

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)

The programme of Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) supports in synergy with other programmes and resources the goals set in the overarching **national strategy “Eesti 2035”** which provides a coherent guidance for policy-makers in different areas. In order to fulfill the objectives of the “Eesti 2035” several development plans will be elaborated in different policy areas involving relevant stakeholders. The AMIF objectives and relevant actions that are covered in this programme are mainly based on the **Internal Security Development Plan 2021 – 2030 (ISDP)**. The specific objective of integration has synergies with the **Cohesive Estonia 2030 Development Plan (CEDP)**. Also the development plan for the Estonian language for 2021-2035 and the Welfare Development Plan 2016–2023 will be taken into consideration in programming AMIF.

According to the ISDP, the main purpose of Estonian migration policy is to facilitate the entry into Estonia of foreigners who provide high added value to society and whose stay is in accordance with public interests, EU law and fundamental freedoms. Secondly, there is a need to prevent irregular migration and to organize return of third country nationals (TCN) who are irregularly present in the country, to ensure public order and national security. The CEDP would pay attention to the support needed for migrants who are staying in Estonia for both short and long term and support their active participation in the society and lifelong learning through targeted adaptation and integration measures.

The AMIF programme for period 2021–2027 will focus on the similar activities as AMIF 2014-2020. The challenges remain largely the same, also good practice in achieving objectives and implementing activities in the previous programming period is taken into account. The programme takes into account the administrative capacity and rules for efficiency, also possible simplification measures to reduce the administrative burden and to guarantee enhanced efficiency and effectiveness. The planned activities mainly support enhancing the conditions and will focus on access to the asylum procedures, ensuring high-quality reception conditions, continuing the wide range of cultural integration activities and both voluntary and forced return activities. The goals of the AMIF programme can be achieved with the contribution from various authorities in their area of responsibility. The support will be given in the form of grants.

In the area of asylum, the planned actions will be performed in cooperation with the state, civil society, international organisations and local municipalities. Considering the migratory developments in the world, including the need to implement the temporary protection directive due to war in Ukraine, it is important that Estonia is prepared for a growing number of asylum applications and for ensuring necessary reception conditions of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection. In particular, to cover the needs of vulnerable groups and persons with special reception and procedural needs. Such conditions should establish prerequisites for adaptation as the first step of integration and further integration of the beneficiaries of international protection in Estonia.

Estonia is fully committed to the solidarity between Member States. The preparedness is maintained to make flexible solidarity contributions primarily in the form of providing experts or technical equipment via EU coordinated actions or on bilateral basis. It is also important to continue the participation in the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) European Asylum activities, including of use and development of tools to improve the conditions and procedures including of raising the level of knowledge and professionalism of officials. In addition, Estonia would continue supporting of better awareness and early identification of possible victims of human trafficking, particularly vulnerable groups and upon need directing those persons to appropriate assistance and services in accordance with the EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings 2021-2025.

The overall objectives for asylum are following:

1. to ensure and further develop an effective and high-quality asylum procedures;
2. to ensure and further develop reception conditions and support services for asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection.

As a result, asylum application procedure is enhanced and easily accessible. Decisions are made effectively by trained professionals, databases are developed sustainably, asylum seekers and beneficiaries

of international protection have easy access to support services and accommodation conditions are sufficient.

In Estonia, the Ministry of the Interior (MoI) develops migration and asylum policy and implements it via the Police and Border Guard Board (PBGB). The Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) is responsible for organizing the reception of asylum seekers, for designing various services offered and implementing them via the Social Security Board.

Estonia has transposed EU asylum acquis to its national legislation in due time. The amendments to the Act on Granting International Protection to an Alien and to the practice provide for the full conformity with the EU acquis.

In the field of integration, the CEDP sets goals and addresses civil society, global Estonian identity, adaptation and integration. The development plan sets its priorities in accordance with the EU Action Plan on the integration and inclusion (adopted on 24 November 2020). The EU Action Plan includes actions across all the policy areas that are crucial for integration. In addition to EU citizens and TCNs in EU the action plan also contains actions to address the specific challenges faced by refugees.

One of the sub-objectives of the CEDP is "Estonia supporting adaptation and integration", which centers on effective adaptation and integration policy. According to this, in recent years, new immigration has intensified in Estonia - more and more foreigners arrive to Estonia mainly for work, study or family reasons. New immigration is growing due to labour shortages, return migration and economic development. People are coming to Estonia from other EU Member States as well as from third countries (mainly Ukraine, Russia, India, Belarus). A significant proportion of new immigrants, 61%, plan to associate their future with Estonia (Estonian Integration Monitoring, EIM 2020).

Although the numbers of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection in Estonia have stabilized in the recent years, taking in to account the migratory developments and international conflicts in the world, it is important that Estonia is prepared for a growing number of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection.

Since May 2021 adaptation and integration are in responsibility of the Ministry of Culture (MoC), before the adaptation was curated by the MoI and integration by the MoC. Adaptation and integration are interlinked and having them under one roof will give better synergy in planning and implementation of policies.

Adaptation is a process whereby new arrivals who have (re)located to a country adjust to the new environment and the host society. The process is characterised by acquiring knowledge and skills that help to function independently in the new environment in the domains of daily life (finding a place of residence, putting children to school or kindergarten, taxes, health and social services, signing up for language classes, etc.), the state (organisation of society, legislation, functioning principles of the state, rights and obligations of citizens of other countries, matters regarding residence permits and right of residence, etc.) and cultural issues (basic understanding of the principal values and cultural traditions of the host society, basic language training, etc.). Not all foreigners' goal is to permanently settle down in Estonia, acquire Estonian citizenship etc., but rather due to increasing labour mobility and changing nature of work they tend to settle for couple of years and move forward and therefore do not need thorough integration services.

Integration on the other hand is a long term two-way process to reach social cohesiveness in the society between people with various cultural and linguistical backgrounds. Integration also contains more cultural aspects, higher level language skills, developing and carrying Estonian identity and obtaining Estonian citizenship.

