

SFC2021 Programme for AMIF, ISF and BMVI

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1. Programme strategy: main challenges and policy responses

Reference: points (a)(iii), (iv), (v) and (ix) Article 22(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR)

In Estonia, there has been a significant change in the national strategic planning process compared to the programming of the 2014-2020 period. All strategic planning of the national needs and their financing is central; there is no separate process for programming the EU funds. The planning is source-neutral; the mapping of important strategic goals is done without determining the source of budget. The funding is decided on a rolling basis during the yearly budgeting exercises. This fundamental change in process has also affected the compilation and structure of the BMVI programme.

The long term umbrella strategy Estonia 2035 provides a coherent guidance for policy-makers. The objectives will guarantee that Estonians will remain wise, active, and healthy, the Estonian society will remain caring, cooperative, and open, and our economy will remain strong, innovative, and responsible. The focus is also on assuring that environment is caring, safe, and high-quality, and that our nation is innovative, trustworthy, and people-centered. All national strategies and action plans stem from the Estonia 2035.

The main national strategy covering the border management and migration goals is the Internal Security Development Plan (ISDP). The ISDP has been compiled in close partnership with all relevant partners and stakeholders. In Estonia, the responsibility for implementing border management and migration policies is intertwined between several ministries and areas of government. The ISDP 2020-2030 takes into account the respective EU policies and goals and is complimented by the Foreign Policy Development Plan, Estonian Digital Society Development Plan, etc.

Estonia ensures the surveillance of the Schengen external border. Border guards operate on the basis of the Schengen acquis and the principles of Integrated Border Management, important elements of which are patrols and risk analysis, border control, cross-border crime investigations in cooperation with other countries' internal security authorities, liaison officers in third countries and other international cooperation.

In addition to border guards, a big role in facilitating legitimate border crossings for *bona fide* travelers, while preventing irregular migration and security risks, is played by foreign representations of Estonia. Schengen visas are issued in accordance with the EU visa code ensuring the necessary safeguards and mechanisms to effectively protect the privacy and fundamental rights of travelers, particularly when it comes their private life and personal data.

The **biggest challenges for border management and visa process** in Estonia are building up **border infrastructure at the Estonian-Russian land border**, ensuring **fluent but secure border traffic**; ensuring **interoperability and operation of the EU large-scale IT systems** (EES, ETIAS, SIS, VIS), upgrading EUROSUR and maritime surveillance system for effective protection of the EU external border.

The measures to address these challenges include developments and continuity of **information and communication technologies**, smart and innovative **technological tools**, increased **analytical capacity (artificial intelligence, CIRAM)**, **cooperation** within and between different parties and authorities as well as improved national capabilities incl. through **training** and purchase of **equipment**. **Staffing** the relevant units with sufficient number of skilled professionals is also a necessity.

In previous years implementing relevant EU acquis was mostly through national budget. As complimentary resources, the External Borders and Visa instrument of the Internal Security Fund (ISFB) funding also provided valuable aid.

The same logic is used for period 2021-2027 – although the BMVI scope foresees measures for the most of the issues in the area of border management and visa, it is not feasible to overcome all the current challenges solely with the help of the BMVI funding. This programme seeks to address these to the

maximum extent possible while also leaving a degree of flexibility to be able to respond to future events and changing priorities, e.g. the programme can also cover measures benefiting the target population affected by the Ukraine war. The types of intervention matching the “0 EUR” amount in financing tables of the programme correspond to those for which possible future needs linked to the implementation of the Thematic Facility are anticipated, in line with Article 22(4)(d) CPR. The actions to be financed will depend on the resources available and priorities at the time. The precise actions and the source of financing will be agreed during the implementation of the programme in accordance with national procedures. Synergies with other funds (e.g. AMIF, ISF, CPF, CCEI) and agencies’ toolbox will be sought and overlapping avoided by the thorough communication between ministries, European Commission, agencies and other relevant stakeholders.

As the challenges remain mostly the same, the BMVI programme will focus on similar activities as those of ISFB in the period of 2014-2020. The support will be given in grants. The BMVI programme design and strategy takes into account the administrative capacity and governance rules for efficiency and wherever possible simplification measures will be implemented to reduce the administrative burden and enhanced efficiency, effectiveness and economy. The BMVI programme provides for a number of actions that support increasing the surveillance of the EU external borders and border control capabilities. The actions contribute to latest requirements set out in the EBCG 2.0 Regulation, the improvement of information exchange, ensuring control of the external border in accordance with the common standards of the EU and uniform application of the EU acquis. Priority is given to the measures that support either maintaining or expanding the national capability to manage external borders as well as contribute to solidarity. For the common visa policy, it is important to continue with regular training of consular staff to ensure harmonised application of Visa Code and VIS regulation. In parallel modern equipment, such as facial recognition system needs to be purchased. It is also important to continue to develop and implement digital visas and systems. Developments related to common Visa Information System of the European Union is a priority.

Actions will be designed and implemented in line with the requirements of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. To ensure equal opportunities so that all people feel equally safe, regardless of their place of residence, language, gender, race, age, disability, etc target group needs are assessed. Activities which have or might have significant environmental impact are not financed from the BMVI.

Despite being less than 10% of the total budget, the BMVI programme allocation for specific objective: visa corresponds to all the needs expressed by all the potential beneficiaries (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Police and Border Guard Board) to achieve this objective. Harmonized approach for the issuance of visas and to facilitate legitimate travel, while helping prevent migratory and security risks will be achieved in combination of BMVI, Structural Funds and national funding.

State of play of implementation of EU acquis and action plans:

The Estonian National Integrated Border Management (IBM) strategy

IBM is a part of the Enhanced Border Security Program of the ISDP and is developed to fulfil the national obligation stipulated in the Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 on the European Border and Coast Guard. The IBM Strategy is accompanied with a specific action plan. The IBM Strategy and Action Plan are living documents, which are updated when necessary and brought in line with the respective European and Frontex strategies. National capability development plan is based on the strategic priorities in the national IBM strategy and other relevant strategies and programmes in the field of border management. The development of national border management capabilities will among other things be carried out in the framework of the EBCG capability development planning in accordance with the EBCG Regulation. Estonian Police and Border Guard Board (PBGB) is the main authority responsible for the development and implementation of the IBM in Estonia. The main partners are the Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Tax and Customs Board, the Environmental Board, the Estonian Defense Forces, the Defense League and the Estonian Internal Security Service.

The national IBM takes fully into account the strategic objectives of the Technical and Operational Strategy for European Integrated Border management:

1. Reduced vulnerability of the external borders based on comprehensive situational awareness;
2. Safe, secure and well-functioning EU external borders;
3. Sustained European Border and Coast Guard capabilities.

Development of the national components of the European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG)

National border and coast guard team for supporting the EBCG is established in the PBGB. Technical equipment reserve is created. Equipment purchased will be in compliance with technical standards set out by Frontex. Operational assistance to MSs is provided under Frontex coordination, as necessary. The PBGB participates in Frontex joint operations, in border interventions and in return related interventions. Estonia participates in Frontex risk analysis, pooled resources and training standards development and in other working groups and training events. Deployment of Frontex-, CEPOL- and eu-LISA-trained and certified experts and advisers contribute to the further development of the Estonian capability to protect EU external borders. So far Estonia has fulfilled 100% of its obligations towards Frontex II- and III-category standing corps. Regular information sharing with Agencies is in line with the agreed format regarding FRAN, EUROSUR and vulnerability assessment. National Coordination Center (NCC) is responsible for effective information analysis based on CIRAM and information exchange with EU MSs and Frontex. The further development of national components of EBCG involve harmonized training of border guards in accordance with the Common Core Curricula for Border Guards and procurement of operating means, which are in accordance with Frontex standards.

EUROSUR

EUROSUR was installed in the PBGB on 7 November 2012 by the information technology officials of Frontex. Since October 1 2014, NCC Estonia has been operating as the Single Point of Contact (SPoC) of the PBGB. The scope of EUROSUR will considerably evolve to cover all aspects related to information exchange. Implementation of EUROSUR in line with the new features of the new EBCG Regulation and in particular the following points will be implemented:

- The scope of EUROSUR which now includes systematic reporting related to checks at border crossing points, air border surveillance and the reporting of available information on secondary movement.
- Possible evolution of the national coordination centres with enlarged interagency cooperation to cover the new scope of EUROSUR.
- The evolution of the IT systems software and architecture to meet the new communication standards and allow machine to machine interconnection.
- The necessary recruitment and training of EUROSUR operators.
- Security evolution and the need to connect the communication network up to EU confidential which could impact both physical and IT security but also training and personnel.

