



**Manual to assist Member States in Programming
for the
Asylum, Migration and Integration and
Internal Security Funds
of the Multiannual Financial Framework period
2014-2020**

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HOME AFFAIRS

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1. INTRODUCTION

For the years 2014-2020 the number of financial instruments in the area of home affairs is reduced from the existing six (EBF, ERF, RF, EIF, ISEC and CIPS) to two with an overall budget of €6.9 billion¹:

- The **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)** will focus on people flows and the integrated management of migration. It will support actions addressing all aspects of migration, including asylum, legal migration, integration and the return of irregularly staying third country nationals (TCN).
- The **Internal Security Fund (ISF)** will support the implementation of the Internal Security Strategy and the EU approach to law enforcement cooperation (ISF Police), as well as the management of the Union's external border and the common visa policy (ISF Borders). It will also cover the development of new IT systems, such as the future Entry/Exit System and the Registered Traveller Programme.

Home Affairs funding under MFF 2014-2020 will support relevant policy developments at EU level notably through the general objectives of the two Funds:

- **In the area of migration, integration and asylum:** *to contribute to the efficient management of migration flows and to the implementation, strengthening and development of the common policy on asylum, subsidiary protection and temporary protection and the common immigration policy, while fully respecting the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.*
- **In the area of internal security and borders:** *to contribute to ensuring a high level of security in the Union while facilitating legitimate travel, through a uniform and high level of control of the external borders and the effective processing of Schengen visas, in compliance with the Union's commitment to fundamental freedoms and human rights.*

1.1. Why have a manual on programming?

The reduction in the number of Funds underpinned by a set of common rules will streamline procedures and allow for a **better understanding** of the rules by all stakeholders. Funding will be mainly implemented under **shared management** which is a novelty in the area of internal security – police cooperation and crime prevention. **Centralised management** will be maintained for the Union Actions (specific transnational or particularly innovative projects, including actions in and in relation to third countries) the flexible emergency response mechanism and the technical assistance of the

¹ Further information about the DG HOME Funds is available from: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/financing/fundings/index_en.htm

Commission. Moreover, administrative burden is reduced by moving from annual programmes to a system of **results-driven multiannual national programmes (NPs)** covering the whole **seven-year Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) period**. More details on the Fund's amounts breakdown per different implementation modes are provided in Annex I.

Taking into account these novelties in the setup of the Home Affairs funding, the need arises to have a manual on programming in order to help Member States (MS)² draft **clear, comprehensive and relevant NPs, being of comparable quality and level of detail and working within the regulatory framework**.

The Commission has so far provided and discussed brief guideline documents with the MS. The number and content of questions received from MS during the preparation of their draft NPs and the assessment of some draft programmes received so far, made a strong case for the development of additional guidance on programming for the Funds and gave some helpful insights into how to provide supplementary support to help MS in the process of drafting their multi-annual programmes.

Bearing in mind the urgency to address as many as possible open MS questions and minimise the time needed for the preparation of the draft NPs and facilitate their approval it is deemed necessary to:

- Re-state the programming process;
- Capture good practices and address the specific areas of concern or weakness in the programming phase identified by the Commission and/or the MS in the course of the review during the programming phase;
- Bring the NPs in line with each other as much as possible by:
 - presenting the key principles of programming that can help to meet the objectives of the Funds;
 - providing comprehensive guidance on content and minimum requirements to be met while drafting and revising the NP before approval;
- Clarify the timeline and modalities of approval and revision of the programmes.

1.2. Who this document is intended for and how it should be used?

Whilst its main audience is the services involved in national programming for AMIF and ISF within the Responsible Authorities in each MS, this manual is relevant to the needs of all partners and stakeholders, too. It is important that it is disseminated across these audiences so that everyone dealing with

² Please, note that for the implementation of the Schengen relevant parts, the notion Member States shall also cover the Schengen associated countries.

programming is familiar with its contents and has a common understanding of the programming process and requirements and the wider context of the work.

Both AMIF and ISF follow the same programming process. As a result, this document is designed to apply across both Funds with supplementary guidance to support specific Fund-related issues where appropriate.

It is to be noted that the guidance provided in this document aims to provide **general** information to support the preparation of NPs across all MS. However, the NP must also reflect any **specific** national situation discussed in the policy dialogue, which may require more detailed levels of information than what is generally set out in this document.

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2. PROGRAMMING UNDER THE MFF 2014-2020

2.1. Regulatory framework

The regulatory framework governing the two Funds forms the basis for the programming phase. Those involved in this phase should read the relevant Regulations, implementing and delegated acts and use them as basis in the preparation of the NPs. The formal submission of the NPs will take place after the entry into force of the regulatory framework (the basic acts will be adopted by the European Parliament and the Council whereas implementing and delegated acts will be adopted by the Commission). The regulatory framework includes:

- Basic acts (3 Specific Regulations and Horizontal Regulation):
 - Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (hereinafter referred to as AMIF Regulation)
 - Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing, as part of the Internal Security Fund, the instrument for financial support for external borders and visa (hereinafter referred to as ISF Borders Regulation)
 - Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing, as part of the Internal Security Fund, the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management (hereinafter referred to as ISF Police Regulation)
 - Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down general provisions on the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and on the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management (hereinafter referred to as Horizontal Regulation)
- Implementing acts:
 - COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No .../.. of XXX establishing the models for the national programmes and the annual and final implementation reports and establishing the terms and conditions of the electronic data exchange system between the Commission and the Member States
 - COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No .../.. of XXX establishing reporting procedures and other practical arrangements on the financing of operating support under the national programmes and in the framework of the Special Transit Scheme
 - COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No .../.. of XXX setting out the timetable and other implementation conditions related to the

allocation mechanism of resources for Union Resettlement Programme under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

- COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No .../.. of XXX on technical characteristics of information and publicity measures
- COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No .../.. of XXX establishing templates for annual accounts, management declaration, annual summary of final audit reports and of controls carried out, and audit opinion
- COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No .../.. of XXX establishing modalities and procedures for annual and conformity clearance of accounts
- COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No .../.. of XXX on general principles on controls by Responsible Authorities
- Delegated acts:
 - COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) No .../.. of XXX supplementing Regulation (EU) No XXX/2014 with regard to the designation and management and control responsibilities of Responsible Authorities and with regard to status and obligations of Audit Authorities
 - COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) No .../.. of XXX supplementing Regulation (EU) XXX/2014 with regard to the common monitoring and evaluation framework
 - COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) No .../.. on information and publicity measures for the public and information measures for beneficiaries

2.2. National Programmes

For the preparation of the draft NPs, each MS should consider the following issues:

- its baseline situation and any needs and gaps. What are the national priorities and where can EU funding generate the biggest added value in achieving common EU objectives?
- the qualitative and quantitative results it wants to achieve by the end of the programming period;
- its intentions for the implementation of "Specific Actions" under both Funds and first intentions for resettlement/transfer of beneficiaries of international protection pledging under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund;

- any issues that could affect the preparation of the programmes for example: the financing plan, strategies which require interventions from more than one Fund, queries about the eligibility of particular actions envisaged, etc.;
- whether the management and control systems and procedures in place for the current SOLID Funds have functioned well. In any case, they will have to be adapted to the new legal requirements deriving from the Horizontal Regulation (no Certifying Authority, clearance of accounts, etc.);
- complementarity of the NPs with the work of the EU Home Affairs agencies;
- complementarity should also be sought with other EU funding programmes, in particular the EU Structural and Investment Funds. In the context of AMIF and in particular in the area of integration, establish the cooperation and coordination mechanisms between the responsible authorities for AMIF and those responsible for the management of the interventions of the European Social Fund;
- and modalities to involve all relevant partners and stakeholders (NGO's, local authorities etc.) in the programming process.

2.3. Submission and approval of the national programmes

The NPs shall be formally submitted through SFC2014 only after the adoption of the basic acts (four Regulations) and of the relevant Delegated and Implementing Acts. In order to keep the momentum of the policy dialogues and avoid putting at risk the timely approval of NPs, it has been agreed during the policy dialogues that MS would informally submit their draft NPs (by email) in the period before the entry into force of the basic acts and the relevant implementing acts.

The informal draft NPs submission can be done via email to the Commission. Please use our functional mailbox (HOME-NOTIFICATIONS-D3@ec.europa.eu) for the draft NPs correspondence and put the desk officer in charge of your MS in copy.

The informal draft NPs are the basis for preparatory work in view of the formal submissions as they will give the opportunity to MS and the Commission to move towards a shared understanding of the strategies and priorities proposed in the programmes in view of their efficient finalisation and approval by the Commission.

The Commission works closely with the Responsible Authority in each MS throughout the programming phase. It does this through a process of comments and observations and supports the MS in the drafting of the programmes taking into consideration the following elements:

- **Coherence:** ensuring for coherence between the NP and the agreed minutes of the policy dialogue;
- **Quality:** reviewing the relevance of the strategy presented in the NP in relation to the baseline situation in the MS, the analysis of gaps and any reported changes in the national situation, and to the relevance of the actions

planned to implement the strategy and the quality of the expected results;

- **Compliance:** NP compliance with the relevant Regulation(s), the Union law and where applicable under a Specific Regulation, for objectives and examples of actions in or in relation to third countries, coherence with the principles and objectives of the Union external action and foreign policy related to the country or region concerned.
- **Correctness:** financial information is checked for accuracy and compliance within the limits and minimum requirements (e.g. on minimum percentages for certain specific objectives or national priorities) as specified in the basic acts.

A total of 58 NPs (27 for AMIF and 31 for ISF) are to be submitted by MS for approval by the Commission. Upon the formal submission the process of negotiation on the draft NPs starts, in view of their formal approval by the Commission. This will be an iterative process consisting of examination of submitted programmes and providing observations to MS with request for amended versions until the programme can be considered as satisfactory and ready for approval taking into account the legal requirements and the outcome of the policy dialogues.

The NP approval by the Commission constitutes a general endorsement of the scope and nature of the actions set out in the text which the MS intends to implement. It is however based on a desk review analysis of the information provided in the submitted programme text. Under no circumstances can the general endorsement be constituted as a specific endorsement of more detailed aspects of actions, procurement procedures, projects, measures and/or cost relating to eligible expenditure which are not explicitly mentioned or described in full in the text. The amount of expenditure recognised by the Commission as chargeable to the Fund concerned is only established in the context of the examination of the annual and final Implementation Reports of the programme concerned with a view to establishing the payment of the balance.

The chart below depicts in broad lines the NP approval process.



The Horizontal Regulation foresees the possibility to revise the NPs and the Commission is planning to provide guidance on when a formal revision of NPs is required.

3. DRAFTING GUIDANCE FOR THE NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Successful programming under the new Home Affairs Funds which will maximise the impact and effectiveness of the planned actions entails careful preparation, consultation and prioritisation. Taking into account the guidance below is in addition likely to minimise the need for unnecessary resubmissions of the draft versions of the NPs, thus speeding up the process of approval.

Sections 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 provide general guidance for preparing the NPs whereas the three sub-sections of section 3.3 provide specific guidance on AMIF, ISF Borders and ISF Police respectively.

3.1. General guidance

Be short and concise. In most sections of the template, the character limitations of the SFC2014 system force you to do so, but it is nevertheless important to keep in mind that very lengthy descriptions can hinder overall understanding of the matter. It is recommended that simple, focused, well-structured and jargon-free drafting should be used.

Provide sufficient information. It is essential that the Commission is provided with sufficient information to be able to assess whether a sound strategy and an effective delivery plan are in place. In practice, this means most importantly that the funding priorities are well described and that examples of actions have been provided.

Comply with all the requirements. Even in the phase of informal draft NP submissions by email (in Word-format), it is important to comply with the Regulations and the rules of SFC2014 (i.e. completing all sections, most notably the financial allocation and indicators (for actions for which EU funding will be allocated), respecting the limitations of the length of texts, respecting the minimum percentages introduced in the basic acts for some specific objectives / national priorities or providing an explanation in case of derogation, etc.).

Respect the programme template. In the SFC2014 system, many features of the template are already set (since they correspond to the provisions in the Specific Regulations) and cannot therefore be changed. It is therefore important to bear this in mind even in the informal phase.

Submission language. The NPs can be submitted in all official languages of the EU. For practical reasons however, MS are encouraged to send the draft versions of their NPs also in English. This will allow acceleration of the process of the approval of the programmes and maximising the time available for negotiations on the draft versions.