The aim of the adaptation and integration policy is to create opportunities for those who come to Estonia to quickly adapt to life in Estonia and become active members of Estonian society, to acquire knowledge and skills, including Estonian, for adjusting to Estonian state and society and independently managing everyday life in the new host society. The aim is also to contribute to the development of a cohesive society in Estonia where people of different linguistic and cultural backgrounds carry Estonian identity, participate actively in social life, including employment, lifelong learning and civil society, share democratic values and contribute to national and social development.

There is a need to support adaptation for migrants planning to stay in Estonia for both short (mostly people who come to work) and long periods. Different target groups need to be addressed to ensure and increase social cohesion. In doing so, more actors (such as local authorities, businesses, educational and

social institutions, non-governmental organizations) need to be involved in adaptation and integration policies and activities.

Under AMIF, **the following overall goals for legal migration and integration are set:**

- TCNs are empowered and participate in the Estonian society actively, including civil society;
- the knowledge-based approach to the development of migration, adaptation and integration policies has been strengthened;
- the involvement of TCNs (including also persons with undetermined citizenship) in the society has increased;
- the awareness and knowledge of the public about TCNs has increased.

Therefore, there is a continuous need to design and develop necessary adaptation, integration and support services, activities concerning information and orientation, awareness raising, trainings, cooperation activities, research etc. to meet the needs and individual interests of all TCNs, mainly newly arrived migrants and beneficiaries of international protection. Also, there is a need to further develop the capacity and knowledge of organisations and experts involved in the process of integration of TCNs.

In Estonia, the Ministry of Culture (MoC) is responsible for development of adaptation and integration policy, the MoI of civil society policy. In addition, the MoSA is responsible for specific reception conditions and integration services to persons granted international protection and the Ministry of Education and Research coordinates the policy of Estonian language.

Efficient return of third country nationals who have received a return decision or removal order remains of major importance in the ISDP for 2021-2030. The main focus will therefore be laid on the further development of national return management system.

To facilitate the return procedure, Estonia has concluded bilateral implementation protocols with almost every country that has readmission agreements on the EU level. Estonia has also initiated negotiations on readmission agreement with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

Main objectives for return are:

- to ensure effective and speedy return procedure;
- to promote voluntary return;
- to protect fundamental rights of returnees throughout the return process.

Estonia transposed directive 2008/115/EC (Return Directive) to its national legislation and the amendments to the Obligation to Leave and Prohibition on Entry Act (hereinafter referred to as OLPEA) entered into force on 24.12.2010. To achieve full conformity with the Return Directive requirements the amendments to OLPEA were made on 01.10.2014.

It is planned to provide returnees with necessary services and assistance during the pre-return, return related and post-arrival and post-return phases and ensure that fundamental rights are respected throughout the return process. In Estonia the return procedures and relevant documents are drawn up in database of foreigners staying or having stayed in Estonia illegally. The aim is to allow to conduct return procedure (including court procedure) paperless and digital as much as possible.

Estonian law allows the detention of children, unless this is contrary to the child's best interests. In practice unaccompanied minor is provided substitute home service by the Social Insurance Board during his or her stay in Estonia. When carrying out return procedure the special needs of vulnerable persons are taken into account. Therefore the services for vulnerable persons (e.g. accommodation, psychological or psychiatric assistance) need to be continued.

Efficient return policy is based on the good cooperation with Frontex, other EU member states and with third countries.

Activities will be designed and implemented in compliance with the requirements of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and will ensure equal opportunities for all, regardless of age, gender, nationality, disability, etc., and will ensure that the best interests of the child are respected.

Synergies and consistencies with other programmes and instruments are sought, where possible.

AMIF is clearly targeted at TCNs, including beneficiaries of international protection. The European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) deals with TCN's and also with EU citizens, without overlapping with AMIF. For example, it is important that the ESF+ focuses on the development of the system towards local governments, ie local strategies for adaptation and integration. At the same time, AMIF focuses more on the community aspect, ie how to increase the capacity of the liberty to engage, offer and co-create wide-ranging decisions and defined actions to achieve a more cohesive society. Therefore, AMIF will focus

more on the cultural adaptation and especially on the community aspect.

There is also a synergy with Internal Security Fund (ISF) in terms of actions related to the protection of children in migration, fight against trafficking in human beings, protection of victims of trafficking, migrant smuggling and prevention and countering radicalisation. Actions related to the development of Eurodac system for border management purposes are connected to Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI).

AMIF is the main instrument to provide support for the reception of TCNs. In complement to AMIF, the external actions will continue to be implemented by the Neighborhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument and Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance that are and will remain the primary tools to support the external dimension of the Union's migration and security policy. Erasmus+ has the leverage potential for actions to improve the education system and adapt it to the special needs of migrants. Long-term capacity building actions can usefully complement and develop the actions supported by AMIF, focused mainly on early education and integration actions, especially in the reception phase. With the objective of preventing and combating inequalities and discrimination on grounds of gender, disabilities, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, the programme will contribute to social cohesion in the EU, including with regard to TCNs. Actions to protect and promote the rights of the child will also contribute to the protection of migrant children. Estonia is open to fund either from AMIF or national budget activities stemming from Schengen evaluation recommendations.

The AMIF programme 2021-2027 takes into account the relevant needs of all potential beneficiaries identified during the preparation of the national strategies. In addition, in case of EU-wide challenges a Member State can apply for the AMIF thematic facility resources. Therefore, Estonia wishes to use the option provided in Article 26 (1) of the CPR to transfer 5% of the AMIF allocation to the BMVI. One of the biggest challenges and therefore the government's priority in Estonia is protecting the EU external border. The goal for the years 2022-2025 is to equip the land border with state-of-the-art surveillance technology. As the cost for the technology is very high, the AMIF transfer in an amount of 1 112 731,00€ 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. CEAS	Regular actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. CEAS	Specific actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. CEAS	Annex IV actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. CEAS	Operating support
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. CEAS	Emergency assistance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Legal migration and integration	Regular actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Legal migration and integration	Specific actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Legal migration and integration	Annex IV actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Legal migration and integration	Operating support
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Legal migration and integration	Emergency assistance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Return	Regular actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Return	Specific actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Return	Annex IV actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Return	Operating support
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Return	Emergency assistance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Solidarity	Regular actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Solidarity	Specific actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Solidarity	Annex IV actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Solidarity	Operating support
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Solidarity	Emergency assistance
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Solidarity	Resettlement and humanitarian admission
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Solidarity	International protection (Transfer in)
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Solidarity	International protection (Transfer out)
<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. CEAS

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

The AMIF programme contributes to the specific objective by focusing on the following implementation measures in Annex:

(a) Ensuring a uniform application of the Union acquis and of the priorities related to the Common European Asylum System;

Indicative list of actions in connection with Annex III:

- updating existing databases and developing new IT-solutions;
- developing and providing training programmes;
- analysing and developing work processes;
- developing legal acts and practice;
- maintaining and developing high quality translation and interpretation services;
- country of origin information activities;
- studies, analyses etc;
- awareness raising and information sharing etc;
- maintaining preparedness for relocation and resettlement activities etc.

