialised investigative units and enhance access to real time data for improved decision making.

Such measures will aim to focus on **implementation measure 1(d)** which will be implemented through the actions outlined in **Annex III (a)** through the following funding priority:

- *Set up criminal and forensic data repository systems, and information management solutions to strengthen cooperation with specialised units involved in combatting organised crime*

The setting up of an integrated case management system and assistance for laboratory operations will contribute towards output indicator **O.1.1** and **O.1.3** and result indicators **R.1.5**, **R.1.7** and **R.1.8**.

*Enhancing information sharing solutions to tackle encrypted devices, malware analysis and big data*

Although advances in technology have significantly improved communication and the transfer of information, emerging challenges in cyber security brought about by encrypted devices or cryptocurrencies continue to strengthen the need to enhance national resources against cybercrime. Cybercrime is one of the most dangerous types of online criminal activities that knows no boundaries but that can affect a large number of businesses and individuals. In this regard, efforts aimed towards increasing the resilience of the cybercrime unit against emerging threats remain necessary.

Initiatives implemented through the 2014 – 2020 ISF NP were instrumental in enhancing the protection against cyber-attacks through the addition of multi-purpose vehicles and the strengthening of the cybercrime unit. In 2020, a total of 543 trips were carried out by the multi-purpose vehicles to transport digital evidence in a secure manner[5]. Furthermore, in 2020 a total of 1,581 cases were handled by the cybercrime unit followed by 563 requests sent via Europol, which heighten the unit's role in the search and seizure of digital evidence[6]. In view of emerging threats, this Programme will aim to strengthen the capabilities of the cybercrime unit by analysing the gaps in operational capacities with a view to improve information sharing solutions and increase capabilities to address the challenge of encrypted devices, in line with the 2017 mid term review needs assessment, amongst others. This will contribute towards priority actions identified in Annex IV of the ISF Regulation. The expected results will contribute to improve technical investigations on cybercrime and facilitate the sharing of information and good practices with EU networks. With regard to measures combatting online abuse, particularly those affecting

children, complementary actions supported through the ISF 2014 – 2020 NP involving the setting up of a Victim ID function, shall continue to be implemented, also in view of the Council Conclusions on the impact of COVID-19 in the area of cybercrime.

Actions supported under this SO will aim to contribute towards **implementation measure 1(d)** by supporting relevant actions outlined in **Annex III (c)** through the following funding priority:

- *Upgrade the operational capabilities of the Cybercrime Unit following a gap analysis against the emergence of new challenges such as encrypted devices*

Through the commissioning of a gap analysis study and possible support for new technologies and operational equipment, implemented actions will contribute towards output indicator **O.1.1**, **O.1.4** and result indicator **R.1.8**.

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.

#### *Addressing outstanding Schengen Evaluation Recommendations through the mid-term review allocation*

Pursuant to Directive (EU) 2023/977 on the exchange of information between law enforcement authorities, Government will seek to ensure that the necessary enhancements are in place to adhere to the provisions of the Directive. This may include, amongst others, improvements to national IT systems to facilitate exchange of information between Single Points of Contact, whilst also supporting SIENA web service integration with national case management systems. This is envisaged to contribute towards Schengen evaluation recommendation no. 4 (SIS).

Similarly, in line with the SIS Regulation and Schengen evaluation recommendation no. 9 (data protection), sustained efforts to reinforce the security of information systems are necessary to support police cooperation. Within this framework, specialized units within the Malta Police Force will be supported through the implementation of enhanced monitoring mechanisms aimed at facilitating information access via automated log control systems. This approach will contribute to reinforcing scrutiny and accountability within law enforcement authorities complemented with self-monitoring policies. Comparable measures will be extended to other units of the Police to further improve the detection of irregular or suspicious activities.

Building on past investments on the SIS database and in line with Schengen Evaluation Recommendation no. 9 (police cooperation), Government aims to further harmonise information exchange by extending the existing Universal Message Format workflow interface that enables law enforcement authorities such as the customs to access the SIS database, thereby enabling automated information exchange, integrate international databased and optimising hit results. This will facilitate the use of standardized communication language among the different law enforcement authorities across the EU/EFTA countries.

