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1. Programme strategy: main challenges and policy responses

Reference: points (a)(iii), (iv), (v) and (ix) Article 22(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR)

Recent development and baseline situation

Bulgaria (BG) is a front line country with some of the most sensitive external borders of the EU. This predetermines its mission as a Member State which assumes large responsibilities in order to ensure the security of the EU and the control of the legal crossings of the EU external borders.

In 2013-2016 BG was subjected to unprecedented migratory pressure as tens of thousands of illegal crossings of the state border were registered as well as third country nationals apprehended without the right to reside on the territory of BG. In view of the disproportionately high migratory pressure and in accordance with the principle of solidarity in 2016 BG received significant emergency assistance aimed at increasing the effectiveness of border control at the EU external borders and specifically to deal with the emergency situation at the BG-Turkish (TK) border. Due to the national efforts and the support received from the EU BG successfully coped with the emergency.

In 2017 a total of 8 044 attempts of Third Country Nationals (TCN) to cross the state border of Bulgaria were registered.

In 2018 10 019 attempts (increase of 25% vs 2017)

In 2019 7422 attempts (decrease of 26% vs 2018)

In 2020 13 042 attempts (increase of 76% vs 2019)

In 2021 55 012 attempts (increase of 77% vs 2020)

In 2022 168 378 attempts (increase of 68% vs 2021)

In 2023 181 117 attempts (increase of 8% vs 2022)

In 2024 55 166 attempts (decrease of 70% vs 2023)

BG participates in the development and implementation of the Integrated Border Management (IBM) guided by the principle that it is one of the main elements for guaranteeing an area of freedom, security and justice. The uniform and harmonized application of border control rules and standards is essential for the effective management of the EU external borders, overcoming migration challenges and contributing to EU security. This principle is enshrined in the National Integrated Border Management Strategy for the period 2020-2025.

The Visa policy as part of the EU's immigration policy aims to contribute to the creation of a single area of freedom, security and justice. The abolition of controls at the common internal borders requires the strengthening of the controls at the EU external borders.

Bulgaria actively participates in the development and implementation of the EU visa and migration policy.

Main national strategic challenges and policy responses

The BG-TK border is the most active external border in terms of migratory pressure towards the country and migrants are mainly from politically and socio-economically unstable countries of the Middle East. Due to its geographical location and visa-free regime with more than 60 countries in the Middle East and Africa, TK continues to be a crossroad of all channels for illegal migration to EU including those through BG.

Taking into account the existing threat and the risk of crises, the implementation of a set of measures has started, including changes in the legislation and implementation of joint security measures between General Directorate Border Police, other structures of the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Defence at the external border with TK.

The border control measures applied and the continued efforts of BG to prevent illegal entry into the country’s territory, TK's compliance with the EU-TK Statement as well as the support of the EU through funding for the programme, the emergency assistance provided to BG under the ISF-B&V and the cooperation with the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (EBCGA) led to successful management and reduction of the levels of the migratory pressure at the BG-TK border.

The Bulgarian-Greek border is the other main entry point for illegal migration. It is a risk border due to a possible sudden complication of the operational situation because of the measures taken to close the Western Balkans route to decrease the migratory pressure from TK and the accumulation of a large number of migrants in Greece. Since the beginning of December 2018 a Specialised Police Operation has been executed to counteract illegal migration at this border.

Integrated Surveillance Systems (ISS) have been built and put into operation at the BG-TK, sea and partly

