



Brussels, 26 November 2021  
C (2021) 8460

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 26 November 2021**

**on the financing of the components of the Thematic Facility under the Internal Security  
Fund and the adoption of the work programme for 2021 and 2022**

## COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

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### on the financing of the components of the Thematic Facility under the Internal Security Fund and the adoption of the work programme for 2021 and 2022

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/1149 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Internal Security Fund and in particular Article 8(7) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the components of the thematic facility under the Internal Security Fund, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for 2021 and 2022. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) In accordance with Article 34(3) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1149 establishing the Internal Security Fund and Article 193(2), second subparagraph, point (a) of the Financial Regulation, and in order to avoid any disruption in Union support which could be prejudicial to the Union's interests, costs incurred in respect of actions supported under this Decision under direct management and which have already begun may be considered eligible for financing as of 1 January 2021, even if those costs were incurred before the grant application or the request for assistance was submitted. The same rules apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the eligibility of activities and costs under indirect management.
- (3) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU.
- (4) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (5) Pursuant to Article 62(1), point (c) of the Financial Regulation indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the programme. Pursuant to Article 62(1), point (b) of the Financial Regulation shared management is to be used for the implementation of the programme, and in particular for the implementation of the specific actions.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

- (6) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regard to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of the Financial Regulation. To this end, such entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of the Financial Regulation and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of the Financial Regulation before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (7) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (8) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (9) In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of Protocol No 22 on the position of Denmark, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Denmark did not take part in the adoption of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1149 and is not bound by it or subject to its application. Denmark is therefore not bound by this Decision or subject to its application.
- (10) In accordance with Article 3 of Protocol No 21 on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland in respect of the area of freedom, security and justice, annexed to the TEU and to the TFEU, Ireland has notified its wish to take part in the adoption and application of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1149. It is therefore bound by this Decision.
- (11) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee for the Home Affairs Funds established by Article 33 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1149,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*  
*The work programme*

The multiannual financing decision, constituting the multiannual work programme for the implementation of the the components of the thematic facility under the Internal Security Fund for the years 2021 and 2022, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

*Article 2*  
*Union contribution*

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the work programme for the years 2021 and 2022 referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 163 407 025.76 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of the general budget of the Union:

- (a) budget line 12 02 01: EUR 69 507 025.76 for 2021 and EUR 96 400 000 for 2022;

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2022 following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority.

### *Article 3*

#### *Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons*

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annex, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4 of that Annex.

### *Article 4*

#### *Flexibility clause*

Cumulated changes to the allocations to actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and the objective of the work programme. The increase of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this Decision shall not exceed 20%.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

### *Article 5*

#### *Grants*

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annex. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in the Annex.

Done at Brussels,

*For the Commission*

*Ylva JOHANSSON*

*Member of the Commission*



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ANNEX

ANNEX

*to the*

**Commission Implementing Decision**

**on the financing of the components of the Thematic Facility under the Internal Security Fund and the adoption of the work programme for 2021 and 2022**

## ANNEX

### *1. Introduction*

On the basis of the objectives given in Regulation (EU) No 2021/1149 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Internal Security Fund, this work programme contains, with regards to the thematic facility components, the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for the years 2021 and 2022 as follows:

- a) for grants (implemented under direct management) (point 2),
- b) for procurement (implemented under direct management) (point 3),
- c) for actions implemented under indirect management (point 4),
- d) for actions implemented under shared management (point 5),
- e) for other actions or expenditure (point 6).

Financial assistance to be provided in the event of an emergency situation<sup>1</sup> is described in points 2 and 4.

#### a) Legal basis

Regulation (EU) No 2021/1149 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Internal Security Fund
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In line with Article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1149, eligible entities established in a Member State (or an overseas country or territory linked to it) participating in the Internal Security Fund (hereinafter referred to as ISF) and international organisations can receive EU financing under ISF supported actions implemented under direct or indirect management. These are all Member States with the exception of Denmark; entities established in Denmark can participate on a no-cost basis only. Eligible entities established in a third country may be eligible for ISF funding under the conditions specified in Article 19(3).

In line with Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1149, all activities implemented under the work programme for 2021 and 2022 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 will be ensured. In accordance with Articles 5(3) and 19 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1149, actions in and in relation with third countries will be carried out in synergy and full coherence with the principles and general objectives of the Union's external action, its foreign policy and its international cooperation policy and their actions outside the Union supported from Union funds, in particular external instruments such as Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions as relevant. Such actions are identified and implemented in full coordination

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<sup>1</sup> Article [25] of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1149

with the European External Action Service (EEAS) and relevant Commission external relations services, especially with the Directorates-General for International Partnerships (INTPA), Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR), and the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) throughout their numerous programmes and projects under the different instruments whereby actions on counter terrorism, organised crime, critical infrastructure protection, combating and preventing crime, including drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings and combating cross-border criminal smuggling networks etc. will help the actions foreseen in this Decision to be more effective, by reinforcing the internal-external security nexus. Likewise, actions will be implemented in full coordination with the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) as far as humanitarian assistance is concerned. They will be fully consistent with and, where relevant, complement the Union’s humanitarian policy, and respect the principles set out in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid<sup>2</sup>.

Actions will be implemented taking into account the political priorities set out in the conclusions adopted by the European Council at its meeting on 24-25 June 2021.

Budget line(s)

12 02 01
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<b>Implementation arrangements</b>	<b>Budget line 12 02 01</b>
Grants (including potential emergency assistance)	EUR 77 536 325.76
Procurement	EUR 55 690 700
Indirect management <sup>3</sup> (including potential emergency assistance)	EUR 7 800 000
Shared management	EUR 22 000 000
Other actions and expenditure	EUR 2 880 000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>EUR 165 907 025.76</b>

Objectives pursued

<sup>2</sup> *The European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid*, Joint Statement by the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission 2008/C 25/01 (OJ C 25, 30.1.2008, p. 1).

<sup>3</sup> Part of the potential emergency assistance can be transferred from grants to indirect management and vice versa.

The overall policy objective<sup>4</sup> of the Internal Security Fund is to contribute to ensuring a high level of security in the Union, in particular:

- by preventing and combating terrorism and radicalisation, serious and organised crime, and cybercrime;
- by assisting and protecting victims of crime; as well as
- by preparing for, protecting against and effectively managing security-related incidents, risks and crises within the scope of the Regulation.