(b) Supporting the capacity of Member States' asylum systems as regards infrastructures and services where necessary, including at local and regional level.

Indicative list of actions in connection with Annex III:

- improving the reception and accommodation capacity;
- providing support services (e.g. psychological counselling, adaption activities, spare time activities etc) to applicants and beneficiaries of international protection;
- networks, capacity building and trainings for officials, experts etc;
- translation and interpretation service;
- studies, analyses etc;
- awareness raising and information sharing etc.

The sub-objective of the Internal Security Development Plan for 2021-2030 connected with **migration policy sets two international protection policy goals which comply with the implementation measures of the specific objective:**

- ensure effective and high-quality process of international protection applications;
- ensure reception conditions and support services for applicants and for beneficiaries of international protection based on the persons' cultural, gender, religious, language and other background.

Estonia has received the smallest number of asylum applicants compared to other EU Member States. At the same time, there has been a slight but stable increase in the number of asylum applications submitted in Estonia since 2010. In 2001 Estonia received 12, in 2010 30 applications, in 2015 already 226 applications and in 2019 there were 101 applications. During 2020 and due to the Covid-19 effects, the number of applicants reduced to 46 persons. Correspondingly the number of beneficiaries of international protection has been up to the 2020 slightly growing and their country of origin varies. In 2010 Estonia granted international protection to 17 applicants, in 2015 to 78 persons, in 2016 to 154 persons, during 2019 to 50 persons and during 2020 to 26 TCNs. In 2019 the recognition rate was 48% and in 2020 it was 53%.

An asylum application may be lodged either at the border (initial border crossing point or to the migration surveillance official) or at the PBGB service bureau. The quality of the infrastructure is high since a common service standard is applied to every service point of the PBGB. These service places also serve foremost as initial points of accepting (registering and lodging) the applications for international protection. Substantial procedures such as interviews are being conducted by specialized asylum case workers at the headquarters of the PBGB. Average processing time of applications for international protection at the administrative stage was 60 days in 2018, 70 days in 2019 and in 2020. Despite of the low number of asylum seekers, Estonia has always aimed to offer the high-quality reception services and to be prepared for sudden massive influx. Therefore, the quality of the infrastructure and service should be maintained and further developed.

To participate in the EU relocation and resettlement activities, Estonia created in 2015 the intergovernmental coordination board and adopted a national action plan. Additionally the board of social partners was convened, where various aspects and developments of relocation and resettlement were discussed. Both cooperation forms are still in operation. In parallel, a wide awareness raising campaign and dialogues on local governments' level were conducted during the years of 2015 and 2016 throughout Estonia where resettlement and relocation related topics were explained. In 2015-2019, Estonia resettled and relocated a total of 213 beneficiaries of international protection.

Asylum applicants are accommodated at the Accommodation Centre. The centre provides a range of adaptation support activities and can provide additional support according to the needs of the individual. It is still important to ensure leisure activities for those staying in the centre and also to provide self-sustaining measures in Estonian society, including taking into account that six months after applying for protection, a person has the right to enter the labour market.

There is only one detention centre in Estonia and the decision to detain is made by the Administrative Court only. An asylum seeker may be detained if the efficient application of the surveillance measures are impossible and at least one of the detention grounds provided by the national law occurs. The detention is in accordance with the principle of proportionality and upon detention the circumstances of the asylum seeker are taken into account of in every single case. Surveillance measures may be applied as an alternative to detention for the purposeful and efficient, simple and expedient conduct of asylum procedures. This practice would be continued in the future.

The wide range of services provided by NGOs, international organisations and the state to asylum seekers and the beneficiaries of international protection (health and psychological care, material aid, interpretation, language training, recreation activities etc) will continue and developed. Estonia will ensure the early identification and provide the necessary conditions and services for vulnerable persons.

The goals that are foreseen by EU by the ongoing CEAS reform will be met.

Goal 1: To ensure effective and high-quality process of international protection applications.

Though the number of asylum seekers is relatively low, Estonia would continually enhance the conditions and focus on rapid access to the asylum procedures.

Goal 2: To ensure reception conditions and support services for applicants and for beneficiaries of international protection based on the persons' cultural, gender, religious, language and other background.

For Estonia, the reception conditions will stay the priority with the aim of ensuring high-quality reception conditions. The conditions will be in compliance with the Reception Conditions Directive.

(c) Enhancing cooperation and partnership with third countries for the purpose of managing migration including by enhancing their capacities to improve protection of people in need of international protection in the context of the global cooperation efforts.

When named actions are undertaken in EU level, Estonia is prepared to provide support to the cooperation. At the moment there are no specific actions foreseen.

(d) Implementing technical and operational assistance to one or several other Member States,

including in cooperation with EUAA.

Estonia implements the technical and operational assistance. At the moment, the PBGB has 5 asylum case officials and approximately 200 trained asylum reserve officials covering 13 different EUAA profiles out of 20 profiles. Some experts cover multiple profiles. All reserve officials are trained to register applications and perform initial proceedings and some officials are trained to conduct substantial proceedings and to make decisions. PBGB has provided yearly 3–4 officials for 1,5 months (6 weeks) to the EUAA asylum support teams. PBGB has also provided yearly approximately 60 units of technical equipment of support. Estonia is committed to continue providing support at least in the same capacity.