Large-scale IT-systems and interoperability

Estonia is committed to timely implementation of smart border package (e.g. Entry-Exit System (EES), European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS), Schengen Information System (SIS), Visa Information System (VIS) and their interoperability. The interfaces between national border control and migration surveillance systems and the EES National Unit Interface have been created. Preparations for creating Central Access Point and projects implementing new SIS and ETIAS regulations are advancing. Due attention must be paid to ensuring effective coordination between different national agencies and other relevant stakeholders and allocation of adequate human and financial resources, as well as a timely execution of procurement and other administrative procedures. Estonia needs to adjust its workflows and requirement for providing specific training programmes, as the proper implementation of the IT systems alone is not enough to ensure the success of the new information architecture of the EU. Also, governance structures need to be in place, national implementation programmes adopted and working procedures changed.

Scheval recommendations and vulnerability assessment

Estonia has successfully passed the Schengen evaluation and vulnerability assessments. No major deficiencies concerning border management were identified in 2018.

As of 2019 4 vulnerability assessment recommendations were pending, all of which have been closed. Last recommendation (EE005 – CIRAM 2.0 training) was closed in July 5th 2021. Estonian priorities are measures addressing outstanding shortcomings identified in the Vulnerability Assessment/Scheval Evaluation recommendations. Measures that take account developments of legislative framework are foreseen.

The Schengen evaluation of Estonia's visa policy took place in October 2018. In total, 56 recommendations were issued to Estonia, two of which are still to be completed. One recommendation is related to the introduction of a new visa register and should be completed in 2024, funding is foreseen in the BMVI. The second recommendation for the compliance of the visa register with the data protection requirements will be completed in 2022. State budget was used to implement Schengen recommendations.

Transfer

Estonia applies for the transfer of 5% of the AMIF initial allocation (1 112 731 €) to the BMVI in line with Article 26(1) CPR. Estonia ensures that the objectives of the AMIF will be met also after the transfer of 5%. The 2021-2027 AMIF programme considers all the relevant needs of potential beneficiaries that have been mapped during the preparation of national strategies compiled to implement relevant policies. The integration measures for the third country nationals will be complemented and in large part funded by the ESF+. There is also possibility to use Thematic Facility. Furthermore, as AMIF projects will start in the second half of 2022, there is a potential risk that Estonia will not be able to use the 10% of the initial AMIF allocation by the mid-term review and would lose the right for the additional funding as stipulated in the Article 17(2) of the Regulation (EL) 2021/1147.

One of the biggest challenges and therefore the government's priority in Estonia is protecting the EU external border – Estonian-Russian land border. Estonia has already invested a considerable amount of national resources to erect the border fence and will continue to do so. The goal for the years 2022-2025 is to equip the land border with state-of-the-art surveillance technology. Almost 52 % of the BMVI allocation has been planned to use for that goal, however because the cost for the technology in that kind of volume is very high, additional amounts are sought. AMIF transfer in an amount of 1 112 731 € will be used as one additional source.

2. Specific Objectives & Technical Assistance

Reference: Article 22(2) and (4) CPR

Selected	Specific objective or Technical assistance	Type of action
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. European integrated border management	Regular actions
<input type="checkbox"/> x	1. European integrated border management	Specific actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. European integrated border management	Annex IV actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. European integrated border management	Operating support
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. European integrated border management	STS
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. European integrated border management	Emergency assistance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. European integrated border management	ETIAS regulation Art. 85(2)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. European integrated border management	ETIAS regulation Art. 85(3)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Common visa policy	Regular actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Common visa policy	Specific actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Common visa policy	Annex IV actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Common visa policy	Operating support
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Common visa policy	Emergency assistance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	TA.37. Technical assistance - not linked to costs (Art. 37 CPR)	

2.1. Specific objective: 1. European integrated border management

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

Estonian IBM model is built on four tiers: activities in third countries; cooperation with neighbouring countries; border control; and measures at the area of free movement.

The IBM strategy of Estonia is influenced by the 3rd countries in the neighbourhood, taking into account changes in their political, economic or security situation and the good connection between Estonia and other EU MSs. There is a high probability that changes in a neighbouring 3rd country will have a primary impact on the land border; affecting the passenger flow, increase the threats related to cross-border criminality and other border-related violations or non-traditional threats at the external border. Therefore, analysis of the IBM system, its functioning, and analysis of vulnerabilities for mitigating possible risks in every aspect of an identified threat is essential.

Border control measures are based on Schengen best practices. Systematic risk analysis products are developed using CIRAM. Logically arranged intelligence management supports the planning of service and other border-related activities, with the optimal use of resources in accordance with identified threats, vulnerabilities and impact. For situational picture, Estonia maintains an effective cooperation in risk analysis, information exchange and in operational activities with international and EU Agencies, such as Interpol, EUROPOL, Frontex, EASO, eu-LISA, etc. and with other states, organisations and bodies.

ISFB funding enabled the procurement of modern, state-of-the art equipment, such as patrol cars, special transport means, border control and migration surveillance devices, **technical capacity needed in order to check fingerprint biometrics**, multirotors, water crafts, ABC gates, etc. It helped to increase reaction capability, that has a direct link with the efficiency and quality of border control. Since the technology is rapidly evolving and vehicles acquired in 2015–2018 are reaching their end of a lifecycle, the BMVI funding will continue this practice.

The BMVI programme in addition to other resources will provide funding for following implementation measures in the area of border management to tackle the main challenges mentioned in the Section 1:

- **improving border control in line with Article 3(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896**

The length of the Estonian coast line is 3,794 km, sea borders 767 km and land borders, including the temporary control line between the Republic of Estonia and the Russian Federation, is 338.6 km. BCPs and BGSs, air squadron, fleet and surveillance systems perform border control at the EU's external borders in Estonia. To **ensure effective checks and surveillance activities at the external borders, prevent and detect cross-border crime**, maintain the border regime in the economic zone and performing migration surveillance tasks the border must be covered by technical surveillance. Mobile autonomous surveillance solutions will be procured with the support of BMVI/2021-2023/SA/1.2.1

Novel border control solutions based on biometric data, which will be introduced in the near and distant future, enable the use of new opportunities in border control but also, the risk of abuse of systems by criminal environment will increase. The PBGB in cooperation with partners should ensure the operability of systems and cyber security while at the same time mitigating the risk of abuse of these systems by intruders. New methods of smuggling have a direct connection with the future development of border and coast guard surveillance methods and technology. The use of drones and GPS lighthouses by wrongdoers is known to the PBGB. The development of technology and the identification of new methods is connected with overall developments in IT, radars and radiocommunication systems.

The PBGB has started to build up an external land border infrastructure, including establishing markers at the borderline. The project is mostly funded from the national budget. To **cover EU/Schengen external border close to 100% with technical surveillance** is a priority. In addition, IT-system supporting the management of border incidents is built. The on-going pilot project to find the most suitable surveillance technology is funded from the ISFB and after the test period surveillance cameras and the necessary infrastructure (poles, power cables, etc) will be procured with the help of the BMVI.

Estonia has 44 international BCPs at its external border: 7 at land borders, 30 at sea/lake borders and 7 at air borders. According to the data, 66% (2017) and 80% (2020) of the total number of passengers crossed

the border at land borders, 25% (2017) and 6% (2020) at sea and 9% (2017) and 13% (2020) at air borders. Analyses provide that BCPs located at external land border bear the main traffic load. In 2017, 7.4 million and in 2020 1,3 million travelers crossed the Estonian external land border. Almost 50% (2017) and 63% (2020) of these border crossings took place in Narva-1 Road BCP. Therefore, it is important to **keep the balance between the fluent border crossing of travelers and the security of the state and the EU taking into account the likely development of the legislative framework.**

The current border security situation at the external borders is stable. As of 2020, the level of irregular immigration threat measured by its magnitude and likelihood remains moderate at external land and air borders and low at sea borders. In 2019 there were 228, in 2020 166 and in 2021 303 irregular crossings. Nevertheless, the situation at the Lithuanian-Belarus border in 2021 and the war which started in February 2022 in Ukraine illustrate how quickly the situation might change, if unpredictable events occur. Until COVID-19 pandemic the passenger flow and cross-border trade were in an upward trend. In 2019 the number of regular crossings was 8 277 528, in 2020 1 585 775 and in 2021 1 099 974. The increase is predicted again after the pandemic has suppressed. To maintain fluent border crossing of persons and goods in conditions of increasing cross-border movement accompanied by evolving cross-border criminality, illegal migration and other changing threats that affect internal security require remarkable efforts from border management authorities whose resources and capacities are limited therefore **new technological solutions** needs to be sought and used (e.g. ABC-gates).