#### Expected results

The work programme, via the support provided from the thematic facility, will contribute to addressing the challenges and needs involved in meeting the objectives of the Internal Security Fund, and more specifically will contribute to:

- improved and facilitated exchange of information between and within the relevant authorities and Union bodies and, where relevant, with third countries and international organisations;
- improved and intensified cross-border cooperation, including joint operations, between competent authorities in relation to terrorism and serious and organised crime with a cross-border dimension;
- the strengthening of Member States' capabilities in relation to preventing and combating crime, terrorism and radicalisation as well as managing security-related incidents, risks and crises
- increased cooperation between public authorities, relevant Union bodies, offices or agencies, civil society and private partners in different Member States.

#### Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming

The Fund should support activities that respect the climate and environmental standards and priorities of the Union and would do no significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>5</sup>. The financial assistance provided through the Internal Security Fund will aim at preventing serious and organised crime, including environmental crime.

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<sup>4</sup> Article 3(1) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1149

<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (OJ L 198, 22.6.2020, p. 13).



## 2. Grants

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is EUR 77 536 325.76 .

### 2.1. Direct Award for exchanges of police records

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

According to the EU Security Union Strategy, cooperation and information sharing are the most powerful tools to combat crime and pursue justice. In 2017, the Commission supported a pilot project EPRIS-ADEP (ISFP-2016-AG-IBA-EPRIS), which tested the outcomes and recommendations of the Commission feasibility study on EPRIS<sup>6</sup> by a small number of Member States led and managed by FR (FR, DE, FI, IE, ES): a system was developed and tested, which allows, through an index, to see if police records on a given person exist in one or several other Member States. The automated reply to a search in the index would only indicate whether data is available or not; a so-called "hit" or "no hit" reply. In case of a "hit", additional personal data can be requested in a second step, via Europol's Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA).

Germany (applicant) manages and coordinates the current overall project (ISFP-2018-AG-IBA-EPRIS) with the support of all co-applicants (BE, ES, FI, FR and IE). Germany is well prepared for the management and coordination of the project because of its experience from previous ADEP and other European projects (e.g. UMF3plus). These Member States<sup>7</sup> were also involved in the previous EPRIS-ADEP project and they have been working closely together for several years.

The choice of direct award as implementation mode is in line with the Financial Regulation, notably specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the actions concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals. The activities can be carried out and the technical solution deployed only by Member States' law enforcement authorities and Europol<sup>8</sup>. Specific expertise and technical knowledge have been built up and should be leveraged to further develop the technical processes for the exchange of information on police records between the Member States and with Europol.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals, in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation (grants for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of

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<sup>6</sup> Study on possible ways to enhance efficiency in the exchange of police records between the Member States by setting up a European Police Records Index System EPRIS, produced by Unisys IRCP on 8 October 2012.

<sup>7</sup> Belgium was involved as an observer then, but now as an active participant.

<sup>8</sup> Europol tests the EPRIS software solution from the perspective of a central IT service provider and also from an end-user perspective. It does not have any access to the real data of the Member States.

a call for proposals).

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

In 2019, the Commission supported a follow-up project (ISFP-2018-AG-IBA-EPRIS), which further developed the pilot project by establishing the business-related processes and preparedness for the rollout of the system, the extension to additional Member States and the automation of certain steps of the procedures related to the exchange of personal information after a confirmed hit between the Member States and with Europol.

Although the follow-up project has reached a good level of maturity and has developed a working technical solution for the exchanges of police records, the Commission is interested in the testing of a rollout capable system in an operational environment between project participants. Additionally, activities to be funded must focus on further refinement of the technical solution and business processes. A good community around this project was established and should be maintained in order to preserve the specific expertise and technical knowledge acquired. This community ideally will be extended to additional Member States. A close cooperation with Europol must be maintained.

The activities must also focus on further developing EPRIS for the potential inclusion of the exchange of police records in the Prüm framework and alignment to its specificities.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

## **2.2. Call for proposals on better law enforcement in the area of illicit drug trafficking and serious organised crime and on support to demand-focused initiatives in the fields of drug policy**

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Legal entities such as:

- Public bodies,
- Non-profit making private entities
- Profit making private entities
- International organisations

The list may be further restricted in the calls for proposals. In particular, some categories may be only eligible as co-applicant.

#### Geographical conditions:

- Legal entities established in a Member State participating in the ISF (all EU Member States except Denmark) or an overseas country or territory linked to it can participate in this call for proposals.
- International organisations may be established outside the Member States participating in the ISF.
- Legal entities (other than international organisations) established in third countries can participate in this call for proposals under the conditions established in Article 24 of the ISF.
  - o only as part of a consortium composed of at least two independent entities, at least one of which is established in a Member State
  - o only for the third countries which are relevant for the call for proposals in view of the most recent security threats. These countries will be further specified in the calls for proposals.

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

Activities aiming at enhancing cooperation between EU Member States or EU Member States and third countries located along drug trafficking routes to and from the EU, in particular by supporting joint initiatives on knowledge, detection, investigation and prosecution of drugs trafficking and serious organised crime. In addition, activities relevant to evidence-based targeted prevention for young people and other vulnerable groups, as well as prevention of organized crime that could address links with other security threats or crime.

#### Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

### **2.3. Direct Award for the development and pilot delivery of encryption-related training modules through the European Cybercrime Training and Education Group**

#### Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The European Cybercrime Training and Education Group (ECTEG - <https://www.ecteg.eu>) is composed of 23 law enforcement agencies from 16 European Union and European Economic Area Member States, international bodies, academia (15), and industry. It is a unique and highly specialised entity that is able to develop training programmes for law enforcement staff taking into account its real needs, leading to an improved quality and harmonisation of all training materials for law enforcement. The key role of ECTEG in developing training

materials for law enforcement experts was acknowledged in the EU Agenda to Tackle Organised Crime 2021-2025 (COM(2021) 170 final), as well as in several other strategic documents. ECTEG has been active in developing training materials for law enforcement practitioners in the area of cybercrime and digital investigations since 2001 (it has become an informal group in 2009 and since 2016 it has been an International Non-Profit Association), acquiring longstanding experience and creating solid working relationships with national Law Enforcement Authorities, Europol and CEPOL, which are involved in their activities and contribute to maximize the impact of projects. ECTEG develops training materials to be made available (free of charges) to CEPOL and all EU Law Enforcement Authorities (also beyond ECTEG members), capitalising on considerable economies of scale.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals, in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation (grants for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals).