3.2. Key principles of programming

A number of lessons which have emerged from the initial exchanges with MS can be captured in the following programming principles.

Undertake a comprehensive needs analysis.

As a basis for sound planning, a comprehensive needs analysis by each MS is essential to achieve the overall Funds' objectives. The analysis should be based on a thorough understanding of the baseline situation in the MS and should, where possible, be supported with statistical data. The Key Issues Paper prepared ahead of the policy dialogues could provide some input to this exercise. Consequently, in the course of the programming process a clear and relevant connection should be made between the needs identified and the strategy outlined in the NP.

Develop a clear strategy for the EU funding.

A simple, clear, and above all needs-driven strategy is essential in providing a framework for the actions to be implemented. It is important to identify from the outset which results EU funding should contribute to achieving and in which areas EU funding can have the greatest added value. To achieve these, the strategy should translate the needs of the MS into main actions to be undertaken in the programming period. Put simply, in choosing the actions to be supported by the Funds, MS should always depart from the question 'does type of action X contribute to addressing the challenge Y'?

Recall the main objectives of the Funds.

During the programming process, it is important to bear in mind that the objectives of the two Funds can only be attained if the NPs prepared and implemented by MS are geared towards contributing to the development of the area of freedom, security and justice in the EU. In order to monitor and evaluate the progress towards the Funds' goals, the Commission and the MS will measure the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, added value and sustainability of the actions (Article 55 of the Horizontal Regulation). Make sure to prioritise those actions which adhere to these principles.

Keep in mind the outcome of the policy dialogues.

The policy dialogues have been an important step towards building this strategy. The NPs should be consistent with the outcome of the policy dialogues, however copy-paste of the agreed minutes is not acceptable and MS are required to program their activities in a strategic way, explaining the choices made based on the factual description of the baseline situation and presenting them in more detail.

Prioritise.

MS often choose to cover a wide range of different activities. This approach carries the risk of spreading resources too thinly and making impact more difficult to measure. It is important to have a clear philosophy about how the Funds are to be used and select a focused range of actions. For example, you may want to support the extension of the scope of an activity, or to strengthen an activity in some way, or you may want to develop specific innovations in practice or to provide additional measures for specific target groups.

Follow the logic of intervention.

A simple programming tool is to follow the logic of intervention and proceed as follows:

- identify the concrete needs, challenges or problems you want to address with EU funding, and the corresponding areas of activity;
- in each case, identify the results you wish to attain with EU funding, where appropriate by considering targets in your analysis;
- translate the result into a concrete indicator and set a target;
- identify those actions that would contribute to reaching these results or targets in the most logical and effective way;
- finally, allocate the estimated amount of funds that would allow for achieving the envisaged result and addressing the identified challenge.

In the table below you may find a (fictive) example of programming through the logic of intervention.

Stage 1: Identify needs, challenges and problems	Stage 2: Decide on the results to be achieved	Stage 3: Link the results to an indicator	Stage 4: Set out targets	Stage 5: Identify the main actions / funding priorities
Lack of know-how on how to deal with the needs of vulnerable persons in the asylum system. (To be outlined in Section 2 – Baseline situation)	Increased competence/expertise of officials dealing with asylum seekers that are able to identify and cater for the needs of vulnerable person. (To be put in the NP as an objective)	Number of persons trained in asylum-related topics with the assistance of the Fund.	95 (target for seven years)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Setting up procedures to identify the needs of vulnerable persons and providing training to asylum officials. - Study trips for officials to other MS, exchange of best practices. - Training modules translation into MS language(s).

Since the description of funding priorities in the NPs has a limited number of characters, the above information will not be included in the programme. It is a basis for drafting the funding priorities in the NP in accordance with the programme template.

3.3. Template guidance – How to fill in the programme template

As explained under section 3.1, MS should comply with the programme template and all relevant requirements, even at the stage of informal NP submission. This section provides a walk-through of the NP template and provides some guidance on the information to be included in the various template sections and how to present/format this information.

In addition to this section, the check lists which will be used by DG HOME to assess submitted draft NP are given in Annex II. With this information, MS should have a better understanding of DG HOME's expectations as to the information to be included in the programme template.

Note: when reference is made below to a number of characters, spaces count as characters in the maximum numbers of characters to be respected.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE DESIGNATED AUTHORITIES

- The authorities and bodies responsible for management control and audit should be provided, along with their contact details and activities assigned to them.
- A summary description of the management and control system should be given and it should be indicated whether this system is different than the one used for the management of the SOLID Funds. ***Your response is limited to 900 characters.***

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Your response is limited to 5000 characters.

- The summary should sum-up the content of the NP and not contain new information. General national (and where applicable, regional) strategies of the MS on Asylum, Migration and Integration or Internal Security should be outlined, as well as the main goals and objectives to be achieved in the upcoming seven years. The summary should avoid specific references to places or projects because in case these change/evolve this would make the summary invalid.

SECTION 2: BASELINE SITUATION IN THE MS

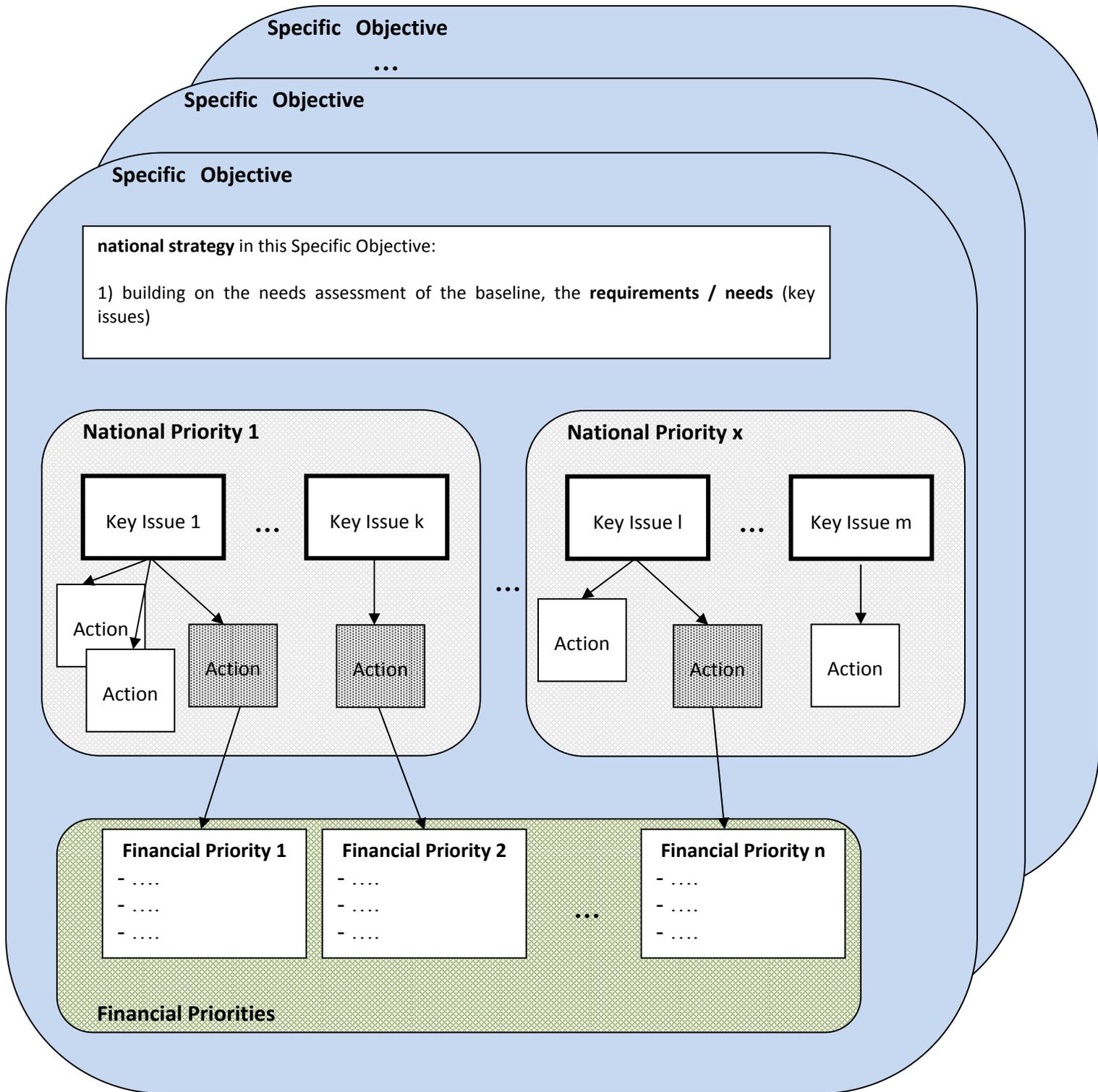
*Your response is limited to **14000** characters.*

- **Most of all, this section should clearly outline the current needs and challenges** the MS faces, based on a **critical review** of the current situation and available resources.
- The baseline situation should contain **factual and verifiable information** on the current state of play in the MS as of 31 December 2013 (or as recent as possible), and be underpinned by data. The baseline situation should make some reference to the key issues from the policy dialogue.
- The baseline does not need to contain the historical situation. It may briefly refer to relevant examples of measures implemented and results achieved under the current Home Affairs financial instruments (SOLID Funds, ISEC and CIPS).
- The baseline should include the national resources available (in addition to EU Funds).
- The following is not allowed (as it is not supported by SFC2014):
 - referring to information presented in attached documents (e.g. see page X is not acceptable);
 - online sources (i.e. no hyperlinks) (although relevant documents can be attached);
 - tables, charts or maps.
- Supplementary more detailed information can be included in the attached document (note that the attached documents will not form part of the approved programme).

Specific guidance on describing the baseline situation regarding AMIF, ISF Borders and ISF Police may be found in sections 3.3.1, 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 respectively.

SECTION 3: PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

- This section should build on the overall description of the baseline situation and the challenges set out in it.
- To allow a broad and complete view of MS policy and objectives in each area, all of the specific objectives and the national priorities should be presented (unless the MS does not plan to undertake any action on the issue at hand). If the MS does not plan to use EU Funds then it is only the funding priorities section that will not be filled in.



Visualisation of the template logic in section 3.

- Specific objectives should elaborate in more detail on the general needs / requirements from the baseline situation and explain the national strategy and national objectives for addressing these needs. The section should be drafted having in mind the question 'Where do you expect to be in 7 years?' The specific objectives in the template correspond to the Specific Objectives of the Fund as stipulated by the Specific Regulation. **Your response is limited to 3000 characters.**
- National priorities should list (key) issues (in particular those identified during the policy dialogue) and the corresponding main actions addressing them. The listed main actions should contribute to reaching the national objectives in line with the specific objectives of the Fund. Actions are areas of activity, not detailed projects. The national priorities must be in line with the actions / operational objectives of the Fund as stipulated by the Specific Regulation. The complete picture of all the national priorities should be provided even if no EU funds are requested. **Your response is limited to 1300 characters.**
- Funding priorities should further describe those main actions that will be funded through the EU Home Affairs Funds with a view to attaining the national objectives. The funding priorities chosen should be relevant for the EU policy priorities and demonstrate a potential for EU added value. Clear and specific examples of the main actions should be provided which will allow the Commission to assess what the MS intends to do and whether the proposed actions are realistic and attainable. This part should not contain indicators or financial information because all corresponding information will be included in section 5 (Common and programme specific indicators) and 7 (Financing plan), respectively, of the template. **Your response is limited to 1500 characters.**
- Although according to the definition provided in Article 2 of the Horizontal Regulation, an action means a project or group of projects contributing to the general and specific objectives pursued by Specific Regulations, description of an action in the NP should provide only the main outline of the action. Detailed description of individual projects is not required in the NP and should be avoided as it is not the purpose of the multiannual programming.
- In case actions or a series of actions cover more than one priority, they should be placed under the priority that is most appropriate or have the largest financial impact. The other related priorities can be referenced.
- Regarding specific actions, please note that a separate pledging exercise for specific actions will take place in the second quarter of 2014 and a guidance note on specific actions has been issued by the Commission. This section of the approved NP will include those specific actions for which top-up funding will be allocated to the MS concerned. **Your response is limited to 1900 characters.**
- The scope of the proposed actions under the funding priorities will be examined in the light of the provisions in the Specific Regulations.