EUROSUR system is in a continuous development. It should enable good inter-agency cooperation in data collection at the BCP level between customs and border guards as well as enhanced cooperation and information exchange with the Latvian, Lithuanian and Finnish border authorities in the future. Estonia participates in the development of systems for improving situational awareness at the EU level. At the national level, the focus is to develop IT systems jointly with different authorities and ministries, thereby supporting the exchange of information and cooperation between authorities. The development is foreseen to take place in line with the development of the Schengen Borders Code and other legal acts as regards EUROSUR, aiming at enhanced interoperability.

As of October 1 2014, NCC Estonia operates as the Single Point of Contact (SPoC) of the PBGB. Additionally, besides NCC Estonia, it houses SIRENE Bureau, National Europol (ENU), INTERPOL (NCB), Prüm NCP, FRONTEX NFPoC and Internal Duty Service for other Police matters. Such solution allows access to the broadest range of relevant national and international law enforcement databases to efficiently manage direct information exchange between the competent national and international authorities. The SPoC unit operates according to the SPOC manual.

The NCC delivers the EUROSUR National Situational Picture (NSP)/ European Situational Picture (ESP) to all involved police units in the PBGB at all levels and to other national authorities such as the Tax and Customs Board, the Estonian Internal Security Service, the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of the Interior, the Defense Forces, Europol and SIRENE Bureau. With the help of the BMVI the NCC in the South-East Estonia will be partly renovated and furnished.

- **enhancing inter-agency cooperation at national level among the national authorities responsible for border control or for tasks carried out at the border, and at EU level between the Member States, or between the Member States, on the one hand, and the relevant Union bodies, offices and agencies or third countries, on the other**

Estonia participates in Joint Investigation Teams and in operations focusing on cross-border crime in bilateral or multilateral forms or through EU Agencies. There is continuous cooperation with EU Member States, Frontex and other EU institutions at a required level and with the main national authorities responsible for border management such as the Tax and Customs Board, the Maritime Administration, the Environmental Inspectorate, the Estonian Defence Forces, the Defence League, etc. to ensure cost effectiveness, to avoid overlaps in tasks and to enhance the joint use of capacity in case of unpredictable situations putting external borders under pressure. Continuous training for Tax and Customs Board officials who perform I-level border control will be carried out.

The PBGB participates in EU Working Groups activities and cooperates with international organizations such as IOM, OSCE, UNHCR, and in other forms of inter-agency cooperation — BSRBCC (Baltic Sea

Region Border Control Cooperation), BSTF (Baltic Sea Task Force) and in the work of Senior Officials of Baltic Council of Ministers.

- **Setting up, operating and maintaining EU large-scale IT systems in the area of border management, in particular the Schengen Information System (SIS II), the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), the Entry-Exit System (EES), and Eurodac for border management purposes as well as including the interoperability of these large-scale IT systems and their communication infrastructure, and actions to enhance data quality and the provision of information**

Cooperation for the implementation of EU large-scale IT systems is taking place with eu-LISA. Large scale IT systems (EES, ETIAS; SIS and IO) will build on and follow up on the progress made under Internal Security Fund. In addition to regular projects, BMVI/2022/SA/1.5.7/003 – BMVI/2022/SA/1.5.7/007, BMVI/2021/SA/1.5.4/008 and BMVI/2024/SA/1.5.1/001 will be implemented.

- **Developing the European Border and Coast Guard by supporting national authorities responsible for border management to pursue measures related to capability development and common capacity building, joint procurement, establishment of common standards and any other measures streamlining the cooperation and coordination between the Member States and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency**

Participation in Frontex operations since 2006 has had an undeniable impact on improving the efficiency of border management and on ensuring the internal security of the state. Substantial future enlargement of Frontex requires readiness to allocate additional staff for participation in its activities. For better coordination of setting up the Standing Corps a **SNE will be seconded to the Frontex and training courses organized for seconded officers of Category 2 and 3**. Under BMVI/2023-2024/SA/1.2.2/001 20 SUVs will be procured and deployed by Frontex.

- **ensuring the uniform application of the Union *acquis* on external borders, including through the implementation of recommendations from quality control mechanisms such as the Schengen evaluation mechanism in line with Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013, vulnerability assessments in line with Regulation (EU) 2019/1896, and national quality control mechanisms**

Border guard education will ensure interoperability and the high quality of professional competences enabling proper implementation of the Schengen Acquis and ensures effective border management at national and EU external borders. PBGB experts participate in the development and updating joint curricula and training materials in Frontex (CCC, CCC for Mid-Level Officers, European Joint Masters on Strategic Border Management, CIRAM, IBM, etc.).

In their daily service, all border control officials follow the principles of the Code of Ethics for Officials approved on 11 March 2015. Continuous attention will be paid to those principles in trainings.

The modernisation of border control infrastructure, the introduction of innovative and beyond the state-of-the-art technology, increasing the electronic control of travellers and the extension of visa liberalisation regimes create new challenges for the training of staff and for the reliability of border control systems. In addition to internal trainings, possibilities offered by CEPOL, eu-LISA, Frontex will be used.

Quality control is vital to ensure that the performed services adhere to a defined set of quality criteria or meet the requirements of the Schengen evaluation mechanism and vulnerability assessment. BMVI funds will be used in addition to national budget to eliminate deficiencies identified during the quality control (e.g training for border guards).

Indicative list of actions:

- **Measures related to development of EUROSUR (e.g investments to national ICT system to retrieve situational picture from the border and exchange information, purchase of equipment such as monitors, small-scale renovation works in NCC)**
- **Measures related to interoperability package and EU large-scale IT systems (e.g development of ETIAS, EES, SIS-Recast)**

- **Measures aiming at the development of the national components of EBCG (e.g. SNE secondment to Frontex, etc.)**
- **Border management trainings to implement IBM and ensure uniform Schengen acquis incl. courses on fundamental rights**
- **Investments to border surveillance equipment compliant with Frontex standards (patrol vehicles, UAVs, cameras, drones, drone detectors etc.), priority will be given to investments for EE-RU land border surveillance system. All large-scale equipment will be put at Frontex disposal**
- **Investments to border control and migration monitoring equipment with technical support (document readers, biometric data technology, microscopes etc.)**
- **Measures to ensure follow up of future Schengen recommendations insofar as the deficiencies identified and the action plan concerned identifies operational measures to remedy them that require funding**

Results: External land and sea border is covered by innovative, state-of-the-art, integrated border surveillance system. Border checks and border surveillance are supported by advanced, mobile and interoperable technical systems and solutions to guarantee more efficient and reliable border control. Enhanced capacity to develop and make the best use of the state-of-the-art technologies and large scale information systems (EES, ETIAS etc) in a unified and harmonized way. Border guards actions and IT systems are in line with Schengen Acquis and fundamental rights avoiding biased stereotypical decisions. The principles of data protection, gender equality and non-discrimination are respected and the special needs of vulnerable persons are taken into account.

Operating support:

In Estonia the PBGB and the Development and IT Centre of the Ministry of the Interior (SMIT) are public authorities responsible for accomplishing the tasks and services which constitute a public service for the Union in the domain of borders and migration surveillance. The statutory tasks of the PBGB include the development and implementation of the IBM in Estonia. The statutory tasks of SMIT include development and maintenance of respective ICT systems.

To facilitate legitimate border crossings and to ensure a high-level protection of the external borders and necessary information exchange the use of relevant ICT-systems and modern technology are essential. All ICT equipment, also border control and surveillance tools need upgrades and regular maintenance to operate smoothly and securely. Estonia plans to use operation support for border and migration control ICT systems and equipment maintenance as well as repair costs as follows:

- **Maintenance and upgrades of automatic border control (PBGB)**

With the help of ISFB 16 ABC gates were installed in Tallinn airport and Narva -1 BCP in February 2021. Automatic kiosk will also be installed in Saatse BCP. The maintenance and upgrades of the e-gates are included in the lease contract signed between PBGB and the service provider. Contract is funded from the ISFB until the end of 2022. As of 01.01.2023 the BMVI will be used for operating the e-gates.