Operating support:

Estonia plans to use operating support to better contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the AMIF programme. The use of operating support enables to maintain capabilities which are crucial to the Union as a whole.

Asylum related IT systems and equipment maintenance as well as repair costs would be covered by operating support. Developing the system of processing of applicants for international protection ensures a high-quality and fast process and ensures the exchange of data with other relevant IT systems in the processing of applications for international protection and in decision-making.

The PBGB is the main authority responsible for the implementation of the asylum policy and procedures in Estonia. Depending on national arrangements, funding related to the maintenance of IT systems may be directed to the Development and IT Centre of the Ministry of the Interior (SMIT) who is responsible of all IT systems development and maintenance in the domain of asylum.

Financial instruments: Not applicable.

2.1. Specific objective 1. CEAS

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 participants supported	number	455	2,065
O.1.1.1	of which number of participants who received legal assistance	number	80	280
O.1.1.2	of which number of participants benefiting from other types of support, including information and assistance throughout the asylum procedure	number	375	1,785
O.1.1.3	of which number of vulnerable participants assisted	number	0	0
O.1.2	Number of participants in training activities	number	278	898
O.1.3	Number of newly created places in reception infrastructure in line with Union acquis	number	20	120
O.1.3.1	of which number of newly created places for unaccompanied minors	number	0	0
O.1.4	Number of renovated/refurbished places in reception infrastructure in line with Union acquis	number	23	130
O.1.4.1	of which number of renovated/refurbished places for unaccompanied minors	number	0	0

2.1. Specific objective 1. CEAS

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.1.5	Number of participants who consider the training useful for their work	number	0	share	2021-2027	729	number	Project reports	
R.1.6	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	375	number	Project reports	
R.1.7	Number of persons placed in alternatives to detention	number	0	number	2021-2027	0	number	NA	
R.1.7.1	of which number of unaccompanied minors placed in alternatives to detention	number	0	number	2021-2027	0	number	NA	
R.1.7.2	of which number of families placed in alternatives to detention	number	0	number	2021-2027	0	number	NA	

2.1. Specific objective 1. CEAS

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.Reception conditions	2,369,591.25
Intervention field	002.Asylum procedures	4,495,312.50
Intervention field	003.Implementation of the Union acquis	150,750.00
Intervention field	004.Children in migration	0.00
Intervention field	005.Persons with special reception and procedural needs	0.00
Intervention field	006.Union resettlement programmes or national resettlement and humanitarian admission schemes (Annex III, point 2(g))	0.00
Intervention field	007.Operating support	232,091.37

2.1. Specific objective: 2. Legal migration and integration

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

The AMIF programme contributes to the specific objective by focusing on the following implementation measures in Annex II and in connection with Annex III:

(b) supporting measures to facilitate regular entry into and residence in the Union;

The indicative action in connection with Annex III:

- migration counselling services;

(d) promoting integration measures for the social and economic inclusion of third-country nationals and protection measures for vulnerable persons in the context of integration measures, facilitating family reunification and preparing for the active participation of third-country nationals in, and their acceptance by, the receiving society, with the involvement of national and, in particular, regional or local authorities and civil society organisations, including refugee organisations and migrant-led organisations, and social partners.

The indicative list of actions in connection with Annex III:

- awareness raising and information sharing to TCNs and host society;
- participation and exchanges between the members of the host society and TCN's, civics and other trainings, orientation courses, one stop shops etc;
- language training;
- cooperation activities, e.g. raising of active participation in society, developing social entrepreneurship etc;
- pre-departure measures;
- support services;
- developing and involving of civil society organisations;
- capacity building and trainings for officials, experts etc;
- interpretation and translation services;
- studies, analyses etc.

During the financing period 2021-2027, Estonia plans to continue with the initial language and cultural adaptation/integration activities and introduce new pre-departure and post-arrival measures (including mental health issues etc) to ensure initial integration and prepare TCNs to join the labour market. The activities will be financed from AMIF mostly in accordance with the Internal Security Development Plan 2021-2030 and Cohesive Estonia 2030 Development Plan.

Based on studies, e.g. the EIM 2020, the Estonian Human Development Report (HDR 2016/2017), Statistics Estonia data and other research, it is important to focus on the following challenges:

Migration to Estonia has steadily increased during previous programming period due to labour shortage, return migration, and more favorable economic development. Increasing migration requires efficient and effective adaptation and integration measures. There is a need to develop new innovative approaches in adaptation and integration policies as the current measures do not entirely meet the challenges that the mobility and diversity of migrant groups require.

Therefore, there is a need to pay more attention to improving and delivering adaptation and integration services in a customer-centric and target-oriented manner, raising awareness and facilitating the transition between services and activities and avoiding duplication.

Much of adaptation and integration takes place at the local level and, to be successful, there is a need to support local authorities with a larger population of foreign origin and public, private and civil society

institutions including at local level that encounter with TCNs and provide (public) services. The aim is to increase the capacity of adaptation and integration partners to effectively provide adaptation and integration services for migrants. Thereby it is important to support the host communities' capability and readiness in a wider context. Integration happens in all places where migrants live, work and go to school or to a sports club. The local level plays a key role in welcoming and guiding newcomers when they first arrive in their new country. In addition, civil society organisations, educational institutions, employers and socio-economic partners and organisations, churches, religious and other philosophical communities, youth and students' organisations, diaspora organisations as well as migrants themselves play a key role in achieving a truly effective and comprehensive integration policy. Empowering both migrants and host communities to actively engage in the integration process is essential to achieve sustainable and successful integration.

According to EIM 2020, approximately 32% of newly arrived migrants actively communicate with Estonians on a daily basis. However, approximately 60% of newly arrived migrants lack active communication with Estonians. In addition, according to the survey "Adaptation of New Immigrants in Estonia" (2019), spouses of a foreign worker (65% of whom according to the survey are women) have become more socially isolated with because they lack the support and network of the employer. EIM 2020 demonstrates that for people of other nationalities living in Estonia for a long time, having a common language of communication and contact with other Estonian residents is important for integration into society. Positive contacts between people of different nationalities improve mutual understanding, reduce fears and prejudices, and create preconditions for appreciating cultural diversity in society. It is important to design and facilitate common points of contact and social networks that create social capital between different population groups. Empowerment of local authorities and the development of partnerships also contributes to meeting the challenge.

