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ANNEX 1

ANNEX

to the

Commission Implementing Decision

Annual Work Programme for 2015 for support to Union actions and emergency assistance under the Internal Security Fund – Borders and Visa

ANNEX

Annual Work Programme for 2015 for support to Union actions and emergency assistance under the Internal Security Fund – Borders and Visa¹

Overview of the 2015 implementation

Budget lines	Amount for AWP 2015
Budget line 18 02 01 01 – Borders and Visa	16 937 000 €

Actions	Total Amount	% of the 2015 appropriations for AWP
Union Actions	9 217 000 €	54,4%
Emergency Assistance	7 720 000 €	45,6%
TOTAL	16 937 000 €	100,00 %

Implementation modalities	Total Amount	% of the 2015 appropriations for AWP	
Direct management	Grants	11 320 000 €	66,8%
	Procurement	2 317 000 €	13,7%
	Other actions	3 300 000 €	19,5%
TOTAL	16 937 000 €	100,00 %	

All EU 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 3 (5) of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 (Horizontal Regulation), 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 EU funds, in particular external assistance instruments. The identification and implementation of such actions is fully coordinated with EEAS and relevant Commission's 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 repealing decision No 574/2007/EC (OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 143).

BUDGET LINE 18 02 01 01: SUPPORT OF BORDER MANAGEMENT AND A COMMON VISA POLICY TO FACILITATE LEGITIMATE TRAVEL

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 this budget line, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2015 as follows:

Direct management	
- for grants (1.2):	11 320 000 €
- for procurement (1.3):	2 317 000 €
- other (1.4):	3 300 000 €
TOTAL:	16 937 000€

1.2 Grants

1.2.1 Call for proposals restricted to Member States 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
- Support to Member States capacities to detect and track small vessels
- Cooperation with third (mostly neighbouring) countries in the framework of EUROSUR

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

- Cooperation activities between two or more Member States supporting the regular and structured collection of information by Member States' embassies and consulates as well as by European Union delegations and offices which is relevant for maintaining the European Situational Picture and the Common Pre-frontier Intelligence Picture of EUROSUR.
- 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.

- Cooperation activities between two or more Member States supporting improvement of the technical and operational capability of the Member States to detect and track small vessels with a view to preventing irregular migration and cross-border crime, as well as to reducing the loss of migrants' lives at the external sea borders.
- Cooperation activities between two or more Member States aiming at supporting the information exchange and cooperation between Member States and third countries in the neighbourhood region for the purposes and in line with the requirements stipulated in the Regulation establishing EUROSUR. These activities may include actions related to developing, establishing, upgrading and maintaining bi-or multilateral information exchange and cooperation; regional networks; equipment for centres in third countries in the neighbourhood region which are similar to the EUROSUR national coordination centres in Member States, joint operations, including patrolling and surveillance activities; training, studies, pilot projects.

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 (IBM) in third countries financed by external assistance instruments as well as ongoing civilian Missions under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) in support of third countries' border security.

Indicative duration of the actions: up to 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 ISF Borders and Visa Regulation in line with the objectives for 2015. 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 'specialization' in the area of border management.

Selection criteria

The verification of the financial and operational capacity shall not apply to public bodies of the Member States in accordance with article 131 (3) of the Financial Regulation.

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(s) awarded without a call for proposals

Reference	Date	Amount
HOME/2015/ISFB/ESUR	Q2 2015	2 000 000 €

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

95 %

1.2.2 Call for proposals restricted to Member States to support consular cooperation

LEGAL BASIS

Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 515/2014

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Setting up or further development of consular co-operation between Member States, which would lead to a meaningful increase in Schengen visa processing coverage, reducing costs of Schengen States, increasing the visibility of the European Union and improving the service offered to visa applicants.

The actions planned for 2015 should - in particular - focus on third countries where none or only very few of the Schengen States are present for the purpose of issuing Schengen visas and on reducing costs for project partners (e.g. co-location).

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

Consular cooperation can take the shape of representation arrangements, co-location, establishing common application centres or any other form adapted to local circumstances. That includes also the possibility of financing mobile or itinerant solutions. The funding can be provided e.g. for the purposes of: renovating/refurbishing visa sections, adapting premises to the type of consular cooperation (e.g. co-location); purchasing equipment, software and security features; opening new visa sections, etc.

Projects consisting of the setting up or further development of meaningful consular co-operation between at least two Member States in relevant third countries where none or few of the Schengen States are present/represented for the purpose of issuing Schengen visas, may be funded.

Indicative duration of the actions: 18 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 ISF Borders and Visa for activities in line with the objectives for 2015. 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 'specialization' in the area of Schengen visa processing.

Selection criteria

The verification of the financial and operational capacity shall not apply to public bodies in accordance with article 131 (3) of the Financial Regulation.