Further to the Schengen Evaluation Recommendation no. 8 (police cooperation), investments shall be made for the development of a data loader tool to automate the upload of investigative data into Europol's Information System (EIS). Currently, data uploads are performed manually, covering various crime fields including persons, documentation, communication means, and transportation. The new tool will streamline processes, make use of existing analytical tools and ensure automated data feeds into EIS. This

will enhance efficiency, reduce manual errors, and improve the timeliness of data sharing with Europol. Such interventions will contribute towards **implementation measures (1a) and (1d)** focusing on the actions outlined in **Annex III (a)** through the following funding priorities:

- *Implement and upgrade law enforcement access to exchange of information through effective integration of national systems and automation of the case management system,*
- *Undertake technical enhancements to set up an automatic log control mechanism,*
- *Extend an integrated search portal for the SIS and international databases to law enforcement authorities.*
- *Develop an automated data loader into Europol's Information System*

The outcome of these interventions will be to automate processes, eliminate data inputting, providing real-time access to sensitive case data, improve cooperation among law enforcement authorities and increase accountability on use of data through security control mechanisms. The implemented actions will contribute towards output indicators **O.1.1** and **O.1.3** and result indicator **R.1.5**, **R.1.7** and **R.1.8**.

*Specific Action ISF/2025/SA/1.1.1/003 - Support to Member States for European Police Record Index System – (EPRIS)*

The implementation of the Prüm II Regulation presents significant challenges for Member States, particularly in balancing the mandatory introduction of new data categories with the advancement of automated police record exchanges. To address these challenges, funding has been allocated through the SA supporting the implementation of EPRIS, *ISF/2025/SA/1.1.1/003*, to support Member States in undertaking activities at national level that go beyond the minimum requirements of Prüm II, with a particular focus on police records.

These measures aim to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement authorities and enhance interoperability with EU systems by supporting the development and implementation of automated police record exchanges. Such initiatives are fully aligned with Malta's broader strategy to reinforce national security, combat cross-border and organised crime, and build the resilience of law enforcement agencies. They also complement ongoing investments in IT systems, training, and administrative capacity, ensuring compliance with EU objectives while addressing operational challenges at the national level.

Such interventions will contribute towards **implementation measures (1a)** focusing on the actions outlined in **Annex III (a)** through the funding priority:

- *Enhancing national systems for secure and interoperable information exchange in line with EU police cooperation frameworks*

The expected result of this intervention will be the deployment of the national police record index, synchronized with national databases and integrated with EPRIS central routing and Europol micro-services, enabling automated and secure exchange of police records across Member States. The implemented actions will contribute towards output indicators **O.1.1**, **O.1.3** and **O.1.4** and result indicator **R.1.5**, **R.1.7** and **R.1.8**.

#### *Operating Support*

Operating support is envisaged under specific objective 1 in line with point 1 (a) of Annex VII – *Expenditure Eligible for Operating Support* of Regulation (EU) 2021/1149.

[1] Source: MPF, January 2021.

[2] Ibid.

[3] MFIN, 2020. The Budget Speech 2021. Accessed from: [https://finance.gov.mt/en/The-Budget/Documents/The\\_Budget\\_2021/Budget-Speech\\_2021\\_EN\\_v2.0.pdf](https://finance.gov.mt/en/The-Budget/Documents/The_Budget_2021/Budget-Speech_2021_EN_v2.0.pdf)

[4] Ministry for Home Affairs, National Security and Law Enforcement, Malta Police Transformation Strategy 2020 – 2025. MHSE, 2020.

[5] Source: MPF, January 2021.

[6] Ibid.

2.1. Specific objective 1. Exchange of information

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 participants in training activities	number	1,224	2,345
O.1.2	Number of expert meetings/workshops/study visits	number	0	0
O.1.3	Number of ICT systems set up/adapted/maintained	number	4	13
O.1.4	Number of equipment items purchased	number	0	20



## 2.1. Specific objective 1. Exchange of information

### 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.1.5	Number of ICT systems made interoperable in the Member States/ with security- relevant EU and decentralised information systems/with international databases	number	0	number	2021	5	number	Malta Police Force Records	
R.1.6	Number of administrative units that have set up new or adapted existing information exchange mechanisms/procedures/tools/guidance for exchange of information with other Member States/EU agencies/international organisations/third countries	number	0	number	2021	1	number	MPF Records	
R.1.7	Number of participants who consider the training useful for their work	number	0	share	2021	1,876	number	Malta Police Force Records	
R.1.8	Number of participants who report three months after the training activity that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training	number	0	share	2021	1,876	number	Malta Police Force Records	