- In the Indicative Timetable please list minimum one and maximum three main actions (foresee an action name) for all financial priorities and all selected specific actions. The time table is not required for Technical Assistance Specific Objectives and for Special Transit Scheme (Lithuania). The table is to be completed with the year when:
 - the start of planning an action: the time to organize/run a call for proposals or tender procedure;
 - the action has started to be implemented: grants or contracts signed or projects are running;
 - the action is closing/completed: final payments and audits are being made.

Planning Year must be \leq Implementation Year must be \leq Closing Year.

Please note that an action maybe completed in a single year (PIC) or be spread over several years.

Specific guidance on filling Section 3 of the template regarding AMIF, ISF Borders and ISF Police may be found in sections 3.3.1, 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 respectively.

SECTION 4: RESETTLEMENT / SPECIAL TRANSIT SCHEME LITHUANIA: see specific guidance (sections 3.3.1. and 3.3.2)

SECTION 5: COMMON INDICATORS AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC INDICATORS (TABLE 1)

- The common indicators are part of the Specific Regulations and need to include: a title, unit of measure, source of the data, base line value and target value. The common indicators are each linked to a specific objective, not to projects.
- MS may add a number of programme specific indicators, for large and financially important actions that are not covered by the existing common indicators. The number of programme specific indicators should be kept reasonable and may not exceed the maximum stipulated in the template. MS will have to report on these indicators every year and explain reasons for not achieving the targets or not progressing as expected.
- The baseline value for the common indicators is set at ZERO (0) for a single reference value (at the start of the programme) against which progress will be subsequently measured. The baseline value for specific indicators may vary according to the indicator and situation. The source of collecting the data may vary but usually it will be from the projects.
- The targets should be realistic (make sense and be achievable) and cannot be changed once the NP is approved. MS should also be able to report on them. To the extent possible, target should be based on the past real experience. For example, if EU yearly funding during the period 2014-2020 is at least that available in 2013 for the same type of actions, one could make a broad target

by not exceeding the 2013 data multiplied by seven (assuming that the effectiveness will remain broadly the same).

- Defining targets and reporting on common (and specific) indicators is mandatory if EU funding is being used for the respective specific objective (if that's not the case, then the target can be marked "0"). The reporting will be made in the Implementation report.
- Not achieving targets may be a consequence of many internal (link to management/implementation) or external (beyond control of RA) factors and should be explained in the annual Implementation report.

SECTION 6: FRAMEWORK FOR PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME BY THE MS

Your response is limited to no more than what the template indicates per sub-section (between 1000 and 3000 characters).

- A Monitoring Committee should be put in place. The role and the composition of the Monitoring Committee should be described.
- Description of the monitoring and evaluation framework for the programme should include:
 - an outline of organisation of the responsibilities for programme monitoring and evaluation in the RA, including, if applicable, the role of external expertise recruited or contracted by RA to assist the monitoring and evaluation activities;
 - an outline of the process set up for collection of data for common and programme-specific indicators from the project level and aggregation on the programme level for the purpose of annual reporting to the Commission.
- Regarding partnership involvement (for both preparation and the implementation of the NP), a brief description of the following should be provided: the approach taken and the involvement of partners and key stages of broader consultation where relevant, a list of the main partners (or types of partners) involved or consulted.
- The information and publicity measures are covered by a standard wording which will be included in every national programme.
- The mechanism to prevent double funding and ensure complementarity with other EU Funds (e.g. compulsory for the integration measures under the AMIF and the ESF) should be clearly outlined.
- Regarding the types of beneficiaries, please use only the terms in the template. Do not add other types of beneficiaries. A maximum of 5 main types of beneficiaries can be listed.

- In case direct award is foreseen, i.e. selection of beneficiary without a call for proposal, this has to be indicated in the NP including sufficient explanation of the reasons. However, other details about the implementation (type of calls etc.) are not subject of the NP.

SECTION 7: THE FINANCING PLAN OF THE PROGRAMME

- The allocations to the funding priorities should correspond to the actions under the funding priorities.
- The minimum percentages for some specific objectives / national priorities as set out in the Specific Regulations should be respected or otherwise be explained in case of derogation.
- In the financing plan, the total available resources (i.e the total allocation) are: the basic amount allocated to the MS (Annex I of the Specific Regulation), the additional amounts allocated for specific actions and the additional amounts allocated for special cases (e.g. lump sums for resettlement). The sum of the allocations to all Specific Objectives (including specific actions, where relevant), of the allocation to Special Cases and of the amount earmarked for technical assistance must match the total available resources.
- The maximum amount of technical assistance will be calculated by the SFC2014 tool based on the total amount allocated to a MS under its NP. This total amount is the sum of the basic amount (as per the Regulation Annex), the amount allocated for the implementation of the specific actions (lead MS only) and the Resettlement / Relocation pledges amounts. The calculation rule is stated in the Specific Regulation. Please note that this amount corresponds to a maximum and MS can request a smaller technical assistance amount.
- The Regulations do not specify any limit for changes between Specific Objectives (art.14.8). There is a certain flexibility, but the principles for approving NPs (and in particular the 'comply or explain' rules) will always need to be respected. The Commission will issue further guidance on this point on what constitutes a significant change in the NP and that will require a formal revision of the NP.
- The standard co-financing rate under the NPs is 75%. Any co-financing rate that is more than 75% will need to be justified for each project. Specific actions may benefit from an increased co-financing rate of 90%. Operating support will be at 100%.

3.3.1. AMIF specific guidance

The purpose of this section is to help MS to draft a comprehensive baseline and to identify actions to be financed under the AMIF national priorities. Please note that the examples provided for each national priority reflect the relevant provisions of the AMIF Regulation and are not exhaustive as it is impossible to foresee all types of actions.

1. Baseline situation in the MS

In describing the baseline situation please provide information on the areas set out below as much as possible while focussing on the needs and challenges within these areas that require financial support and the gaps or shortages in national resources. The guidelines below could help you focus your input on the baseline situation in your country, but are of course not an exhaustive list of possible issues to be discussed. In addition, include in the baseline situation the measures undertaken so far with SOLID Funds in the various policy areas.

As explained earlier, any data underpinning the baseline situation should refer to the situation as of 31 December 2013 (or as close to that date as possible).

Reception and asylum systems and procedures

- The asylum seekers number in 2013, together with an analysis of changes/trends over the last few years, and, if possible, a prognosis for the upcoming few years.
- The number of reception centres number and their capacity, the quality of the infrastructure and the available facilities and services, as well as specific facilities and services for vulnerable groups.
- The state of play of the implementation of the CEAS.
- The speed and the quality of the asylum decision-making procedures.
- The administrative capacity and its robustness.
- MS' capacity to monitor and evaluate the asylum policies and procedures, including contingency planning and mechanisms in place.

Legal migration and Integration

- The number and distribution of residing TCN in the MS in 2013, together with an analysis of changes/trends over the last few years, a prognosis for legal migration in the upcoming few years.
- Issues related to integration of TCNs in the MS (administrative, social, cultural, acceptance etc.), including for beneficiaries of international protection.
- The general needs of the labour market, including a prognosis for the upcoming years.

- The framework (administrative or policy) for legal migration and integration of TCNs.
- The system and the quality of pre-departure measures (if applicable).
- The administrative capacity to deal with TCNs' integration.
- Cooperation with other public authorities and partners on integration of TCNs.
- The system of monitoring and evaluation of integration policies.

Return

- The number of effectively returned persons (split into voluntary and forced returns) in 2013, together with an analysis of changes/trends over the last few years, a prognosis for the upcoming few years.
- The state of play of the implementation of the EU acquis (Return Directive).
- The state of play and the quality of the system of voluntary return and of that for forced return (removals).
- The number of detention centres and their capacity, the quality of the infrastructure and the available facilities and services, and the state of play in developing alternatives to detention.
- The system of monitoring and evaluation of return policy.

Resettlement

- Experience with resettlement so far, including the state of play of the current system.
- Resettlement quota with UNHCR or any other official framework for resettlement (national resettlement programme).
- Cooperation with international organisations and other MS.
- Needs related to the integration of resettled persons.

2. Guidance on the Specific Objectives

Regarding the general description, if you have developed national policy strategies on asylum, legal migration and integration, return and resettlement, this section should outline the main points related to the aforementioned policy areas. If no such specific policy strategy exists, please present the main objectives for the next seven years identified with regard to these policy areas, designed to meet the needs enumerated in the baseline scenario.

It is to be noted that each specific objective takes into account the mandatory objectives as listed in Article 19 of the AMIF Regulation which have to be pursued under each NP.

Under each of the national priorities in the template field titled '**National Priority X**' elaborate on how (by what activities) the abovementioned objectives are to be achieved. Under '**Funding Priorities**' it is requested to outline the main actions which will be conducted with the help of EU funding.

The lists below present only possible actions that could be proposed for funding under each of the national priorities. Note that this is an indicative, non-exhaustive list. Please refer to the AMIF Regulation for the list of eligible actions.

An action (i.e. area of activity) proposed for EU funding under a national priority may cover several categories listed below for this national priority.

It is not required that the description of the funding priorities copy the wording of categories of action listed below, or the wording used in the Regulation. In the description of the funding priorities, make sure that the level of detail and explanation of the planned main actions (areas of activity) is sufficient for the Commission to assess the eligibility against the list set out in the Regulation.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: Asylum (AMIF Article 3(2)(a) and Article 19(1)(a))

Under this specific objective, NPs have also to take into account the mandatory objective laid down in Article 19(1)(a) which requires MS to pursue '*strengthening the establishment of the CEAS by ensuring the efficient and uniform application of the Union acquis on asylum and the proper functioning of Regulation (EU) No 604/2013.*'

MS should describe how they intend to achieve all aspects of this mandatory objective in terms of results and desired outcomes.

Minimum percentages

As per AMIF Regulation Article 15(1)(a), MS shall allocate at least 20% of their basic allocation under AMIF to this specific objective. MS may depart from this minimum percentage only where a detailed explanation is included in the NP as to why allocating resources below this level does not jeopardise the achievement of the objective.

Note that those MS faced with structural deficiencies in the area of accommodation, infrastructure and services are not allowed to depart from the minimum percentage under this specific objective.

National Priority 1: Reception / Asylum (AMIF Article 5)

This national priority covers two aspects of asylum systems – asylum procedures and reception conditions. Please organise the actions according to their main focus (reception conditions or asylum procedures).

- provision of material aid, including assistance at the border, education, training, support services, health and psychological care;
- translation and interpretation, education, training, including language training;
- setting up and improvement of administrative structures, training for staff;
- provision of social assistance and provision of legal assistance and representation;
- specific assistance for vulnerable persons;
- alternatives to detention;
- improvement and maintenance of existing accommodation infrastructure and services or establishment, running and development of new accommodation infrastructure and services as well as administrative structures and systems;
- strengthening and improving of administrative structures and systems;
- information for local communities.

National Priority 2: Evaluation (AMIF Article 6)

- actions enhancing the capacity of MS to collect, analyse and disseminate qualitative and quantitative data and statistics on asylum procedures, reception capacities, resettlement and transfer of applicants for and/or beneficiaries of international protection from one MS to another;
- actions enhancing the capacity of MS to collect, analyse and disseminate country of origin information;
- actions directly contributing to the evaluation of asylum policies, such as national impact assessments, surveys amongst target groups and other relevant stakeholders, the development of indicators and benchmarking.

National Priority 3: Resettlement (AMIF Article 5(3) and 7(1))

It is to be noted that this national priority concerns actions to be supported under the basic amount. It covers two aspects of asylum:

- resettlement (Article 7(1)):
 - establishment and development of national resettlement programmes and strategies;
 - establishment of appropriate infrastructure and services to ensure the smooth and effective implementation of resettlement actions;
 - structures, systems and training of staff to conduct missions to the third countries and/or other MS, to carry out interviews, medical and security screening;
 - assessment of potential resettlement cases by the competent MS' authorities;
 - pre-departure health assessment and medical treatment, pre-departure information and integration measures and travel arrangements, including the provision of medical escort services;
 - information and assistance upon arrival or shortly thereafter, including interpretation services;
 - actions for family reunification purposes for persons being resettled in a MS;
 - strengthening of migration and asylum relevant infrastructure and services in the countries designated for the implementation of Regional Protection Programmes;
 - creating conditions conducive to the integration, autonomy and self-reliance of resettled refugees on a long-term basis.
- Other ad-hoc humanitarian admission
 - Similar types of actions as those listed above (AMIF Article 7(1))
 - Actions related to persons who are temporarily staying (AMIF Article 5(3)):
 - in transit and processing centres for refugees, in particular to support resettlement operations in cooperation with the UNHCR;
 - on the territory of a MS in the context of other humanitarian admission programmes.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: Legal migration and integration

Under this specific objective, NPs have also to take into account the mandatory objective laid down in AMIF Article 19(1)(b) which requires MS to pursue '*setting up and developing integration strategies, encompassing different aspects of the two-way dynamic process, to be implemented at national/local/regional level where appropriate, taking into account the integration needs of third-country national at local/regional level, addressing specific needs of different categories of migrants and developing effective partnership between relevant stakeholders.*'

MS should describe how they intend to achieve all aspects of this mandatory objective in terms of results and desired outcomes.