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 restricted call for proposals

Reference	Date	Amount
HOME/2015/ISFB/CONS	Q3 2015	500 000 €

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

95 %

1.2.3 Call for proposals restricted to Member States for a field experiment on the creation/management of a Schengen Masterlist

LEGAL BASIS

Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 515/2014

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The authentication of an ePassport can only reliably be done through the use of Passive Authentication. This 'cryptographic' method verifies information in the ePassport against information previously collected from the Member State that issued the ePassport (the so called CSCA (Certified Supply Chain Analyst) certificate, which constitute the root of the trust chain). The collection of all these trusted Member State CSCA certificates is called a Masterlist. The concept and the structure of a Masterlist has been defined by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). Masterlists are produced and cryptographically signed by countries and made available normally through ICAO. At the moment, three Masterlists are published by Schengen countries in the ICAO directory, although only the one from

Germany seems to be regularly updated.

The Commission will identify two or three Member States that do not have a Masterlist, but do have ABC (Automated Border Control) eGates installed in at least one airport. Under this 'field experimentation' action, these Member States will be invited to adapt the existing infrastructure to be able to use the new Schengen Masterlist (built by JRC) at border-control. This action for Member States is thus connected to the action 1.4.2 where the JRC will implement this draft Masterlist.

This 'temporary' environment will serve as a test-bed for future projects leading to full usage of a Schengen Masterlist by all Member States at all border-control points.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded through a restricted call for proposals on the basis of article 190 RAP

The activities are all related to the installation or modification of hardware and software products during this 'field experimentation' phase, and will rely on existing capacities in the Member States involved in this action.

Indicative duration of the actions: 12 months

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

The two or three Member States will be identified and selected by the Commission based on:

- the absence of a Masterlist or its usage
- the presence of ABC eGates in an airport, actually working for EU citizens
- the presence of Framework Contracts and service providers which can directly be contracted without the need for a National call for tender
- (optional tbd) the participation in the SmartBorders pilot

These action grants will be awarded through a call for proposals restricted to Member States participating in the ISF Borders and Visa for activities in line with the objectives for 2015.

The restricted call for proposals is justified due to the very limited number of eligible Member States, by the specific characteristic of the action requiring the technical competence and a high degree of specialization in the area of border management which are only available at the level of the competent authorities of the Member States responsible for border management.

Selection criteria

The verification of the financial and operational capacity shall not apply to public bodies in accordance with article 131 (3) of the Financial Regulation.

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(s) awarded through a restricted call for proposals

Reference	Date	Amount
HOME/2015/ISFB/MSTR	Q3 2015	100 000 €

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

95 %

1.2.4 Direct award of an action grant to support the development of a new model of uniform format for visas

LEGAL BASIS

Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 515/2014

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The current uniform format for visas is based on Regulation (EC) 1683/95 and has not changed in design or lay-out for 20 years, ever since the Schengen members created it. Recently, many quite sophisticated forgery attempts were detected by several Member States and the visa sticker is deemed compromised. Germany has been selected to develop the new design and lay-out for the new uniform format for visas. Once the new technical specifications are set out in a Commission Implementing Decision, Germany will develop a “visa-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 to produce the uniform visa sticker as close as possible to the others, so that there are no longer substantive variants of visa sticker in circulation. This will also ease border control.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 RAP

Development of a new design and security features for the uniform format for visas and preparation for the 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 Germany to submit a proposal, in accordance with the provisions of article 128 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) N° 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) N° 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 specialization. The Comitology committee created by Article 6 of Regulation (EC) 1683/95 laying down a uniform format for visas (Article 6 committee) created a subgroup for the creation of a new design for the visa and residence permit. Member States were asked to present their design proposals. Five Member States presented their proposals and in the following delegations voted for the best proposal. As a result Germany collected most votes for the visa and Spain for the residence permit. Germany has consequently been selected as being responsible for the technical specifications of the uniform format for visas and for providing the basis, enabling the other Member States to produce the uniform format for visas as closely as possible to the design chosen.

Selection criteria

The verification of the financial and operational capacity shall not apply to public bodies in accordance with article 131 (3) of the Financial Regulation.

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(s) awarded without a call for proposals

Reference	Date	Amount
HOME/2015/ISFB/UNFO	Q3 2015	1 000 000 €

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

95 %

1.2.5 Direct award of action grants to provide emergency assistance

LEGAL BASIS

Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No 515/2014

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

- To address the urgent and exceptional migratory pressure faced by some Member States at their external borders
- Enhance solidarity by providing additional support to address emergency situations at the EU external border

Description and objective of the assistance to be provided

The ISF Borders and Visa shall provide financial assistance to address urgent and specific needs in the event of an emergency situation, resulting from an urgent and exceptional pressure where a large or disproportionate number of third country nationals cross or are expected to cross the external border of one or more Member States or any other duly substantiated situation requiring urgent action at external borders.