at the BG-Serbian border. The ISS are not linked to EUROSUR. The information on detained persons gathered by the ISS is manually entered by NCC operators for EUROSUR.
As stated in the Analysis of the Social and Economic Development of BG 2007-2017 and for Defining the National Priorities for the period 2021-2027 due to the geographical position of the country the borders of BG are also external borders of the EU which inevitably makes them an object of numerous transit, migration, smuggling and criminal flows. According to the stated document security and migration are among the three horizontal policies under which BG will take targeted actions in 2021-2027.
The Analysis focuses on supporting the implementation of the EU's common policy on external border and visa management through the strengthening of the European IBM, the purchase of border management equipment to be used by the EBCGA, the common visa policy and the relevant information systems.
According to the National IBM Strategy 2020-2025 BG shares the responsibility for ensuring the normal functioning of the Schengen area with the Schengen Member States. The monitoring of the operational and situational picture is maintained; information on potential threats and risks is exchanged; secondary movements are monitored and measures are taken to prevent illegal crossings at exit at the borders; enhanced cooperation is maintained with the neighboring countries that are not members of the EU in order to prevent illegal entry into BG as well as the returns of third-country nationals.
With ISF-B&V financial support the existing ICT technologies, technical systems and vehicles related to the control of the external borders are being modernised, an additional number of police and border police officers are being appointed and seconded, the conditions in the structures for border control at the external borders are being improved.
The Fund provided financial resources for the development and maintenance of information systems related to border control as well as the ISS at the BG-TK border.
Two specific actions for the delivery of a mobile surveillance system and a border patrol ship are being implemented with regards to EBCGA support. The equipment will be made available to the Agency in the framework of joint operations.
In 2018 additional funding was provided to BG for the implementation of the Entry/Exit System (EES) and the creation of a National Unified Interface (NUI) and its integration to the existing national border infrastructure.
With view of the EES implementation an assessment of the current state of the border crossing points and the need for technical solutions and measures related to the integration of EES in the BCP’s infrastructure was made. As a result the new EES functionalities will be integrated into the current Automated Information System (AIS) Border Control.
Pursuant to Implementing Decision (EU) No 2025/1544 of 30 July 2025 setting the date from which the EES is to start operating in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/2226, the European Commission set the EES to start operating in the territory of all Member States on 12 October 2025.
In connection with Regulation (EU) 2025/1534 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2025 on temporary derogations from certain provisions of Regulations (EU) 2017/2226 and (EU) 2016/399 in relation to the gradual deployment of the new EU electronic system - the Entry/Exit System (EES), General Directorate Border Police has prepared a plan for the integration of the EES at national level, which will be implemented by 9 April 2026.
In 2019 additional funds were allocated to BG for the development and implementation of ETIAS as well as the support to the quick and effective upgrading of the NSIS.
Changes in the relevant regulatory framework were made with view of the establishment of the ETIAS National Unit in the framework of the Ministry of Interior (MoI).
A working group on the new SIS legislative framework coordinates the planned technical construction of the new functionalities of the system and the preparation of the structures for the implementation of the new SIS legislation in 2022.
The coordination of BG's preparation for implementation of interoperability at national level is carried out by a Strategic Working Group at the National Council for Migration, Borders, Asylum and Integration chaired by a Deputy Minister of Interior and including representatives at management level of all stakeholders involved in the project.
In the context of the efforts to ensure uniform and high-quality control of the external borders and to prevent and combat illegal migration BG's NVIS and its interoperability with the EU VIS and other EU large-scale IT systems are constantly being developed and modernized with the support of ISF-B&V.

Efforts to organize, manage, operate and maintain the NVIS are also aimed at preparing BG for full participation in the Schengen area and using the visa system in the interest of the EU's common policy on external border management.
BG will ensure consistency between BMVI investments and the EBCG capability development and planning, in particular the national capability development plan (Article 9(4) of the EBCG Reg.) and the future capability roadmap (Article 9(8) of the EBCG Reg.).
Administrative capacity of competent authorities and stakeholders is of major importance. A number of trainings for enhancing the professional qualification are performed and significant experience is gained by the MA and the beneficiaries in 2014-2020 period. For 2021-2027 a challenge will be the inclusion of the Home Funds in the CPR. This will be addressed by specific trainings for the MA and the beneficiaries. All national and EC documents are made available to stakeholders.
In order to address the challenge related to the administrative burden under the ISF-B&V, the selection procedures were reorganised to combine several actions in one procedure under more than one specific objective. This practice will be applied under the BMVI.
The Information System for Management and Monitoring of EU funds in BG 2020 will continue to be used, including for submission of project proposals and reporting of performance progress.
Lessons learned
Following the implementation of the 2014-2020 ISF-B&V programme some important considerations were made. The programme is to provide mechanisms for flexible implementation of the envisaged activities as well as for redirection of funding relevant to the changing situation during the multiannual implementation period. The migration crisis of 2013 and the COVID-19 situation has shown the need for swift introduction of new measures and activities to adapt to changing circumstances.
In 2023 the mid-term evaluation of the BMVI Programme was carried out in accordance with Article 44(5) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021. The main objective of the mid-term evaluation was to ascertain that the regulatory framework and the approved programme under BMVI is fit for purpose and will provide a contribution to achieving the objectives set at a reasonable cost; appropriate support to address changing needs; and EU added value in line with other funding sources or modalities. One of the main objectives of the mid-term evaluation is to make recommendations on how to improve the quality of the content and implementation of the BMVI programme. The following recommendations are addressed:
As regards the recommendation to shorten the deadlines for approval of specific activities through legislative changes to the Law on the Management of European Funds to avoid the need for re-approval of projects of beneficiaries under specific activities already approved by the EC - the SA forms approved by the European commission do not contain all of the necessary details for conclusion of contracts with beneficiaries e.g. detailed budget, costing, procurement plan etc.
Regarding the recommendation to adopt a plan, a concept, or even amend the National Strategy for Integrated Surveillance System in order to ensure sustainability in the development and investment in ISS, both along the Turkish border, but also along the external borders in general, a Concept for the provision of technical means for the need of the ISS has been adopted by the General Directorate Border Police in 2024.
In view of the recommendation to address the recent abolition of border controls at the Greek and Romanian border a project proposed by General Directorate Border Police aimed at introduction of compensatory measures related to prevention and counteraction of transborder crime and illegal migration will be proposed under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2022-2028. Another operation related to development of the capabilities for conducting transborder surveillance will be funded after the Midterm review under the ISF programme.
Regarding the recommendation to develop the capacity for implementing horizontal principles MA employees participate in specialized trainings with external specialist speakers, exchange of experience with other MAs in Bulgaria. The topic is also covered by the trainings organized by the MA, aimed at the BMVI Programme beneficiaries. A change in the MA's MCS is foreseen towards hiring consultants with specific expertise.
Regarding the recommendation for more targeted and large-scale communication through social media, four trainings for beneficiaries have been conducted, written instructions to beneficiaries for compliance with the requirements for publicity and visualization have been prepared and communicated. MA has appointed person that exclusively works on these topics. Furthermore an external contractor is hired and