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The Commission committed in the 11th Security Union Progress Report<sup>9</sup> to provide funding for the development and pilot delivery of training programmes for law enforcement and judicial authorities to allow them to obtain information from encrypted data when encountered in criminal investigations. A whole course integrating and updating the content developed as individual modules (funded by the ISF-Police grant under the work programme for 2018) has been created, taking into account feedback from the pilot delivery of the modules. The aim of the course is to provide a sustainable training package to allow Member States to develop their own capacity building at national level. The pilot delivery of the overarching course will provide feedback that will be taken into account before the course is finalised and provided to Member States and CEPOL, involving also the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN) when the judicial authorities are concerned.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

#### **2.4. Call for proposals on actions against trafficking in human beings**

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<sup>9</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52017DC0608>

## Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

### Legal entities:

- Public bodies (including local and regional authorities or European groupings of territorial cooperation)<sup>10</sup>, or, by the competent authority's mandate, a public or non-public implementing agency or body of a Member State participating in the ISF
- Non-profit making private entities

The list may be further restricted in the calls for proposals. In particular, some categories may be only eligible as co-applicant.

### Geographical conditions:

- Legal entities established in a Member State participating in the ISF (all EU Member States except Denmark) or an overseas country or territory linked to it can participate in this call for proposals.

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

The action relates to the priority of the EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in human beings 2021-2025 for breaking the criminal model to halt victims' exploitation, for effective operational means against the criminal business model and to increase prosecutions and convictions by tackling the culture of impunity. It will focus on supporting cross-border cooperation between law enforcement and judicial bodies, capacity building and reinforce multi-agency and multi-disciplinary cooperation and coordination at national and transnational level, including simulation exercises.

## Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

## 2.5. Direct Award to the EU High Risk Security Network

### Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Established as a direct deliverable to the 2017 EU Action Plan for Support in Protection of Public Spaces, the EU High Risk Security Network connects 22 members from European operational units of law enforcement or (para) military units tasked with the prevention, detection, armed protection and securing of civil critical infrastructure, soft targets and

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<sup>10</sup> set up in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1082/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 July 2006 on a European grouping of territorial cooperation (EGTC), OJ L 210 31.7.2006, p. 19, provided the applying EGTC is considered a public body under the law of the Member State where it has its registered office

transport hubs against acts of terror and violence.

Due to its composition, the EU High Risk Security Network represents a highly specialised body that can significantly contribute to the strengthening of the capabilities and capacities of the relevant law enforcement units, contributing to a better level of preparedness and security amongst all Member States.

The relevant national authority appointed as chair of the network for 2021-23 will be applying for the grant on behalf of the network.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals, in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation (grants for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals).

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

As announced in the 2017 EU Action Plan for Support in Protection of Public Spaces the objective of the EU High Risk Security Network and this action is to support Member States to enhance preparation and resilience to possible terrorist attacks, which requires activities with specific characteristics to be coordinated by the EU High Risk Security Network. These activities will focus on the prevention, detection and response to the first phase of a possible terrorist attack by sharing and cross-training knowledge on tactics, techniques, standard operating procedures, threat/risk assessments as well as (predictive) profiling.

Building on experiences from other police networks which are tasked with other duties (ex. ATLAS), the HRSN different technical subgroups organising the practical/training activities in those field (ex. risk assessments, CBRN-E detection, UAV-unmanned aerial vehicles, command and control etc.) will also be available to other networks and create better synergy, avoid duplication as well as offer better dissemination of the products to the relevant actors.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

## **2.6. Direct Award to AQUAPOL**

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

AQUAPOL represented by the French *Gendarmerie nationale*, is a network of maritime- and inland navigation related law enforcement authorities from EU member states and countries

outside the EU as partners. It aims to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of maritime-and inland shipping related law enforcement in Europe and to contribute to a more harmonised approach of enforcement in this domain. As a result of this transnational cooperation, the network possesses a unique technical competence in the area maritime-and inland navigation, thus contributing to a safe, secure and environmentally friendly transport over water.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

According to the EU Security Union Strategy, the objective of this action is to strengthen operational police cooperation in the area of maritime- and inland navigation. The achievement of this objective requires undertaking a number of activities with specific characteristics that is best implemented by the AQUAPOL Network, in complementarity with the EMPACT strategy and other law enforcement agencies such as Europol as well as other law enforcement networks.

Within the new Counter-Terrorism agenda, these activities include in particular counterterrorism-focused activities such as chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) detection actions, actions addressing the issue of insider threat or aiming at improvement of protection of ships and maritime port installations (public spaces) against potential terrorist attacks.

## Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

### **2.7. Direct Award to the EU Air Marshalls network (EIFS-EU Inflight Security)**

#### Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The EU Air Marshalls Network, represented by the Inflight Security Officers units (known otherwise as Air Marshalls) of the Member States (current chair: Germany), consists of EU Member States participating in the International Inflight Security Officer Committee. The EU network aims to enhance expertise and efficiency of the EU Inflight Security Officers. Due to its composition, the Air Marshalls Network represents a highly specialised body that can significantly contribute to the strengthening of the capabilities and capacities of the individual inflight security officers units, as well as enhance the much needed cooperation and standardisation, thus increasing aviation security beyond just the ground security measures.

The relevant national authority appointed as chair of the network for 2021-23 will be applying for the grant on behalf of the network.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals, in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation (grants for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals).

#### Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The objective of the action is to further enhance the aviation security beyond the existing ground security measures and to build preparedness against the emerging threats. The planned activities requires to undertake activities with specific characteristics enhancing expertise and efficiency of Inflight Security Officers, such as specialised common trainings, international coordination and response to emerging threats.

## Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.



## **2.8. Direct Award to the European Network of Fugitive Active Search Team (ENFAST)**

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

An informal European Network of Fugitive Active Search Teams (ENFAST) was created in November 2010 following the Resolution on ENFAST by the Council of 8-9 November 2010. All EU Member States are members of ENFAST. According to ENFAST Constitution (as adopted on 12 February 2020), ENFAST Partner status is available to countries and international police organisations that are not members of the EU as long as the cooperation helps achieving the goals and objectives of ENFAST.

ENFAST aspires to increase the security within the European Union by optimising the efficiency in tracing and arresting internationally wanted serious criminals. An important operational asset of ENFAST is that all necessary information aiming to arrest the person of interest sought by law enforcement agencies, can be exchanged through the Network 24/7.

The co-operation between the European Fugitive Active Search Teams and its partners is nevertheless to be reinforced by creating a permanent network of experts in the field. Learning from other Member States' experiences and common practical activities/operations furthermore lays down a solid ground for successful future cooperation.