Minimum percentages

As per AMIF Regulation Article 15(1)(a), MS shall allocate at least 20% of their basic allocation for AMIF to this specific objective. MS may depart from this minimum percentage only where a detailed explanation is included in the NP as to why allocating resources below this level does not jeopardise the achievement of the objective.

National Priority 1: Legal migration (AMIF Article 8 and 10 (a), (b))

This national priority covers two aspects of legal migration:

- pre-departure measures (Article 8): actions taking place in a third-country and preparing the TCNs for integration in the society of a MS:
 - information packages and campaigns to raise awareness and promote intercultural dialogue;
 - assessment of skills and qualifications as well as enhancement of transparency and compatibility of skills and qualifications in a third country with those of MS;
 - training enhancing employability in a MS;
 - comprehensive civic orientation courses and language tuition;
 - and assistance in the context of applications for family reunification.
- capacity building measures on legal migration (AMIF Article 10(a), (b), (c) and (g))
 - building up strategies promoting legal migration with a view to facilitating the development and implementation of flexible admission procedures;
 - supporting cooperation between third countries recruitment agencies, employment services and immigration services of MS;
 - reinforcing the capacity of MS to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate their immigration strategies, policies and measures across the different levels and departments of administrations;
 - and actions to promote and reinforce the practical cooperation between the relevant authorities of MS.

National Priority 2: Integration (AMIF Article 9)

- setting up and developing such integration strategies with the participation of local or regional actors, where appropriate, including a needs analysis, the improvement of integration indicators, and evaluation, including participatory assessments, in order to identify best practices;
- advice and assistance in areas such as housing, means of subsistence, administrative and legal guidance, health, psychological and social care, child care and family reunification;
- actions introducing TCN to the receiving society and actions enabling them to adapt to it;
- measures focusing on education and training, including language training and preparatory actions to facilitate access to the labour market;
- actions designed to promote self-empowerment and to enable TCN to provide for themselves;
- actions that promote meaningful contact and constructive dialogue between TCN and the receiving society and actions to promote acceptance by the receiving society, including through the involvement of the media;
- actions promoting both equality of access and equality of outcomes in relation to TCN' dealings with public and private services, including adaptation of these services to dealing with TCN;
- and capacity building of beneficiaries, including through exchange of experience and good practices, and networking.

National Priority 3: Capacity (AMIF Article 10 (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g))

- training of beneficiaries and staff providing public and private services;
- building sustainable organisational structures for integration and diversity management;
- contributing to a dynamic two-way process of mutual interaction, underlying integration strategies at local and regional level by developing platforms for consultation of TCN;
- and actions to promote and reinforce the practical cooperation between the relevant authorities of MS.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE3: Return

Under this specific objective, NPs have also to take into account the mandatory objective laid down in AMIF Article 19(1)(c) which requires MS to pursue *'developing a return programme, which includes a component on assisted voluntary return and, where appropriate, on reintegration.*

MS should describe how they intend to achieve all aspects of this mandatory objective in terms of results and desired outcomes.

National Priority 1: Accompanying measures (AMIF Article 11, 12(e))

- introduction, development and improvement of alternative measures to detention;
- provision of social assistance, information or help with administrative and/or judicial formalities and information or counselling;
- provision of legal aid and language assistance;
- specific assistance for vulnerable persons;
- introduction and improvement of independent and effective systems for monitoring enforced return, as laid down in Article 8(6) of Directive 2008/115/EC;
- establishment, maintenance and improvement of accommodation, reception or detention infrastructure, services and conditions;
- setting up of administrative structures, systems, including IT tools;
- and training of staff to ensure smooth and effective return procedures, including their management and implementation.

National Priority 2: Return measures (AMIF Article 12 (a)-(d))

- measures necessary for the preparation of return operations, such as those leading to the identification of TCN, issuing of travel documents and family tracing;
- co-operation with consular authorities and immigration services of third countries with a view to obtaining travel documents, facilitating repatriation and ensuring readmission;
- assisted voluntary return measures, including medical examinations and assistance, travel arrangements, financial contributions, pre- and post-return counselling and assistance;
- removal operations, including related measures, in accordance with the standards set in EU law, with the exception of coercive equipment;
- and facilities and services in third countries ensuring appropriate temporary accommodation and reception upon arrival.

National Priority 3: Cooperation (AMIF Article 13)

- actions to promote, develop and reinforce the operational cooperation and information exchange between the return services and other authorities of MS involved in return;
- actions to support cooperation between third countries and return services of MS;
- actions enhancing the capacity to develop effective and sustainable return policies;
- actions enhancing the capacity to collect, analyse and disseminate detailed and systematic data and statistics on return procedures and measures, reception and detention capacities, enforced and voluntary returns, monitoring and reintegration;
- actions directly contributing to the evaluation of return policies;
- and information measures and campaigns in third countries aimed at raising awareness of appropriate legal channels for immigration and the risks of illegal immigration.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4: Solidarity (AMIF Article 3(2)(d))

National Priority 1: Relocation (AMIF Article 7(2))

It is to be noted that this national priority concerns actions to be supported under the basic amount. It covers transfers of applicants for and beneficiaries of international protection from one MS to another (relocation) (Article 7(2)).

- Similar type of actions as those listed for resettlement in Article 7(1).

National Priority 2: Cooperation

This national priority covers actions that focus on cooperation with other MS on enhancing solidarity and responsibility sharing between MS.

3. Special cases: Resettlement and Transfer (AMIF Article 17 + Annex III and Article 18)

This section concerns MS which pledge for the additional amounts for resettlement and/or the transfer (intra-EU transfers not Dublin transfers) of beneficiaries of international protection (relocation). These MS are to provide estimates/pledges on the number of persons they intend to resettle/transfer during the first two years 2014 and 2015. MS are also requested to justify the figures pledged, by describing the official MS decision committing to resettle/transfer. As regards pledging for resettlement, MS should provide figures per categories of persons, including for

common EU priorities (Annex III) which qualify for an increased level of lump sums of EUR 10.000. The basic lump sum is EUR 6.000.

Note that to qualify for the lump sums, resettlement has to be carried out in accordance with the definition laid down in Article 2(a).

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3.3.2. ISF Borders specific guidance

The purpose of this section is to help MS to draft a comprehensive baseline and to identify actions to be financed under the national priorities of the ISF Borders instrument. Please note that the examples provided for each national priority are not exhaustive as it is impossible to foresee all types of actions. Please also note that visa issues shall concern processing of Schengen visas (not national, D-visas or residence permits).

1. Baseline situation in the MS

In describing the baseline situation please focus on the needs and challenges and the gaps or shortages in national resources. The guidelines below could help you focus your input on the baseline situation in your country, but are of course not an exhaustive list of possible issues to be discussed.

Baseline: Visas

Provide information on the number of consulates processing Schengen visas. If you have any consulates which experience staff shortages, list them and mention the number of visas issued and number of staff. Outline any identified equipment shortages used for the purposes of processing Schengen visas, as well as e.g. security measures in the visa sections. Mention any consulates which require renovation or are not modern enough e.g. to provide client-friendly services.

Describe the needs and challenges related to the further roll-out and development of the VIS and any other IT tools necessary for the purposes of processing visas.

With regard to consular cooperation you should describe where you would like to ensure Schengen visa processing coverage by any of the possible measures (opening a visa section, setting up and further development of common application centres, cooperation in the form of co-location, representation arrangements, mixed solutions).

Identify any funding or capacity shortages with regard to consular staff training on issues related to the VIS or the visa *acquis*.

You may also wish to shortly describe the measures undertaken so far with the support of the EBF and their results.

Baseline: Borders

You should indicate clearly and explicitly what are the needs, challenges and gaps you are faced with in the area of border management.

In the description of the state of play, please differentiate between:

- Border checks, in particular, the use of IT systems and modern technology at the border, including installation of ABC gates;
- Border surveillance, in particular, implementation of EUROSUR:

- With regard to EUROSUR, please describe your national coordination centre (NCC) (including responsibilities, tasks, staff, location, available equipment) and your national situational picture (in particular to which extent the events, operational and analysis layers are set up). Which national authorities cooperate via the NCC? Is the NCC also dealing with border checks and the surveillance of air borders? Please provide information to which extent the situational pictures of neighbouring border sections are being exchanged with neighbouring MS.
- Please describe your national border surveillance system. Does it consist of one or several systems? Do you have local and regional coordination centres? What are their responsibilities and tasks? Which fixed and mobile sensors do you use and how are they distributed along the land and sea external borders? How do the different centres communicate with the patrols?
- Please provide an overview of means of transport and other equipment used for patrolling the external border (vehicles, helicopters, maritime patrol planes and vessels, etc.).
- Please describe how you cooperate and exchange information with neighbouring third countries.

2. Guidance on the Specific Objectives

Under each of the national priorities in the field titled '**National Priority X**' elaborate on how (by what activities) the abovementioned objectives are to be achieved. Under '**Funding Priorities**' it is requested to provide a representative list of examples, which clearly illustrate the main actions to be carried out with the help of the ISF Borders. If you consider that you would need to explain these activities in more detail, please provide additional information in an attachment (which will not form part of the decision).

The lists below present only possible actions that could be proposed for funding under each of the national priorities. Note that this is an indicative, non-exhaustive list.

An action (i.e. area of activity) proposed for EU funding under a national priority may cover several categories listed below for this national priority.

It is not required that the description of the funding priorities copy the wording of categories of action listed below, or the wording used in the Regulation. In the description of the funding priorities, make sure that the level of detail and explanation of the planned main actions (areas of activity) is sufficient for the Commission to assess the eligibility against the list set out in the Regulation.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: Support a Common Visa Policy

Regarding the general description of this specific objective, if you have developed for instance a national migration strategy that has a visa chapter or any other strategy covering Schengen visa issuing, this section should outline the main points related to Schengen visas. If no such specific strategy exists, please present an outline of the policy framework by indicating the main objectives for the next seven years identified with regard to Schengen visa issuing, designed to meet the needs enumerated in the baseline scenario.

National Priority 1: National capacity -Visas (ISF Borders Article 9(2)(b))

- Further development of the VIS (national components) and other IT tools used for the purposes of issuing visas.
- Renovation/refurbishment of visa sections, adapting premises to security requirements.
- Purchasing equipment, software and security measures.
- Opening new visa sections.

National Priority 2: Union acquis - Visas (ISF Borders Article 9(2)(g))

- Trainings on VIS, Visa Code, other relevant part of the acquis.
- Document security trainings.
- Follow-up on specific recommendations made under the Schengen evaluation mechanism.

National Priority 3: Consular cooperation (ISF Borders Article 9(2)(c)):

- Setting up and further development of common application centres and cooperation in the form of co-location.
- Representation arrangements.
- Any other forms of cooperation, including mixed solutions aiming at moving towards a more harmonised, more common visa policy, increasing geographical consular coverage, reducing MS costs, increasing the visibility of the European Union and improving the service offered to visa applicants.
- Posting of document security advisors in third countries working for several MS.
- Renovation/refurbishment of common visa sections, adapting premises to security requirements.

- Purchasing equipment, software and security features for common visa sections.

Note: consular cooperation has also been identified as a priority in the form of **specific actions**. The advantage of the specific action compared to an action planned under ISF Borders Article 9 (NPs) is the additional, top-up funding. The cost of the awarded specific action will be added to the basic amount (national envelope) of the MS.

In the event a MS has planned any activities under the specific actions, this section should contain the titles of the submitted proposals.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: Borders

Regarding the general description on this specific objective, please, briefly outline the main points in your national strategy on border management, including within the context of envisaged actions at EU level (including the Smart Borders proposals for example). How the priorities you identified in your national strategy aim to tackle the gaps, needs and challenges described in the baseline situation?

