



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS

Directorate E – HOME Affairs Funds
E.3 – North, West & Central Europe (II)

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HOME.E.3/AF

Mr Tarmo Miilits
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Subject: Notification letter - Proposals for the Specific Action - ISF/2022/SA/2.2.1 - European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) - ISF/2022/SA/2.2.1/001 and ISF/2022/SA/2.2.1/012

Dear Mr Miilits,

We have the pleasure to inform you that your application ISF/2022/SA/2.2.1/001 *Tackling Excise Crime in the Baltic Region* has been **selected**.

The application ISF/2022/SA/2.2.1/012 *CCH - EUROPEAN OPERATIONAL TEAM Costa del Sol*, in which you participate, has also been **selected**.

As a result of the assessment process, both proposals have been selected **with recommendations for the partnership to take on board**:

Project reference	Role (Lead or Partner)	Recommendations
ISF/2022/SA/2.2.1/001	Lead	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The timetable would benefit from more details. Only the period 2022-2025 is mentioned, with no indication on activities conducted e.g. year by year. It would for instance be more logical to explain that the technical equipment would be purchased in 2023, for a possible use the following years. Likewise, an indicative calendar of the various meetings would be useful.The indicators on the number of arrests/criminal networks dismantled /criminal assets seized should be listed.The partnership must systematically use the EMPACT logo (as defined in the EMPACT Joint Communication Strategy), and design a tailored communication strategy whenever investigations/action days/activities supported by the project lead to results.

ISF/2022/SA/2.2.1/ 012	Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has to involve Customs/Tax authorities and possibly a liaison from MAOC-N. There is an interest to establish a connection with the action on “the trafficking of cocaine in maritime consignments” developed by Spanish Customs in the LEWP/Customs action plan. • The partnership must ensure a scrutinized approach to make sure that the project/EOT all at once (i) articulates whenever relevant with, (ii) does not duplicate with, (iii) nor compensate Europol’s OTF (operational task force) grant scheme. • The partnership must systematically use the EMPACT logo (as defined in the EMPACT Joint Communication Strategy), and design a tailored communication strategy whenever investigations/action days/activities supported by the project lead to results.
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The Commission services expect that the **Managing Authority makes sure that the Member State takes on board the recommendations** before finalising the project arrangements with the beneficiary and informs the responsible desk officer accordingly.

In case of a transnational specific action, **the Managing Authority of the Lead Member State (for 001: ESTONIA and for 012: SPAIN) should confirm that on behalf of the partnership** to the relevant desk officer.

Funding for the specific actions as set out in **Annex 1** of this letter will be added to your programme **CCI 2021EE65ISPR001** at the time of the approval of the initial programme or via an amendment.

Annex 1 also gives you general guidance on which sections of your ISF programme will need to be adjusted to incorporate the selected specific actions. The technical implementation of the adjustments in SFC depends on the status of the ISF programme.

Therefore, the responsible desk officer, Ms Lenka STRAKOVA (lenka.strakova@ec.europa.eu), will shortly contact you with technical guidance on how to proceed, depending on the current status of your ISF programme in the programming cycle.

Annex 2 also provides information on the distribution of the additional allocation per year.

The specific actions must be implemented by the Member States in accordance with the ISF Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2021/1149) and the Common Provisions Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2021/1060).

Yours faithfully,

(e-signed)

Doede Ackers
Head of Unit

Enclosures: Annex 1 – Model Appendix 3 including information on the allocated funding and general guidance

Annex 2 – Total distribution of the additional allocation per year – for information

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Annex 1 – Model Appendix 3 and general guidance

The below table is the model of the Appendix 3 that will be included in your ISF programme. Depending on whether the specific actions can be included in the programme at the stage of first adoption or via a programme amendment, Appendix 3 is either generated in the background in the SFC database (in case of initial adoption) or the responsible desk officer (in case of amendment) can generate it directly. Your desk officer will be in touch with you regarding this.