Knowledge of the Estonian language will increase people's active participation in social life and increase their competitiveness in the labor market, expand their opportunities for participation in lifelong learning and support the progression to education. Lack of knowledge of Estonian is one of the reasons why people of other nationalities are not actively involved in social and political life, and their trust in state institutions is lower than that of Estonians.

The results of EIM 2020 and other surveys including the data from Statistics Estonia show that migrants, including beneficiaries of international protection, international students and spouses, have a weaker position in the Estonian labor market: they have lower employment rates and they underestimate their security in the labor market. To improve the employment rates and active participation of non-ethnic Estonian residents additional measures besides traditional language courses, such as creating opportunities and platforms of social networks and contacts between different resident groups, are needed. Affordable and accessible cultural activities and services to all target groups and common media space also contributes to this goal.

The number of learners whose mother tongue is not Estonian (Russian, Ukrainian, English or any other language) is growing every year in Estonian education system, so an increasing number of educational institutions need help to support the full integration of multilingual and ethnic learners into Estonian society, to ensure the acquisition of the Estonian language and provide opportunities for the development of pupils' mother tongue and cultural knowledge.

IT solutions aimed at the public are accessible to people with special needs, algorithmic systems are implemented in a way that respects fundamental rights, prejudices, stereotyped and biased decisions are avoided in algorithmic assessments.

The synergy between AMIF and other funds (e.g. ESF+, ERDF, external instruments) will be ensured. AMIF complements mainly with the ESF+. In general, both AMIF and ESF+ will support migrants and third-country nationals but with a different scope of activities and measures. AMIF will support measures implemented in the early phases of integration, meaning adaptation. Measures will be tailor-made to address the needs of the third-country nationals. The ESF+ will complement AMIF with longer term measures related to integration in several fields: the formal and informal educational system, language learning, employment and labour market, actions to support social inclusion etc.

Operating support: Not applicable

Financial instruments: Not applicable

2.1. Specific objective 2. Legal migration and integration

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 participants in pre-departure measures	number	0	0
O.2.2	Number of local and regional authorities supported to implement integration measures	number	15	15
O.2.3	Number of participants supported	number	538	1,858
O.2.3.1	of which number of participants in a language course	number	70	340
O.2.3.2	of which number of participants in a civic orientation course	number	48	168
O.2.3.3	of which number of participants who received personal professional guidance	number	490	1,690
O.2.4	Number of information packages and campaigns to raise awareness of legal migration channels to the Union	number	2	3
O.2.5	Number of participants receiving information and/or assistance to apply for family reunification	number	0	0
O.2.6	Number of participants benefitting from mobility schemes	number	0	0
O.2.7	Number of integration projects where local and regional authorities are the beneficiary	number	0	0

2.1. Specific objective 2. Legal migration and integration

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 participants in language courses who have improved their proficiency level in the host-country language upon leaving the language course by at least one level in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages or national equivalent	number	0	share	2021-2027	146	number	Project reports	
R.2.9	Number of participants who report that the activity was helpful for their integration	number	0	share	2021-2027	1,382	number	Project reports	
R.2.10	Number of participants who applied for their qualification or skills acquired in a third country to be recognised / assessed	number	0	number	2021-2027	0	number	NA	
R.2.11	Number of participants who applied for a long-term residence status	number	0	number	2021-2027	0	number	NA	

2.1. Specific objective 2. Legal migration and integration

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.Development of integration strategies	0.00
Intervention field	002.Victims of trafficking in human beings	0.00
Intervention field	003.Integration measures – information and orientation, one stop shops	1,687,500.00
Intervention field	004.Integration measures – language training	1,275,000.00
Intervention field	005.Integration measures – civics and other training	225,000.00
Intervention field	006.Integration measures – Introduction, participation, exchanges host society	1,950,000.00
Intervention field	007.Integration measures – basic needs	0.00
Intervention field	008.Pre-departure measures	0.00
Intervention field	009.Mobility schemes	0.00
Intervention field	010.Acquisition of legal residence	900,000.00
Intervention field	011.Vulnerable persons, including unaccompanied minors	0.00
Intervention field	012.Operating support	0.00

2.1. Specific objective: 3. Return

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

The AMIF programme contributes to the specific objective, by focusing on the following implementation measures in Annex II:

(a) Ensuring a uniform application of the Union *acquis* and policy priorities regarding infrastructure, procedures and services;

The indicative list of actions in connection with Annex III:

- developing IT-systems;
- providing translation and interpretation service;
- improving the capacity to resolve the crisis in mass migration situation.

(b) Supporting an integrated and coordinated approach to return management at the Union and Member State level, to the development of capacities for effective, dignified and sustainable return and reducing incentives for irregular migration;

The indicative list of actions in connection with Annex III:

- forced returns;
- providing accommodation for vulnerable persons;
- providing counselling (including legal), medical and psychological assistance;
- providing translation and interpretation service;
- improving conditions in the detention centre with provision of services;
- implementing a monitoring system of forced return.

(c) Supporting assisted voluntary return, family tracing and reintegration, while respecting the best interests of the child;

An indicative action in connection with Annex III:

- maintaining and developing assisted voluntary return and reintegration programme.

(d) Strengthening cooperation with third countries and their capacity, with respect to readmission and sustainable return.

An indicative action in connection with Annex III:

- improving cooperation on readmission and return with third countries.

Efficient return of TCNs who received a return decision or removal order remains of major importance in the Internal Security Development Plan for 2021-2030. The main focus will be laid on the development of national IT-systems, pre-return and post return/ post-arrival services and cooperation with third countries.

The goal is to offer returnees broad range of services and advice, including special assistance to vulnerable persons. Estonia will ensure the early identification and provide the necessary conditions and services for vulnerable persons. Following activities are covered by AMIF and the state budget: investments in the detention of irregular migrants (incl. maintenance of detention centre, costs for migrants in the detention centre), salaries for staff engaged in the return process, development and management of IT-systems, preparation of return, translation costs, implementing the requirements of the Return Directive etc.

