

Summary of the proposed amendment

Estonia proposes a standard programme amendment of the BMVI programme for the inclusion of specific action to support Member States in the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, and of the additional allocation from the Schengen Associated Countries and Mid-Term Review.

The proposed amendments contribute mostly to the achievement of specific objective 1 “Supporting effective European integrated border management at the external borders (...)” and in some part to the achievement of specific objective 2 “Supporting the common visa policy (...)” of Regulation (EU) 2021/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council. All proposed amendments are in line with the enabling conditions and horizontal principles referred to in Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.

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

The proposed amendment has been approved by the Monitoring Committee on 13.08.2025 (Protocol signed on 15.08.2025).

Relevant adjustments are included in the narrative of section 1 and 2, in the subsequent programme tables as well as in appendix 3 as follows:

- Sections 1 and 2 have been updated with current background data, the strategic objectives of the Pact especially around the Screening Regulation, and a reference to the relevant programmes of the Internal Security Development Plan. Activities which will be implemented in the framework of the specific action to support the Member States in the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum have been introduced and more emphasis to the implementation of Scheval recommendations has been drawn. The additional Mid-Term Review and SAC allocation will be used to tackle Scheval recommendations No 18, 19, 27, 28, 30, 79, 86, 87 under SO1 and No 56, 60, 65, 67, 69, 71, 84, 100 under SO2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will start using operating support to hire three additional visa officers.
- Indicators (table 1 and 2 of section 2.1.2):

SO1:

O.1.1 “Number of items of equipment purchased for border crossing points” – the target is decreased. This results from two changes which partly offset each other. On the one hand, new equipment such as mobile facial image capturing devices and document control equipment will be purchased in connection with Screening/ EURODAC but also border surveillance equipment via the SAC

contribution. On the other hand, the calculation method needs to be updated to correctly match the assignment of unique identifiers. Changes are described in detail in the Performance Framework methodology.

O.1.1.1 “(...) of which number of Automated Border Control gates / self-service systems / e- gates purchased” – the target is increased as 2 more ABC-gates will be rented and installed in the airport.

O.1.2 “Number of infrastructure maintained / repaired” is increased by one to capture the remodelling, in the framework of the Pact Specific Action, of the current detention centre into a multipurpose centre for screening, which may be used also for the border procedures if necessary.

O.1.8 “Number of participants supported” is increased from 602 to 662, to include 10 officers to be hired to fulfil horizontal tasks in the multipurpose centre and 50 officials to be trained in framework of the “SmartBorders 2024+” in two separate operations.

O.1.8.1 “(...) of which number of participants in training activities” is increased by 50 officials (SA SmartBorders 2024+) .

O.1.10 “Number of IT functionalities developed / maintained / upgraded” is increased to 25 on account of functionalities to be developed with the support of MTR (5) and the Specific Action to support the Member States in implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum (9).

R.1.14 “Number of items of equipment registered in the Technical Equipment Pool of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency” and R.1.15 “Number of items of equipment put at the disposal of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency” – the target is corrected to 63 (4 mobile surveillance solutions, 26 drones and 33 vehicles) to fix a previous calculation error.

R.1.18 “Number of addressed recommendations from Schengen Evaluations and from vulnerability assessments in the area of border management” – target remains the same (100%). BMVI will contribute to addressing 10 Scheval recommendations (No 18, 19, 21, 22, 27, 28, 30, 79, 86, 87), the rest will be tackled by the national budget.

R.1.19 “Number of participants who report three months after the training activity that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training” is increased to 540 in line with the beneficiary’s updated estimates.

SO2:

O.2.1 “*Number of projects supporting the digitalisation of visa processing*” will be decreased by 1. All VIS related projects will be combined to create more flexibility for implementation.

O.2.2 “*Number of participants supported*” – calculation error for the 2024 milestone is eliminated.

O.2.3 “*Number of staff deployed to consulates in third countries*” is set to three (new visa officers).

O.2.3.1 “*(...) of which number of staff deployed for visa processing*” is set to three (new visa officers).

O.2.4 “*Number of IT functionalities developed / maintained / upgraded*” is increased by two. In total 4 VIS related functionalities will be developed in the programming period.

BMVI funding will no longer be used for the indicators R.2.8 “*Number of new / upgraded consulates outside the Schengen area*” and R.2.8.1 “*(...) of which number of consulates upgraded to enhance client-friendliness for Visa applicants*”, therefore the number is decreased to 0. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs had planned to purchase new fingerprint scanners to all consulates but as other funds were used for the purchase, the programmed amount will be used to hire three visa officers.