provides services related to designing and execution of information campaigns in Facebook.
In terms of the measures taken to reduce the administrative burden and risks during verification, a risk-based verification developed by the MA and coordinated with the Audit Authority is applied. Other measures taken in this direction is the introduction of simplified costs options through a set of methodologies for staff costs under different BMVI operations as well as that the management costs of the beneficiaries will be part of the indirect costs.
The recommendation for clear criteria for scheduling the progress monitoring meetings is addressed as the monitoring meetings are now held only if MA has identified issues during the implementation of a certain operation or upon request by a beneficiary.
State of play of implementation of the EU acquis
With view of the implementation of the EES and ETIAS Regulations as well as the technical means that will be used for the functioning of these systems it will be necessary to develop the relevant national legislation. The introduction of the rules of both regulations will require to expand the scope of the conditions for entry, residence and departure of the country by TCN, as well as to regulate the activities that will be performed by border police officers for the purposes of both systems.
Pursuant to the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2019/817 interoperability should be established between EU information systems, namely EES, VIS, ETIAS, EURODAC and SIS. Several interinstitutional working groups (WG) are established at national level the implementation of these tasks – WG for implementation of the SIS recast; Strategic WG for implementation of interoperability and WG for development of EES and ETIAS.
In June 2018 the Justice and Home Affairs Council adopted conclusions calling on EBCGA in close cooperation with the MS and the EC to develop a Technical and Operational Strategy for European IBM. On 27 March 2019 EBCGA approved the Technical and Operational Strategy for European IBM in line with Art. 8 (5) of Regulation 2019/1896.
Following these documents the National IBM Strategy of BG for the period 2020-2025 was adopted by the Council of Ministers of BG on 30 October 2020. The Strategy was elaborated by a Strategic working group at the National Council for Migration, Borders, Asylum and Integration.
The Strategy is prepared in accordance with the Technical and Operational Strategy for European IBM. It follows the European IBM four-step model for access control and strategic components. In addition to the main components the Strategy covers all three horizontal themes: fundamental rights, education and training and research and innovation.
The Strategy sets out two main strategic goals regarding the technical provision of border control:
- Upgrading the available technical capabilities for border surveillance by building and maintaining the ISS, acquiring new and upgrading the existing technical and operational equipment, further developing the capabilities for air surveillance using manned and unmanned aerial vehicles.
- Development, introduction and efficient use of technical solutions and systems to achieve reliable and effective border checks.
The implementation of the Strategy will ensure that border control is fully compliant with the regulations and requirements of the EU and Schengen acquis aiming to ensure security not only at the borders of BG but also to contribute to the security of the other EU MS. BG will prioritize border management measures taking into account the likely development of the legislative framework, if applicable.
According to the National IBM Strategy ensuring the protection of fundamental rights is a basic principle underlying border management and the activities performed by officials of the responsible institutions at national level. The Strategy provides for the application of data protection rules when carrying out controls at the EU external borders to prevent illegal entry into the country, and to safeguard the right to asylum and the principle of non-refoulement (Articles 18 and 19 EU Charter of Fundamental Rights).
Following the Commission Communication from 14 March 2023 estabishing the Multiannual Strategic Policy, on 26 March 2025 a new National IBM Strategy for the period 2024-2027 was adopted by the Council of Ministers.
Strategy 2021-2027
The BMVI programme will provide support in the framework of both SOs.
BMVI will provide support to continue and further develop efforts to ensure more effective and efficient protection of the external borders. Measures related to systematic border checks, the introduction of large-scale and interoperable information systems, including the SIS, EES and ETIAS will be supported and further developed.