ENFAST main task is tracing fugitives who are either convicted or are subject to ongoing investigations. ENFAST operates on the basis of an international search request warrant, with a view to locate and arrest these fugitives.

The national authority holding the rotating presidency of the network in 2021-23 will be applying for the grant on behalf of the network.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals, in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation (grants for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals).

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

Activities that can be funded include the organisation of conferences, operational meetings and workshops, exchange of best practices and operational experiences aiming to facilitate the location and arrest of fugitives in the EU. Moreover, activities in support of the use of the Europol's Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA) for secure information exchange, and in support for further development of the website "European Most Wanted" are mostly welcomed. These activities should strengthen cooperation between all Member States within the ENFAST network, facilitate joint actions to locate and arrest persons within the framework of the European Arrest Warrant and develop the knowledge on operational tactics

and works.

#### Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

### **2.9. Call for proposals to support small companies in implementing the regulation to address the dissemination of terrorist content online**

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Legal entities such as:

- Public bodies,
- Non-profit making private entities
- Profit making private entities
- International organisations

The list may be further restricted in the calls for proposals. In particular, some categories may be only eligible as co-applicant.

Geographical conditions:

- Legal entities established in a Member State participating in the ISF (all EU Member States except Denmark) or an overseas country or territory linked to it can participate in this call for proposals.
- International organisations may be established outside the Member States participating in the ISF.
- Legal entities (other than international organisations) established in third countries can participate in this call for proposals under the conditions established in Article 24 of the ISF.
  - o only as part of a consortium composed of at least two independent entities, at least one of which is established in a Member State
  - o only for the third countries which are relevant for the call for proposals in view of the advanced competences outside the EU. These countries will be further specified in the calls for proposals.

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

Support small companies in detecting and removing terrorist content online, to support the implementation of the Regulation to address the dissemination of terrorist content online (TCO Regulation), to be applied from June 2022.

Big tech companies have the resources and tools to identify and verify terrorist content. Smaller companies lack these resources and a lack of support may lead terrorists moving content to such platforms, or to the erroneous removal of content in an attempt to comply with the TCO regulation. Some smaller platforms cooperate with Europol and other organisations to build their capacity to address terrorist content, but a considerable number of smaller platforms will need to build capacity to put in place specific measures to address the misuse of their platforms by terrorists.

## Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

### **2.10. Direct Award to the European Cybercrime Training and Education Group for developing training materials, experts certification schemes, knowledge sources**

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The European Cybercrime Training and Education Group (ECTEG) is composed of 23 law enforcement agencies from 16 European Union and European Economic Area Member States, international bodies, academia (15), and industry. It is a unique and highly specialised entity that is able to develop training programmes for law enforcement staff taking into account its real needs, leading to an improved quality and harmonisation of all training materials for law enforcement. The key role of ECTEG in developing training materials for law enforcement experts was acknowledged in the EU Agenda to Tackle Organised Crime 2021-2025 (COM(2021)170 final), as well as in several other strategic documents. ECTEG has been active in developing training materials for law enforcement practitioners in the area of cybercrime and digital investigations since 2001 (it has become an informal group in 2009 and since 2016 it is an International Non-Profit Association), acquiring longstanding experience and creating solid working relationships with national Law Enforcement Authorities, Europol and CEPOL, which are involved in their activities and contribute to maximize the impact of projects.

ECTEG develops training materials to be made available (free of charges) to all EU LEAs (also beyond ECTEG members), capitalising on considerable economies of scale (if each EU country had to develop the training materials at national level, costs would increase by 27 times. In past projects, ECTEG has already showed added value by, for instance, producing (and when relevant piloting) training materials addressing law enforcement needs across, including specifically online materials targeting ‘first responders’, the continuous development of standards for IT crime trainings for specialised police officers across EU law enforcement and the support of training activities that law enforcement authorities deliver (for example, by making available the necessary IT infrastructure).

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals, in line with Article 195 (f) of the

Financial Regulation (grants for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals).

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The activities to be funded by the grant include:

- Developing, updating and when relevant piloting training materials to be made available (free of charges) to CEPOL and all EU Law Enforcement Authorities (also beyond ECTEG members) as well as to judicial training authorities in EU Member States and EJTN as their network, where relevant,
- Developing, updating and when relevant piloting online materials targeting ‘first responders’,
- Developing standards for IT crime trainings for specialised police officers across EU law enforcement
- Developing certification requirements for the different profiles of law enforcement specialists
- Supporting of training activities that law enforcement authorities deliver (for example, by making available the necessary IT infrastructure).

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

## **2.11. Direct Award for the European Explosive Ordnance Disposal Network (EEODN)**

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The European Explosive Ordnance Disposal Network (EEODN) is one deliverable of the European Union’s policy on the fight against terrorism. Through the EEODN, the knowledge in the field of explosives and chemical, biological, radiological/nuclear (CBRN) security is being developed and enhanced, by facilitating the sharing of best practices among EU experts. The EEODN was established as requested in the 2008 EU Action Plan on Enhancing the Security of Explosives. Since then, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and CBRN experts have met 1-2 times a year to discuss the existing threats from the illicit use of explosives and CBRN agents. EEODN is the only EU-level network which develops the technical skills of the

bomb technicians dealing with different types of threats and provides the crucial forum for intelligence sharing on different explosive and CBRN bomb designs and terrorist trends discovered not only in EU but also in the world. Among other activities, the participants receive updates on recent attacks involving the use of homemade explosives (HME) and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). They work together on improving techniques to render safe improvised explosive devices, sharing their invaluable experience gained worldwide in three different continents. EEODN is a deliverable of the above-mentioned EU Action Plan on Enhancing the Security of Explosives, but also supports the implementation of the EU CBRN Action Plan as it integrated the fight against the CBRN threat into the network goals, and created two specialised working groups: one for explosives and another one for CBRN. Both working groups are exchanging their expertise and best practices under the common umbrella of the EEODN, which amended its protocol to reflect these changes.

For the purpose of this grant, EEODN will be represented by a law enforcement authority from one of the EU Member States selected based on the following criteria:

- the law enforcement authority has to be a recognised EOD/IEDD or CBRN Competent Authority from an EU Member State;
- the law enforcement authority has to be pre-approved by the EEODN Management Board, with all its activities addressed to the EEODN community of experts.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals, in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation (grants for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals).