R.2.9 “*Number of addressed recommendations from Schengen Evaluations in the area of the common visa policy*” remains 100%. BMVI support will contribute to 6 recommendations (No 56, 60, 65, 67, 69, 71, 84 and 100), the rest will be tackled by national budget.

- Indicative breakdown of resources (table 3 of section 2.1.3):

SO1:

The budget for Specific Action to support Member States in the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum is programmed under 013 “*Measures related to the identification and referral of persons who are in need of, or wish to apply for, international protection*” The specific action will be implemented by the Police and Border Guard Board across three separate operations, all contributing to the implementation of the screening of third country nationals through different actions (IT developments, infrastructure, equipment etc.)

MTR and SAC contribution has been split between codes *003 “Border surveillance - land equipment”* concerning the purchase of surveillance equipment for the Estonian Russian border (Scheval recommendation No 79), *024 “Large-scale IT systems - Schengen Information System (SIS)”* for the creation of new IT-functionalities (Scheval recommendations No 18, 19, 27, 28, 30) and *026 “Operating support - Integrated border management”* for the renewal of ABC-gates (Scheval recommendations No 86 and 87).

In addition, there will be a re-distribution between codes *021 “Large-scale IT systems - European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) – others”* and *022 “Large-scale IT systems - European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) - Article 85(2) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1240”* due to the delay in ETAS EiO. Part of the amount for the code *006 “Border surveillance - other measures”* will be transferred to *003 “Border surveillance - land equipment”*. In 2021, it was planned that Luhamaa Border Point (LCC) would be renovated with the support of the BMVI, however the building needed major construction, and this is funded from the national budget. Now 2 projects/blueprints to prepare construction works in Luhamaa and Võmmorski will be funded from the BMVI.

SO2:

750,000 € from the MTR funds has been allocated to code *006 “Large-scale IT systems - Visa Information System (VIS)”* for further developments of the VIS, including implementation of Scheval recommendations No 65, 67, 69, 71, 84, 100.

Part of the funding that was programmed for fingerprint scanners and biometric capturing devices under *002 “Enhancing the efficiency, client-friendly environment and security at consulates”* will be transferred to *008 “Operating support - Common visa policy”* to allow the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hire three additional visa officers (Scheval recommendations No 56 and 60). Equipment was already purchased from other funds.

- Indicative breakdown of Technical Assistance (table 4 of section on 2.2.2): the additional TA is divided between all intervention codes, considering possible future costs for activities. The largest amount is foreseen for 002 “Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control”.
- Financial plan: (table 5 of section 3.1 and table 6 of section 3.2): Additional amounts are included and divided in line with tables 3 and 4.

- Appendix 3: included the information about the Specific Action to support the Member States to implement the Pact on Migration and Asylum.

Specific objective	Modality	Type of intervention	Union contribution	Pre-financing rate	Description of the action
TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)			1,123,098.62		Specific action to support Member States in the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum
1. European integrated border management	Specific actions		18,718,310.38		<p>Under this Specific Action, funding will mostly contribute to the implementation of Building Block 2 of the Common Implementation Plan for the Pact on Migration and Asylum “A new system to manage migration flows at the EU external borders” by supporting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the establishment of accommodation capacity and horizontal running costs for the screening of third-country nationals. It will include both mobile houses as well as the renovation and transformation of a block of the Detention centre in Tallinn. The capacity for screening may be used also for the border procedures if necessary - the hiring of staff to carry out horizontal tasks in the multipurpose centre, - the provision of support to third country nationals, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o accommodation with a standard of living which guarantees their subsistence, protects their physical and mental health and respects their rights under the Charter o a preliminary health check performed by medical personnel and vulnerability assessment performed by specialized personnel trained for that purpose from the Screening Authority o identification or verification of identity o the registration of biometric data and security checks as necessary o information, translation and support in the filling of the screening form o referral to the appropriate procedure - the development of the national IT-system that are also used for border control purposes (i.e. multipurpose), including indicatively <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o the development of ‘ILLEGAAL’ for screening purposes o the interconnectivity between ILLEGAAL and RAKS for automated document sharing, o the creation of an interface between court e-File system RAKS and ILLEGAAL o the development of a translation module which will be used by border guards and for all procedures related to the Pact. <p>Support to multipurpose ICT systems will <i>inter alia</i> contribute to Building Block 4 ‘Fair, efficient, and convergent asylum procedures’ and Building Block 5 ‘Efficient and fair return procedures’.</p>

					Lastly, funding under this specific action will also contribute to Building Block 1 “A common migration and asylum information system: Eurodac”, via possible IT developments and capacity building, the purchase of mobile facial image capturing devices and document control equipment placed in BCPs and border guard stations at the external border.
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In addition, references to legislation, policy strategies, web links and relevant stakeholders updated in the table 9 of the horizontal enabling conditions.