## 2.1. Specific objective 1. Exchange of information

### 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)
Type of action	001.ICT systems, interoperability, data quality (excluding equipment)	13,288,424.53
Type of action	002.Networks, centres of excellence, cooperation structures, joint actions and operations	0.00
Type of action	003.Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) or other joint operations	0.00
Type of action	004.Secondment or deployment of experts	0.00
Type of action	005.Training	316,666.79
Type of action	006.Exchange of best practices, workshops, conferences, events, awareness-raising campaigns, communication activities	0.00
Type of action	007.Studies, pilot projects, risk assessments	637,396.20
Type of action	008.Equipment	2,846,094.30
Type of action	009.Means of transport	0.00
Type of action	010.Buildings, facilities	1,108,333.22
Type of action	011.Deployment or other follow-up of research projects	0.00

## 2.1. Specific objective: 2. Cross-border cooperation

### 2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

For security to be effective within European borders, cross-border cooperation among all Member States is strategic in the fight against cross border and organised crime, particularly in recent times when criminal operations are moving away from conventional crimes and employing new practices that require intricate security features to effectively detect crime.

The dynamic features of serious and organised crime require intelligence-led interventions that are supported by EU LEAs. By strengthening cross-border cooperation, national authorities will be better equipped to fight criminal offences and protect vulnerable groups. This can be further facilitated through the support of EU Agencies including EUROPOL, EUROJUST and CEPOL.

#### *Strengthening cross-border operations*

The MPF is the designated national European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) coordinator, which participates in a number of operational action plans set out by the multidisciplinary platform on combating organised crime[1]. Malta shall endeavour to continue strengthening its participation in Europol and possibly the Joint Cybercrime Action Taskforce, which seek to prioritise and pursue cross border investigative crimes. Any information gathered through these international networks will help assist national authorities in increasing their knowledge on crisis resolution as well as facilitate the fight against cross border crime. The WestMed Initiative may also be explored in such instances as a useful framework for regional cooperation in maritime issues, in line with the objectives of the Fund.

Within this context, through this Programme, Government will aim to adopt a harmonized approach for crises management solutions by enhancing cooperation between EU and national stakeholders involved in crisis operations.

This shall entail the development of a police fusion centre which will act as a single point of contact (SPOC) for counter terrorism and serious and organised crime, to share resources, expertise and information to detect criminal and terrorist activity as well as boost participation to actions in the context of EMPACT, in line with ISF Flagship Activity. It also allows for re-evaluation of existing data together with new data in order to provide constant updates. Hence, the centre will consolidate information from all sources to be readily available, analysed and exchanged. This will also aim to increase the efficiency and accountability of the organisation while facilitating the exchange of information and capacity of LEAs through the analysis conducted within this centre and interoperability with other EU/national IT systems. Furthermore, this will also eliminate any existing fragmentation among LEAs when dealing with cross border crime, thereby contributing towards improving and intensifying cross border cooperation, by acting as the main body for coordinating police cooperation, intelligence sharing and operations management both locally and abroad. The centre will aim to adopt a multi-agency approach, whereby cross border operations to fight organized and serious international crime including through the use of Joint Investigation Teams, will be coordinated from a specialised centre through which all secure information is available.

The fusion centre embraces the same EU priorities for the fight against serious and organized crime for EMPACT 2022 – 2025, as it will serve to pave the way for multidisciplinary cooperation against serious international crime. This will be essential in clamping down terrorism and serious crime operations and managing crisis situations. It should also result in more effective management of operations. The expected result of this intervention will be to facilitate intelligence sharing through the setting up of one

administrative unit and improve the performance of investigative crime units.

Such interventions will focus on **implementation measure 2(b)** through the actions outlined in **Annex III (d)** and will be implemented through the following funding priority:

· *Setting up a Police network fusion centre for better coordination and management against serious and organized crime*

Such actions will involve the renovation of existing infrastructure equipped with new ICT network solutions and technical equipment that are necessary for the centre to operate efficiently. Training is also envisaged to be provided to MPF officers on the use of such network systems. This will contribute towards output indicators **O.2.1, O.2.1.1, O.2.1.2, O.2.2** and **O.2.3** and result indicators **R.2.6.1 – R.2.6.6, R.2.8, and R.2.9**.

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.

#### *Operating Support*

Actions contributing towards operating support under specific objective 2 are not envisaged in the ISF Programme.

[1] Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security. *National Integrated Border Management 2019 – 2024*.