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The objective of the action is to organise specialised trainings focused on development of the technical skills of the bomb technicians dealing with different types of threats.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

## **2.12. Direct Award to Conflict Armament Research-BV for iTRACE plus**

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Conflict Armament Research BV is a non-governmental organisation which is part of the CAR group, whose investigation teams work on the ground in active armed conflicts. The teams document weapons at the point of use and track their sources back through the chains of supply. Investigations on the ground require a great deal of technical expertise to maintain the highest evidentiary standards. Conflict Armament Research has built up this unique expertise over the years, as well as relations with state security forces that allow for fieldwork in areas recently surrendered or still held by insurgent forces.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals, in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation (grants for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals).

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The objective of the action is to provide data on access to and the deployment of dangerous substances and explosives by terrorist networks. This is achieved by deploying teams of investigators to conflict-afflicted areas. These investigators will document diverted chemical precursors, explosives precursors, and improvised explosive device (IED) components recovered by national and other security forces in conflict areas, for the purpose of tracing their chains of custody with manufacturers, distributors, and intended end users. They will analyse the evidence gathered and publish relevant reports.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

### **2.13. Call for proposals on the fight against corruption**

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Legal entities such as:

- Public bodies,
- Non-profit making private entities
- Profit making private entities
- International organisations

The list may be further restricted in the calls for proposals. In particular, some categories may

be only eligible as co-applicant.

Geographical conditions:

- Legal entities established in a Member State participating in the ISF (all EU Member States except Denmark) or an overseas country or territory linked to it can participate in this call for proposals.
- International organisations may be established outside the Member States participating in the ISF.
- Legal entities (other than international organisations) established in third countries can participate in this call for proposals under the conditions established in Article 24 of the ISF.
  - o only as part of a consortium composed of at least two independent entities, at least one of which is established in a Member State
  - o only for the third countries which are relevant for the call for proposals in view of the most recent security threats. These countries will be further specified in the calls for proposals.

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

Activities supporting the prevention of corruption, including specifically, risk assessments and other preventive measures to counter corruption especially in corruption-prone high-risk sectors, such as public procurement; further, activities supporting civil society and citizens in exposing corruption and other serious crime, including the provision of legal aid and assistance to whistle-blowers, as well as corruption-specific research and activities to foster the analysis and use of robust statistics on corruption for evidence-based policy-making. Activities supporting the repression of corruption, including tackling the misuse of financial and professional services to launder the proceeds of corruption, strengthening the digitalisation of law enforcement and the wider justice chain as well as police's investigative capacities with regard to new methods used by criminals and criminal networks, including in the dark web.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

#### **2.14. Call for proposals for actions on the protection of public spaces (including public spaces, CBRN-E, unmanned aircraft system).**

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Legal entities such as:

- Public bodies,
- Non-profit making private entities
- Profit making private entities (including non-public implementing agencies, industrial or service/consultant companies)
- International organisations

The list may be further restricted in the calls for proposals. In particular, some categories may be only eligible as co-applicant.

Geographical conditions:

- Legal entities established in a Member State participating in the ISF (all EU Member States except Denmark) or an overseas country or territory linked to it can participate in this call for proposals.
- International organisations may be established outside the Member States participating in the ISF.

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

Activities aimed at supporting the implementation of the EU Counter-Terrorism Agenda, in the areas of:

- the improvement of the protection of public spaces, particularly on enhanced public-private cooperation, the development and implementation of good practices listed in the Commission Staff Working Document “Good practices to support the protection of public spaces” and on the local dimension,
- the protection against CBRN-E threats,
- work on detection,
- the development of urban strategies aimed at mitigating the risks posed by non-cooperative UAS (drones) increasing the awareness in the chemical supply chain of restrictions and rules on explosives precursors
- better understanding of what makes certain transactions of explosives precursors suspicious, including in an online setting

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

**2.15. Call for proposals on the prevention of child sexual abuse, assistance to victims of child sexual abuse and tools to detect child sexual abuse online.**



## Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Legal entities such as:

- Public bodies,
- Non-profit making private entities
- Profit making private entities (including non-public implementing agencies, industrial or service/consultant companies)
- International organisations

The list may be further restricted in the calls for proposals. In particular, some categories may be only eligible as co-applicant.

Geographical conditions:

- Legal entities established in a Member State participating in the ISF (all EU Member States except Denmark) or an overseas country or territory linked to it can participate in this call for proposals.
- International organisations may be established outside the Member States participating in the ISF.
- Legal entities (other than international organisations) established in third countries can participate in this call for proposals under the conditions established in Article 24 of the ISF.
  - o only as part of a consortium composed of at least two independent entities, at least one of which is established in a Member State
  - o only for the third countries which are relevant for the call for proposals in view of specific competences and expertise in fight against child sexual abuse not existing in the EU, such as the United States, Canada, Australia. These countries will be further specified in the calls for proposals.

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

The activities to be funded include:

- Activities aiming to develop specific technical tools to fight CSA online, including possibly technical solutions to detect CSA in E2EE electronic communications
- Activities supporting implementation of child sexual abuse (CSA) Strategy actions on prevention, specifically aiming to decrease the prevalence of child sexual abuse such as initiatives aimed at (potential) offenders and improving knowledge about the perpetration process.
- Activities supporting implementation of CSA Strategy actions on support to victims, in particular actions aiming to improve the access to and quality of support to victims of child sexual abuse in the EU and improving the knowledge about victim's needs.

## Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

### **2.16. Call for proposals on Cybercrime and Digital investigations.**

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Legal entities such as:

- Public bodies (including academia and law enforcement authorities, judicial bodies or authorities),
- Non-profit making private entities
- Profit making private entities (including non-public implementing agencies, industrial or service/consultant companies)
- International organisations

The list may be further restricted in the calls for proposals. In particular, some categories may be only eligible as co-applicant. Participation of law enforcement authorities or judicial bodies or authorities will be compulsory.

Geographical conditions:

- Legal entities established in a Member State participating in the ISF (all EU Member States except Denmark) or an overseas country or territory linked to it can participate in this call for proposals.
- International organisations may be established outside the Member States participating in the ISF.
- Legal entities (other than international organisations) established in third countries can participate in this call for proposals under the conditions established in Article 24 of the ISF.
  - o only as part of a consortium composed of at least two independent entities, at least one of which is established in a Member State
  - o only for the third countries which are relevant for the call for proposals in view of the most recent relevant EU threat assessments. These countries will be further specified in the calls for proposals.

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

The activities to be funded aim at:

- (1) Developing capacity and expertise of law enforcement and judicial authorities and supporting cross-border cooperation;
- (2) contributing to the implementation of EU law;
- (3)

fostering cross-border cooperation between law enforcement/judicial authorities and private entities.