BMVI will contribute to the implementation of the National IBM Strategy by supporting measures related to the ISS, technical and operational capabilities for border checks and surveillance, border control infrastructure, large-scale ICT systems, training of staff, etc. National funding will also be invested.
The Instrument will ensure the further development and modernization of the visa policy while strengthening security and reducing the risks of illegal migration. In terms of the NVIS funding by BMVI will be combined with own national funding due to the availability of mixed use of services rendered through the system.
The implementation of all major ISF-B&V priorities will continue under the BMVI. These measures have been implemented successfully and their continuation is considered necessary for ensuring effective border control and visa policy.
Complementarity and coordination with other funding instruments will be ensured at national level. BMVI will be the main instrument to provide support for operating, IT equipment and communication systems required for effective and secure border control. Synergies will be sought with the Recovery and Resilience Plan of BG, Interreg Programmes, ERDF and the Customs Control Equipment Instrument (CCEI) regarding measures related to border control equipment and infrastructure.
The further development of NSIS as well as the training of staff to work with the new products (software and hardware) will be funded under the BMVI Programme.
The functionalities and operations of the national systems of the Ministry of Interior that ensure the functioning of NSIS such as National Police Register, Automated Information System Bulletin, Automated Information System Operational Document, Automated Information System Operational Analysis, Automated Information System EUROPOL BG, Geographical Information Systems of the MoI will be further developed and/or maintained under the ISF programme.
Bulgaria will use the contribution from the Funds under both SOs of the BMVI programme to provide support to beneficiaries in the form of grants. Financial instruments and prizes will not be used.
Partnership is also an underlying principle as regards the preparation of the 2021-2027 BMVI programme. Besides the stakeholders participating in the ISF 2014-2020 coordination and implementation new ones were also involved in the process of preparation of the next programming period in an effort to achieve best representation of the stakeholders concerned. Project ideas were gathered and broad discussions were held with the aim to include adequate responses to the national challenges in the BMVI programme. The draft programme is consulted with participating stakeholders at all stages of its preparation and reflecting the EC guidance. This cooperation and interaction will also continue during the implementation of the BMVI programme.
The envisaged activities respect the climate and environmental standards and priorities of the Union and would do no significant harm to the environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 2020/852.
The BMVI programme prioritizes measures addressing all outstanding shortcomings identified in the Vulnerability Assessment/Sch-Eval recommendations.
Measures related to the EU digitalisation of travel documents, the build-up and, where relevant, upgrade and operation of the EU information systems in the area of border management will be funded under the programme.
The National Council for Migration, Borders, Asylum and Integration is the main political body, responsible for the overall monitoring and coordination of the activities, related to the preparations of Bulgaria for the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. As an external EU border, Bulgaria is faced with the need to establish adequate capacity and improve the existing migration management system, in order to implement the new tasks stemming from the Pact. This includes measures for developing capacity and infrastructure for screening of third-country nationals, both at the border and within the country, border asylum and return procedures, as well as for increasing efficiency and sustainability of returns, reduction of incentives for irregular migration, adapting the national fingerprint identification system EURODAC to the current requirements of the EU legislation., etc. Additional measures for providing legal counselling under Art.21 AMMR and Art.16 APR need to be taken, as well as for upgrading the existing monitoring mechanisms on compliance with fundamental rights to an Independent Monitoring Mechanism under the Screening Regulation with the leading role of the Ombudsman. Bulgaria is committed to work for improvement of its integration policy. All relevant stakeholders will be invited to take stronger commitment and develop better general framework for integration measures related to the implementation of the Pact.

The costs envisaged for the preparation and the implementation of the Pact are in line with the needs/ priorities defined in the National Implementation Plan (NIP). The needs included in the NIP have been prioritised by the competent Bulgarian authorities. The most urgent/ important costs are envisaged under the Specific Action. These include measures under BB1 to BB2 of the Plan. The BG Managing Authority for AMIF and BMVI provided support for summarising the proposals for funding, checking against the measures of the Plan and identifying the right funding source, relevant type of intervention etc. As the funding allocated to Bulgaria under the Specific action is not sufficient to cover all needs under the NIP other funding including national will be sought to cover part of the measures. Such measures are staff costs, training, interpretation, etc. National financing will be sought also for additional obligations related to legal counselling and the Independent monitoring mechanism. By Decision of the National Assembly on 18 July 2025, an Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria was elected. Further actions to establish an independent mechanism for monitoring fundamental rights in the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum as well as amendments to the Ombudsman Act will be considered.

2. Specific Objectives & Technical Assistance

Reference: Article 22(2) and (4) CPR

Selected	Specific objective or Technical assistance	Type of action
☒	1. European integrated border management	Regular actions
☒	1. European integrated border management	Pact specific action
☒	1. European integrated border management	Specific actions
☒	1. European integrated border management	Annex IV actions
☒	1. European integrated border management	Operating support
☐	1. European integrated border management	STS
☐	1. European integrated border management	Emergency assistance
☒	1. European integrated border management	ETIAS regulation Art. 85(2)
☒	1. European integrated border management	ETIAS regulation Art. 85(3)
☐	1. European integrated border management	Solidarity actions
☒	2. Common visa policy	Regular actions
☐	2. Common visa policy	Specific actions
☒	2. Common visa policy	Annex IV actions
☒	2. Common visa policy	Operating support
☐	2. Common visa policy	Emergency assistance
☒	TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)	
☐	TA.37. Technical assistance - not linked to costs (Art. 37 CPR)	

2.1. Specific objective: 1. European integrated border management

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

I. Baseline situation

The total length of the borders of BG is 2368 km, 1345 land, 412 sea and 611 river Danube. EU external borders-1225 km. Internal -1143.