2.1. Specific objective 2. Cross-border cooperation

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 cross-border operations	number	90	90
O.2.1.1	Of which number of joint investigation teams	number	1	1
O.2.1.2	Of which number of EU policy cycle/EMPACT operational actions	number	89	89
O.2.2	Number of expert meetings/workshops/study visits/common exercises	number	3	6
O.2.3	Number of equipment items purchased	number	0	10
O.2.4	Number of transport means purchased for cross-border operations	number	0	0

## 2.1. Specific objective 2. Cross-border cooperation

### 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.2.5	The estimated value of assets frozen in the context of cross-border operations	amount	0	euro	0	0	amount	N/A	
R.2.6.1	Quantity of illicit drugs seized in the context of cross-border operations - cannabis	kg	0	kg	2021	1	kg	MPF Records	
R.2.6.2	Quantity of illicit drugs seized in the context of cross-border operations - opioids, including heroin	kg	0	kg	2021	5	kg	MPF Records	
R.2.6.3	Quantity of illicit drugs seized in the context of cross-border operations - cocaine	kg	0	kg	2021	6	kg	MPF Records	
R.2.6.4	Quantity of illicit drugs seized in the context of cross-border operations - synthetic drugs, including amphetamine-type stimulants (including amphetamine and methamphetamine) and MDMA	kg	0	kg	2021	3	kg	MPF Records	
R.2.6.5	Quantity of illicit drugs seized in the context of cross-border operations - new psychoactive substances	kg	0	kg	2021	2	kg	MPF Records	

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
R.2.6.6	Quantity of illicit drugs seized in the context of cross-border operations - other illicit drugs	kg	0	kg	2021	0	kg	MPF Records	
R.2.7.1	Quantity of weapons seized in the context of cross-border operations - Weapons of war: automatic firearms and heavy firearms (anti-tank, rocket launcher, mortar, etc.)	number	0	number	0	0	number	N/A	
R.2.7.2	Quantity of weapons seized in the context of cross-border operations - Other short firearms: revolvers and pistols (including salute and acoustic weapons)	number	0	number	0	0	number	N/A	
R.2.7.3	Quantity of weapons seized in the context of cross-border operations - Other long firearms: rifles and shotguns (including salute and acoustic weapons)	number	0	number	0	0	number	N/A	
R.2.8	Number of administrative units that have developed/adapted existing mechanisms/procedures/tools/guidance for cooperation with other Member States/EU agencies/international organisations/third countries	number	0	number	2021	1	number	MPF Records	

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
R.2.9	Number of staff involved in cross-border operations	number	0	number	2021	10	number	MPF Records	
R.2.10	Number of Schengen Evaluation Recommendations addressed	number	0	number	2021	100	percentage	N/A	



## 2.1. Specific objective 2. Cross-border cooperation

### 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)
Type of action	001.ICT systems, interoperability, data quality (excluding equipment)	1,000,000.00
Type of action	002.Networks, centres of excellence, cooperation structures, joint actions and operations	228,202.40
Type of action	003.Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) or other joint operations	0.00
Type of action	004.Secondment or deployment of experts	0.00
Type of action	005.Training	50,000.00
Type of action	006.Exchange of best practices, workshops, conferences, events, awareness-raising campaigns, communication activities	0.00
Type of action	007.Studies, pilot projects, risk assessments	0.00
Type of action	008.Equipment	583,601.00
Type of action	009.Means of transport	0.00
Type of action	010.Buildings, facilities	500,000.00
Type of action	011.Deployment or other follow-up of research projects	0.00

## 2.1. Specific objective: 3. Preventing and combating crime

### 2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

#### *Strengthen capacity building measures*

The EU provides resources for supporting frontline workers, police officers and border guards in managing terrorist threats and enhancing security through efficient access to accurate data and assistance provided by EU agencies that continue to support Member States in preventing and combatting organised crime[1]. Within this context, and in view of the growing challenges affecting national security, Government strives to ensure that adequate measures are in place to enhance security particularly through the development of specialised units dealing with counter terrorism such as the Malta Security Services and the counter terrorism unit within the MPF. Capacity building measures to address the gaps identified in financial intelligence networks will be financed through this Programme, particularly in the remit of money-laundering.

In order to increase expertise and mutual learning on security mitigating measures, Malta already participates in various Europol networks such as Twins, Hydra, Dolphin, Sustrans, and Cyborg as well as in other training programmes organised by the Council of the European Union, Europol, CEPOL, Interpol and the European Commission. In 2020, the MPF attended a total of 238 training courses on various policy areas including financial intelligence, crime prevention, border management, amongst others[2].