- **Operational management and maintenance of large-scale IT systems (EES; SIS; ETIAS) and their communication infrastructures, including the interoperability of these systems and rental of secure premises (PBGB and/or SMIT)**

National border and migration control IT-systems are connected to the National Unit Interface, secure EES data center is rented. As of 01.01.2023 the management and maintenance costs of EES, ETIAS, SIS and their interoperability will be covered from BMVI to ensure efficient operation of the systems.

- **Repair and maintenance costs of border control and surveillance systems equipment and infrastructure (PBGB/SMIT)**

With the help of the ISFB a number of border control and surveillance equipment has been purchased and is planned to acquire from BMVI. The licenses for tools such as document readers need to be renewed regularly. The operating tools are constantly in use and might need repairing from time to time. BMVI operating support is used for technicians salary as well as repair and maintenance costs of surveillance equipment and systems.

Estonia complies with relevant Union acquis. There are no major pending issues. The possible future recommendations of the Schengen evaluation and Vulnerability assessment will be dealt with due care.

Financial instruments: Not applicable.

2.1. Specific objective 1. European integrated border management

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 1: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
O.1.1	Number of items of equipment purchased for border crossing points	number	1,216	4020
O.1.1.1	of which number of Automated Border Control gates / self-service systems / e- gates purchased	number	16	16
O.1.2	Number of infrastructure maintained / repaired	number	1	1
O.1.3	Number of hotspot areas supported	number	0	0
O.1.4	Number of facilities for border crossing points constructed / upgraded	number	1	7
O.1.5	Number of aerial vehicles purchased	number	0	26
O.1.5.1	of which number of unmanned aerial vehicles purchased	number	0	26
O.1.6	Number of maritime transport means purchased	number	0	0
O.1.7	Number of land transport means purchased	number	0	33
O.1.8	Number of participants supported	number	347	596
O.1.8.1	of which number of participants in training activities	number	347	594
O.1.9	Number of joint liaison officers deployed to third countries	number	0	0
O.1.10	Number of IT functionalities developed / maintained / upgraded	number	4	8
O.1.11	Number of large-scale IT systems developed / maintained / upgraded	number	4	4
O.1.11.1	of which number of large-scale IT systems developed	number	1	1
O.1.12	Number of cooperation projects with third countries	number	0	0
O.1.13	Number of persons who have applied for international protection at border crossing points	number	96	256

2.1. Specific objective 1. European integrated border management

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 2: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
R.1.14	Number of items of equipment registered in the Technical Equipment Pool of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency	number	0	number	2021-2027	43	number	project reports, TEP	4 mobile surveillance solutions, 26 drones and 33 land vehicles
R.1.15	Number of items of equipment put at the disposal of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency	number	0	number	2021-2027	43	number	project reports, bilateral agreements	4 mobile surveillance solutions, 26 drones and 33 land vehicles
R.1.16	Number of initiated / improved forms of cooperation of national authorities with the Eurosur National Coordination Centre (NCC)	number	0	number	2021-2027	0	number	N/A	projects not planned
R.1.17	Number of border crossings through Automated Border Control gates and e-gates	number	0	share	2021-2027	2,200,000	number	IT-system ALIS, project reports	PBGB prognosis 40% of entries via e-gates
R.1.18	Number of addressed recommendations from Schengen Evaluations and from vulnerability assessments in the area of border management	number	0	number	2021-2027	100	percentage	Scheval recommendations and vulnerability assessments	recommendations will be tackled mostly with national budget
R.1.19	Number of participants who report three months	number	0	share	2021-2027	482	number	project reports, feedback sheets	

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
	after the training activity that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training								
R.1.20	Number of persons refused entry by border authorities	number	0	number	2021-2027	12,800	number	IT-system ALIS	

2.1. Specific objective 1. European integrated border management

2.1.3. Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Reference: Article 22(5) CPR; and Article 16(12) AMIF Regulation, Article 13(12) ISF Regulation or Article 13(18) BMVI Regulation

Table 3: Indicative breakdown

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	001.Border checks	2,775,524.97
Intervention field	002.Border surveillance - air equipment	114,330.78
Intervention field	003.Border surveillance - land equipment	16,465,963.22
Intervention field	004.Border surveillance - maritime equipment	0.00
Intervention field	005.Border surveillance - automated border surveillance systems	0.00
Intervention field	006.Border surveillance - other measures	853,142.23
Intervention field	007.Technical and operational measures within the Schengen area which are related to border control	0.00
Intervention field	008.Situational awareness and exchange of information	0
Intervention field	009.Risk analysis	0.00
Intervention field	010.Processing of data and information	0.00
Intervention field	011.Hotspot areas	0.00
Intervention field	012.Measures related to the identification and referral of vulnerable persons	0.00
Intervention field	013.Measures related to the identification and referral of persons who are in need of, or wish to apply for, international protection	0.00
Intervention field	014.European Border and Coast Guard development	300,000.00
Intervention field	015.Inter-agency cooperation - national level	0.00
Intervention field	016.Inter-agency cooperation - European Union level	300,000.00
Intervention field	017.Inter-agency cooperation - with third countries	0.00
Intervention field	018.Joint deployment of immigration liaison officers	0.00
Intervention field	019.Large-scale IT systems - Eurodac for border management purposes	0.00

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	020.Large-scale IT systems - Entry-exit System (EES)	0.00
Intervention field	021.Large-scale IT systems - European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) - others	1 540 880,19
Intervention field	022.Large-scale IT systems - European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) - Article 85(2) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1240	1,161,885.65
Intervention field	023.Large-scale IT systems - European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) - Article 85(3) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1240	0.00
Intervention field	024.Large-scale IT systems - Schengen Information System (SIS)	2 313 596,53
Intervention field	025.Large-scale IT systems - Interoperability	3,997,129.25
Intervention field	026.Operating support - Integrated border management	6,107,260.70
Intervention field	027.Operating support - Large-scale IT systems for border management purposes	1,858,683.75
Intervention field	029.Data quality and data subjects' rights to information, access to, rectification and erasure of,their personal data, and to the restriction of the processing thereof	0.00

2.1. Specific objective: 2. Common visa policy

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

In Estonia the implementation of the EU visa policy is mainly a responsibility of the PBGB and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The EU visa policy makes it easier to travel to the European Union. At the same time, EU visa policy mitigates security risks and the risks associated with irregular migration to the EU. In an area without internal borders, strong and efficient checks on persons entering the EU are needed to detect anyone who may pose a security risk. To ensure that such persons do not pass the EU's borders unnoticed, decision makers need to have the right information at the right time to do their job of protecting EU citizens.

At the same time, visa application process must be efficient, client friendly and security measures must comply with data protection requirements.

To ensure harmonized approach with regard to the issuance of visas and to facilitate legitimate travel and, while helping prevent migratory and security risks, Estonia has decided to implement following measures funded from BMVI:

- **Setting up, operating and maintaining large-scale IT systems pursuant to Union law in the area of the common policy on visas, in particular the Visa Information System (VIS) including the interoperability of these large-scale IT systems and their communication infrastructure, and actions to enhance data quality and the provision of information**

To ensure that sufficient security information is available about persons travelling to the EU with a visa, the **Visa Information System (VIS)** needs an upgrade. Estonia joined VIS in 2011 and introduced the system in all of the foreign representations where visas are issued. VIS Mail, VIS Mail 2, VISA Code Plus and further development of the visa consultation system have been rolled out over time.

State budget, ERDF and ISFB funding was and is used to implement VIS. The specialized VIS developing team in the Development and IT Centre of the Ministry of the Interior is consistently making smaller adjustments to the system. The upgraded system needs to be fully interoperable with other EU information systems. Estonia has decided to finance next generation **VIS and its interfaces with other EU large-scale IT systems under BMVI as a priority.**

To ensure reliable verification and identification of visa applicants, it is necessary to process biometric data in the VIS. ISFB funds were used for upgrading workplaces in the consular offices; computers and fingerprint scanners were purchased. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs acquired and installed 45 Dermalog LF10 scanners for capturing biometric data (10 fingerprints) financed from the state budget. BMVI will be used for renewal of **fingerprint scanners and facial recognition equipment.**

- **providing efficient and client-friendly services to visa applicants while maintaining the security and integrity of the visa procedure, and fully respecting the human dignity and the integrity of the applicant or of the visa holder in accordance with Article 7(2) of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008 concerning the Visa Information System (VIS) and the exchange of data between Member States on short-stay visas**
- **ensuring the uniform application of the Union acquis on visas, including the further development and modernisation of the common policy on visas and**
- **supporting Member States in issuing visas, including visas with limited territorial validity as referred to in Article 25 of Regulation (EC) No 810/2009 on humanitarian grounds, for reasons of national interest or because of international obligations**

The MFA and the Estonian Internal Security Service have assessed that the representations of Estonia comply with security requirements and the environment is client-friendly. All investments regarding the infrastructure that might be needed in the future, will be funded from the state budget.