The BG-TK and the BG-Greek borders are the most vulnerable and active in terms of illegal crossings. Since 2018 there is a trend of increased migratory pressure at the BG-Greek border at the expense of a reduced pressure at the BG-TK border.

For the period 2017-2024 a total of 66 839 TCNs were apprehended. 10 461 at entry at the state border. 9 887 at exit. 46 491 inside the country.

EBCGA is BG's main partner in activities related to the protection of the external borders. The cooperation with the Agency is based on mutual support and coordination of ongoing tasks as well as the application of the European border management standards.

Based on the vulnerability assessment of BG conducted by the EBCGA it was ascertained that border control is carried out by an insufficient number of border guards. In October 2020, the implementation of project Provision of additional personnel for participation in specialized police operations started under the ISF-B&V with duration of 18 months.

BG takes all measures to ensure the management of the external EU borders in close cooperation with EBCGA, in its own interests and in the common interest of all MS, in full compliance with Union law, including respect for fundamental rights and in accordance with the multiannual strategic policy cycle for EIBM as per Art. 8 of Regulation 2019/1896.

The National system for deployment of resources in joint operations in coordination with the Agency includes professionally trained staff selected at national level for the participation in joint operations. A national reserve of MoI officials that is annually updated has been created for the rapid deployment and participation in EBCGA joint operations.

As a result of the establishment of EBCGA’s Standing Corps the functions of the National FRONTEX Contact Point will be expanded as part of the management of the national reserve of officials who will be included in the Standing Corps.

The development of the cooperation in the field of coastguard is supported through multi-purpose maritime operations organized and coordinated by EBCGA. BG strengthens the protection of the external borders by sending technical means to participate in operational activities. Border police ships are actively involved in maritime operations.

The competent authority responsible for border control is General Directorate Border Police (GDBP). A three-tier management system is applied on the principle of one directorate-one border.

Border checks are carried out at 38 BCPs 20 of which are at the external borders of BG with TK, Serbia, North Macedonia, at international airports and at seaports, 18 are at the internal borders of BG with Greece and Romania.

Border surveillance is carried out at the land and sea state borders by border-police staff, integrated surveillance systems, mobile surveillance systems, land, sea and aerial operational equipment.

The ISS land component covers the total length of the BG-TK border. The sea component is designed for border surveillance of the sea state border and control of vessel traffic in the maritime areas of BG.

The Automated surveillance system established at the BG-Serbian border also contributes to the increasing of the efficiency of border surveillance.

BG has 3 ships with a displacement of over 100 GT that ensure the border surveillance activities at the sea border. Two of them were produced in 1969-1970 and their service life has expired.

Another three Border Police Ships were delivered in the period 2003-2005. Their service life will expire at

the end of the new MFF.

The main means for aerial surveillance of the state border of BG are helicopters purchased in 2010.

The geo information activity allows elaboration of new modern border documentation for the state border, description and coordinate lists with the coordinates of the border signs. The accumulated geographical information is widely used in the design and construction of ISS at the BG-TK and BG-Serbian borders.

76 minibuses and 594 cars are currently in use. Most of them were delivered by 2009 and have expired technical resources. 121 cars, 15 minibuses and 2 buses were delivered under the ISF-B&V. In the framework of the emergency assistance granted to BG under the ISF-B&V 70 cars, 4 minibuses, 2 buses, 10 all-terrain patrol vehicles and 2 specialised vehicles for transport of detainees were delivered. Under an agreement with the Czech Republic 11 more cars were delivered. 8 all-terrain patrol vehicles were delivered with national funding.

The National EURODAC System is designed for processing fingerprints of applicants for international protection illegally crossing the border and illegally residing on the territory of BG. With the help of the system the fingerprints of 112 721 applicants for international protection, persons that have illegally crossed the state border and persons illegally residing on the territory of BG were checked and 6 019 applicants for protection in other EU MS were identified. In 2019 with the support of the emergency assistance under AMIF the National Fingerprint Identification System was expanded with a module enabling the verification of fingerprints of persons detained at the border in the SIS II AFIS database.

For 2019 at central and national level 2 sub-versions of NSIS 2 are applied concerning new code tables and/or new data categories. At the same time for the past year BG has contributed to the protection of the Schengen area and the implementation of adequate border control at the national borders by entering 1 500 402 alerts in the SIS, 2 564 of which in the “wanted persons” category. A total of 112 827 978 were made 18 000 of which over received a matching answer. The number of automatic inquiries performed in NSIS 2-109 789 677 is also increasing which clearly shows that more and more new EU and national systems find adequacy and completeness of the data in the SIS database. For 2019 availability of the system of 99, 99% in terms of reports, entering, updating and deletion of signals has been achieved.