In accordance with Estonian law the detention of a person is an extreme measure, which may be applied only as a last resort, when other surveillance measures do not ensure the enforcement of the return decision. Upon detention the circumstances of the returnee are taken into account in each case. The detention of a person for more than 48 hours is decided by an administrative court (in a court ruling).

The Estonian return management system should be further developed in line with RECAMAS model to enable speedy return proceedings (e.g issue return decisions together with a decision on ending of a legal stay in a single administrative act) and exchange of data and information (e.g increase interoperability with SIS and other EU IT-systems and IT- solutions developed by Frontex). In addition, the goal is to increase the capacity of authorities and organisations engaged in return related matters.

Estonia will prioritize voluntary return and reintegration of TCN in the country of origin as the most humane and cost-effective method of return. The voluntary return of TCN's is organised through state budget, assisted voluntary return and reintegration is financed by AMIF.

Since 2009, the voluntary assisted return and reintegration programme was financed from either the European Return Fund or AMIF. It is necessary to further develop the existing programme and broaden the range of services offered. It is of primary importance to be able to offer relevant and high-quality services to returnees, including counselling on voluntary return and reintegration opportunities, medical care, special support for vulnerable persons, assistance in preparation of travel and obtaining necessary documents, limited financial assistance (cash incentives), accommodation before and after return etc. To provide for sustainability of return it is necessary to help people to reintegrate in the country of origin. Where necessary, returnees are provided with family tracing and other required services. Another important subject is providing information on voluntary return to the potential target groups and to staff of competent authorities.

In 2019, Estonia issued 1208 return decisions of which voluntary returns were provided to 1000 migrants and 208 return decisions were enforced immediately. 132 TCN participated in the assisted voluntary and reintegration programme (AVR). The voluntary return statistics have had a positive trajectory, for instance in 2014 there were 313 forced, 174 voluntary and 23 AVR cases. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected some return activities in 2020-2021. In some cases it has been more difficult to organize returns of the TCN's e. g. due to shortage or cancellation of flights, unclear quarantine measures etc. The continuation of the pandemic may affect return activities also in the coming programming period, but the PBGB and international organizations dealing with return activities in Estonia are more prepared.

Although Estonia plans to implement activities under Annex IV (Assisted voluntary return and reintegration programmes and related activities) we do not plan to apply for higher co-financing.

Forced return is a part of an effective return policy. Under the AMIF, forced return operations will be financed in part, also from the state budget and Frontex. In addition to the organisation of travel for forced return operations, it is important to offer necessary assistance to the target group, including limited financial assistance to cover primary expenses after the return as well as to provide special support to vulnerable persons. Where necessary, the target group is provided with other services (e.g. medical aid etc.). Additional assistance is offered to vulnerable persons. Actions under the AMIF are additional to those financed under the state budget. The forced return monitoring system will be further developed with the support of AMIF and will cover all the phases of removal processes.

In 2018 a new immigration detention centre was opened and can accommodate up to 123 returnees and asylum seekers, the previous center had places for 80 persons. Although the new centre has more comfortable living conditions compared to the old centre, it is still important to develop the detention conditions and provide services (e.g healthcare services, counselling, leisure time activities etc) taking into account recommendations of Chancellor of Justice as well as resulting from the 2018 evaluations of Estonia on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of return.

Following activities are covered under the state budget and in complement to AMIF (the list is non-exhaustive): preparation of return operations (identification of TCN, procurement of travel documents, partly removal operations, assistance for TCN who return voluntarily beyond of the assisted voluntary return programme etc).

The number of irregular migrants subject to return decisions has been increasing year by year. The number of return decisions has increased significantly from 2016 to 2020. In 2016 the Police and Border Guard Board issued 507 return decisions and in 2020 more than twice, 1232. Through the years the number of irregular TCN detained in Estonia has been affected by the closeness of the Russian Federation and Ukraine which remain the main countries of origin or transit to Estonia. The visa waiver agreements

concluded by the European Union have increased immigration from Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova, and thus the number of violations of the stay of citizens of these countries. In recent years there was also notable increase in number of irregular TCN from Asia (Vietnam, Bangladesh, Afghanistan) and Africa (Nigeria, Cameroon). As the number of irregular TCN is increasing with more different countries of origin, return processes will be more complex and increase in numbers, and hence become more costly.

Irregular migration flows are expected to intensify in the coming years due to the political and economic situation in the EU neighboring countries. As an additional risk, Estonia must be prepared for situations where immigrants are exploited for the purpose of destabilizing the member states of the European Union. The refugee crisis caused by Russia's aggression against Ukraine is also a challenge.

In 2019 the enforcement rate of return decisions was 96%, in 2020 it fell initially due to COVID travel restrictions to 83% (data from May 2020) but increased to 94% (data from October 2021). It is common that enforcement rate of a particular year increases in time. To detect illegally staying or working TCNs Estonian Police and Border Guard Board (PBGB) works in close cooperation with Estonian Tax and Customs Board and Labour Inspectorate. Based on the joint risk assessment the PBGB establishes an annual work plan which includes specific targeted actions as well as joint inspections with the Labour Inspectorate and Tax and Customs Board.

Among the prerequisites of efficient return policy is a swift cooperation with the EU Member States and third countries. Return process can be accelerated and its success can be ensured through efficient cooperation with countries of origin. To achieve the goal it is necessary to create new and strengthen the existing contacts in both the EU Member States and third countries.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of the Interior and Police and Border Guard Board have mapped the most relevant countries on readmission cooperation with third countries. The aim is to improve bilateral cooperation with these countries from which illegal immigrants are most likely to come to Estonia.

The goal is to share experience and best practices, simplify information exchange between competent authorities, assist in obtaining travel documents and ensure proper reception of the removed person in the country of origin. Possible actions are: negotiations of bilateral readmission agreements/ arrangements, joint seminars, visits, etc. Necessary studies are performed to ensure further development of return policies, if needed. Under the state budget following actions are covered fully or in assistance to AMIF: cooperation activities between the Estonian and Russian border guard representatives to carry out return procedures under the accelerated procedure, and bilateral cooperation with third countries to facilitate the implementation of the readmission agreements and implementing protocols.