Do you intend to use the Frontex toolbox when planning activities such as training to be financed with EU funds?

National Priority 1: EUROSUR and border surveillance (ISF Borders Article 9(2)(a))

- Investments for establishing and further developing the **MS's components of EUROSUR**:
 - o National coordination centre (building, ICT, equipment, etc);
 - o National situational picture (hardware/software for events, operational and analysis layers);
 - o Exchange of the situational pictures of neighbouring border sections between neighbouring MS (hardware/software for exchanging information on incidents, tactical risk analysis reports and positions of patrols).

Investments necessary for border checks and the surveillance of air borders may be included.

- Investments for establishing and upgrading MS's **border surveillance systems**, including:
 - o Coordination and information management in local, regional and functional centres (building, ICT, equipment, etc.);
 - o Data acquisition by fixed (e.g. radar stations) and mobile sensors (e.g. cameras on vehicles/aircraft);

- Communications (audio, video, radio, satellite etc.).
- Actions improving the **reaction capability** of patrol units (vehicles, helicopters, maritime patrol planes and vessels, etc.)
- Investments in cooperation and information exchange of MS with **neighbouring third countries** (e.g. regional networks)

National Priority 2: Information exchange (ISF Borders Article 9(2)(d))

- Investments in communication systems to improve communication of different agencies/entities in charge of border management.
- Trainings/expert meeting/seminars between different agencies/entities in charge of border management or to enhance information exchange or to improve cooperation.
- Set up of database/statistic tools relating to border management to be used by different entities in charge of border management.

National Priority 3: Development of projects in accordance with common Union standards (ISF Borders Article 9(2)(e) and (f))

- Development of ABC gates following the Frontex guidelines.
- Investments in IT/communication systems, software and hardware aiming at increased interoperability of border management systems between MS.
- Investment related to acquiring access to ICAO Public Key Directory.

National Priority 3: Correct and uniform application of Union *acquis*-Borders (ISF Borders Article 9(2)(g))

- Border-related trainings (Schengen Borders code).
- Implementing the recommendations following Schengen Evaluations.

National Priority 4: Future challenges (ISF Borders Article 9(2)(h))

- Actions implementing analysis issued by Union agencies relating to border management.

National Priority 5: National capacity - Borders (ISF Borders Article 9(2)(b))

- Investment related to building/upgrade of infrastructure at Border Crossing Points (refurbishment, building, renovation).
- Investments linked to SIS II national systems (N.SIS II) and SIRENE application.
- Purchase of border checks equipment (scanners, devices, fingerprint scanners etc.) for checks of persons at external borders.
- Purchase/ installation of border surveillance equipment (mobile/ fixed) and systems.
- Posting of ILOs in third countries and border guards in other MS.
- Investments related to the national components of the future Entry-Exit System and the Registered Travellers Programme.
- Investments in front-end applications / interfaces for border guards.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3: Operating Support

In order to be eligible for Operating Support, each MS must confirm their compliance with the three requirements defined in ISF Borders Regulation Article 10(2) points (a) and (c). All operating support must also be in compliance with the objectives of the programme, Article 10(2) point (b). Also consideration needs to be given to objectives defined in Annex III to the ISF Borders Regulation.

In the programme template, for both national priorities "visas" and "borders" of Operating Support, MS are invited to provide a general indication for the use of Operating Support, including objectives and targets to be achieved as well as indication of the services and tasks that will be financed under the Operating Support mechanism.

In addition, MS need to submit a **dedicated annex** (according to the form annex to the NP template) providing more details regarding their plans for the use of Operating Support for visa and borders. This information is indicative. It should be organised by beneficiary and then by tasks (e.g. one task can be border guards/land border surveillance activities, another one border guard/control of air external borders (airports) etc.) Although it will be used in the assessment of the NP by the Commission, this annex will not form part of the approved NP.

The following list presents only examples of costs/activities that could be covered under ISF Borders operating support in relation to the categories identified in Annex III to the ISF Borders Regulation. However, when planning, MS should take always into account the objectives of Operating Support as defined in Article 10 and Annex III of the ISF Borders Regulation.

National Priority: Operating support- visa (ISF Borders Article 10)

- Staff costs, including training
 - Staff cost (salaries, per diem etc.) of consular staff processing Schengen visas in third countries.
 - Staff cost (salaries, per diem etc.) of MS's staff processing Schengen visas in relevant central authorities.
 - Regular training activities for staff in charge of processing Schengen visas.
- Service costs, such as maintenance and repair
 - Maintenance of phone/ telecommunication systems (answering machines etc.) facilitating the processing of Schengen visas.
 - Maintenance of websites related to the processing of Schengen visas.
- Upgrading / replacement of equipment
 - Replacement of existing equipment related to the processing of Schengen visas including security related equipment.
- Real estate (depreciation, refurbishment)
 - Refurbishment cost of premises used for Schengen visa processing in third countries.
- IT systems (operational management of VIS and new IT systems, rental and refurbishment of premises, communication infrastructure and security)
 - Maintenance, service and repair costs related to security, premises and equipment used for VIS.
 - Maintenance costs of the VIS (national components) and other IT tools used for the purposes of processing Schengen visas.
- Operations (costs not covered by the previous above categories)
 - Travel costs for consular staff deployed in peak session to third countries.

National Priority: Operating support - borders (ISF Borders Article 10)

- Staff costs, including for training
 - Staff cost of border guards in charge of border control at the external borders.
 - Staff cost of staff in charge of EUROSUR national system management (in particular NCCs).
 - Regular trainings of border guards.
- Service costs, such as maintenance and repair
 - Maintenance costs of border control equipment and systems (mobile and fixed equipment).
 - Insurance contracts for border control equipment and systems.
 - Repair of border control equipment and systems.
 - Maintenance of border crossing points infrastructure.
 - Maintenance costs of EUROSUR equipment, premises and systems.
- Upgrading / replacement of equipment
 - Upgrading/replacement of existing equipment for border control activities.
- Real estate (depreciation, refurbishment)
 - Refurbishment of border crossing points infrastructure.
- IT systems (operational management of SIS II and new IT systems, rental and refurbishment of premises, communication infrastructure and security)
 - Maintenance, service and repair costs related to security, premises and equipment used for SIS II.
 - Rental and refurbishment costs of building hosting SIS II national system.
- Operations (costs not covered by the previous above categories)
 - Fuel for surveillance operations.
 - Communication expenditure for border surveillance.

3. Minimum percentages

As per ISF Borders Regulation Article 6(2), MS shall allocate per national priority or group of national priorities at least the minimum percentages of their ISF basic allocation indicated in the table below.

Objectives of Article 9	Borders/Visa	Minimum %
developing the European Border Surveillance System (EUROSUR)	Borders	10%
supporting and expanding the existing capacity at national level in visa policy and in the management of the external borders	Borders and Visa	25%
supporting the further development of the management of migration flows by consular and other services of the Member State in third countries	Visa	5%
reinforcing integrated border management by testing and introducing new tools, interoperable systems and working methods which aim to enhance information exchange within the Member State or to improve inter-agency co-operation	Borders	
developing projects with a view to ensuring a uniform and high level of control of the external border in accordance with common Union standards and aiming at increased interoperability of border management systems between Member States	Borders	
supporting actions, following, the consultation with the Frontex Agency, aimed at promoting further harmonisation of border management and in particular technological capabilities, in accordance with common Union standards	Borders	
ensuring the correct and uniform application of the Union acquis on border control and visa in response to weaknesses identified at European level, as evinced in results established in the framework of the Schengen evaluation mechanism	Borders + visa	
building the capacity to face upcoming challenges including present and future threats and pressures at the external borders of the Union, taking into account in particular analysis carried out by relevant Union agencies.	Borders	

MS may depart from these minimum percentages only where a detailed explanation is included in the NP as to why allocating resources below this level does not jeopardise the achievement of the relevant objective.

3.3.3. ISF Police specific guidance

1. Baseline situation in the MS

This section suggests per area the baseline situation information to be provided based either on answers to related questions or points to consider.

Critical infrastructure (CI)

- Which CI sector(s) do you consider most in need of additional measures to improve its protection / resilience?
- Do you consider that there is CI in another MS that could significantly affect your MS which has not been designated as ECI?
- Is there CI in non-EU countries that could potentially affect your MS were it to fail?

CBRN-E

- How many CBRN-E incidents have been recorded in past 3 years? How many of them had an intentional character?
- What gaps have you identified in the detection of CBRN-E materials?
- How well are you equipped to respond to a CBRN-E incident?
- Do you have regular training programmes and/or organize regular exercises in response to the CBRN-E incident (also with neighbouring countries)?

Radicalisation

- Do you have a national strategy and/or action plan addressing the prevention of radicalisation to terrorism and/or violent extremism?
- Do you have systematic training programmes for first-line practitioners on how to recognise and respond to early signs of radicalisation?
- Do you have special referral mechanisms in place offering disengagement and de-radicalisation services, either operated by state/public institutions or by NGOs?
- Do you have other mechanisms supporting the preventive actions such as national platforms for knowledge and experience sharing between relevant practitioners?

Drug trafficking

Please give details on activities regarding:

- monitoring and tackling of drug trafficking over the Internet;
- waste water analysis protocols, in coherence with the EMCDDA work;
- anticipating and detecting new threats (e.g. forensic analysis and profiling, secondary extraction laboratories in the EU, streamlining of data collection processes in coherence with the EMCDDA work, detection of indoor and outdoor cannabis production, interaction between the heroin market and the market for synthetic drugs and cocaine);
- cooperation with other MS (notably at regional level and with MAOC-N);
- effective linkage with the fight against money laundering.

Corruption

Please provide information about legislative developments and practical measures taken, if any, in the context of fighting corruption and improving integrity in the public and/or the private sector. Where relevant, indicate changes to the framework applied and the resources used for fighting corruption and improving integrity.

Cybercrime

- Share definitions of cybercrime and national priorities for the fight against and prevention of cybercrime.
- Share numbers of victims of cybercrime and related convictions and prosecutions.
- Share, if possible, status of the implementation of the recently adopted Directive on Attacks against Information Systems.

Child sexual exploitation

Share numbers of victims of child pornography and child sexual exploitation as a whole, and related prosecutions and convictions.

Financial Investigation

- Financial investigations policy should be reflected in a long-term national strategy. Whenever possible, a concept of financial intelligence-led policing should be included in the strategy, to allow pro-active enforcement

measures on the basis of analysis products. The strategy needs to be combined with a regular review and an evaluation methodology as well as a sound reporting mechanism for the entities involved. In setting up such a strategy, some basic criteria, rules or guidelines should be considered to clarify the allocation of tasks between different authorities with selective competencies, as well as the inclusion of key priorities including serious international crime cases. The strategy should thus be supported by sound management within the police, in order to promote a proactive, intelligence-led approach.

- Please give details on activities regarding the data processing capacities (IT tools, adequate training, etc.) notably based on the NL Knowledge and Expertise Centre for Intelligent Data Analysis (KECIDA³) good practice.
- Inform, if any, on actions in line with the Council's final report on financial investigation recommendations (<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/12/st12/st12657-re02.en12.pdf>) so as to:
 - o carry out financial investigations in all serious and organised crime cases (which include terrorism) beyond the sole economic and financial crime offences;
 - o develop an overarching, financial crime / financial investigations policy, covering all relevant authorities (including prosecution) aimed at speeding up complex and lengthy financial crime investigations. It should reflect relevant priorities agreed at the EU level and set the basis for proactive investigations. More attention should be paid to the potential added value of international cooperation, especially at EU level.
- Furthermore, please share details of:
 - o the implementation of legislation (Framework Decisions 2003/577/JHA on the mutual recognition of freezing orders, 2005/212/JHA on extended confiscation and 2006/783/JHA on the mutual recognition of confiscation orders);
 - o the operational cooperation between authorities involved (LEAs, FIUs, AROs, tax authorities, prosecution offices);
 - o the introduction of new tools and databases, such as centralised bank accounts registers;
 - o the training available at national level for financial investigators.

³ KECIDA provides advanced data analysis services to clients within the public order and security sector who wish to extract essential information from large quantities of digital data (good practice presented in Council manual Manual of Best Practices in the fight against financial crime: A collection of good examples of well-developed systems in the Member States to fight financial crime, Council 9714/13, 4 June 2013).