Through these European networks and trainings, LEAs are kept abreast with the latest developments recorded in prominent crime areas as well as share best practices on ways how to increase resilience against organised crime groups. Nonetheless, the requirement to increase Malta's participation in ad hoc exchange training programmes remains important to address growing challenges that are pursuant to the EU policy cycle/EMPACT, through the support of European agencies.

Efforts towards enhancing effective supervision against money laundering have already been adopted at the local level particularly by the Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit (FIAU) through the development of a new IT system financed under the 14 – 20 ISF NP, which requires to be regularly maintained and upgraded in view of emerging threats. In addition, with the support of EU funds, Government shall develop capacity building measures in areas such as money laundering, drug trafficking, and human trafficking, amongst others, in line with the EU Strategic Training Needs Assessment. This shall also target policy areas that contribute towards fulfilling the objectives of the EU policy cycle/EMPACT operational actions.

In line with the Council Conclusion recommendations on the impact of COVID19 on internal security, the ISF Programme will support the provision of training opportunities to Police officers involved in combatting hate crime and speech. Such training will aim to enhance the reporting channels for victims of crime, facilitate controls, strengthening awareness and better manage crisis situations. In addition training initiatives shall also extend towards measures aimed at safeguarding civil society and fostering media freedom in line with the outcomes of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE Committee), mission report (2019).

Actions implemented under this SO will contribute to **implementation measure 3(a)** through the actions outlined in **Annex III (h)** which will be implemented through the following funding priority:

· *Develop capacity building measures to support relevant stakeholders involved in internal security*

This programme shall aim to support Government's efforts to strengthen its financial monitoring mechanisms through the provision of training on AML and CFT, in line with its strategy on anti-money laundering[4]. The expected results of this intervention will be to increase participation in training opportunities to strengthen investigations on economic crime cases and money laundering complementing reforms under Malta's Recovery and Resilience Plan. These actions will contribute to output indicator **O.3.1** and **O.3.6** and result indicator **R.3.12**.

*Complementary support to track down criminal offences*

Building on the transfer of biometric data supported through the 2014 – 2020 ISF NP is the need to address the challenge of strengthening security against new technologies used in criminal offences through the installation of an Automated Number Plate Recognition System (ANPRS), in line with the 2017 ISF mid-term review. This will aim to develop data gathering and data transfer mechanisms to improve information systems at the local level. Actions will involve financing of systems and equipment that can facilitate the sharing of data with other Member States through Europol and Interpol, for further scrutiny at EU level.

Such investment will contribute to **implementation measure 3(d)** through the actions defined in **Annex III (k)**, which will be implemented through the following funding priority:

*Deploying the latest technologies to track down criminal offences*

The ANPR system will enable LEAs to reinforce their analytic and detection capabilities in the fight against vehicle thefts as well as illegal trespassers. This system can be integrated with the SIS database and can be shared with EU member states through the security channels of Europol and Interpol. The expected result of this intervention is to increase surveillance equipment and efficiency in the transfer of real time data through EU secure communication channels while also optimizing security coverage. This will contribute towards output indicators **O.3.3** and **O.3.6**.

*Maximising the abilities of financial investigative networks against financial crime*

Investments in other security related facilities to bolster preventive and security measures will also be supported through this Programme to maximise the abilities of financial investigative networks against financial crimes, particularly highly sensitive crimes involving illegal financial transactions, and other fraudulent scams.

This action will contribute towards **implementation measure 3(d)** through the actions outlined in **Annex III (c)** through the following funding priority:

*Enhancing national resources to prevent and combat financial crimes*

Foreseen investments under this SO will aim to develop visual analysis capabilities including licenses in IBM i2 to facilitate connectivity in the transfer of data including bank transactions, custody records and licensing plate tracking, thereby contributing towards the priority actions identified in Annex IV of the ISF Regulation, in the framework of EU policy cycle/EMPACT operational actions. The expected result

of this action will be to strengthen the protection of public spaces and overall security. Such action will contribute towards output indicator **O.3.6**.

### *Enhancing the protection of public spaces*

The ISF programme will also support increased protection measures in line with the ISF flagship initiative on enhancing the protection of public spaces. This will not only address the protection of soft targets but also increase the resilience of public spaces. In this regard, the Programme will fund the acquisition of specialized tactical equipment such as tethered drones, to be easily deployed during mass events for immediate access to real time airborne images. Recorded data can be used for further detailed analysis, also enabling risk mitigation, thereby strengthening the operations of the Criminal Intelligence and Analysis Unit. This shall be complemented with adequate transport means such as vehicles to reinforce the control operations of the counter terrorism unit, drug squad and other units within the MPF to increase surveillance coverage which will also be supported under the programme. These vehicles will be equipped with technical features required for assisting MPF in the prevention of crime, such as serious and organised crime and terrorism, amongst others. In view of the envisaged degree of specialisation, their purpose is expected to add value to internal security.