The indicative maximum duration of the grant will be 12 months.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

- Applications for emergency assistance can be submitted only by Member States, International Organisations or EU agencies. Other entities can be involved in the implementation of the action as co-applicants.
- Emergency assistance may support expenditure which was incurred prior to the date of submission of the request for assistance, if this is necessary for the successful implementation of the action and it is demonstrated that the emergency situation prevailed earlier than the submission of the request.

Selection criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 202 of the Rules of Application, proposals for action shall be evaluated on the basis of the following selection criteria:

- Financial capacity - Applicants and co-applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period during which the activity is being carried out and to participate in its funding.
- Operational capacity - Applicants and co-applicants must have the professional resources, competences and qualifications required to complete the proposed action.
- The verification of the financial and operational capacity shall not apply to public bodies and international organisations in accordance with Article 131(3) of the Financial Regulation.

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 relevance of the proposal with regards to the objectives and the expected impact of the proposed activities on the situation in the countries concerned.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

Indicative timetable and indicative amount of the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals

Reference	Date	Amount
HOME/2015/ISFB/EMAS		7 720 000 €

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

Up to 100%

1.3 Procurement

In 2015 the Commission intends to undertake several actions through contracts following public procurement (calls for tenders and using existing framework contracts).

The indicative overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2015 amounts to 2 317 000 €

Within the indicative budgetary envelope and in addition to the specific items mentioned below, information and communication activities² with a view to further strengthen information on European issues in the borders and visa policy areas covered by this Fund, conferences, 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) n° 515/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Instrument for financial support for external borders and visa (ISF - Borders and Visa)

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged and the indicative timetable

- 1) Regional training programmes for consular officials (Q3-Q4 2015)
- 2) Feasibility study on the European Observatory on External Borders (Q3-Q4)
- 3) Evaluation study on SIS II (Q2-Q3 2015)
- 4) Series of studies for the revision of the SIS II legislative framework (Q2-Q3 2015)
- 5) IT tool allowing remote and highly secured management of alerts linked to persons subject of restrictive measures (Q2-Q3 2015)
- 6) Meeting of the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG) of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) (Q2 2015)

² It is not foreseen at this stage that the Internal Security Fund – Borders and Visa contributes financially to corporate communication in 2015 in accordance with Article 13(2)(g) of the Regulation establishing the Fund. However, this is without prejudice to the fact that it shall do so in this or in future exercises, as agreed by the Commission in the Communication SEC(2013) 486 final of 23.9.2013.

7) Information and communication activities with a view to further strengthen information on European issues in the field of home affairs, such as actions related to the anniversary of the Schengen area, such as participation in the Open Day in May 2015, conference, brochures and information material, audiovisual support, traveling exhibition on borders or journalist seminars (Q2-Q4 2015)

8) Upgrading / maintenance of the existing IT tool calculating the short stay in the Schengen area or developing a new calculator

Within the indicative budgetary envelope and in addition to the above specific items conferences, 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.

Type of contract

New framework contract

- Regional training programmes for consular officials

Total value of the contract: EUR 4 million

Specific contract based on an existing framework contract

- Evaluation study on SIS II
- Series of studies for the revision of the SIS II legislative framework
- IT tool allowing remote and highly secured management of alerts linked to persons subject of restrictive measures
- Information and communication activities

Low value contract

- Meeting of the New Technologies Working Group (NTWG) of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)
- Upgrading / maintenance of the existing IT tool calculating the short stay in the Schengen area or developing a new calculator

Open procedure

- Feasibility study on the European Observatory on External Borders

Indicative number of contracts envisaged

For all the foreseen actions a single contract is envisaged, except for the action 'Information and communication activities' which will consist of multiple contracts.

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 (a) of Regulation (EU) No 515/2014

Amount

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 to strengthen the governance of the Schengen area by developing and implementing the evaluation mechanism as established by the Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013 on the establishment of an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen acquis and the Schengen Borders Code, 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.

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 the ISF Borders and Visa Regulation. The allocation will also cover expenditures related to communication and IT equipment necessary to perform and document the visits as well as costs of the organisation of relevant training.

1.4.2 Small scale pilot testing the approach for a possible implementation of processes for the Schengen Masterlist management - 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

100 000 €

Description and objective of the implementing measure

The actions implemented by JRC will support a small scale pilot testing the approach for a possible implementation of processes for the Schengen Masterlist management for ePassport authentication. This action is linked with the action in 1.1.4. The Member States involved in the pilot should be able to use in production the Master list developed by the JRC.

1.4.3 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

Amount

200 000 €

Description and objective of the implementing measure

A new administrative arrangement with the JRC enabling to continue the improved coordination of research activities in the area of Home Affairs, in particular related to Eurosur, and ensuring that these activities are better aligned with the relevant operational needs.