Operating support:

Estonia plans to use operating support to better contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the AMIF programme. The use of operating support enables to maintain capabilities which are crucial to the Union as a whole.

Return related IT systems and equipment maintenance as well as repair costs would be covered by operating support. Further developing of the quick and effective return procedures IT system is a necessity. Ensuring the exchange of data with other relevant IT systems is also of major importance.

For those areas, the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board (PBGB) is the main authority responsible for the development and implementation of the return policy and procedures in Estonia. Depending on national arrangements, funding related to the maintenance of IT systems may be directed to the Development and IT Centre of the Ministry of the Interior (SMIT) who is responsible of all IT systems development and maintenance in the domain of return.

Financial instruments: Not applicable.

2.1. Specific objective 3. Return

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.3.1	Number of participants in training activities	number	124	475
O.3.2	Number of equipment purchased, including number of ICT systems purchased / updated	number	2	3
O.3.3	Number of returnees who received re-integration assistance	number	190	665
O.3.4	Number of places in detention centres created	number	0	0
O.3.5	Number of places in detention centres refurbished/renovated	number	0	0

2.1. Specific objective 3. Return

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.3.6	Number of returnees voluntarily returned	number	0	number	2021-2027	560	number	Project reports	
R.3.7	Number of returnees who were removed	number	0	number	2021-2027	1,190	number	Project reports	
R.3.8	Number of returnees subject to alternatives to detention	number	0	number	2021-2027	0	number	NA	

2.1. Specific objective 3. Return

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.Alternatives to detention	0.00
Intervention field	002.Reception/detention conditions	1,430,080.20
Intervention field	003.Return procedures	745,755.15
Intervention field	004.Assisted voluntary return	771,131.25
Intervention field	005.Reintegration assistance	225,000.00
Intervention field	006.Removal/Return operations	2,316,516.10
Intervention field	007.Forced-return monitoring system	332,325.00
Intervention field	008.Vulnerable persons/UAMs	0.00
Intervention field	009.Measures addressing incentives for irregular migration	607,050.15
Intervention field	010.Operating support	232,091.37

2.1. Specific objective: 4. Solidarity

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

NA

2.1. Specific objective 4. Solidarity

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.4.1	Number of staff trained	number	0	0
O.4.2	Number of participants who received pre-departure support	number	0	0

2.1. Specific objective 4. Solidarity

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.4.3	Number of applicants for and beneficiaries of international protection transferred from one Member State to another	number	0	number	2021-2027	0	number	NA	
R.4.4	Number of persons resettled	number	0	number	2021-2027	0	number	NA	
R.4.5	Number of persons admitted through humanitarian admission	number	0	number	2021-2027	0	number	NA	

2.1. Specific objective 4. Solidarity

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.Transfers to another Member State (relocation)	0.00
Intervention field	002.Support by a Member State to another Member State, including support provided to EASO	0.00
Intervention field	003.Resettlement (Article 19)	0.00
Intervention field	004.Humanitarian admission (Article 19)	0.00
Intervention field	005.Support, in terms of reception infrastructure, to another Member State	0.00
Intervention field	006.Operating support	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 (TA) is the precondition that sufficient means and resources are available to achieve the objectives and indicators set in the AMIF programme.

According to the Article 36 (5) CPR 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.)

Estonia is not planning to use technical assistance not linked to costs (Article 37 CPR).

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	11,967.11
Intervention field	002.Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	1,089,007.61
Intervention field	003.Evaluation and studies, data collection	47,868.47
Intervention field	004.Capacity building	47,868.47

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
Total								

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)		
CEAS	Regular actions	Total	7,015,653.75	2,338,551.25	2,338,551.25	0.00	9,354,205.00	75.0000000000%
CEAS	Annex IV actions	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
CEAS	Operating support	Total	232,091.37	77,363.79	77,363.79		309,455.16	75.0000000000%
Total CEAS			7,247,745.12	2,415,915.04	2,415,915.04	0.00	9,663,660.16	75.0000000000%
Legal migration and integration	Regular actions	Total	6,037,500.00	2,012,500.00	2,012,500.00	0.00	8,050,000.00	75.0000000000%
Legal migration and integration	Annex IV actions	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Legal migration and integration	Operating support	Total						
Total Legal migration and integration			6,037,500.00	2,012,500.00	2,012,500.00	0.00	8,050,000.00	75.0000000000%
Return	Regular actions	Total	5,431,726.60	1,810,575.53	1,810,575.53	0.00	7,242,302.13	75.0000000345%
Return	Annex IV actions	Total	996,131.25	332,043.75	332,043.75	0.00	1,328,175.00	75.0000000000%
Return	Operating support	Total	232,091.37	77,363.79	77,363.79	0.00	309,455.16	75.0000000000%
Total Return			6,659,949.22	2,219,983.07	2,219,983.07	0.00	8,879,932.29	75.0000000282%
Solidarity	Regular actions	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Solidarity	Annex IV actions	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Solidarity	Operating support	Total						
Total Solidarity			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)			1,196,711.66				1,196,711.66	100.0000000000%
Grand total			21,141,906.00	6,648,398.11	6,648,398.11	0.00	27,790,304.11	76.0765550327%

3.3. Transfers

Table 7: Transfers between shared management funds¹

Transferring fund	Receiving fund					Total
	I S F	BMVI	E R D F	E S F +	C F	
AMIF		1,112,731.00				1,112,731.00

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/riigihangetepoliitika/kasulikteave/ ; riigihankemaastiku-kokkuvotted ; www.rahandusministeerium.ee/et/eesmargidtegevused/riigihangetepoliitika/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 .	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