Such actions will contribute towards **implementation measure 3(d)** through the actions outlined in **Annex III (k)** through the following funding priority:

*· Increasing the level of protection of public spaces and forensic investigations through tailored security related equipment and means of transport.*

Under the 2014 – 2020 ISF NP, the MPF was supported through additional surveillance systems to help prevent, combat and protect citizens and critical infrastructure against cross-border crime and security-related risks whereby a total of 14 operations were registered in 2020 through the use of covert surveillance cameras[4]. Strengthening MPF's operational surveillance duties remains important to deter criminal actions and enhance security. The expected results of these interventions are to strengthen the protection of public spaces through specialised equipment and transport means and overall security as well as maximise surveillance coverage and will contribute towards output indicator **O.3.3, O.3.4, O.3.6** and result indicator **R.3.11**.

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.

### *Operating Support*

Actions contributing towards operating support under specific objective 3 are not envisaged in the ISF Programme.

[1] European Commission. Communication from the Commission on the Twentieth Progress Report towards an effective and genuine Security Union. 2019..

[2] Source: MPF, January 2021.

[3] Ministry for Finance. AML/CFT and TFS – Strategy and Action Plan for 2021 - 2023.

[4] Source: MPF, January 2021.

--

2.1. Specific objective 3. Preventing and combating crime

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.3.1	Number of participants in training activities	number	3	24
O.3.2	Number of exchange programmes/workshops/study visits	number	0	0
O.3.3	Number of equipment items purchased	number	0	50
O.3.4	Number of transport means purchased	number	0	25
O.3.5	Number of items of infrastructure/security relevant facilities/tools/mechanisms constructed/ purchased/upgraded	number	0	0
O.3.6	Number of projects to prevent crime	number	0	5
O.3.7	Number of projects to assist victims of crime	number	0	0
O.3.8	Number of victims of crimes assisted	number	0	0

## 2.1. Specific objective 3. Preventing and combating crime

### 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.3.9	Number of initiatives developed / expanded to prevent radicalisation	number	0	number	0	0	number	N/A	
R.3.10	Number of initiatives developed / expanded to protect / support witnesses and whistle- blowers	number	0	number	0	0	number	N/A	
R.3.11	Number of critical infrastructure/public spaces with new/adapted facilities protecting against security related risks	number	0	number	2021	10	number	Malta Police Force Records	
R.3.12	Number of participants who consider the training useful for their work	number	0	share	2021	22	number	Malta Police Force Records	
R.3.13	Number of participants who report three months after leaving the training that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training	number	0	share	0	0	number	N/A	

## 2.1. Specific objective 3. Preventing and combating crime

### 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)
Type of action	001.ICT systems, interoperability, data quality (excluding equipment)	1,260,000.00
Type of action	002.Networks, centres of excellence, cooperation structures, joint actions and operations	0.00
Type of action	003.Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) or other joint operations	0.00
Type of action	004.Secondment or deployment of experts	0.00
Type of action	005.Training	675,000.00
Type of action	006.Exchange of best practices, workshops, conferences, events, awareness-raising campaigns, communication activities	0.00
Type of action	007.Studies, pilot projects, risk assessments	0.00
Type of action	008.Equipment	1,743,141.00
Type of action	009.Means of transport	510,000.00
Type of action	010.Buildings, facilities	0.00
Type of action	011.Deployment or other follow-up of research projects	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 and correct implementation of the programme through preparatory, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and control actions of the financed interventions. The implementation of the ISF 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.

Technical Assistance shall be used to support the following actions, amongst others:

- 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 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 with 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 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 therefore 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

Managing Authority to be disseminated during public events in order to raise further awareness on the achievements being made through the Fund. The Managing Authority 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	034.Information and communication	77,295.37
Intervention field	035.Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	1,214,277.78
Intervention field	036.Evaluation and studies, data collection	51,530.24
Intervention field	037.Capacity building	141,708.17

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
-----------------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	-------