Trafficking in Human Beings (THB)

Please provide information about the implementation of Directive 2011/36/EU (highlighting prosecution, prevention and protection of victims) as well as about the national action plans against THB.

Law enforcement training scheme (strand 1 and 2)

Please mention to what extent police officers are trained:

- in their initial training in basic knowledge on the EU policing context;
- in in-depth knowledge on bilateral cooperation/instruments (particularly those working on cross-border matters or in border areas).

2. Guidance on the Specific Objectives

MS should attentively read the related paragraphs of Articles 3(2) and 3(3) of the ISF Police Regulation. In certain cases there are multiple possibilities for how to assign certain areas of activity (for example CBRN, drugs trafficking or cyber crime) to sections in the NP template. The context of an action (either crime or risk/crisis related (Article 3(2)) and which operational objective (Article 3(3) it relates to) will determine where the action is exactly placed in the template.

The lists below present only possible actions that could be proposed for funding under each of the national priorities. Note that this is an indicative, non-exhaustive list.

An action (i.e. area of activity) proposed for EU funding under a national priority may cover several categories listed below for this national priority.

It is not required that the description of the funding priorities copy the wording of categories of action listed below, or the wording used in the Regulation. In the description of the funding priorities, make sure that the level of detail and explanation of the planned main actions (areas of activity) is sufficient for the Commission to assess the eligibility against the list set out in the Regulation.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 5: Preventing and combating crime

National Priority 1: Crime - prevention and combating (ISF Police Article 3.3(a))

- Actions implementing the EU policy-cycle 2014-2017 in the area of crime prevention and combating.
- Surveillance technology to be used in the area of crime prevention and combating.
- Forensic science related actions.
- CBRN Action Plan and Action Plan on the Enhancement of Security of Explosives.
- Actions aiming to combat radicalisation towards terrorism and violent extremism.
- Actions preventing and combatting crime or terrorism linked to drugs.
- Information exchange linked to combating drug trafficking.
- Actions preventing and combatting crime or terrorism linked to:
 - o financial investigations;
 - o small arms and light weapons;
 - o trafficking in Human Beings;
 - o anti-corruption policy;
 - o fight against cyber-crime.
- Information exchange related to preventing and combatting crime or terrorism linked to (depending on the focus to be added under 'Crime - exchange of information' here rather than):
 - o financial investigations;
 - o small arms and light weapons;
 - o trafficking in Human Beings;
 - o anti-corruption policy;
 - o fight against cyber-crime.

National Priority 2: Crime - exchange of information (ISF Police Article 3.3(b))

- Actions implementing the EU policy-cycle 2014-2017 in the area of exchange of information on crime.
- Information exchange and communication systems.
- Forensic science related actions, where linked to exchanging of information.

- Information exchange related to preventing and combatting crime or terrorism linked to:
 - o financial investigations;
 - o small arms and light weapons;
 - o trafficking in Human Beings;
 - o anti-corruption policy;
 - o fight against cyber-crime;
 - o CBRN Action Plan and Action Plan on the Enhancement of Security of Explosives;
 - o radicalisation towards terrorism and violent extremism;
 - o combating drug trafficking.

National Priority 3: Crime - training (ISF Police Article 3.3(c))

- Actions related to the implementation of the EU Law Enforcement Training Scheme (LETS).
- Training related activities linked to:
 - o actions implementing the EU policy-cycle 2014-2017 in the area of crime;
 - o forensic science related actions;
 - o CBRN Action Plan and Action Plan on the Enhancement of Security of Explosives;
 - o actions aiming to combat radicalisation towards terrorism and violent extremism;
 - o combating drug trafficking;
 - o financial investigations;
 - o small arms and light weapons;
 - o trafficking in Human Beings;
 - o anti-corruption policy;
 - o fight against cyber-crime.

National Priority 4: Crime - victim support (ISF Police Article 3.3(d))

- Witness or victim protection or support related to preventing and combatting crime or terrorism linked to:

- the EU policy-cycle 2014-2017 in the area of crime victim support;
- CBRN Action Plan and Action Plan on the Enhancement of Security of Explosives;
- combating radicalisation towards terrorism and violent extremism;
- drug trafficking;
- financial investigations;
- small arms and light weapons;
- trafficking in Human Beings;
- anti-corruption policy;
- fight against cyber-crime.

National Priority 5: Crime - threat and risk assessment (ISF Police Article 3.3(g))

- Threat and risk assessment related activities linked to:
 - actions implementing the EU policy-cycle 2014-2017 and to other crime areas;
 - CBRN Action Plan and Action Plan on the Enhancement of Security of Explosives;
 - actions aiming to combat radicalisation towards terrorism and violent extremism.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 6: Risk and Crisis

National Priority 1: Risk - prevention and combating (ISF Police Article 3.3(a))

- Actions implementing the EU policy-cycle 2014-2017 in the area of risk prevention and combating.
- CBRN Action Plan and Action Plan on the Enhancement of Security of Explosives.
- Actions aiming to combat radicalisation towards terrorism and violent extremism.

National Priority 2: Risk - exchange of information (ISF Police Article 3.3(b))

- Actions on risk and crisis management and critical infrastructure protection related to information exchange in the area of:
 - o EU policy-cycle 2014-2017 in the area of exchange of information on risk;
 - o information exchange and communication systems;
 - o forensic science;
 - o CBRN Action Plan and Action Plan on the Enhancement of Security of Explosives;
 - o combating radicalisation towards terrorism and violent extremism.

National Priority 3: Risk - training (ISF Police Article 3.3(c))

- Actions related to the implementation of the EU Law Enforcement Training Scheme (LETS) where linked to crisis management and/or critical infrastructure protection.
- Actions on risk and crisis management and protection of critical infrastructure related to training in the area of:
 - o EU policy-cycle 2014-2017 in the area of training regarding risk;
 - o forensic science;
 - o CBRN Action Plan and Action Plan on the Enhancement of Security of Explosives;
 - o combating radicalisation towards terrorism and violent extremism.

National Priority 4: Risk - victim support (ISF Police Article 3.3(d))

- Witness or victim protection or support related to risk and crisis management and protection in the area of:
 - o the EU policy-cycle 2014-2017 in the area of risk victim support;
 - o CBRN Action Plan and Action Plan on the Enhancement of Security of Explosives;
 - o combating radicalisation towards terrorism and violent extremism.

National Priority 5: Risk - infrastructure (ISF Police Article 3.3(e))

- Risk and crisis management and in particular protection of critical infrastructure in the area of:
 - o actions implementing the EU policy-cycle 2014-2017 in the area of risk threat and risk assessment;

- actions identified as funding priorities within policy dialogue key issue "Critical infrastructure protection";
- surveillance technology to be used in the area of protecting critical infrastructure;
- CBRN Action Plan and Action Plan on the Enhancement of Security of Explosives;
- actions aiming to combat radicalisation towards terrorism and violent extremism;
- actions linked to the fight against cybercrime.

National Priority 6: Risk - early warning and crisis (ISF Police Article 3.3(f))

- Activities on risk and crisis management and/or early warning related to:
 - actions identified as funding priorities within policy dialogue key issue "Crisis coordination";
 - surveillance technology related to early warning and crisis;
 - CBRN Action Plan and Action Plan on the Enhancement of Security of Explosives;
 - actions aiming to combat radicalisation towards terrorism and violent extremism.

National Priority 7: Risk - threat and risk assessment (ISF Police Article 3.3(g))

- Threat and risk assessment in the area of crisis management and/ or protection of critical infrastructure related to:
 - CBRN Action Plan and Action Plan on the Enhancement of Security of Explosives;
 - actions aiming to combat radicalisation towards terrorism and violent extremism.

3. Minimum percentages

As per ISF Police Regulation Article 5(6), MS shall allocate at least 20% of their basic allocation for ISF to the specific objective 'Preventing and combatting crime' and at least 10% of their basic allocation for ISF to the specific objective 'Risk and crisis'. MS may depart from this minimum percentage only where a detailed explanation is included in the NP as to why allocating resources below this level does not jeopardise the achievement of the relevant objective.

ANNEX I – BACKGROUND INFORMATION

New structure of the Home Affairs Funds

A number of innovations have been built into the new Funds to ensure that they are better equipped to support home affairs policies. Programming is simplified by moving towards exclusively multiannual programming covering the whole seven-year period. Annual Programmes for shared management no longer exist, so strategic approach is even more important now. The current input/procedure-based approach is abandoned in favour of a results-oriented approach. Renewed focus at the programming stage on key objectives, outputs and results will help ensure that the Funds deliver against their objectives. Aiming at facilitating such strategic thinking and finding a common understanding on the priorities for the seven years' period, the programming phase has been preceded by a single senior-level policy dialogue on Home Affairs funding between the Commission and the individual MS prior to the submission of their multi-annual programmes.

Implementation modes

The table below gives an overview of the Funds budget breakdown.

Home Affairs Funds 2014-2020 (€ million - current prices)						
		Shared Management	Centralised Management			Totals
ISF	AMIF	national programmes: 2,752 • Basic allocations 2,392 • Resettlement/Transfer 280 • Specific actions 80 • Mid-term review TBD	Union actions, emergency assistance, EMN, COM TA 385			3,137 (45%)
	ISF Borders	national programmes: 1,551 • Basic allocations 1,276 • Specific actions 147 • Mid-term review 128 Special Transit Scheme (Lithuania): 154	Union actions, emergency assistance, COM TA 264	IT systems (Smart Borders Package) 791	2,760 (40%)	3,764 (55%)
ISF Police	national programmes: 662	Union actions, emergency assistance, COM TA 342		1,004 (15%)		

Totals	5,119 (74%)	991 (14%)	791 (12%)	6,901 (100%)
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Shared management will be the principal delivery mechanism for all EU Home Affairs funding (approximately 88% for AMIF and 59% for ISF). This is a novelty in the area of internal security - under the CIPS and ISEC programmes actions were only managed through centralised management. Funding for MS NPs under shared management is complemented by centrally-managed funding (**Centralised management**) for emergency assistance, technical assistance and policy-driven 'Union Actions' such as support for transnational actions, particularly innovative actions and actions in and in relation to third countries (external dimension) at the initiative of the Commission.

a) Shared management

The amount of resources to be allocated to NPs is composed of a *basic amount* fixed and earmarked in the basic act for each MS for the whole multiannual period and a *variable amount* which is additional funding allocated as a top-up amount to the NPs for specifically defined purposes (ISF Police has only basic amount).

The *variable amount* is composed of different parts according to each Fund:

- within **AMIF**, the available variable amount of 360 M€ will be allocated to MS for the implementation, on a voluntary basis, of an exhaustive list of 8 Specific Actions⁴ (SA) (80 M€) and for resettlement and transfer of beneficiaries of international protection from another MS (280 M€). MS will have to submit an initial pledge for SA and also pledge every two years for resettlement operations (lump sum per resettled person). Regarding SA please refer to the Guidance note on this specific subject. No additional money has been foreseen for further allocation at the occasion of the mid-term review, however if an amount remains available from Resettlement / Transfer and SA, it will be allocated in 2017 in the framework of mid-term review.
- within **ISF Borders**, the variable amount is foreseen for SA (147 M€) and mid-term review (128 M€). SA will allocate top-up amount to those MS willing to purchase equipment to be put at disposal of Frontex for joint operations or implement actions aiming at improving consular cooperation for Schengen visa processing. The amount for the mid-term review will be allocated in 2017 on the basis of a pre-established mechanism set out in the ISF Borders Regulation. It will be based on a

⁴ Specific Actions are designed to respond to specific Union priorities in the area of Home Affairs. They often require joint efforts by MS (trans-national cooperation) such as for instance joint processing of asylum applications, joint return operations, setting up of joint migration centres, setting up of common visa application centres, etc.

risk-based assessment by Frontex and will aim at increasing the amounts of NPs of those MS which are facing higher migratory pressure.

b) Centralised management

The part of the budget under both Funds which is centrally managed will be implemented through Commission annual work programmes based on the multiannual strategy which will set up a comprehensive framework with long-term priorities and objectives in the area of asylum, migration, internal security and borders. This funding will be used for:

- Union actions (former Community actions), including external dimension, i.e. actions in and in relation to third countries;
- European Migration Network (in case of the AMIF).
- emergency assistance mechanism able to respond quickly to emergency situations such as migratory pressures in MS or third countries or emergency situations in the area of internal security and borders.
- technical assistance of the Commission.

