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ANNEX 1

ANNEX

to the

Commission Implementing Decision

**Annual Work Programme for 2016 for support to Union actions under the Internal
Security Fund - Borders and Visa**

ANNEX

Internal Security Fund – Borders and Visa¹ - Union actions – Work Programme for 2016

Overview of the 2016 implementation

Budget lines	Total Amount
Budget line 18 02 01 01 – Support of border management and a common visa policy to legitimate travel	EUR 11 3500 000

Actions	Total Amount	% of the 2016 appropriations for AWP
Grants	EUR 6 400 000	56.4%
Procurement	EUR 2 200000	19.4%
Other actions	EUR 2 750 000	24.2%
TOTAL	EUR 11 350 000	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.

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 foreseen in Article 3(4) and Article 3(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 contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2016 as follows:

- for grants (implemented under direct management) (1.2):	EUR 6 400 000
- for procurement (implemented under direct management) (1.3):	EUR 2 200 000
- for other actions (1.4):	EUR 2 750 000
TOTAL:	EUR 11 350 000

1.2. Grants

1.2.1 Call for proposals to support the improvement of border surveillance by enhancing cooperation between Member States in the framework of EUROSUR, including, whenever appropriate, cooperation with third countries (especially neighbouring countries)

LEGAL BASIS

Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 515/2014

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

- Collection and exchange of information on the European Situational Picture and the Common Pre-frontier Intelligence Picture of EUROSUR, in order to prevent irregular departures of migrants and for early identification of smugglers, as foreseen in the EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling.
- Support to Member States capacities to detect and track small vessels
- Cooperation between neighbouring Member States and of Member States with third (mostly neighbouring) countries in the framework of EUROSUR

Description of the activities to be funded under the restricted call for proposals

- Improving MS reaction capability, including technical and operational capability to detect and track small vessels with view to preventing irregular migration and cross-border crime as well as reducing the loss of migrants' lives at the external maritime borders
- Enhancing cooperation with third countries, including by further development and upgrade of regional networks, with the aim of improving the process of information exchange at bi- or multilateral level (e.g. Seahorse, Black Sea Cooperation Forum, Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation)
- Cooperation activities between two or more Member States supporting exchange of the situational picture of neighbouring external border sections between the national coordination centres of neighbouring Member States.

Any measures under this heading will be implemented in full coordination and complementarity with other on-going activities, such as the 'Seahorse Mediterranean Network' project, funded from the Thematic Programme for Migration and Asylum, existing initiatives promoting integrated border management in third countries financed by external assistance instruments as well as ongoing civilian Missions under the Common Security and Defence Policy in support of third countries' border security.

Indicative duration of the actions: 24 months

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

These action grants will be awarded through a call for proposals restricted to the Member States participating in the Regulation (EU) 515/2014 in line with the objectives for 2016. Both mono-beneficiary and multi-beneficiary projects will be considered under this call.

The restricted call for proposals is justified by the specific characteristic of the action requiring the technical competence and a high degree of 'specialisation' and administrative power in the area of border management in accordance with article 190(1)(f) of the Rules of Application.

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/2016/ISFB/AG/ESUR	Q 4	EUR 5 850 000

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

95 %

1.2.2 Award of grant without a call for proposals to support the development of a new model of uniform format for residence permits for third country nationals

LEGAL BASIS

Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 515/2014

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The current uniform format for residence permits for third country nationals is based on Regulation (EC) 1030/2002 and has not changed in design or lay-out since it was adopted on the basis of Council Joint Action (97/11/JHA) in 1997.

Quite many sophisticated forgery attempts have been detected recently by several Member States. The current residence permit is deemed compromised. A new design needs to be developed to counteract forgeries and to make the residence permit for third country nationals more secure for legal border crossings, as in the Schengen area it substitutes a visa. Border guards will more easily detect forgeries with updated security features in a new common design. Spain has been selected to develop the new design and lay-out for the new uniform format for residence permits for third country nationals. Once the new technical specifications are set out in a Commission Implementing Decision, Spain will develop a “residence permit-kit” for every individual Member State, which will contain the drafts for the printing plates and all other technical material, which will enable the printing houses in Member States to produce the uniform residence permit as similar as possible, so that there are no substantive differences any longer between residence permits in circulation. This will also ease border controls.

Description of the activities to be funded under the restricted call for proposals

Development of a new design and security features for the uniform format for residence permits for third country nationals and preparation for the uniform implementation by Member States.