Radio communications at the EU's external borders are provided by the TETRA system of the MoI. Its composition at the external borders includes more than 100 sites which are located in hard-to-reach and restricted areas. The expansion of the scope and the maintenance of the system for the 2014-2020 period was supported with under the ISF-B&V and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism.

II. Specific challenges and gaps

According to the Strategic objectives set in the National IBM Strategy the available technical capabilities for border surveillance shall be enhanced by building and maintaining ISS, acquiring new technical and operational equipment and further developing the capabilities for air surveillance. Maintenance for the systems and equipment shall also be provided.

Modernization of the border police infrastructure is necessary for the implementation of the border control and for the organization and implementation of border surveillance between BCPs at the external borders.

Through EUROSUR real-time information is exchanged with EBCGA’s Situation Center and the National Coordination Centers of the MS. With view of increasing the capacity for processing and summarizing statistical information as well as extracting and visualizing aggregated data EUROSUR needs to be further developed. New equipment and the renewal of the existing one is needed in terms of the geo information activity of the MoI.

All measures aimed at the enhancing of the border surveillance capacity will be carried out in compliance with the common minimum standards for border surveillance developed with the contribution of EBCGA in line with Regulation 2019/1896. The equipment purchased will comply with technical standards set out by Frontex, and large-scale operating equipment for border management will be registered in the Agency’s Technical Equipment Pool.

In order to ensure the operation of the IT systems supporting the activities of the staff at the EU's external borders as well as their operability, interoperability and security it is necessary to ensure their complete and comprehensive maintenance and renewal. Further development of video surveillance systems used at

the external EU borders is needed in order to improve their operability and efficiency.

With view of the adopted amendments to the EU legislation it is necessary to expand the capabilities and functionalities of NSIS 2 at national level. In order to achieve compliance with the requirements of the central system and support the work of the users of the system it is necessary to create conditions for increasing of the operability, speed and stability in case of load and active use of the system and provision of guaranteed and secure exchange of information with partner structures.

In 2022 EES will be put into operation at BCPs. The operationalization of the system requires additional financial, technical and infrastructural resources as well as additional and appropriately trained staff.

Periodic changes in the legal framework, the Regulation establishing ETIAS, the introduction of interoperability, etc., lead to the need for continuous improvement of the qualifications of the Unit’s staff through trainings and internships.

With the adoption of Regulations (EU) 2019/817 and (EU) 2019/818 for interoperability between the EU information systems, namely EES, VIS, ETIAS, EURODAC and SIS national systems need to be adapted to the changes envisaged in the legislation. As part of the EURODAC Central System, the EURODAC National Fingerprint Identification System should be adapted in this direction.

Ensuring the maintenance of the TETRA system will provide continuous and reliable communication and information exchange between the competent structures at the EU's external borders improving operational cooperation and the capacity to prevent and combat all forms of crime, illegal migration, improving and facilitating control and legal passage.

The necessary conditions need to be created for the authentication of issued documents and their publication in the International Civil Aviation Organization’s (ICAO) Public Key Directory (PKD) intended for exchange between MS in accordance with ICAO technical specifications and policies by paying the necessary fees to ICAO.

In order to fulfil the requirements stemming from the relevant EU acquis it is necessary to enhance the administrative capacity of the border police structures for the purposes of effective border control through trainings. This will also provide the opportunity for their participation in the EBCGA Standing Corps.

Smooth continuity of ISF-B&V priorities will be ensured under the BMVI by supporting similar actions building on the previous outputs, experience and good practices such as the delivery and maintenance of technical and operational equipment; repair and maintenance of infrastructure; maintenance of ISS and further development and maintenance large-scale ICT systems; further development of video-surveillance systems; ensuring document security; digitalisation of travel documents; equipping border crossing points with the technical capacity needed to check fingerprint biometrics encoded in electronic travel documents against the holder of the document; training of staff, etc.

Further to the development of the relevant EU acquis and strategic priorities new actions will be included in the programme with view to the further development and maintenance of large-scale IT systems; ensuring reliable and continuous operation of the relevant national AIS components exchanging data with large-scale IT.