The external dimension

In the framework of the Union actions, funding can also be used to support actions taking place in third countries but serving primarily EU interests and priorities and having a direct impact on the EU and its citizens (not development-oriented). These actions represent essentially an extension outside the EU of internal policies. By supporting for instance actions starting in the EU and continuing in third countries or vice-versa, it will also be possible to improve the link between the internal and external dimension of Home Affairs policies. For instance, in the field of EU asylum and immigration policy, the AMIF can contribute to the implementation of readmission agreements, mobility partnerships and regional protection programmes, the operational and financial details of which will be set out in the Commission annual work programmes.

The EU Home Affairs agencies

Better use will also be made of the expertise and know-how of the EU Home Affairs agencies for example by Commission:

- encouraging MS to use the tools and products developed by the agencies for the implementation of their NPs and, if necessary,
- entrusting the agencies with specific ad-hoc tasks using the possibilities offered by the Financial Regulation (indirect management).

MS are reminded that in line with Article 9(4) of the ISF Borders Regulation. Commission has the legal obligation to consult Frontex on the sections on

borders and visa of their ISF draft NPs, in particular, on the activities under operating support, in order to ensure consistency and cost efficiency between the Agency mission and MS obligations in the area of border management.

The policy dialogues

The purpose of the policy dialogues is explained in Article 13 of the Horizontal Regulation:

"In order to facilitate the preparation of the national programmes each Member State and the Commission shall hold a dialogue at the level of senior officials, taking into account the relevant indicative timeframes of Article 14. The dialogue shall focus on the overall results to be achieved by means of the national programmes in order to address the needs and priorities of the Member States in the areas of intervention covered by the Specific Regulation taking account of the baseline situation in the Member State concerned and the objectives of the Specific Regulations. The dialogue shall also serve as an opportunity for an exchange of views on Union Actions. The outcome of the dialogue will serve as a guide for the preparation and approval of the national programmes and will include an indication of the date expected for the Member State's submission of the national programmes to the Commission that will allow the timely adoption of the programme. This outcome shall be recorded in agreed minutes."

All 32 policy dialogues have been concluded and provide a solid basis to give a strategic and political orientation ("results-oriented" and "added value") to the future use of the funding with the aim to achieve the key EU Home Affairs objectives. MS were encouraged to identify within their national policy frameworks those areas that could be proposed for EU Home Affairs funding and to develop a strategic approach in the preparation of their NPs moving towards ensuring a strong link between EU funding and EU policy objectives and priorities.

ANNEX II – CHECK LISTS FOR NATIONAL PROGRAMMES ASSESSMENT

Check list for AMIF

SECTION 1 - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Has an overall summary of the entire draft programme been provided?	
1.2 Has the <u>general national strategy</u> on Asylum, Migration and Integration been sufficiently highlighted?	
1.3 Have the main goals and main results to be attained been highlighted?	
1.4 Does the information in the executive summary have a multiannual, 7 year outlook?	

SECTION 2 - BASELINE SITUATION

The baseline situation is a summary of the current state of play as of December 2013 in the MS for the fields relevant to the Fund.

2.1 Structure

2.1.1 Does the text in this section include: 1) a description of the baseline situation; 2) measures implemented so far, including measures implemented with the current Home Affairs Funds (including the main results achieved, where appropriate); 3) a national needs assessment, including challenges identified in relevant evaluations; 4) national resources available (in addition to EU Funds)	
2.1.2 Is the text in this section self-contained and not referring to any specific parts of another (attached) document? (also: no tables or maps should be added).	

2.2 Substance

2.2.1 Is the information in this section generally consistent with the agreed minutes from the policy dialogue (Horizontal Regulation, Article 14(5)(a))?	
2.2.2 Do the facts and figures quoted in the baseline situation refer to December 2013, or close to this date, and do they provide an adequate description of the <u>current state of play</u> ?	
2.2.3 Is the information in this section <u>factual and verifiable</u> (not subjective)?	
2.2.4 Is the information in this section sufficient to understand the needs and challenges this MS faces?	

SECTION 3 - PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

3.1 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES: GENERAL ASSESSMENT

Structure

3.1.1 For each of the specific objectives, the information supplied must be self-contained and cannot refer to information in any attached document or contain hyperlinks. Has this been complied with?

3.1.2 There should not be any indicator/target in this section (all indicators and targets are to be found in Section 5) or any financial information (all financial information is to be found in Section 7). Has this been complied with?

Substance

3.1.3 Do the programme objectives build on and further elaborate the overall description of the baseline situation and the needs of the MS set out in it?

3.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: ASSESSMENT

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: Asylum	Structure	
	To which extent has the <u>national strategy</u> for this Specific Objective been presented, including the <u>identified needs</u> and the <u>national objectives</u> (including results and desired outcomes) designed to meet those needs in terms of key issues and other issues?	
	Under each National Priority, have the main actions been provided which would address each (key) issue? Does the description of main actions make sense in the light of the baseline situation?	
	Do the funding priorities give sufficient information of what the MS actually intends to fund with EU funds?	
	Substance	
	Have <u>clear objectives</u> been set? Do they address the main needs of the MS in this area? (Is something left out?) Are the expected results clear?	
	Are the funding priorities consistent with (the objectives of) the national priority? Do the funding priorities address the needs identified by the MS under the baseline situation?	
	Does the description of main actions in the funding priorities <u>correspond to the eligible actions</u> stated under the relevant AMIF Articles? Do the respective <u>target groups</u> comply with the definitions set in the AMIF Regulation?	
	Do the funding priorities chosen correspond to the EU priorities in the corresponding policy area?	
Other comments on the national priorities and specific actions below:		

National Priority 1: Reception / Asylum	
National Priority 2: Evaluation	
National Priority 3: Resettlement	
Specific Action 1: Transit Centres	
Specific Action 2: Access to Asylum	

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: Integration and legal migration	Structure	
	To which extent has the <u>national strategy</u> for this Specific Objective been presented, including the <u>identified needs</u> and the <u>national objectives</u> (including results and desired outcomes) designed to meet those needs in terms of key issues and other issues?	
	Under each National Priority, have the main actions been provided which would address each (key) issue? Does the description of main actions make sense in the light of the baseline situation?	
	Do the funding priorities give sufficient information of what the MS actually intends to fund with EU funds?	
	Substance	
	Have <u>clear objectives</u> been set? Do they address the main needs of the MS in this area? (Is something left out?) Are the expected results clear?	
	Are the funding priorities consistent with (the objectives of) the national priority? Do the funding priorities address the needs identified by the MS under the baseline situation?	
	Does the description of main actions in the funding priorities <u>correspond to the eligible actions</u> stated under the relevant AMIF Articles? Do the respective <u>target groups</u> comply with the definitions set in the AMIF Regulation?	
	Do the funding priorities chosen correspond to the EU priorities in the corresponding policy area?	
	Other comments on the national priorities and specific actions below:	
	National Priority 1: Legal migration	
	National Priority 2: Integration	
	National Priority 3: Capacity	
Specific Action 3: Joint initiatives		
Specific Action 4: Unaccompanied minors		
Specific Action 8: Legal migration		

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3: Return	Structure	
	To which extent has the <u>national strategy</u> for this Specific Objective been presented, including the <u>identified needs</u> and the <u>national objectives</u> (including results and desired outcomes) designed to meet those needs in terms of key issues and other issues?	
	Under each National Priority, have the main actions been provided which would address each (key) issue? Does the description of main actions make sense in the light of the baseline situation?	
	Do the funding priorities give sufficient information of what the MS actually intends to fund with EU funds?	
	Substance	
	Have <u>clear objectives</u> been set? Do they address the main needs of the MS in this area? (Is something left out?) Are the expected results clear?	
	Are the funding priorities consistent with (the objectives of) the national priority? Do the funding priorities address the needs identified by the MS under the baseline situation?	
	Does the description of main actions in the funding priorities <u>correspond to the eligible actions</u> stated under the relevant AMIF Articles? Do the respective <u>target groups</u> comply with the definitions set in the AMIF Regulation?	
	Do the funding priorities chosen correspond to the EU priorities in the corresponding policy area?	
	Other comments on the national priorities and specific actions below:	
	National Priority 1: Accompanying measures	
	National Priority 2: Return measures	
	National Priority 3: Cooperation	
Specific Action 5: Joint return		
Specific Action 6: Joint reintegration		
Specific Action 7: Joint family unity and unaccompanied minor reintegration		

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 4: Solidarity	Structure	
	To which extent has the <u>national strategy</u> for this Specific Objective been presented, including the <u>identified needs</u> and the <u>national objectives</u> (including results and desired outcomes) designed to meet those needs in terms of key issues and other issues?	
	Under each National Priority, have the main actions been provided which would address each (key) issue? Does the description of main actions make sense in the light of the baseline situation?	
	Do the funding priorities give sufficient information of what the MS actually intends to fund with EU funds?	
	Substance	
	Have <u>clear objectives</u> been set? Do they address the main needs of the MS in this area? (Is something left out?) Are the expected results clear?	
	Are the funding priorities consistent with (the objectives of) the national priority? Do the funding priorities address the needs identified by the MS under the baseline situation?	
	Does the description of main actions in the funding priorities <u>correspond to the eligible actions</u> stated under the relevant AMIF Articles? Do the respective <u>target groups</u> comply with the definitions set in the AMIF Regulation?	
	Do the funding priorities chosen correspond to the EU priorities in the corresponding policy area?	
	Other comments on the national priorities below:	
National Priority 1: Relocation		

3.3 INDICATIVE TIME TABLE

To which extent are the indicated phases for the proposed actions in the timetable realistic?	
Are the different activities well spread between the years (judging by the size and complexity of the actions and the implementation mode)?	

SECTION 4 - SPECIAL CASES - RESETTLEMENT AND TRANSFER OF BENEFICIARIES OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION (if applicable)

4.1 Has the section on special cases been filled out for 2014-2015 (pledging)?	
4.2 Has the MS seriously considered resettlement and / or transfer of beneficiaries of international protection?	
4.3 If there is a pledging for resettlement/transfer, is there a clear political commitment to resettle/transfer the total number of persons	

pledged for?	
4.4 If there is a pledging for resettlement/transfer, is it feasible to resettle/ transfer in two calendar years the total number of persons pledged for?	

SECTION 5 - COMMON INDICATORS AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC INDICATORS

5.1 Structure	
5.1.1. Has the section been completed?	
5.1.2 Is the baseline situation for indicators related to the new Fund set to zero?	
5.1.3 Are the programme specific indicators (if any were added) limited to a maximum of five and are they necessary (or can they also fall under the common indicators)?	
5.2 Substance	
5.2.1 Are the targets of the common (and programme specific) indicators under the following SOs <u>attainable</u> and <u>reasonable</u> ?	
SO1: Asylum	
SO2: Integration and legal migration	
SO3: Return	
SO4: Solidarity	
5.2.2 Do the targets under the common (and programme specific) indicators correspond to the chosen <u>funding priorities</u> and are they realistic given the <u>allocations</u> for the various SOs?	
SO1: Asylum	
SO2: Integration and legal migration	
SO3: Return	
SO4: Solidarity	

SECTION 6 - FRAMEWORK FOR PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

6.1 Structure	
6.1.1 [Preparation of the programme:] Is a summary of the approach taken and the involvement of partners and key stages of broader consultation provided? Has a list of the main partners involved or consulted (or type of partners) been included?	
6.1.2 Has the Monitoring Committee been indicated?	
6.1.3 Has an adequate description of the planned approach and methods to be used to implement the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework been provided?	
6.1.4 [Implementation of the programme:] Is a summary of the approach taken and the involvement of partners and key stages of broader consultation provided? Has a list of the main partners involved or consulted (or type of partners) been included?	

6.1.5 Have the mechanisms which ensure coordination with other EU Funds been sufficiently described?	
6.1.6 Do the beneficiaries of the programme correspond to the list of beneficiaries outlined in NP template?	
6.1.7 In case direct award is planned, has the MS provided sufficient justification?	
6.2 Substance	
6.2.1 To which extent are the partners who have been consulted relevant?	
6.2.2 Is the approach adopted by the MS to apply the partnership principle convincing?	
6.2.3 Is the mechanism for consultation to prevent double funding convincing?	