The projects outcomes include:

- Implementation of solutions to increase and enhance reporting of cybercrime to law enforcement authorities.
- Formal transfer of capacity and ownership of digital tools, including future maintenance, to EU Law Enforcement Authorities, including EU Agencies.
- Enhancing the capacity of law enforcement and/or judicial authorities to investigate cyber-attacks and cyber enabled crime, for instance through investigative techniques and tools (including for digital forensics) adapted, in particular, to emerging smart environments.
- Enhancing the capacity of law enforcement to support victims during investigations
- Enhancing the capacity of law enforcement and/or judicial authorities to address the challenges posed by the use of encryption by criminals and its impact on criminal investigations,
- Implementing solutions to enhance the capacity of law enforcement and/or judicial authorities to cooperate across borders
- Setting up practical mechanisms, systems and tools to enhance the cooperation between private entities and law enforcement and/or judicial authorities, for the purpose of detecting, reporting, investigating and preventing crime and taking remedial action
- Increasing the accountability of registrars of domain names and ensuring accuracy of information on website ownership

Specific priority areas might be specified in the Call. Cooperation in the framework of EMPACT and with relevant EU Agencies (Europol, CEPOL, Eurojust) and with existing projects to ensure sustainability of results will be considered an asset.

## Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

### **2.17. Direct Award to support the European Anti-Cybercrime Technology Development Association for developing digital tools and technical solutions for investigation and digital forensics**

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The European Anti-Cybercrime Technology Development Association (EACTDA) is composed of European Union Member States' law enforcement agencies, international bodies, academia, and industry. Building on the successful experience of EU projects funded under

Horizon 2020 and ISF-Police, the Association gathers members that have a unique and highly specialised expertise in developing tools for digital investigations for law enforcement authorities.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals, in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation (grants for activities with specific characteristics that require a particular type of body on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation or its administrative power, on condition that the activities concerned do not fall within the scope of a call for proposals).

#### Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The objective of the action is develop tools for digital investigations.

The beneficiary of the grant will be the European Anti-Cybercrime Technology Development Association (EACTDA). EACTDA, working in close cooperation with Europol, will implement activities such as:

- gathering input and requirements from EU law enforcement authorities (LEAs) on the tools and functionalities that they need for digital investigations;
- fostering cooperation between law enforcement experts, academia and industry to assist LEAs in the development of tools for digital investigations;
- organising the necessary process to test and refine the tools, with the involvement of law enforcement experts in iterative improvements of the tools through dedicated 'hackathons';
- making the final products (tools) available to EU Law enforcement Agencies, in principle at no costs.
- formal transfer of capacity and ownership of digital tools, including future maintenance, to EU Law Enforcement Authorities, including EU Agencies

#### Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

## 2.18. Call for proposals for a data sets for the European Data Space for innovation

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Legal entities such as:

- Public bodies (including law enforcement authorities)
- Non-profit making private entities
- Profit making private entities (including non-public implementing agencies, industrial or service/consultant companies)
- International organisations

The list may be further restricted in the calls for proposals. In particular, some categories may be only eligible as co-applicant.

Geographical conditions:

- Legal entities established in a Member State participating in the ISF (all EU Member States except Denmark) or an overseas country or territory linked to it can participate in this call for proposals.
- International organisations may be established outside the Member States participating in the ISF.

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

The action forms a work strand of the overarching European Data Space for Innovation.

The aims of the actions are to **create, make accessible and share high quality datasets to train, test and validate algorithms**, which is an essential precondition to create AI ecosystems of excellence and trust, because datasets in such variety and quantity are not available on the market. It would also fill an important operational gap by allowing the collection and sharing of high quality datasets in large quantity in a controlled environment. It would clearly create an economies of scale for the generation of acquisition of high quality data sets for innovation purposes.

The action will finance Member State actions (a consortium) for data standardisation, anonymization and the production of training datasets for the purposes of innovation to test digital tools.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

## **2.19. Call for proposals on Common Operational Partnerships to prevent and fight against migrant smuggling with competent authorities of third countries**

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Legal entities such as:

- Public bodies or, by the competent authority's mandate, a public or non-public implementing agency or body of a Member State participating in the ISF.
- International organisations

The list may be further restricted in the calls for proposals. In particular, some categories may be only eligible as co-applicant.

Geographical conditions:

- Legal entities established in a Member State participating in the ISF (all EU Member States except Denmark) or an overseas country or territory linked to it can participate in this call for proposals.
- International organisations may be established outside the Member States participating in the ISF.
- Legal entities (other than international organisations) established in third countries can participate in this call for proposals under the conditions established in Article 24 of the ISF.
  - o only as part of a consortium composed of at least two independent entities, at least one of which is established in a Member State
  - o only for the third countries which are relevant for the call for proposals in view of the migratory routes towards the EU. These countries will be further specified in the calls for proposals.

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

Activities aiming at enhanced prevention and fight against the smuggling of migrants by establishing Common Operational Partnerships (COPs)<sup>11</sup> that shall support structured cooperation between law enforcement, judicial authorities and other relevant services of the participating Member States and third countries.

Activities shall include enhanced mutual trust building between different agencies, at regional, national and international level; targeted capacity building and on-the-job mentoring / training, in coordination with CEPOL; the exchange of liaison officers; support for the exchange of information through legal, administrative and statistical tools, all with the aim of enhanced

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<sup>11</sup> The concept of Common Operational Partnerships also covers Article 19 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, and the EU legislation following the conclusion of the Convention by the European Union in 2004 (Council Decision 2004/579/EC) which foresees that in relation to matters that are the subject of investigation, prosecution or judicial proceedings in one or more States, the competent authorities concerned may establish joint investigation bodies.

cooperation between Member States and third country competent authorities in preventing and combating migrant smuggling.

Activities may support deepening the cooperation within the framework of existing Common Operational Partnerships and expanding the geographical coverage through new Common Operational Partnerships along migratory routes towards the EU (for example in West, North, Central and Horn of Africa, along the Silk Route and in the Western Balkans) and should involve EU agencies such as Europol, Eurojust and Frontex where applicable. Such measures can provide support in the follow-up to the counter-smuggling conference with North African partners of 13 July 2020.

N.B. For international organisations and organisations assimilated with international organisations in accordance with Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, the budget will be implemented in indirect management.

#### Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

#### 2.20. **Emergency assistance**

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award for emergency assistance

The following entities can submit applications for emergency assistance: Member States, International Organisations or Union agencies. Other entities can be involved in the implementation of the action as co-applicants.