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				<p>rahandusministeerium.ee/et/eesmargi dtegevused/riigihangetepoliitika/jarelevalve;</p> <p>www.rahandusministeerium.ee/et/eesmargi dtegevused/riigihangetepoliitika/kasulikteave/riigihankemaastiku-kokkuvotted.</p>	<p>price in the public procurement register. Information on the participation of SMEs as direct tenderers is published in the scheme award notice – 100 % of e-procurement is carried out in a central procurement register.</p>
		<p>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.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Public Procurement and State Aid Department of the MoF:</p> <p>https://www.rahandusministeerium.ee/sites/default/files/rmv_traamat_unit_files/riigihangete_ja_riigiabi_osakond_0.pdf;</p> <p>Reports, data</p> <p>www.rahandusministeerium.ee/et/eesmargi dtegevused/riigihangetepoliitika/jarelevalve;</p> <p>www.rahandusministeerium.ee/et/eesmargi dtegevused/riigihangetepoliitika/kasulikteave/riigihankemaastiku-kokkuvotted.</p>	<p>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.</p>
		<p>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.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Public Procurement Register (PPR)- https://riigihanked.riik.ee;</p> <p>Public Procurement and State Aid Department of the MoF:</p> <p>https://www.rahandusministeerium.ee/sites/default/files/rmv_traamat_unit_files/riigihangete_ja_riigiabi_osakond_0.pdf;</p> <p>Reports, data</p> <p>www.rahandusministeerium.ee/et/eesmargi dtegevused/riigihangetepoliitika/jarelevalve;</p> <p>www.rahandusministeerium.ee/et/eesmargi</p>	<p>According to the Public Procurement Act (PPA) § 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.rahandusministeerium.ee/et/e</p>

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
		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	<p>dtegevused/riigihangete-poliitika/kasulikteave/riigihankemaastiku-kokkuvotted.</p> <p>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/riigihangetepoliitika/jarelevalv e; www.rahendusministeerium.ee/et/eesmargidtegevused/riigihangete-poliitika/kasulikteave/riigihankemaastiku-kokkuvotted.</p>	<p>esmargidtegevused/riigihangetepoliitika/kasulik-teave/riigihankemaastikukokkuvotted).</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>MOF webpage indicates that in case of doubt of possible anti-competitive cooperation, the Competition Authority has to be informed.</p>
3. Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights	Yes	<p>Effective mechanisms are in place to ensure compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ('the Charter') which include:</p> <p>1. Arrangements to ensure compliance of the programmes supported by the Funds and their implementation with the relevant provisions of the Charter.</p>	Yes	<p>Constitution www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/530122020003/consale;</p> <p>Act on the Implementation of ESI and HOME Funds 2021-2027 (ÜSS) , www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/11102022001;</p> <p>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;</p>	<p>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</p>

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				<p>Gender Equality Act -www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/507032022002; Equal Treatment Actwww.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/530102013066; Chancellor of Justice www.oiguskantsler.ee/en</p>	<p>(citizens' rights, § 39-46), § 3, 12, 34, 44, 46 of the Constitution, Administrative Procedure Act. According to § 7 (3) of the 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.</p> <p>The requirement of compliance with the Charter is foreseen in the horizontal project selection criteria. MA provides trainings on fundamental rights.</p>
		<p>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).</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Constitutionwww.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/530122020003/consale; 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 Actwww.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/530102013066; Chancellor of Justice www.oiguskantsler.ee/en</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>The Secretariat of the Monitoring Committee makes a request to the Chancellor of Justice before the meeting</p>

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					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 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 www.sm.ee/et/ligipaasetavuse-noukogu www.riigikantselei.ee/ligipaasetavus www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/12788991?leiaKehativ 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_hoolekandeprogramm_2020_2023.pdf 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 www.sm.ee/et/ligipaasetavuse-noukogu www.riigikantselei.ee/ligipaasetavus www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/12788991?leiaKehativ www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/131052018055</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

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				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_hoolekandeprogramm_2020_2023.pdf www.sm.ee/sites/default/files/lisa_6_soolise_vordoiguslikkuse_programm.pdf	<p>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.</p>
		<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>	<p>Yes</p>	www.sm.ee/et/heaolu-arengukava-2016-2023 www.sm.ee/et/ligipaasetavuse-noukogu www.riigikantselei.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_hoolekandeprogramm_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 AMIF 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 adhoc meeting should there be a case in which the activities supported by AMIF 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	info@moi.ee
Audit authority	Internal Audit Department of the Estonian Ministry of the Interior	Tarmo Olgo	Head of Department	tarmo.olgo@moi.ee
Body which receives payments from the Commission	Estonian Ministry of the Finance	Marge Kaljas	Adviser of the Treasury Department	marge.kaljas@fin.ee

6. Partnership

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

Preparation of the AMIF 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 asylum, integration and return 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.

Programming of the 2021-2027 AMIF has been conducted hand in hand with preparing the long-term national umbrella strategy "Estonia 2035", the "Internal Security Development Plan" (ISDP) and the Cohesive Estonia 2030 Development Plan (CEDP). An overview of compiling the strategies is found on following websites: <https://valitsus.ee/strateegia-eeesti-2035-arengukavad-ja-planeering/strateegia>, <https://siseministeerium.ee/ministeerium-ja-kontaktid/kaasamine-osalemise/siseturvalisuse-arengukava-2020-2030> and <https://www.kul.ee/siduseesti2030>.

The process of defining the ISDP started in 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, urban and rural municipality leaders, and the county development centers were invited to the discussions. In total, more than 100 stakeholders contributed to preparing the long-term strategy. The discussions were summarized and used in the preparation of the "Internal Security Development Plan 2020–2030". Through dedicated web platform, the development plan was submitted for public consultation and for getting an opinion of the Association of Estonian Cities and Municipalities, also for approval to all ministries and the Government Office. The financing for meeting the goals set in strategies are decided during the annual discussions of national budget strategy for four years, 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.

The process of compilation of the CEDP also started in 2018. As a preliminary work on the preparation of the development plan, experts from the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Culture prepared analyses to identify main problems and opportunities in the field. Several seminars, workshops, and other involvement events were held in 2019-2020 in different regions with researchers, experts, and stakeholders to prepare the development plan. The objectives of the development plan, the main problems, and the most important interventions and courses of action were discussed with ministries, other state organizations, and all relevant social partners (e.g. interest groups and representatives of civil society organizations, etc) in more detail. Through dedicated web platform, the development plan was submitted for public consultation and for getting 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 strategy for four years, which guarantees synergy with national and EU resources and enables to avoid double financing.

There is a common committee to monitor the implementation of the AMIF, BMVI and ISF. 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' 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

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent by
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