### 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)		
Exchange of information	Regular actions	Total	8,098,518.88	2,699,506.29	2,699,506.29		10,798,025.17	75.00000000232%
Exchange of information	Specific actions	Total	584,905.66	64,990.00	64,990.00		649,895.66	89.9999332200%
Exchange of information	Annex IV actions	Total	5,778,490.50	642,054.50	642,054.50		6,420,545.00	90.000000000000%
Exchange of information	Operating support	Total	3,735,000.00	0.00	0.00		3,735,000.00	100.000000000000%
Total Exchange of information			18,196,915.04	3,406,550.79	3,406,550.79		21,603,465.83	84.2314616701%
Cross-border cooperation	Regular actions	Total						
Cross-border cooperation	Annex IV actions	Total	2,361,803.40	262,422.60	262,422.60		2,624,226.00	90.000000000000%
Total Cross-border cooperation			2,361,803.40	262,422.60	262,422.60		2,624,226.00	90.000000000000%
Preventing and combating crime	Regular actions	Total	2,928,141.00	976,047.00	976,047.00		3,904,188.00	75.000000000000%
Preventing and combating crime	Annex IV actions	Total	1,260,000.00	140,000.00	140,000.00		1,400,000.00	90.000000000000%
Total Preventing and combating crime			4,188,141.00	1,116,047.00	1,116,047.00		5,304,188.00	78.9591356867%
Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)			1,484,811.56	0.00	0.00		1,484,811.56	100.000000000000%
Grand total			26,231,671.00	4,785,020.39	4,785,020.39		31,016,691.39	84.5727568752%

3.3. Transfers

Table 7: Transfers between shared management funds<sup>1</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup>Cumulative amounts for all transfers during programming period.

Table 8: Transfers to instruments under direct or indirect management<sup>1</sup>

Instrument	Transfer Amount
	0.00

<sup>1</sup>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 ( <a href="https://legislation.mt/eli/ln/2016/352/eng?fbclid=IwAR12WxV0wrlgyoGAS32myHR90I30QKL9WK4fdQNaxXr-MPID6CB50W-lyzU">https://legislation.mt/eli/ln/2016/352/eng?fbclid=IwAR12WxV0wrlgyoGAS32myHR90I30QKL9WK4fdQNaxXr-MPID6CB50W-lyzU</a> )  LN 351 of 2016 – Public Procurement of Entities operating in the Water, Energy, Transport and Postal Services Sectors Regulations ( <a href="https://legislation.mt/eli/ln/2016/351/eng?fbclid=IwAR3BiHHVgWUepdev_b3WpSKz29G-fkneTzvMGj6eOIAIwww_SriXMFd0x8E">https://legislation.mt/eli/ln/2016/351/eng?fbclid=IwAR3BiHHVgWUepdev_b3WpSKz29G-fkneTzvMGj6eOIAIwww_SriXMFd0x8E</a> )  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	Yes	(Refer to previous documents)	Arrangements are in place that enable the



Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
		<p>least the following elements:</p> <p>a. Quality and intensity of competition: names of winning bidder, number of initial bidders and contractual value;</p> <p>b. Information on final price after completion and on participation of SMEs as direct bidders, where national systems provide such information.</p>			<p>Department of Contracts (DoC) to extract 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
		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 ( <a href="https://contracts.gov.mt/en/Circulars/2016/Documents/Circ19_2016.pdf">https://contracts.gov.mt/en/Circulars/2016/Documents/Circ19_2016.pdf</a> )	<p>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</p>

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					<p>decentralisation of procurement practices. 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
		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	<p>Article 12(1a), 13(n) and 14 of LN 352 of 2016 and Article 33 and 34 (ni &amp; ii, o) of LN 351 of 2016  <a href="https://legislation.mt/eli/ln/2016/351/eng?fbclid=IwAR3BiHHVgWUepdev_b3WpSKz29G-fkneTzvMGj6eOIAIwww_SriXMFd0x8E">https://legislation.mt/eli/ln/2016/351/eng?fbclid=IwAR3BiHHVgWUepdev_b3WpSKz29G-fkneTzvMGj6eOIAIwww_SriXMFd0x8E</a></p>	<p>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 &amp; 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.</p>
		5. Arrangements to ensure that all information pointing to suspected bid-	Yes	(Refer to previous documents)	Arrangements are in place to detect suspected bid-rigging situations by

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
		rigging situations is communicated to the competent national bodies in accordance with Article 83(2) of Directive 2014/24/EU and Article 99(2) of Directive 2014/25/EU.			competent bodies. In this regard, the 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	Yes	(Refer to previous document)	The Ministry responsible for Human