Where a Member State submits a request to use emergency assistance as an allocation to its national programme, and the Commission so decides, the budget will be implemented in shared management.

N.B. For international organisations and organisations assimilated with international organisations in accordance with Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, the budget will be implemented in indirect management (see point 4).

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation.

The ISF shall provide financial assistance to address any security-related incident, newly emerging threat or newly detected vulnerability within the scope of the ISF Regulation, which has or may have a significant adverse impact on the security of people, public spaces or critical infrastructure in one or more Member States.

The emergency assistance will be provided for as long as the emergency situation lasts.

The emergency assistance will be provided in the form of action grants awarded directly

without a call for proposals, following a proposal for action, including a request for funding, submitted to the Commission by one of the eligible entities.

#### Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

#### Selection and award criteria

##### Selection criteria

In accordance with Article 198 of the Financial Regulation, 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 for which the grant is awarded and to participate in its funding.
- Operational capacity - Applicants and co-applicants must have the professional competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed action.

In accordance with Article 198(5) of the Financial Regulation, the verification of the financial and operational capacity shall not apply to public bodies and international organisations.

##### Award criteria

In accordance with Article 199 of the Financial Regulation, proposals for an action will be evaluated on the basis of a duly justified emergency situation and relevance of the proposal with regard to the objectives and the expected impact of the proposed activities on addressing the emergency situation in the countries concerned.

#### Co-financing rate and other information

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs: Up to 100% of the total eligible costs.

Other information: Emergency assistance may support expenditure 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, provided that that expenditure was not incurred prior to 1 January 2021



### 3. *Procurement*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts in years 2021 and 2022 is EUR 55 690 700.

IT development and procurement choices will be subject to pre-approval by the European Commission Information Technology and Cybersecurity Board.

#### 3.1. *Actions implemented by procurement contracts*

General description of the contracts envisaged

In 2021-2022, the Commission intends to undertake actions through contracts following public procurement (calls for tenders as well as specific contract under framework contracts).

These procurement activities will cover the following activities:

- Organisation of conferences, expert meetings, seminars, events and communication activities,
- Support to the development and maintenance of IT platforms and systems,
- Undertaking of surveys, studies, evaluations and Impact assessments.

These activities will aim at monitoring the proper implementation of existing legislation or to prepare, or accompanying new legislation or responding to policy changes in the area covered by the Internal Security Fund.

It may in particular cover the following fields:

- Implementation of the counter-terrorism agenda
- Support for the functioning of the secure zone hosted in the building of DG Migration and Home Affairs
- Support for the Radicalisation Awareness Network – Practitioners and Policy Support (specific contracts under existing framework contracts)
- Upgrade of DG HOME website and content updated and constant maintenance, creation and promotion of content on DG HOME social media accounts
- Communication campaigns and actions to set the ground for and follow up on the various policy and legislative initiatives in the area of internal security, such as the EU Agenda to tackle organised crime, the EU Strategy on Combatting trafficking in human beings, the actions of the EU Strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse, and the Regulation on the detection, removal and reporting of child

sexual abuse online.

- Contribution to the overall Commission corporate communication priorities<sup>12</sup> – will include actions such as awareness-raising, communication events, online presence (including social media) and public engagement
- Collection and improvement of crime statistics, notably in the area of migrants smuggling and trafficking of human beings
- Support for Protective Security Advisory (PSA) missions/detection, including support for the EU PSA mission. Activities of the EU Technology Working Group to develop voluntary detection standards for public spaces and critical infrastructures, Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear substances and explosives (CBRN-E) detection trials
- Activities of the Explosive Detection Dog Programme for detection support in public spaces and critical infrastructures
- Activities and meetings of the EU-US Special Event Security Group (including the EU-US Protective Security Advisory missions) to further enhance the trans-Atlantic cooperation and exchange on security
- Critical Entities Resilience (CER)
- Support to the activities of the different networks of law enforcement agencies
- Support to the EU Internet Forum
- Support to the knowledge and expertise hub on Combatting Trafficking in human beings for member states and other stakeholders to better take into account cross-border and transnational challenges related to trafficking in human beings to improve the policy and operational work

#### Implementation

These actions will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, or via a co-delegation to the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, to the Directorate-General for Informatics, to Eurostat, to the Publications Office, to DG Communication, and to the Joint Research Centre.

#### **4. *Actions implemented in indirect management***

The global budgetary envelope reserved for actions implemented in indirect management in years 2021 and 2022 is EUR 7 800 000.

##### **4.1. Migration Partnership Facility**

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<sup>12</sup> C(2020)9390 of 18.12.2020 Corporate communication action in 2021-2023 under the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027.

## Implementing entity

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is a specialised international organisation with a sound experience in implementing regional migration dialogues with third countries and in managing funding and programmes linked to migration management. ICMPD successfully passed the Commission's ex-ante "pillar assessment" on its level of capacity of financial management and protection of financial interests and has been selected as the entity entrusted to implement this action in indirect management based on its competence and successful implementation of MPF I, II and III.

Furthermore, ICMPD has established a strong network with EU Member States and partner countries relevant for migration engagement and has project-based offices in several partner countries.

## Description

The Migration Partnership Facility (MPF) supports, in line with the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, the external dimension of the EU's migration policy with flexible support to EU member states and partner countries with a particular focus on priority regions including Neighbourhood, Eastern Partnership, EU candidate countries and potential candidates, Africa and Asia.

The MPF will keep offering tailor-made support for policy dialogue and operational cooperation with third countries. Examples of activities include: activities seeking to improve partner countries' policy and legal frameworks for migration and mobility; strengthened information, outreach and protection of migrants; review and development of legislation, policy documents/strategies, action plans, policy tools and instruments, standard operating procedures linked to migration management; capacity-building of partner country authorities in legal migration management (including migration monitoring); capacity-building of partner country authorities to reintegrate migrants illegally staying in the EU; practices and policies on migrants' contributions to national development; partner countries' policy and legal frameworks as well as capacity-building on asylum policy and protection in line with international standards; support to migration dialogues and relevant needs identified in the dialogues with relevant partner countries.

The MPF will also support the implementation of Talent Partnerships with partner countries in order to attract talented students, researchers and workers to the EU. The Partnerships could combine direct support for mobility schemes and training with capacity building in areas such as labour market or skills intelligence, vocational education and training, integration of returning migrants, and diaspora mobilisation.