III. Implementation measures

Support under BMVI will contribute to achieving the specific objective set out in point (a) of Article 3(2) by focusing on the following implementation measures:

1. Reinforcing the capacities for carrying out checks and surveillance at the external borders

Support will be provided for the following types of actions:

1.1.Systems and services for border checks and surveillance

The implementation of the following indicative actions/projects is envisaged:

Modernisation of the national components of EUROSUR and ELBGSUR, including the implementation of CIRAM 2.0; building of video surveillance/detection systems for fully automatic identification of threats or modifications of the transmission of vehicles at BCPs; expansion and upgrade of the ISS at the BG-TK border; expansion of ISS Blue border

- BMVI/2023/SA/1.1.2/002 Support for Member States to reinforce border control capabilities
- BMVI/2023/SA/1.1.4/06 E-surveillance
- BMVI/2024/SA/1.1.7/04 Upgrade of ISS Blue Border. As the budget is reduced by the EC we estimate that 11 radars and 11 thermo visional cameras can be acquired. The project beneficiary is preparing further information on the cost of the necessary equipment.
- BMVI/2024/SA/1.1.6/04 Upgrade and extension of ISS and delivery of 6 SMSS
- BMVI/2025/SA/Pact "Specific Action to Support Member States in the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum"

Desired outcomes:

·Improved situational picture exchange at EU and national level

·More effective border control measures applied

·Screening capacity at national level established

1.2. Operating equipment, including means of transport, and ICT systems required for effective and secure border control

The implementation of the following indicative actions/projects is envisaged:

Delivery of border police ships, vehicles and technical means for border control (daily surveillance equipment, handheld thermo-vision cameras, mobile surveillance systems as well as specialised equipment for border checks); modernisation of ABC gates; development of a geoportal for maintenance, processing and analysis of geographical information at the state borders and the adjacent territories); further development of GDBPs video-conference system

- BMVI/2023-2024/SA/1.2.2/07 Equipment for EBCG to put at the disposal of Frontex
- BMVI/2023/SA/1.1.3/004 Integrated solutions for border crossing

Desired outcomes:

·Improved technical and operational capabilities for border control

2. Development of the European Border and Coast Guard by providing support to national authorities responsible for border management

Support will be provided for the following types of actions:

2.1. Exchange of best practices and expertise aiming to develop European integrated border management

The implementation of the following indicative actions/projects is envisaged:

·Exchange of best practices and expertise in the field of integrated border management

- BMVI/2023-2025/SA/1.3.1/12 EIBM

Desired outcomes:

·Performance of the border guards' tasks in accordance with the European law and standards

3. Setting up, operating and maintaining large-scale IT systems in the area of border management, including the interoperability of these IT systems and their communication infrastructure

Support will be provided for the following types of actions:

3.1. Development and upgrading of large-scale IT systems

The implementation of the following indicative actions/projects is envisaged:

Development of the national components for integration with the EES at land, sea, river and air BCPs (delivery, installation and integration of network equipment, biometrics modules, etc.); further development of NSIS (implementation of all technological requirements stemming from the relevant EU acquis); enhancing the levels of security, communication and information systems used by the National ETIAS Unit; further development of the National Fingerprint Identification System EURODAC;

development of national components of large-scale IT systems and ensuring their interoperability

- BMVI/2021/SA/1.5.4/003 Interoperability
- BMVI/2024/SA/1.5.1/013 Smart borders

Desired outcomes:

·More effective information exchange of the competent authorities at EU and national level ensured

·High level of reliability and continuity in the operation of large-scale IT systems at EU and national level ensured

3.2. Equipment and communication systems necessary to ensure the proper functioning of large-scale IT systems

The implementation of the following indicative actions/projects is envisaged:

·Delivery of IT equipment for the border police structures (computers, printers, servers, etc.); protection against incidents related to information security of end users at the external borders

Desired outcomes:

·Improving the technical capabilities for effective border control

4. Operating support

Operating support will be provided to the following public authorities responsible for the implementation of tasks and services that represent a public service for the Union:

·General Directorate Border Police-MoI – border checks and surveillance, counteraction of illegal migration, smuggling and trafficking in human beings;

·Communication and Information Systems Directorate (CISD)-MoI – construction, maintenance and development of IT systems related to the implementation of the main activities of the MoI;

· International Operational Cooperation Directorate (IOCD-MoI) – contact point for ETIAS at national level;

·BG Identity Documents Directorate (BIDD)-MoI – issuing, refusing the issuance, revoking, seizing and declaring invalid and destroyed BG personal documents under the conditions and by the order determined by law.

Support will be provided for the following types of actions:

4.1. Operating support for integrated border management

The implementation of the following indicative actions/projects is envisaged:

Maintenance of ISS at the BG-TK, Automated Surveillance System at the BG-Serbian border, ISS Blue border and the perimeter surveillance systems; maintenance of ABC gates and IT equipment of the border police structures (computers, printers, servers, etc.); repair and maintenance of technical means for border control (mobile surveillance systems, night vision equipment, etc.) as well as ships, helicopters and vehicles; supply of fuel and consumables for vehicles, ships and helicopters, incl. insurance of helicopters and staff; repair and maintenance of infrastructure of the following RDBPs: Elhovo, Bourgas, Kyustendil, Dragoman, Airports; maintenance of GDBPs video-conference system; training of border police officers in the field of integrated border management; renovation, marking and maintenance of the border signs and the border line; appointment of additional temporary staff and secondment of border police officers