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
		monitoring committee regarding cases of 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).			<p>Rights will be represented on the 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 mentioned outlines the areas of cooperation between the MAs and the responsible entity for human rights throughout the programming period.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
4. Implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the	Yes	<p>A national framework to ensure implementation of the UNCPRD is in place that includes:</p> <p>1. Objectives with measurable goals, data</p>	Yes	Malta's 2021 - 2030 National Strategy on the Rights of Disabled Persons ( <a href="https://inclusion.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Disability-Doc-ENG-SEP-21.pdf">https://inclusion.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Disability-Doc-ENG-SEP-21.pdf</a> )	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

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
rights of persons with disabilities (UNCPRD) in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC		collection and monitoring mechanisms.		Equal Opportunities (Persons with Disability) Act (Chapter 413 of the Laws of Malta) ( <a href="https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/413/eng/pdf">https://legislation.mt/eli/cap/413/eng/pdf</a> )	families.  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 (UNCPRD). Implementation will be monitored through the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability's (CRPD) UNCPRD 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 ( <a href="https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/413.3/20190828/eng">https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/413.3/20190828/eng</a> )	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
					<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
		<p>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).</p>	Yes	Covenant between MAs and CRPD	<p>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.</p>

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	Kevin Agius	Director General	kevin.f.agius@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 Justice and Governance, regarding the country's needs and policy developments as well as possible support of EU funding, including through the ISF 2021 – 2027 Programme.

The consultation process was officially launched during the 5th Monitoring Committee organised by the Responsible Authority for the ISF programme 14-20 in June 2019. Present for the Monitoring Committee were members from Government bodies representing home affairs, national security and financial sectors together with European Commission representatives, during which members were invited to submit any proposals that may be financed through the ISF 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 internal security, relevant entities were consulted during the drafting phase in order to outline the needs as well as any actions that would need to be undertaken to address such needs. 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. Consultations with key stakeholders representing cross-sectoral bodies including equality and social inclusion were undertaken throughout the drafting of the ISF programme to ensure that the relevant needs and interventions are aligned with Government's long-term vision.

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 ISF, 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, finance, justice 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 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 ISF 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, as delineated in Article 8 of the CPR, to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the ISF Programme, pursuant to Article 39 of the CPR. Initiatives undertaken during the previous programming period to promote equality, the respect for fundamental rights and non-discrimination during the various stages of implementation will continue

under the ISF 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 their 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 30 of the ISF 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 ISF 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 14-20 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 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 ISF Regulation through annual information and communication activities on the results and impact of the ISF programme. Targeted activities may also be undertaken with a special focus on 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;
- 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 ISF 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 whose responsibilities are directly linked with the scope of the activities implemented under this Fund. The necessary means shall be adopted by the respective beneficiaries 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 ISF Programme which shall be updated every four months by the appointed communication officer, in line with the requirements outlined in Article 49 of the CPR. A national communication coordinator has thus been nominated to act as a contact point for all CPR funds.

Pursuant to EU Regulation Nos. 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 ISF 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.

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 accordingly.

The indicative budget allocated for such interventions will 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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, BMV1 and ISF Regulations

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



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 reimbursement 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)8334 - 23 Nov 2022 - 1		2.0		Accepted	30 Oct 2025	
Specific objective	Modality	Type of intervention	Union contribution	Pre-financing rate	Description of the action	
1. Exchange of information	Specific actions		584,905.66		Support to Member States for European Police Record Index System – EPRIS - ISF/2025/SA/1.1.1.1 under the Internal Security Fund (ISF) - ISF/2025/SA/1.1.1/003. Ares(2025)5868711	
TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)			35,094.34		TA Specific Action - Support to Member States for European Police Record Index System – EPRIS - ISF/2025/SA/1.1.1 under the Internal Security Fund (ISF) - ISF/2025/SA/1.1.1/003. Ares(2025)5868711 EUR 35,094.34	

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent by
MT ISF Performance Methodology	Supplementary Information	4 Nov 2025	MT ISF Performance Methodology	Ares(2025)9472869	ISF Performance Methodology	4 Nov 2025	Camilleri, Abigail
Proposed modifications to ISF Programme v.3	Supplementary Information	4 Nov 2025	Proposed modifications to ISF Programme v.3	Ares(2025)9472869	Proposed modifications to ISF Programme v.3	4 Nov 2025	Camilleri, Abigail
Programme snapshot 2021MT65ISPR001 3.0	Snapshot of data before send	4 Nov 2025		Ares(2025)9472869	Programme_snapshot_2021MT65ISPR001_3.0_en.pdf	4 Nov 2025	Camilleri, Abigail