SECTION 7 - THE FINANCING PLAN OF THE PROGRAMME

7.1 Structure	
7.1.1 Do the amounts in the financing plan correspond to the amounts allocated to the MS in the Regulation (check against the annex of the Regulation)?	
7.1.2 Is the total allocated for each national priority and specific action been provided?	
7.1.4a Is there derogation on the minimum percentages requirements?	
7.1.4b If so, has an explanation for each of the cases been provided?	
7.1.5 Has the financing plan for Special Cases (if any) been provided?	
7.1.6 Is the financing plan mathematically correct, i.e. : Total amount = basic allocation + Specific Actions (if any) + Special Cases (if any) and Total amount = Allocations to National Priorities + Specific Actions (if any) + Special Cases (if any) + Technical Assistance	
7.2 Substance	
7.2.1 Are the allocations for the National Priorities <u>reasonable</u> , do they correspond to the actions under the funding priorities and the targets set for them?	
SO1 Asylum	
SO2 Integration	
SO3 Return	
SO4 Solidarity	

Check list for ISF

SECTION 1 - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
1.1 Has an overall summary of the entire draft programme been provided?	
1.2 Has the <u>general national strategy</u> on been sufficiently highlighted?	
ISF Borders	
ISF Police	
1.3 Have the main goals and main results to be attained been highlighted?	
1.4 Does the information in the executive summary have a multiannual, 7 year outlook?	

SECTION 2 - BASELINE SITUATION
The baseline situation is a summary of the current state of play as of December 2013 in the MS for the fields relevant to the Fund.

2.1 Structure	
2.1.1 Does the text in this section include: 1) a description of the baseline situation; 2) measures implemented so far, including measures implemented with the current Home Affairs Funds (including the main results achieved, where appropriate); 3) a national needs assessment, including challenges identified in relevant evaluations; 4) national resources available (in addition to EU funds)	
2.1.2 Is the text in this section self-contained and not referring to any specific parts of another (attached) document? (also: no tables or maps should be added).	
2.2 Substance	
2.2.1 Is the information in this section generally consistent with the agreed minutes from the policy dialogue (Horizontal Regulation, Article 14(5)(a))?	
2.2.2 Do the facts and figures quoted in the baseline situation refer to December 2013, or close to this date, and do they provide an adequate description of the <u>current state of play</u> ?	
2.2.3 Is the information in this section <u>factual and verifiable</u> (not subjective)?	
2.2.4 Is the information in this section sufficient to understand the needs and challenges this MS faces?	

SECTION 3 - PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

3.1 PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES: GENERAL ASSESSMENT

Structure

3.1.1 For each of the specific objectives, the information supplied must be self-contained and cannot refer to information in any attached document or contain hyperlinks. Has this been complied with?

3.1.2 There should not be any indicator/target in this section (all indicators and targets are to be found in Section 5) or any financial information (all financial information is to be found in Section 7). Has this been complied with?

Substance

3.1.3 Do the programme objectives build on and further elaborate the overall description of the baseline situation and the needs of the MS set out in it?

3.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES: ASSESSMENT

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: Support a common visa policy	Structure	
	To which extent has the <u>national strategy</u> for this Specific Objective been presented, including the <u>identified needs</u> and the <u>national objectives</u> (including results and desired outcomes) designed to meet those needs in terms of key issues and other issues?	
	Under each National Priority, have the main actions been provided which would address each (key) issue? Does the description of main actions make sense in the light of the baseline situation?	
	Do the funding priorities give sufficient information of what the MS actually intends to fund with EU funds?	
	Substance	
	Have <u>clear objectives</u> been set? Do they address the main needs of the MS in this area? (Is something left out?) Are the expected results clear?	
	Are the funding priorities consistent with (the objectives of) the national priority? Do the funding priorities address the needs identified by the MS under the baseline situation?	
	Does the description of main actions in the funding priorities correspond to the <u>eligible actions</u> stated under the relevant ISF Articles?	
	Do the funding priorities chosen correspond to the EU priorities in the corresponding policy area?	
	Other comments on the national priorities and specific actions below:	
	National Priority 1: National capacity	
	National Priority 2: Union acquis	
National Priority 3: Consular cooperation		

Specific Action 1: Consular cooperation	
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SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: Borders	Structure	
	To which extent has the <u>national strategy</u> for this Specific Objective been presented, including the <u>identified needs</u> and the <u>national objectives</u> (including results and desired outcomes) designed to meet those needs in terms of key issues and other issues?	
	Under each National Priority, have the main actions been provided which would address each (key) issue? Does the description of main actions make sense in the light of the baseline situation?	
	Do the funding priorities give sufficient information of what the MS actually intends to fund with EU funds?	
	Substance	
	Have <u>clear objectives</u> been set? Do they address the main needs of the MS in this area? (Is something left out?) Are the expected results clear?	
	Are the funding priorities consistent with (the objectives of) the national priority? Do the funding priorities address the needs identified by the MS under the baseline situation?	
	Does the description of main actions in the funding priorities <u>correspond to the eligible actions</u> stated under the relevant ISF Articles?	
	Do the funding priorities chosen correspond to the EU priorities in the corresponding policy area?	
	Other comments on the national priorities and specific actions below:	
	National Priority 1: EUROSUR	
	National Priority 2: Information exchange	
	National Priority 3: Common Union Standards	
	National Priority 4: Union acquis	
National Priority 5: Future challenges		
National Priority 6: National capacity - Borders		
Specific Action 2: Frontex equipment		

SPECIF	Structure	
	Has the MS confirmed <u>compliance</u> with the Union acquis on borders and visa?	

Has the MS confirmed <u>compliance</u> with Union standards and guidelines for good governance on borders and visa?	
Has a <u>general indication</u> for the use of Operating Support been provided, including <u>objectives and targets</u> to be achieved, as well as <u>services and tasks</u> which will be financed under the Operating Support mechanism been provided for both visa and borders?	
Has the <u>annex</u> on Operating Support been attached and sufficiently completed?	
Substance	
On the basis of the information available to the Commission, do the MS concerned meet the conditions defined in Article 10(2)?	
Do the <u>objectives and targets</u> to be achieved identify for the Operating Support mechanism fall under objectives set out in Annex II of the Regulation?	
Do the <u>services and tasks</u> indicated in the programme to be financed under the Operating Support mechanism correspond with objectives and types of costs set out in Annex II of the Regulation?	
Other comments on the national priorities below:	
National Priority 1: Operation support Visa	
National Priority 2: Operating support Borders	

> 0	Structure
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To which extent has the <u>national strategy</u> for this Specific Objective been presented, including the <u>identified needs</u> and the <u>national objectives</u> (including results and desired outcomes) designed to meet those needs in terms of key issues and other issues?	
Under each National Priority, have the main actions been provided which would address each (key) issue? Does the description of main actions make sense in the light of the baseline situation?	
Do the funding priorities give sufficient information of what the MS actually intends to fund with EU funds?	
Substance	
Have <u>clear objectives</u> been set? Do they address the main needs of the MS in this area? (Is something left out?) Are the expected results clear?	
Are the funding priorities consistent with (the objectives of) the national priority? Do the funding priorities address the needs identified by the MS under the baseline situation?	
Does the description of main actions in the funding priorities <u>correspond to the eligible actions</u> stated under the relevant ISF Articles?	
Do the funding priorities chosen correspond to the EU priorities in the corresponding policy area?	
Other comments on the national priorities and specific actions below:	
National Priority 1: C-prevention and combating	
National Priority 2: C-exchange of information	
National Priority 3: C-training	
National Priority 4: C-victim support	
National Priority 5: C-threat and risk assessment	

VE	Structure
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To which extent has the <u>national strategy</u> for this Specific Objective been presented, including the <u>identified needs</u> and the <u>national objectives</u> (including results and desired outcomes) designed to meet those needs in terms of key issues and other issues?	
Under each National Priority, have the main actions been provided which would address each (key) issue? Does the description of main actions make sense in the light of the baseline situation?	
Do the funding priorities give sufficient information of what the MS actually intends to fund with EU funds?	
Substance	
Have <u>clear objectives</u> been set? Do they address the main needs of the MS in this area? (Is something left out?) Are the expected results clear?	
Are the funding priorities consistent with (the objectives of) the national priority? Do the funding priorities address the needs identified by the MS under the baseline situation?	
Does the description of main actions in the funding priorities <u>correspond to the eligible actions</u> stated under the relevant ISF Articles?	
Do the funding priorities chosen correspond to the EU priorities in the corresponding policy area?	
Other comments on the national priorities and specific actions below:	
National Priority 1: R-prevention and combating	
National Priority 2: R-exchange of information	
National Priority 3: R-training	
National Priority 4: R-victim support	
National Priority 5: R-infrastructure	
National Priority 6: R-threat and risk assessment	

3.3 INDICATIVE TIME TABLE

To which extent are the indicated phases for the proposed actions in the timetable realistic?	
Are the different activities well spread between the years (judging by the size and complexity of the actions and the implementation mode)?	

SECTION 4 – OPERATING SUPPORT STS (LITHUANIA)

Structure	
To which extent has the <u>national strategy</u> for the implementation of the Special Transit Scheme been provided, including the <u>requirements</u> from that strategy and the <u>national objectives</u> designed to meet those requirements as well as the <u>results and desired outcomes</u> ?	
Has an indication of the <u>types of additional costs</u> to be supported in relation to the implementation of the STS been provided?	
Substance	
Have <u>clear objectives</u> been set?	
Do the <u>types of additional costs</u> to be supported in relation to the implementation of the STS correspond with the categories of costs defined Article 11(3) of the ISF Borders?	

SECTION 5 - COMMON INDICATORS AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC INDICATORS

5.1 Structure	
5.1.1. Has the section been completed?	
5.1.2 Is the baseline situation for indicators related to the new Fund set to zero?	
5.1.3 Are the programme specific indicators (if any were added) limited to a maximum of five and are they necessary (or can they also fall under the common indicators)?	
5.2 Substance	
5.2.1 Are the targets of the common (and programme specific) indicators under the following SOs <u>attainable</u> and <u>reasonable</u> ?	
SO1: Visa	
SO2: Borders	
SO5: Crime	
SO6: Risk and crisis	
5.2.2 Do the targets under the common (and programme specific) indicators correspond to the chosen <u>funding priorities</u> and are they realistic given the <u>allocations</u> for the various SOs?	
SO1: Visa	
SO2: Borders	
SO5: Crime	
SO6: Risk and crisis	

SECTION 6 - FRAMEWORK FOR PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

6.1 Structure	
6.1.1 [Preparation of the programme:] Is a summary of the approach taken and the involvement of partners and key stages of broader consultation provided? Has a list of the main partners involved or consulted (or type of partners) been included?	
6.1.2 Has the Monitoring Committee been indicated?	
6.1.3 Has an adequate description of the planned approach and methods to be used to implement the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework been provided?	
6.1.4 [Implementation of the programme:] Is a summary of the approach taken and the involvement of partners and key stages of broader consultation provided? Has a list of the main partners involved or consulted (or type of partners) been included?	
6.1.5 Have the mechanisms which ensure coordination with other EU Funds been sufficiently described?	
6.1.6 Do the beneficiaries of the programme correspond to the list of beneficiaries outlined in NP template?	
6.1.7 In case direct award is planned, has the MS provided sufficient justification?	
6.2 Substance	
6.2.1 To which extent are the partners who have been consulted relevant?	
6.2.2 Is the approach adopted by the MS to apply the partnership principle convincing?	
6.2.3 Is the mechanism for consultation to prevent double funding convincing?	

SECTION 7 - THE FINANCING PLAN OF THE PROGRAMME

7.1 Structure	
7.1.1 Do the amounts in the financing plan correspond to the amounts allocated to the MS in the Regulation (check against the annex of the Regulation)?	
7.1.2 Is the financing plan provided by the MS is in line with the formal requirements set out in the NP template?	
7.1.3 Is the total allocated for each national priority and specific action been provided?	
7.1.4a Is there derogation on the minimum percentages requirements? 7.1.4b If so, has an explanation for each of the cases been provided?	
7.1.5 Has the financing plan for Special Cases (Lithuania only) been provided?	
7.1.6 Is the financing plan mathematically correct, i.e. : Total amount = basic allocation + Specific Actions (if any) + Special	

Cases (if any) and Total amount = Allocations to National Priorities + Specific Actions (if any) + Special Cases (if any) + Technical Assistance	
7.2 Substance	
7.2.1 Are the allocations for the National Priorities <u>reasonable</u> , do they correspond to the actions under the funding priorities and the targets set for them?	
S01 Visa	
S02 Borders	
S03 Operating support	
S05 Crime	
S06 Risk and crisis	

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