Appendix 3 - to the ISF programme of Estonia Procedure reference: C(2021) 8460 final				
THEMATIC FACILITY DETAIL				
Specific objective	Modality	Type of intervention	Union contribution	Pre-financing rate
SO2	Specific Action	<i>Will not be filled in SFC</i>	EUR 375.901,20	<i>Will not be filled in SFC</i>
Description of the actions: max 4000 characters (spaces included)				
<p>ISF/2022/SA/2.2.1/001</p> <p>The objective of this specific action is to develop complex and long-term EMPACT activities and actions, laid down in the operational action plans (OAPs) and implementing one or more common horizontal strategic goals (CHSGs) contained in the EMPACT multi-annual strategic plan (MASP) designed for the EMPACT cycle 2022-2025 (reference: Council document 10109/21 of 23 June 2021 (EU LIMITE)).</p> <p>For that purpose, in response to the call for expression of interest ISF/2022/SA/2.2.1, Estonia is carrying out the project <i>Tackling Excise Crime</i> in the Baltic Region for 48 months, related to EMPACT Excise fraud, and covering strategic goals n°2 (mainly) but also n° 3, 4 and 6.</p> <p>The project partnership is composed of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia.</p> <p>The project is led by the Estonian Tax and Customs Board (ETCB). It aims at reducing excise criminality and excise tax gap in the Baltic region and EU overall, by increasing the efficiency and capabilities of the participating authorities in fight against shadow economy (illegal tobacco, fuel, alcohol) in the EU/Baltic region.</p>				
Specific objective	Modality	Type of intervention	Union contribution	Pre-financing rate
SO2	Specific Action	<i>Will not be filled in SFC</i>	EUR 54.000,00	<i>Will not be filled in SFC</i>
Description of the actions: max 4000 characters (spaces included)				
<p>ISF/2022/SA/2.2.1/012</p> <p>The objective of this specific action is to develop complex and long-term EMPACT activities and actions, laid down in the operational action plans (OAPs) and implementing one or more common horizontal strategic goals (CHSGs) contained in the EMPACT multi-annual strategic plan (MASP) designed for the EMPACT cycle 2022-2025 (reference: Council document 10109/21 of 23 June 2021 (EU LIMITE)).</p> <p>For that purpose, in response to the call for expression of interest ISF/2022/SA/2.2.1, Spain is carrying out the project <i>CCH - EUROPEAN OPERATIONAL TEAM Costa del Sol</i>, mainly related to EMPACT CCH (Cannabis/Cocaine/Heroin), but also to EMPACT HRCN (High-Risk Criminal Networks), covering</p>				

strategic goals n°1, 2, 3, 4 and 8.

The project partnership is composed of Spain, Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Slovenia, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Serbia, UK, USA, Frontex and Europol.

The Pilot Project is meant to establish a European Operational Team (EOT) in the Spanish region ‘Costa del Sol’, to develop and implement a joint investigative and operational strategy against the main criminal organisations and related High Value Targets (HVTs) affecting the EU Member States from the region. The activity of the EOT will be primarily aimed at identifying, investigating and dismantling HVTs and related organised criminal networks. The selection of HVTs and the establishment of related Operational Task Force (OTF) will be carried out in accordance with Standard Operating Procedure developed jointly by the EU Member States and Europol.

Specific objective	Modality	Type of intervention	Union contribution	Pre-financing rate
TA.36(5) Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)	<i>Will not be filled in SFC</i>	<i>Will not be filled in SFC</i>	EUR 22.554,07 EUR 3.240,00 TOTAL EUR 25.794,07	<i>Will not be filled in SFC</i>

Total EU contribution to be added to the programme (sum of EU contribution to individual SAs + total contribution to TA envelope linked to the increased allocation)	EUR 455.695,27
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Once the new programme version including Appendix 3 becomes available in SFC, you will be able to proceed with the next necessary steps.

At that stage you will have the opportunity to:

1. introduce a brief reference to the specific action(s) (i.e. the reference number(s) of the project) in **the narrative description of the Specific Objective 2**;
2. amend the **output and result indicators (Section 2.1.2 Tables 1 and 2)** of Specific Objective 2 and adjust the performance methodology paper in case needed to align its content with the amended indicators;
3. include the additional amount linked to this specific action(s) breaking it down by type of intervention (**Section 2.1.3 Table 3**) under Specific Objective 2;
4. include the additional amount linked to Technical Assistance breaking it down by type of intervention (**Section 2.2.2 Table 4**);
5. introduce the Union contribution and national contribution to the specific action(s) in **Table 6** (the Union contribution to the **Technical Assistance** will be added automatically).

Annex 2

total distribution of the additional allocation per year

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Amount of additional appropriations per year in EUR to be added to the initial allocation in TABLE 5	0	455.695,27	0	0	0	0	0