All round the world, there are 19 Estonian representations processing Schengen visas. Estonia represents 5 Member States (Netherlands, Lithuania, Finland, Sweden and Denmark) in processing Schengen visas in five countries.

61 employees in Estonian MFA are currently dealing with visa questions (32 consuls, 4 expat technical staff and 25 local technical staff). In 2020 25 555 Schengen visa applications were processed of which 24 970 visas were issued in the foreign representations of Estonia. In 2019 the respective numbers were 145 711 and 143 582. The decrease was stemmed from COVID-19 pandemic. Should the environment change for the better, and free travel is possible again, there is a high possibility that numbers will grow.

Officials dealing with visa processing are trained regularly to ensure harmonized application of the Visa Code, the VIS Regulation, falsified documents etc. **Trainings and internship missions** were partially funded by the ISFB and this will be continued under BMVI.

In addition to training, new technological solutions should be created and used.

The European Commission initiated the transition to a **digital visa** procedure based on a proposal made by the Estonian Presidency. An analysis report was prepared in 2019 and a working group on digitization was convened. Eu-LISA and DG HOME worked on the project to develop and test a prototype of the EU online visa application portal. The prototype of the e-application environment was introduced in 2021. EE will implement the EU visa online application platform after its completion.

- **developing different forms of cooperation between Member States in visa processing**

The **exchange of best practices** and experts, including the secondment of experts, as well as boosting the capacity of European networks to assess, promote, support and further develop Union policies and objectives is important.

Since the beginning of 2021, Estonia is represented by 18 Schengen Member States (Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherland, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland), in 105 countries (112 locations).

Since 2011 Estonia has signed co-operation contracts with an external service provider in 16 countries. Under current contracts, 170 visa venters provide services in Australia, Belarus, China, Canada, Egypt, Georgia, India, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Turkey, UK, Ukraine and in US.

Starting from 10 March 2022 Russian and Belarusian citizens can apply for visa only in exceptional cases: wishing to visit family members in Estonia, as well as on humanitarian grounds, e.g., serious illness or funeral of a close relative.

Estonia sees BMVI funding useful for enhancing consular co-operation between Member States. **Study visits** to embassies of the Member States representing Estonia in a third country could be organized. The Visa Code foresees the obligation to monitor external service providers. **Visa centers audits** performed in cooperation with other Member States could be financed. This form of cooperation is already in practice (for example in Austria and Germany, Germany, the Netherlands, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were planning to audit the visa center in Istanbul at the end of April 2020, but due to Covid pandemic it was postponed) and could be further pursued.

Indicative list of actions:

- **VIS related developments (priority)**
- **Development of digital visa and online application in cooperation with the Commission**
- **Acquisition of biometric data equipment**
- **Consular staff trainings and internships**
- **External service providers audits**
- **Measures to ensure follow up of future Schengen recommendations insofar as the deficiencies identified and the action plan concerned identifies operational measures to remedy them that require funding**

Operating support and financial instruments will not be used for visa objective.

Results: All the Estonian representations are well equipped, visa officers are trained and provide harmonized client friendly service in line with visa code. Visa application process is efficient and secure. Border crossing for *bona fide* travelers is smooth and security risks and the risks associated with irregular migration to the EU are mitigated. Developments in digital visas and e-applications are accessible to people with special needs. Web-solutions comply with WCAG 2.0 requirements. When using the VIS, each competent authority shall ensure that it does not discriminate applicants and visa holders on grounds of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation and fully respects the human dignity of the applicant or visa holder.

2.1. Specific objective 2. Common visa policy

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 1: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
O.2.1	Number of projects supporting the digitalisation of visa processing	number	2	3
O.2.2	Number of participants supported	number	80	90
O.2.2.1	of which number of participants in training activities	number	60	70
O.2.3	Number of staff deployed to consulates in third countries	number	0	0
O.2.3.1	of which number of staff deployed for visa processing	number	0	0
O.2.4	Number of IT functionalities developed / maintained / upgraded	number	1	2
O.2.5	Number of large-scale IT systems developed / maintained / upgraded	number	0	1
O.2.5.1	of which number of large-scale IT systems developed	number	0	1
O.2.6	Number of infrastructure maintained / repaired	number	0	0
O.2.7	Number of real estates rented / depreciated	number	0	0

2.1. Specific objective 2. Common visa policy

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 2: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
R.2.8	Number of new / upgraded consulates outside the Schengen area	number	0	number	2021-2027	20	number	project reports	all consulates will be equipped with new fingerprint scanners
R.2.8.1	of which number of consulates upgraded to enhance client-friendliness for Visa applicants	number	0	number	2021-2027	20	number	project reports	all consulates will be equipped with fingerprint scanners
R.2.9	Number of addressed recommendations from Schengen Evaluations in the area of the common visa policy	number	0	number	2021-2027	100	percentage	project reports, scheval recommendations and vulnerability assessments	recommendations will be tackled mostly with national budget
R.2.10	Number of visa applications using digital means	number	0	share	2021-2027	976,292	number	VIS	
R.2.11	Number of initiated / improved forms of cooperation set up among Member States in visa processing	number	0	number	2021-2027	7	number	project reports	
R.2.12	Number of participants who report three months after the training activity that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training	number	0	share	2021-2027	70	number	Project reports, participant feedback sheets	

2.1. Specific objective 2. Common visa policy

2.1.3. Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Reference: Article 22(5) CPR; and Article 16(12) AMIF Regulation, Article 13(12) ISF Regulation or Article 13(18) BMVI Regulation

Table 3: Indicative breakdown

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	001.Improving visa application processing	562,500.00
Intervention field	002.Enhancing the efficiency, client-friendly environment and security at consulates	352,500.00
Intervention field	003.Document security / document advisors	0.00
Intervention field	004.Consular cooperation	97,500.00
Intervention field	005.Consular coverage	0.00
Intervention field	006.Large-scale IT systems - Visa Information System (VIS)	112,500.00
Intervention field	007.Other ICT systems for visa application processing purposes	375,000.00
Intervention field	008.Operating support - Common visa policy	0.00
Intervention field	009.Operating support - Large-scale IT systems for visa application processing purposes	0.00
Intervention field	011.Issuance of visas with limited territorial validity	0.00
Intervention field	012.Data quality and data subjects' rights to information, access to, rectification and erasure of, their personal data, and to the restriction of the processing thereof	0.00

2.2. Technical assistance: TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)

Reference: point (f) of Article 22(3), Article 36(5), Article 37, and Article 95 CPR

2.2.1. Description

Technical assistance is the precondition that sufficient means and resources are available to achieve the objectives and indicators set in the BMVI programme.

TA is used for

- Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control
- Capacity building
- Evaluation and studies, data collection
- Information and communication

Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control

TA is used by the competent officials of Responsible Authority (RA) and Audit Authority (AA). In the Ministry of the Interior there are approximately 10 RA officials responsible for implementation of HOME funds and 2 AA auditors. The TA is used for the RA and AA personnel costs, training, participation in workshops and meetings, etc.

Capacity building

Consultation and sharing of best practices are key factors in successful implementation so that applicants and beneficiaries have the ability to prepare and implement projects. Therefore, the RA also ensures continuous training, counseling and guidance of applicants and beneficiaries funded by the TA.

To reduce the burden on applicants and beneficiaries, the TA is used for novel IT solutions of application, reporting and reimbursement. The SFOS information system will be introduced to simplify the technical procedures, reduce the workload of applicants, beneficiaries and administration, and thus contribute more to substantive activities. The principle of single entry is used as far as possible for electronic applications. In addition, the information system enables the RA to monitor the achievement of results, the progress of commitments and disbursements, the volumes and results of audits, administrative, financial and on-the-spot controls, irregularities and recoveries.