Projects supported through the Migration Partnership Facility will be implemented preferably via call(s) for proposals, open to public authorities or agencies of EU Member States as lead applicants. Public authorities of priority partner countries, international organisations or non-governmental organisations working on a non-profit basis established in the EU or in the

priority partner countries will be able to apply as co-applicants (future co-beneficiaries).

The overall strategic guidance, leadership and oversight for the implementation of the MPF is carried out by the MPF Steering Committee (SC). The SC consists of representatives of the European Commission (DG HOME, the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations - DG NEAR - and the Directorate-General for International Partnerships - DG INTPA, and the European External Action Service - EEAS). The SC is chaired by DG HOME, while ICMPD acts as secretariat and provides technical support/assistance for its functioning.

Actions eligible for funding by the Facility shall be in line with the objectives of the AMIF, the ISF and the BMVI, and each Fund will support actions falling within its remit.

**4.2. Support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for the review of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)**

Implementing entity

The UNODC is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime. It operates in all regions of the world through an extensive network of field offices. The UNODC is mandated to assist Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism.

Description

The project is aimed at financially supporting the review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The preparatory process is ongoing and is coordinated by the UNODC. Expected results include the gathering of information on the implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime.

**4.3. Support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for the implementation of Niamey process**

Implementing entity

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was nominated by the participating countries and organisations in June 2018 to lead the permanent follow-up mechanism of the Niamey declaration, and act as its Secretariat. The Secretariat is run by the UNODC Regional Office for West and Central Africa, based in Dakar, Senegal.

Description

In the Niamey Declaration, the participating Ministers expressed their full commitment to combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, and to protect the rights of migrants and victims of trafficking. The Declaration aims at improving coordination and operational effectiveness of responses to these crimes, among others by further supporting the efforts of origin and transit countries and strengthening the data collection, international judicial cooperation and cooperation between various law enforcement entities. The follow-up mechanism aims to ensure that the strategic priorities and actions that State parties’ delegations committed to in the March 2018 Niamey Declaration and during the June 2018 high-level meeting are systematically monitored and delivered. The mechanism is taking into account and seeking to complement the existing international migration dialogues and agreements, notably the Joint Valetta Action Plan, the Rabat Process and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The tasks entrusted to the Secretariat include close liaison with all participating states (currently 18) and other organisations and entities involved, as well as organising several high-

level international meetings each year. In order to ensure up-to-date information on the status of implementation of the Niamey Declaration, UNODC as the Secretariat will need to continuously monitor the progress and collect and organise data received from national focal points on actions implemented by the various participating States that contribute to the achievement of the goals set.

UNODC is responsible for setting up and maintaining the structures and tools of the permanent mechanism, to monitor and report on the implementation of the commitments made and actions taken by participating States. Proper follow-up to the intergovernmental mechanism will be provided through the organisation of bi-annual technical meetings of national focal points, which will allow to discuss actions implemented, challenges encountered and to take stock of progress made and set priorities for the coming period, as well as to support continued commitment at national level.

In addition, in order to facilitate communication, data collection and information sharing and to support coordination at national level, the participating countries have requested the support of the Secretariat at country level to ensure correct data collection and transmission.

#### 4.4. **Emergency assistance**

##### Implementing entity

International organisations and non-profit organisations assimilated with international organisations in accordance with Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, which submit an application for which the action is awarded. This concerns in particular organisations which have been subject to an ex ante assessment pursuant to Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a framework partnership agreement in force concluded with the Commission pursuant to Council Regulation (EU) 2016/369<sup>13</sup>, or those that are covered by the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement concluded with the United Nations.

Such organisations will have to demonstrate specific technical competence and experience appropriate for the action.

##### Description of the activities to be funded

The description of the activities to be funded, and the selection and award criteria, are as for emergency assistance grants.

##### Co-financing rate and other information

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<sup>13</sup> Council Regulation (EU) 2016/369 of 15 March 2016 on the provision of emergency support within the Union (OJ L 70, 16.3.2016, p. 1).

The maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs is as for emergency assistance grants, i.e. 100%.

Actions implemented under this section will be provided in the form of contribution agreements following a proposal for action, including a request for funding, submitted to the Commission by one of the eligible entities. If the Commission were not in a position to sign a contribution agreement, a grant may be awarded in accordance with Title VIII of the Financial Regulation (notably Article 195).

#### 5. *Actions implemented under shared management - specific actions*<sup>14</sup>

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for specific actions in the years 2021 and 2022 is EUR 22 000 000.

As per Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1149 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Internal Security Fund, Member States may receive funding for specific actions in addition to their allocation through the national programmes.

Type of applicants targeted by the specific actions

All Member States participating in the Internal Security Fund.

Description of the activities to be funded by the specific actions

The specific actions will fund transnational or national projects that bring Union added value in accordance with the objectives of the Fund.

They will contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Internal Security Fund and focus on specific topics including:

- Support to activities of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) and operational actions
- Provision of services to victims of trafficking in human beings
- Support for new technology for protection of public spaces
- Support to prevent and combat child sexual abuse.

Transnational or national projects aiming to prevent and combat child sexual abuse may include support to specific entities established for this purpose under a Member State law, strictly subject to the submission of supporting document(s) proving their legal establishment.

Funding allocated for specific actions shall not be used for other actions in the Member State's programme, except in duly justified circumstances and as approved by the Commission through the amendment of the Member State's programme.

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<sup>14</sup> As per Article 2(15) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1149: 'Specific actions' means transnational or national projects that bring Union added value in accordance with the objectives of the Fund for which one, several or all Member States may receive an additional allocation to their programmes

Complementarities with similar actions funded under the national programmes shall also be specified so to avoid duplications.

#### Implementation

The actions will be implemented by one or more Member States participating in the Internal Security Fund via funding received in addition to the allocation under the Member States' programmes, in line with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1149.

### **6. *Other actions or expenditure***

#### **6.1. Joint Research Centre's support for the counter-terrorism policy, including the implementation of the counter-terrorism agenda**

##### Indicative amount

EUR 2 880 000

##### Description

Through an Administrative Arrangement, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) is expected to provide support for the following actions:

- Support the implementation of the European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP) and the implementation of the Critical Entities Resilience (CER) Directive.
- Development of the EU vulnerability assessment IT tool to support the main objective for PSA missions.
- Development of an app for chemical threat and awareness tool.
- Support for initiatives aiming at better protection of public spaces.
- Support in the area of CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear), including organisation of trainings, workshops and exercises in connection with the European Nuclear Security Training Center (EUSECTRA).
- Support for the Europe Media Monitor (EMM) services and operations.