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ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

Commission Implementing Decision

amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2018)4076 concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2018 and the financing for Union actions within the framework of the Internal Security Fund – the instrument for financial support for external borders and visa

‘ANNEX

Internal Security Fund – Borders and Visa¹ - Union actions – Work Programme for 2018

Overview of the 2018 implementation

Budget lines	Total Amount
Budget line 18 02 01 01 – Support of border management and a common visa policy to legitimate travel	EUR 13 520 000

Actions	Total Amount	% of the 2018 appropriations for AWP
Grants	1 000 000	7
Procurement	7 000 000	52
Other actions	5 520 000	41
TOTAL	13 520 000	100

All Member States, with the exception of United Kingdom and Ireland, as well as the Schengen Associated Countries are participating in the 'ISF – Borders and Visa': hence entities established in these participating countries can take part as beneficiaries in the actions that are supported under this financial instrument. Entities established in the United Kingdom or Ireland can only participate on a no-cost basis. Third countries may take also part as co-beneficiaries in the actions that are supported under this financial instrument.

All activities implemented under this work programme shall respect and shall be implemented in line with the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Consistency, complementarity and synergies with other Union instruments shall be ensured.

As provided in Article 3(4) and (5) of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014, actions in and in relation with third countries under this work programme will be carried out in synergy and in coherence with other actions outside the Union supported through Union funds, in particular external assistance instruments. The identification and implementation of such actions is fully coordinated with EEAS and relevant Commission external relations services. Activities falling within the scope of humanitarian aid and civil protection shall not be funded under this programme.

¹ Regulation (EU) No 515/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, establishing, as part of the Internal Security Fund, the instrument for financial support for external borders and visa and repealing Decision No 574/2007/EC (OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 143) (ISF Border and Visa Regulation).

1.1. Introduction

On the basis of the objective of **ensuring a high level of security in the Union while facilitating legitimate travel, through a uniform and high level of control of the external borders and the effective processing of Schengen visas, in compliance with the Union's commitment to fundamental freedoms and human rights** covered by the budget line 18 02 01 01 (Support of border management and a common visa policy to facilitate legitimate travel), this work programme sets out the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2018 as follows:

- for grants (implemented under direct management) (1.2):	EUR 1 000 000
- for procurement (implemented under direct management) (1.3):	EUR 7 000 000
- for other actions (1.4):	EUR 5 520 000
TOTAL:	EUR 13 520 000

1.2. Grants

1.2.1 Direct grant "*State of the art of the Morphing Detection*"

LEGAL BASIS

Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 515/2014
Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 2252/2004

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

- Support to Member States in capacities to detect and identify the morphed face image when checking travel documents at the border in automated systems.

Description of the activities to be funded under the direct award

With the widespread deployment of biometric recognition systems, in particular the EU Smart Borders initiative, the interest in attacking these systems is increasing. In the recent past the vulnerabilities of biometric systems and automated border control applications to so-called morphed face image attacks have been unveiled to some governments within the EU. In such attacks, biometric samples of multiple subjects are merged, in order to allow an unlawful but successful verification of all contributing subjects against the created artificial identity.

This is a rather young area of research and only a few European research institutions have developed detection mechanisms for such attacks, these labs are in the consortium for this direct award grant.

The objective of the activity is to identify the state-of-the-art of morphed face image detection mechanisms by collecting in a distributed effort a database of morphed face images, for which image quality according to ICAO and EU Regulation 2252/2004 is ensured. Furthermore the project will evaluate the existing morphed face image detection mechanisms based on a common established benchmark protocol and morphed face image detection metrics. The project will focus on the scenario of differential morphing detection, where a bona fide facial image (captured in a trusted environment) is compared against the target of investigation (e.g. the printed image in the passport application process) in a signal to signal analysis mode.

The beneficiaries of the project results will be all European Members States with their respective agencies that are in charge of passport application processes (facial enrolment) and/or of the border control processes (facial verification). Depending on the level of accuracy of the evaluated differential detection mechanisms, a short term deployment of identified mechanism will be recommended to the Member States.

Indicative duration of the actions: 12 months

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

These direct grant will be awarded directly without call for proposals following an invitation to the consortium led by the Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, to submit a proposal, in accordance with Article 128 (1) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and to Article 190(1)(f) of its Rules of Application (Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012).

The direct awarding of the grant is justified by the specific characteristic of the action requiring technical competence and a high degree of specialisation and administrative power which is demonstrated by the fact that consortium has been already responsible for the "Fidelity project" where the danger of morphed images was first detected. In order to find as soon as possible the counter measures for this highly critical security gap, the consortium should start as soon as possible with the relevant research. This decision shall be supported by the responsible subgroup experts of the Comitology committee created by Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 1683/95 laying down a uniform format for visas (Article 6 committee). Other equivalent proposals for research in this area are not available at this point of time.

Selection criteria

The verification of the financial and operational capacity shall not apply to public bodies of the Member States.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals for an action shall be evaluated on the basis of the relevance, quality, cost-effectiveness and European added value of the proposed action.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

Indicative timetable and indicative amount of the call for proposals

Reference	Date	Amount
HOME/2018/ISFB/AG/MORP	Q 1	EUR 1 000 000

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

95 %

1.3. Procurement

The indicative overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2018 amounts to EUR 7.000.000.