Evaluation and studies, data collection

It is important to ensure that objectives are met in time and resources are used efficiently. Therefore two evaluations are foreseen: the mid-term evaluation in 2024 and final evaluation in 2030. If needed, resources could be used for studies and data collection.

Information and communication

The TA is also used for communication and publication activities (see p 7.)

2.2. Technical assistance TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)

2.2.2. Indicative breakdown of technical assistance pursuant to Article 37 CPR

Table 4: Indicative breakdown

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	001.Information and communication	44,730.98
Intervention field	002.Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	2,035,259.71
Intervention field	003.Evaluation and studies, data collection	187 851,17
Intervention field	004.Capacity building	89,461.97

3. Financing plan

Reference: point (g) Article 22(3) CPR

3.1. Financial appropriations by year

Table 5: Financial appropriations per year

Allocation type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Initial allocation	0.00	5,269,705.00	6,402,733.00	6,905,464.00	5,346,817.00	4,425,874.00	4,486,181.00	32,836,774.00
Mid-term review								
Thematic facility WPI	0		3,693,023.10	0	0	0	0	3,693,023.10
Thematic facility WPII			1,869,840.00					1,869,840.00
Thematic facility WPIII				2,133,333.00				2,133,333.00
Transfer (in)			296,393.00	359,627.00	306,733.00	149,978.00		1,112,731.00
Transfer (out)								
Total	0.00	5,269,705.00	12,261,989.10	9,398,242.00	5,653,550.00	4,575,852.00	4,486,181.00	41,645,701.10

3.2. Total financial allocations

Table 6: Total financial allocations by fund and national contribution

Specific objective (SO)	Type of action	Basis for calculation Union support (total or public)	Union contribution (a)	National contribution (b)=(c)+(d)	Indicative breakdown of national contribution		Total (e)=(a)+(b)	Co-financing rate (f)=(a)/(e)
					Public (c)	Private (d)		
European integrated border management	Regular actions	Total	17,785,004.81	5,928,334.94	5,928,334.94	0.00	23,713,339.75	75.000000104%
European integrated border management	Annex IV actions	Total	3,615,000.00	1,205,000.00	1,205,000.00	0.00	4,820,000.00	75.000000000%
European integrated border management	Operating support	Total	7,965,944.45	2,655,314.82	2,655,314.82	0.00	10,621,259.27	75.000000000%
European integrated border management	ETIAS regulation Art. 85(2)	Total	1,161,885.65	387,295.22	387,295.22	0.00	1,549,180.87	74.999998386%
European integrated border management	ETIAS regulation Art. 85(3)	Total						
European integrated border management	Specific action	Total	7,260,562.36	806,729.15	806,729.15	0	8,067,291.51	90%
Total European integrated border management			37,788,397.27	10,982,674.13	10,982,674.13	0.00	48,771,071.40	
Common visa policy	Regular actions	Total	1,500,000.00	500,000.00	500,000.00	0.00	2,000,000.00	75.000000000%
Common visa policy	Annex IV actions	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Common visa policy	Operating support	Total						
Total Common visa policy			1,500,000.00	500,000.00	500,000.00	0.00	2,000,000.00	75.000000000%
Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)			2,357,303.83	0	0	0	2,357,303.83	100.000000000%
Grand total			41,645,701.10	11,482,674.13	11,482,674.13	0.00	51,128,375.23	%

3.3. Transfers

Table 7: Transfers between shared management funds¹

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

¹Cumulative amounts for all transfers during programming period.

Table 8: Transfers to instruments under direct or indirect management¹

Instrument	Transfer Amount
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¹Cumulative amounts for all transfers during programming period.

4. Enabling conditions

Reference: point (i) of Article 22(3) CPR

Table 9: Horizontal enabling conditions

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
1. Effective monitoring mechanisms of the public procurement market	Yes	Monitoring mechanisms are in place that cover all public contracts and their procurement under the Funds in line with Union procurement legislation. That requirement includes: 1. Arrangements to ensure compilation of effective and reliable data on public procurement procedures above the Union thresholds in accordance with reporting obligations under Articles 83 and 84 of Directive 2014/24/EU and Articles 99 and 100 of Directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	Public Procurement Register- https://riigihanked.riik.ee ; Public Procurement Act- www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/ee/505092017003/consolide/current ; Competition Act- www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/ee/517062021003/consolide/current ; Information from the MoF- www.rahandusministeerium.ee/et/eesmargidtegevused/riigihangete-poliitika/kasulik-teave/riigihankemaastiku-kokkuvotted ; www.rahandusministeerium.ee/et/eesmargidtegevused/riigihangete-poliitika/kontaktid)	Public contracts above the national threshold and procurement under EU procurement law are published and executed on the central e-procurement portal “Public Procurement Register” managed by the Ministry of Finance (MoF) in accordance with Reg (EU) 2015/1986. MoF is responsible for monitoring, reporting and consulting pursuant to Art 83 and 84 of EU 2014/24 and Art 99 and 100 of EU 2014/25. Monitoring and reporting are based on data retrieved from the Central Public Procurement Register.
		2. Arrangements to ensure the data cover at least the following elements: a. Quality and intensity of competition: names of winning bidder, number of initial bidders and contractual value; b. Information on final price after completion and on participation of SMEs as direct bidders, where national systems provide such information.	Yes	Public Procurement Register (PPR)- https://riigihanked.riik.ee ; Public Procurement and State Aid Department of the MoF: https://www.rahandusministeerium.ee/sites/default/files/rmv_traamat_unit_files/riigihangete_ja_riigiabi_osakond_0.pdf ; Reports, data- www.rahandusministeerium.ee/et/eesmargidtegevused/riigihangete-poliitika/jarelevalve ;	a. the names of the successful tenderers, the indicative number of tenderers and the contract value shall be published in the public procurement register in the form of a contract award notice in accordance with Commission Reg EU 2015/1986. b. After completion of procurement, the contracting authority will publish the contract-specific information on the final price in the public procurement register. Information on the participation of SMEs

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				www.rahendusministeerium.ee/et/eesmargidtegevused/riigihangete-poliitika/kasulikteave/riigihankemaastiku-kokkuvotted.	as direct tenderers is published in the scheme award notice – 100 % of e-procurement is carried out in a central procurement register.
		3. Arrangements to ensure monitoring and analysis of the data by the competent national authorities in accordance with article 83 (2) of directive 2014/24/EU and article 99 (2) of directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	Public Procurement and State Aid Department of the MoF: https://www.rahendusministeerium.ee/sites/default/files/rmv_traamat_unit_files/riigihangete_ja_riigiabi_osakond_0.pdf; Reports, data- www.rahendusministeerium.ee/et/eesmargidtegevused/riigihangete-poliitika/jarelevalve; www.rahendusministeerium.ee/et/eesmargidtegevused/riigihangete-poliitika/kasulikteave/riigihankemaastiku-kokkuvotted.	3. The authority responsible for state supervision (monitoring) and analysis is the Ministry of Finance. Monitoring obligations are laid down in the Public Procurement Act. 4 people and one person are responsible for the overall analysis of public procurement data.
		4. Arrangements to make the results of the analysis available to the public in accordance with article 83 (3) of directive 2014/24/EU and article 99 (3) directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	Public Procurement Register (PPR)- https://riigihanked.riik.ee; Public Procurement and State Aid Department of the MoF: https://www.rahendusministeerium.ee/sites/default/files/rmv_traamat_unit_files/riigihangete_ja_riigiabi_osakond_0.pdf; Reports, data- www.rahendusministeerium.ee/et/eesmargidtegevused/riigihangete-poliitika/jarelevalve; www.rahendusministeerium.ee/et/eesmargidtegevused/riigihangete-poliitika/kasulikteave/riigihankemaastiku-kokkuvotted.	4. According to the Public Procurement Act § 180 p 7 Ministry of Finance submits once a year to the Government of the Republic an overview of the public procurement policymaking, advisory and training activities, state supervision and the activities of the public procurement register. The yearly overview is published at website of Ministry of Finance (https://www.rahendusministeerium.ee/et/eesmargidtegevused/riigihangete-poliitika/kasulikteave/riigihankemaastiku-kokkuvotted).

