

Summary of the proposed amendment

Estonia proposes a Thematic Facility amendment of the BMVI programme for the inclusion of two specific actions selected by the Commission (Ref. Ares(2024)8848412 – 11/12/2024 and Ares(2024)9104250 – 18/12/2024) and related adjustments.

Two specific actions will be implemented, notably BMVI/2024/SA/1.4.2/002 and BMVI/2024/SA/1.1.5/001. The target values of the relevant indicators are increased in line with the expected outputs and results of the specific actions (please see below).

The proposed amendments contribute to the achievement of specific objective 1 “Supporting effective European integrated border management at the external borders (...)” of Regulation (EU) 2021/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council. Both specific actions are in line with the enabling conditions and horizontal principles referred to in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.

A version of the programme with tracked changes is enclosed for transparency.

Specific actions: relevant adjustments are included in the narrative of section 2.1.1 (SO1), in the subsequent programme tables as well as in appendix 3, as follows:

- Description of SO1 (section 2.1.1): a reference to the new specific actions is introduced, as follows “*To improve the capacity to detect and intercept unauthorized cross-border unmanned aerial vehicles as well as to enable undisrupted data flows and improved situational awareness from the Eastern border 24/7, the funds of the Specific Actions BMVI/2024/SA/1.4.2/002 and BMVI/2024/SA/1.1.5/001 will be used.*”
- Indicators (table 1 and 2 of section 2.1.2 (SO1)):

The target value of the output indicator **O.1.1** “*Number of items of equipment purchased for border crossing points*” is increased by 115 (of which: 15 radars, 60 sensors and 40 C-UAS devices) in connection with Specific Action BMVI/2024/SA/1.4.2/002, Work Package 2, and by 8 (of which one mast, a passive detection and tracking system (IR camera system), a passive detection and tracking system (camera system), a combination of a static near-IR system and neuromorphic cameras, a radio frequency detection, an active detection (radar), a Radio Signal Jamming and a Hard-Kill solution) in connection with Specific Action BMVI/20204/SA/1.1.5/001.

Since the equipment to be purchased is either small-scale or will be permanently installed at the surveillance positions, these cannot be deployed by the Frontex, therefore the equipment will not be registered in the Frontex Technical Equipment Pool and the targets of the related result indicators remain the same

The target of output indicators **O.1.8** “*Number of participants supported*” and **O.1.8.1** “*of which the number of participants in training activities*” will increase by 6. Result indicator R.1.19 “*Number of participants who report 3 months after the training activity that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training*” is increased by 4 as described in the application for Specific Action BMVI/20204/SA/1.1.5/001.

The target of output indicator **O.1.10** “*Number of IT functionalities developed / maintained / upgraded*” is increased by 2 in connection with the improved drone detection functionality (Specific Action BMVI/20204/SA/1.1.5/001) and uninterrupted data flows (Specific Action BMVI/2024/SA/1.4.2/002).

Both projects will address the recommendations of the Schengen Evaluations: 1) Finalize and further develop the integrated land border surveillance system, in particular the stationary surveillance along the entire border with the Russian Federation; ensure and guarantee sufficient financing of this system by also making use of the EU funding; and 2) Improve the capacity to detect and intercept unauthorized cross-border unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) flights. Since the target for R.1.18 “*Number of addressed recommendations from Schengen evaluations and from vulnerability assessments in the area of border management*” is already set for 100%, it remains the same.

- Indicative breakdown of resources (table 3 of section 2.1.3 (SO1)): the budget for new projects is programmed under 005 “Border surveillance – automated border surveillance systems”.
- Indicative breakdown of Technical Assistance (table 4 of section on 2.2.2): the additional TA is divided between all intervention codes, considering possible future costs for activities. The largest increase is for 004 “Capacity building”.
- Financial plan: (table 5 of section 3.1 and table 6 of section 3.2): Additional amount for the Thematic Facility/Specific Actions and for the TA is included.
- Appendix 3: included the information about the BMVI/2024/SA/1.4.2/002 and BMVI/2024/SA/1.1.5/001:

Additional amount: 24,142,996.29

Description: “BMVI/2024/SA/1.4.2/002 – “Comprehensive surveillance of the EE-RF border”

The objective of the specific action is to enhance Estonia’s capability to control the external border with Russia through state-of-the-art technology.

Work Package 1 will concern the development and construction of a fiber optics communication network (OPTIC-COMM) aimed at ensuring operational reliability and uninterrupted data flows between border guard stations at the external border and data centres.

Work Package 2 will concern the development and construction of the Eastern Border Detection Unmanned Vehicle system (D-UAS Border), with the aim to ensure situational awareness of cross-border movement, including illegal cross-border use of low flying unmanned vehicles.

Overall, the projects will reinforce capabilities for strengthened border surveillance at the external border.

BMVI/2024/SA/1.1.5/001 “Piloting of Multi-Layer Counter-UAS position”

The specific action aims to test innovative technological solutions at the EU external border through the establishment of a counter-drone position, capable of detecting and intercepting flying objects near the Russian border, which will consist of a stationary position (mast equipped with sensors/jammers) and a container equipped with hard kill solution. The results of the project will be shared with Frontex and the other Member States.”