Indicative duration of the actions: 6 months

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

This action grant will be awarded directly without call for proposals following an invitation to Spain to submit a proposal, in accordance with article 190(1) (f) of the Rules of Application.

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 Spain has been responsible for the development of residence permit printing plates in the past. In order for the new residence permits to have a more uniform appearance, Spain will therefore be invited to create a new design for residence permits, to be applicable throughout the whole EU. This decision was supported by the Comitology committee referred to in Article 7 of Regulation (EC) 1030/2002 laying down a uniform format for residence permits (Article 6 committee).

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 grant awarded without a call for proposals

Reference	Date	Amount
HOME/2016/ISFB/AG/RESI	Q4	EUR 550 000

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

95 %

1.3. Procurement

The indicative overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2016 amounts to EUR 2 200 000.

Within the indicative budgetary envelope and in addition to the specific items mentioned below, information and communication activities with a view to further strengthen information on European issues in the borders and visa policy areas covered by this Fund, conferences and seminars may be held and studies, evaluation and impact assessments may be undertaken as far as they are needed in order to prepare, or accompany new legislation or to respond to policy changes in the area of borders and visa.

LEGAL BASIS

Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 515/2014

BUDGET LINE

18 02 01 01

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged

- Evaluation of the Immigration Liaison Officers Network established by the Council Regulation (EC) No 377/2004 and organization of expert meetings to support the evaluation
- Organisation of a series of national and regional workshops involving ILOs/EMLOs/EURLOs/other LO (e.g. Frontex/CT) in West Africa, East Africa, North Africa, Western Balkans, Middle East, South Asia, Far East, in order to support the capacity of the network of Migration Liaison Officers in third countries and enhancing their role in preventing irregular migration
- Study and proof of concept on the European Search Portal (ESP)
- Strengthening inter-agency cooperation between Customs Administrations and Border Guards through support to on the spot visits of Member States
- Workshops, Expert Meetings, (feasibility) studies and communication activities in relation with the follow up of the Communication of 6 April 2016 from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council entitled 'Stronger and Smarter Information Systems for Borders and security' or with the work of the High Level Expert Group established in accordance with this Communication
- Information and communication activities.

Type of contract

Specific contract based on an existing FWC

- Evaluation of the Immigration Liaison Officers Network established by the Council Regulation (EC) No 377/2004 and organisation of expert meetings to support the evaluation
- Organisation of a series of national and regional workshops involving ILOs/EMLOs/EURLOs/other LO (e.g. Frontex/CT) in West Africa, East Africa, North Africa, Western Balkans, Middle East, South Asia, Far East, in order to support the capacity of the network of Migration Liaison Officers in third countries and enhancing their role in preventing irregular migration
- Strengthening inter-agency cooperation between Customs Administrations and Border Guards through support to on the spot visits of Member States

- Workshops, Expert Meetings, (feasibility) studies and communication activities in relation with the follow up of the Communication of 6 April 2016 from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council entitled 'Stronger and Smarter Information Systems for Borders and security' or with the work of the High Level Expert Group established in accordance with this Communication
- Information and communication activities
- Communication and IT equipment necessary for developing and implementing the Schengen Evaluation Mechanism

Indicative number of contracts envisaged

All activities will consist of multiple contracts. Indicative number of contracts: 10

Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedures

Q 1-4

Implementation

Actions will be implemented by DG HOME.

1.4 Other Actions

1.4.1 Developing and 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 2 200 000

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 to strengthen the governance of the Schengen area by developing and 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 also 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).

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.

1.4.2 Improved coordination of research activities in the area of Home Affairs and in particular EUROSUR - Administrative arrangement with the Joint Research Centre (JRC)

LEGAL BASIS

Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 515/2014

BUDGET LINE

18 02 01 01

Amount

EUR 300 000

Description and objective of the implementing measure

The continuation of the administrative arrangement with the JRC will enable the improved coordination of research activities in the area of Home Affairs, in particular related to EUROSUR, and will ensure that these activities are better aligned with the relevant operational needs.

1.4.3 Assessment of the implementation of physical and electronic security features in travel documents - Administrative arrangement with the Joint Research Centre (JRC)

LEGAL BASIS

Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 515/2014

BUDGET LINE

18 02 01 01

Amount

EUR 250 000

Description and objective of the implementing measure

The Administrative Arrangement with the JRC will cover its support for assessing compliance with Council Regulation (EC) 2252/2004 on standards for security features and biometrics in passports and travel documents issued by Member States and with Regulation (EC) 1030/2002 laying down a uniform format for residence permits for third country nationals.