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				dtegevused/riigihangete-poliitika/kasulikteave/riigihankemaastiku-kokkuvotted.	
		5. Arrangements to ensure that all information pointing to suspected bid-rigging situations is communicated to the competent national bodies in accordance with Article 83(2) of Directive 2014/24/EU and Article 99(2) of Directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	Public Procurement Register (PPR)- https://riigihanked.riik.ee; Public Procurement and State Aid Department of the MoF: https://www.rahandusministeerium.ee/sites/default/files/rmv_traamat_unit_files/riigihangete_ja_riigiabi_osakond_0.pdf; Reports, data- www.rahandusministeerium.ee/et/eesmargidtegevused/riigihangete-poliitika/jarelevalve; www.rahandusministeerium.ee/et/eesmargidtegevused/riigihangete-poliitika/kasulikteave/riigihankemaastiku-kokkuvotted.	According to PPA in case of a suspicion of an offence which has the characteristics of a possible case of corruption, the Ministry of Finance shall inform the investigating authority or the public prosecutor's office. The Competition Authority is also an investigating authority and administers supervision over implementation of Competition Act 54, it has to be informed about any offences of the competition regulation. MOF webpage indicates that in case of doubt of possible anti-competitive cooperation, the Competition Authority has to be informed
3. Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights	Yes	Effective mechanisms are in place to ensure compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ('the Charter') which include: 1. Arrangements to ensure compliance of the programmes supported by the Funds and their implementation with the relevant provisions of the Charter.	Yes	Constitution- www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/530122020003/consolidated ; Act on the Implementation of ESI and HOME Funds 2021-2027 (ÜSS) , www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/11102022001 ; UN, Common Basic Document as part of the State Parties' Reports – Estonia https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=HRI%2fCORE%2fEST%2f2015&Lang=en ; Gender Equality Act -www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/507032022002 ; Equal Treatment Act- www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/530102013066 ;	To ensure consistency with the Charter Estonia has a mechanism established through national law and international agreements. Among others Section I of the Charter (dignity, § 1-5) in the Constitution § 10, 17, 18, 20, 29. Section II (freedoms, § 6-19) Constitution § 20, 26, 27, 29, 31, 32, 36-38, 40, 41, 43, 47, the Personal Data Protection Act and the Act on Granting International Protection to Aliens. Section III (equality, § 20-26) § 12 and 28 of the Constitution, the Equal Treatment Act, the Gender Equality Act. Title IV (solidarity, § 27-38), § 27-29 of the Constitution, Employment Contracts Act. Title V (citizens' rights, § 39-46), § 3, 12, 34, 44, 46 of the Constitution, Administrative Procedure Act. According to § 7 (3) of the

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				Chancellor of Justice- www.oiguskantsler.ee/en	ÜSS, each Implementing Body centrally coordinates and monitors in its field how the support enables to maintain the base principles of the strategy "Estonia 2035" (including the values of the Charter) and contributing to the achievement of goals. The requirement of compliance with the Charter is foreseen in the horizontal project selection criteria. MA provides trainings on fundamental rights.
		2. Reporting arrangements to the monitoring committee regarding cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the Charter and complaints regarding the Charter submitted in accordance with the arrangements made pursuant to Article 69(7).	Yes	Constitution- www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/530122020003/consolidated ; Act on the Implementation of ESI and HOME Funds 2021-2027, www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/11102022001 ; UN, Common Basic Document as part of the State Parties' Reports – Estonia https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=HRI%2FCORE%2FEST%2F2015&Lang=en ; Gender Equality Act -www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/507032022002 ; Equal Treatment Act- www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/530102013066 ; Chancellor of Justice- www.oiguskantsler.ee/en	The monitoring committee includes partners who monitor the implementation of the Charter and whose task is to present the consolidated vision and, if necessary, problems in their field to the monitoring committee (e.g. the Commissioner for Gender Equality and Equal Treatment, the Estonian Chamber of Disabled People, the Estonian Human Rights Centre). Upon request of the partner overseeing the implementation of the Charter, discussion point is added to the agenda. In accordance with the working procedures of the monitoring committee, which are approved at the first meeting, the representative of the Chancellor of Justice gives, if necessary, an overview of complaints submitted to him/her where the activities supported by the funds did not comply with the Charter or the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Secretariat of the Monitoring Committee makes a request to the Chancellor of Justice before the meeting and, in the case, there are complaints, the discussion point is added to the agenda. The monitoring committee has an e-mail address through which all members of the

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					monitoring committee can open a discussion or propose agenda points.
4. Implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC	Yes	<p>A national framework to ensure implementation of the UNCRPD is in place that includes:</p> <p>1. Objectives with measurable goals, data collection and monitoring mechanisms.</p>	Yes	<p>www.sm.ee/et/heaolu-arengukava-2016-2023</p> <p>www.sm.ee/et/ligipaasetavuse-noukogu</p> <p>www.riigikantselei.ee/ligipaasetavus</p> <p>www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/12788991?leiaKehativ</p> <p>www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/131052018055</p> <p>www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/103072015034?leiaKehtiv</p> <p>www.mkm.ee/et/wcag-20-rakendusjuhised</p> <p>www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/lisa_5_sotsiaalkindlustuse_programm.pdf</p> <p>www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/lisa_4_hoolekandeprogramm_2020_2023.pdf</p> <p>www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/lisa_6_soolise_vordoiguslikkuse_programm.pdf</p>	Welfare Development Plan sets policy to protect the rights of persons with disabilities and describes challenges and indicators. The Social Security Programme provides solutions to modernise disability benefits and services system. The Care Programme focuses on improving access to and quality of social services, developing services that involve people in society and protecting fundamental rights. Statistics on the situation of persons with disabilities are collected by Statistics Estonia. The Ministry of Social Affairs publishes regular statistics and carries out studies.
		<p>2. Arrangements to ensure that accessibility policy, legislation and standards are properly reflected in the preparation and implementation of the programmes.</p>	Yes	<p>www.sm.ee/et/heaolu-arengukava-2016-2023</p> <p>www.sm.ee/et/ligipaasetavuse-noukogu</p> <p>www.riigikantselei.ee/ligipaasetavus</p> <p>www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/12788991?leiaKehativ</p> <p>www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/131052018055</p> <p>www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/103072015034?leiaKehtiv</p> <p>www.mkm.ee/et/wcag-20-rakendusjuhised</p> <p>www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/lisa_5_sotsiaalkindlustuse_programm.pdf</p>	A comprehensive accessibility policy was developed in 2019 by Government's Task Force on Accessibility. The Ministry of Social Affairs is the national coordinator and promoter of accessibility for all sectors: supporting the work of the Accessibility Council, commissioning analyses and studies, coordinating the transposition of the Accessibility Directive (EU) 2019/882. The Equality Competence Centre provides advice and monitors compliance with requirements of accessibility and equal opportunities.

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/lisa_4_hoole_kandeprogramm_2020_2023.pdf www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/lisa_6_soolise_vordoiguslikkuse_programm.pdf	
		<p>3. Reporting arrangements to the monitoring committee regarding cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the UNCRPD and complaints regarding the UNCRPD submitted in accordance with the arrangements made pursuant to Article 69(7).</p>	Yes	www.sm.ee/et/heaolu-arengukava-2016-2023 www.sm.ee/et/ligipaasetavuse-noukogu www.riigikantselai.ee/ligipaasetavus www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/12788991?leiaKehtiv www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/131052018055 www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/103072015034?leiaKehtiv www.mkm.ee/et/wcag-20-rakendusjuhised www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/lisa_5_sotsiaalkindlustuse_programm.pdf www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/lisa_4_hoole_kandeprogramm_2020_2023.pdf www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/lisa_6_soolise_vordoiguslikkuse_programm.pdf	<p>Chancellor of Justice and Disability Council (DC) promote, protect and monitor the implementation of the CRPD. DC works on the basis of Article 33(3) of the UN CRPD. According to working procedure which will be adopted in the first meeting, the representative of the Chancellor of Justice gives an overview of complaints of those activities supported by the BMVI which are not in line with UN CRPD. Also MC members will be able to open the debate by e-mail or call for an ad-hoc meeting should there be a case in which the activities supported by BMVI do not comply with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.</p>

5. Programme authorities

Reference: point (k) of Article 22(3) and Articles 71 and 84 CPR

Table 10: Programme authorities

Programme Authority	Name of the institution	Contact name	Position	Email
Managing authority	Estonian Ministry of the Interior	Tarmo Miilits	Permanent Secretary	lauri.lugna@siseministeerium.ee
Audit authority	The Internal Audit Department of the Estonian Ministry of the Interior	Tarmo Olgo	Head of the department	tarmo.olgo@siseministeerium.ee
Body which receives payments from the Commission	Estonian Ministry of the Finance	Marge Kaljas		marge.kaljas@fin.ee

6. Partnership

Reference: point (h) of Article 22(3) CPR

Preparation of the BMVI programme is based on the principle of openness. All relevant stakeholders were given an opportunity to contribute to resolving Estonia's current and future challenges in implementing external borders and visa policy.