LEGAL BASIS

Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 515/2014

BUDGET LINE

18 02 01 01

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged

- A study on the modernisation of the common visa policy, focusing on digitalisation (e.g. digital visas and online applications), including assessment of feasibility, costs and synergies with existing and future IT systems.
- A study on the new approach to the management of the identity data for borders and security where all centralised EU information system for security, border management and migration are interoperable, so that the system can be searched simultaneously using a European search portal, the systems use one shared biometric service and the system share a common identity repository.
- A study on the options for the systematic recording of border crossings of EU

citizens.

- A study on mobile applications for border control in order to study the use mobile devices by travellers entering the Schengen area for a short stay and by police for inland checks for compliance with short-stay migration rules.
- Feasibility studies in relation to the follow up of the evaluation report of the Schengen Information System (SIS) and the new proposals on SIS, for example, studies on the readiness and availability of new technologies for their introduction in SIS, studies aiming to reinforce the system's efficiency and effectiveness.
- The Commission shall commission an independent external evaluation to assess in particular: (a) the results achieved by the European Border and Coast Guard Agency having regard to its objectives, mandate and tasks; (b) the impact, effectiveness and efficiency of the Agency's performance and its working practices in relation to its objectives, mandate and tasks; (c) the implementation of European cooperation on coast guard functions; (d) the possible need to modify the mandate of the Agency; (e) the financial implications of any such modification. The evaluation shall include a specific analysis on the way the Charter and other relevant Union law has been complied with in the application of this Regulation.
- Expert meetings, technical workshops, seminars, surveys, evaluations, events, web maintenance, studies, information and communication activities and products in the field of border management and common visa policy.
- The open call for tender for a framework contract for impact assessments, evaluations and evaluations related services in the field of DG HOME policy areas.

Type of contracts

All activities will be implemented through specific contracts under the existing framework contracts.

Indicative number of contracts envisaged

Indicative number of contracts: 11

Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedures

Q 1- Q4

Implementation

Actions will be implemented by DG HOME.

1.4 Other Actions

The indicative overall budgetary allocation reserved for other actions in 2018 amounts to EUR 5.520.000.

1.4.1 Strengthening inter-agency cooperation between Customs Administrations and Border Guards through support to on the spot visits of Member States

LEGAL BASIS

Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 515/2014

Article 4 (e) of Regulation (EU) No 2016/1624

BUDGET LINE

18 02 01 01

Amount

EUR 400 000

Description and objective of the implementing measure

In 2013 Guidelines for the cooperation between Customs Administrations and Border Guards were prepared by the Commission in cooperation with member States. The Commission suggested an evaluation which is based on the reports submitted by the Member States every second year. Based on the reports, on-the-spots visits may be also organised. In February 2015 the Commission initiated the first step of evaluation of the Guidelines for the co-operation between Customs Administrations and Border Guards (TAXUD/A1/D (2015)604293). Member States were asked to complete a questionnaire which was based on the structure of the Guidelines. In accordance with the above mentioned Guidelines, on-the-spot visits led by the Commission will take place with a participation of limited number of Customs and Border Guard experts. The joint evaluation teams include two Commission officials (one from TAXUD and one from DG HOME) plus two Customs officials and two Border Guards from Member States. The new Guidelines for the cooperation between Customs Administrations and Border Guards are currently being drafted.

1.4.2 Implementing the Schengen Evaluation Mechanism

LEGAL BASIS

Article 13 (2) (a) of Regulation (EU) No 515/2014

BUDGET LINE

18 02 01 01

Amount

EUR 3 000 000

Description and objective of the implementing measure

These actions should support the preparatory, monitoring, administrative and technical activities, required to implement external borders and visa policies, including strengthening the governance of the Schengen area by implementing the evaluation mechanism as established by Council Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013 of 7 October 2013 establishing an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen acquis, in particular mission expenditure for experts of the Commission and the Member States participating in on site visits.

This includes trainings linked to the implementation of the Schengen Evaluation Mechanism (Schengen Evaluators' training – for experts from the Commission and the Member States who go to evaluations on the spot) as well as Communication and IT equipment necessary for implementing the Schengen Evaluation Mechanism.

The allocation will in particular cover mission expenditure for experts of the Commission and the Member States participating in on site visits in line with Article 13 (2) (a) of Regulation (EU) No 515/2014.

1.4.3 Administrative arrangement with the JRC

LEGAL BASIS

Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 515/2014

BUDGET LINE

18 02 01 01

Amount

EUR 2 000 000

Description and objective of the implementing measure

The action consist of the acquisition of the infrastructure, installation and trainings at JRC in order to create the official Schengen Masterlist and upload it to the International Civil Aviation Organisation's Public Key Directory and publish for operational use by Member States. The objective is to procure, implement and operate a system for a production version of the Schengen Master List.

Indicative timeframe for launching the other actions

Q 1- Q4

1.4.4 Corporate communication on the priorities of the Union

LEGAL BASIS

Article 13(2)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 515/2014

BUDGET LINE

18 02 01 01

Amount

EUR 120 000

Description and objective of the implementing measure

In 2018, corporate communication will focus mainly on the EU's contribution to jobs and growth putting a particular emphasis, inter alia, EU policy responses to challenges straddling internal and external actions, e.g. counterterrorism and migration.

The communication activities will include integrated communication campaigns, production of content, buying of advertising space, studies and evaluations, organisation of events, and provision of other corporate technical services (cf. C(2016)6838).

The actions will be implemented by the Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM) both by the representations and headquarters through approximately three direct and specific contracts implementing mainly DG COMM framework contracts (e.g. FWC PO/2015-16/A2).

Implementation

The action will be implemented via a co-delegation of budget from DG HOME to DG COMM.