In Estonia all strategic planning of the national needs and their financing is central. There is no separate process (incl. involvement of partners and stakeholders) for programming the EU funds. The planning is source-neutral; the mapping of important strategic goals is done in the process of developing national strategies.

Planning for the 2021-2027 has been conducted hand in hand with preparing the long-term national umbrella strategy "Estonia 2035" and the "Internal Security Development Plan". An overview of compiling the strategies is found on following websites: <https://www.riigikantselei.ee/et/Eesti2035> and <https://www.siseministerium.ee/et/STAK2030>.

The process started in the spring of 2018. At the end of 2018 and the beginning of 2019, consultations with other ministries and umbrella organizations took place. Additionally, discussions were held in all counties. County Security Councils, other institutions related to internal security in the county, interest groups and representatives of civil society organizations, city and rural municipality leaders, and the county development centers were invited to the discussions. The discussions were summarized and used in the preparation of the "Internal Security Development Plan 2020–2030".

The development plan was submitted for public consultation through the dedicated web platform. The same system was used to get an approval from all ministries and the Government Office, and an opinion of the Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities.

The financing for meeting the goals set in strategies are decided during the annual discussions of national budget, which guarantees synergy with national and other resources and enables to avoid double financing.

The implementation of the Internal Security Development Plan is monitored by the sectoral committee which consists of representatives from relevant authorities, intermediate bodies and partners.

There is a common committee to monitor the implementation of the BMVI, ISF and AMIF. This monitoring committee consists of the same parties which are members of the sectoral committees of the Internal Security Development Plan. In addition, bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, fundamental rights, rights of persons with disabilities, gender equality and non-discrimination are involved.

7. Communication and visibility

Reference: point (j) of Article 22(3) CPR

The communication of EU funds aims to ensure target group awareness of EU support through comprehensive, open and relevant communication.

A single website portal providing access to all programmes covered by CPR will be established by the State Shared Service Centre (SSSC). The website portal will be made available in English and Russian as well, since surveys show that the Russian-speaking population is less aware of support measures.

The Ministry of the Interior ensures the continuation of dedicated website for the HOME funds covering the programmes' objectives, activities, available funding opportunities and achievements. Estonia will ensure transparency on the implementation of the national programme and publishes a list of actions supported by each programme.

Both the single website portal as well as HOME funds website are designed and constructed to comply with the WCAG 2.0 AA Accessibility Guidelines. This means that certain technical tools and content creation principles have been used to help consumers with visual, hearing, physical, speech, cognitive, language, learning, and neurological disabilities use the content of the website.

A Facebook page is used to communicate HOME funds' open calls for proposals and achievements of projects.

The communication coordinator in the SSSC will lead the national communication network to ensure central visibility, transparency and communication activities. Furthermore, it will hold a yearly national Europe Day in association with the European Commission Representation in Estonia.

A dedicated HOME funds communication officer is appointed within the Ministry of the Interior.

Technical Assistance is used for communication activities.

Indicators:

1. Audio storytelling through five (5) podcasts to rise awareness of the projects financed from the HOME funds during the new period. Podcasts will be part of the regular podcasts published by the Ministry of the Interior.
2. At least four (4) major information activities during the new period to present the achievements for the target audience.
3. At least four (4) digital media content created, including visual content such as illustrations and video materials to introduce the HOME funds in Estonia.
4. New social media channels (Facebook, Youtube) developed for the Home funds in Estonia to reach out to a wider audience. Creating new content and cross-referencing on other similar social media accounts to grow following.

8. Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

Reference: Articles 94 and 95 CPR

Intended use of Articles 94 and 95 CPR	Yes	No
From the adoption, the programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates under the priority according to Article 94 CPR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
From the adoption, the programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs according to Article 95 CPR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Appendix 1: Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates

A. Summary of the main elements

Specific objective	Estimated proportion of the total financial allocation within the specific objective to which the SCO will be applied in %	Type(s) of operation covered		Indicator triggering reimbursement (2)		Unit of measurement for the indicator triggering reimbursement	Type of SCO (standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates)	Amount (in EUR) or percentage (in case of flat rates) of the SCO
		Code(1)	Description	Code(2)	Description			

(1) This refers to the code in Annex VI of the AMIF, BMVI and ISF Regulations

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

Appendix 1: Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates

B. Details by type of operation

C. Calculation of the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates

1. Source of data used to calculate the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates (who produced, collected and recorded the data, where the data is stored, cut-off dates, validation, etc.)

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2. Please specify why the proposed method and calculation based on Article 94(2) CPR is relevant to the type of operation.

3. Please specify how the calculations were made, in particular including any assumptions made in terms of quality or quantities. Where relevant, statistical evidence and benchmarks should be used and, if requested, provided in a format that is usable by the Commission.

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4. Please explain how you have ensured that only eligible expenditure was included in the calculation of the standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate.

5. Assessment of the audit authority(ies) of the calculation methodology and amounts and the arrangements to ensure the verification, quality, collection and storage of data.

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Appendix 2: Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs

A. Summary of the main elements

Specific objective	The amount covered by the financing not linked to costs	Type(s) of operation covered		Conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission	Indicators		Unit of measurement for the conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission	Envisaged type of reimbursement method used to reimburse the beneficiary (ies)
		Code(1)	Description		Code(2)	Description		

(1) Refers to the code in Annex VI of the AMIF, BMVI and ISF Regulations.

(2) Refers to the code of a common indicator, if applicable.

B. Details by type of operation

Appendix 3: Thematic Facility

Specific objective	Type	EU contribution	Description
SO1	Specific Action	7,260,562.36	<p>BMVI/2021-2022/SA/1.2.1/003 “Establishment of mobile autonomous remote surveillance capability”. The aim of the project is to get a better situational picture from the European Union external border sections, where it is not economically reasonable to build permanent infrastructure. Police and Border Guard Board procures 4 innovative sets of mobile remote monitoring systems, tests and adapts them to guard the border in terrain of varying complexity. The results of the project will be shared with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and other member states.</p> <p>BMVI/2022/SA/1.5.7/003 – BMVI/2022/SA/1.5.7/007 – “iSPoC + analysis”. The objective of this specific action is to secure an effective implementation of the provisions of the Schengen Information System (SIS) Regulations and implementing acts. The scope of this project is SIRENE bureau business processes analysis and system analysis of the application. As a result of the project, SIRENE bureau processes are analyzed and documented. The possibilities for automation of business processes will be mapped, therefore the analysis serves as a base document for further development of the system.</p> <p>BMVI/2021/SA/1.5.4/008 – “Support to comply with the implementation of the relevant interoperability legal framework” under BMVI. The objective of this Specific Action is to support Schengen countries to comply with the implementation of the interoperability legal framework. The action has two aspects: 1) preparing the end-users of EU IT system for handling properly the information on identities contained in other systems as a result of interoperability and 2) extending the capacity of the SIRENE offices to resolve yellow links during the period that makes the Multiple Identity Detector (MID) operational. ESTONIA implements both aspects.</p> <p>BMVI/2023-2024/SA/1.2.2/01 – Specific Action “Enhancement of Land Border Patrolling Capacity” aims to increase Frontex operational capacity and the EE operational capacity to implement its obligations with regard to the overall protection</p>

		<p>of the EU external borders, through the purchase of equipment – to be put at the Agency’s disposal – under the following categories:</p> <p>2. land-based means of transport and surveillance capacities</p> <p>- 20 Patrol cars</p> <p>BMVI/2024/SA/1.5.1/001 – “Smart Borders 2024+”. The objective of the specific action is to achieve timely readiness for the introduction of the Entry/Exit System (EES) and the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) in Estonia. Two projects will be implemented under this specific action:</p> <p>Slot 1 covers the modification/creation of IT-functionalities (4) in the national systems related to the use of EES and ETIAS, the adaptation of six border crossing points and user training for up to 50 police officers;</p> <p>Slot 2 will involve modifications to the SIRENE bureau's case management system to implement ETIAS. This includes development work on the Schengen Information System, updating of work processes and the manual, and training for up to 50 police officers.</p>
Tehnic Assistance		435,633.74