4.2. Operating support for the implementation of large-scale IT systems

The implementation of the following indicative actions/projects is envisaged:

Maintenance of NSIS, national components of large-scale IT systems and TETRA system of MoI (diagnostics and repair of damaged equipment, software update, etc.); ensuring reliable and continuous operation of the national components of AIS exchanging data with EU large-scale IT systems; maintenance of Oracle DBMS licenses, virtualization platform, system software and operating systems; payment of annual fees for access to the PKD of ICAO; training of the National ETIAS Unit’s staff

2.1. Specific objective 1. European integrated border management

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 1: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
O.1.1	Number of items of equipment purchased for border crossing points	number	1,647	5,562
O.1.1.1	of which number of Automated Border Control gates / self-service systems / e- gates purchased	number	0	12
O.1.2	Number of infrastructure maintained / repaired	number	102	115
O.1.3	Number of hotspot areas supported	number	0	0
O.1.4	Number of facilities for border crossing points constructed / upgraded	number	186	187
O.1.5	Number of aerial vehicles purchased	number	0	3
O.1.5.1	of which number of unmanned aerial vehicles purchased	number	0	3
O.1.6	Number of maritime transport means purchased	number	0	5
O.1.7	Number of land transport means purchased	number	400	764
O.1.8	Number of participants supported	number	50	491
O.1.8.1	of which number of participants in training activities	number	50	491
O.1.9	Number of immigration liaison officers deployed to third countries	number	0	0
O.1.10	Number of IT functionalities developed / maintained / upgraded	number	14	19
O.1.11	Number of large-scale IT systems developed / maintained / upgraded	number	2	2
O.1.11.1	of which number of large-scale IT systems developed	number	2	2
O.1.12	Number of cooperation projects with third countries	number	0	0
O.1.13	Number of persons who have applied for international protection at border crossing points	number	0	0

2.1. Specific objective 1. European integrated border management

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 2: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
R.1.14	Number of items of equipment registered in the Technical Equipment Pool of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency	number	0	number	2021	724	number	Project reporting	
R.1.15	Number of items of equipment put at the disposal of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency	number	0	number	2021	2	number	Project reporting	
R.1.16	Number of initiated / improved forms of cooperation of national authorities with the Eurosur National Coordination Centre (NCC)	number	0	number	2021	0	number	Project reporting	
R.1.17	Number of border crossings through Automated Border Control gates and e-gates	number	0	share	2021	8,235,000	number	Project reporting	
R.1.18	Number of addressed recommendations from Schengen Evaluations and from vulnerability assessments in the area of border management	number	0	number	2021	100	percentage	Project reporting	
R.1.19	Number of participants who report three months	number	0	share	2021	491	number	Project reporting	

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
	after the training activity that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training								
R.1.20	Number of persons refused entry by border authorities	number	0	number	2021	0	number	Project reporting	

2.1. Specific objective 1. European integrated border management

2.1.3. Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Reference: Article 22(5) CPR; and Article 16(12) AMIF Regulation, Article 13(12) ISF Regulation or Article 13(18) BMVI Regulation

Table 3: Indicative breakdown

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	001.Border checks	7,479,165.75
Intervention field	002.Border surveillance - air equipment	1,080,000.00
Intervention field	003.Border surveillance - land equipment	35,052,750.00
Intervention field	004.Border surveillance - maritime equipment	19,456,008.75
Intervention field	005.Border surveillance - automated border surveillance systems	107,630,763.67
Intervention field	006.Border surveillance - other measures	16,220,455.50
Intervention field	007.Technical and operational measures within the Schengen area which are related to border control	0.00
Intervention field	008.Situational awareness and exchange of information	2,007,682.50
Intervention field	009.Risk analysis	0.00
Intervention field	010.Processing of data and information	0.00
Intervention field	011.Hotspot areas	0.00
Intervention field	012.Measures related to the identification and referral of vulnerable persons	0.00
Intervention field	013.Measures related to the identification and referral of persons who are in need of, or wish to apply for, international protection	43,041,709.39
Intervention field	014.European Border and Coast Guard development	0.00
Intervention field	015.Inter-agency cooperation - national level	687,667.73
Intervention field	016.Inter-agency cooperation - European Union level	0.00
Intervention field	017.Inter-agency cooperation - with third countries	0.00
Intervention field	018.Joint deployment of immigration liaison officers	0.00
Intervention field	019.Large-scale IT systems - Eurodac for border management purposes	6,363,175.52

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	020.Large-scale IT systems - Entry-exit System (EES)	10,546,129.25
Intervention field	021.Large-scale IT systems - European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) - others	0.00
Intervention field	022.Large-scale IT systems - European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) - Article 85(2) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1240	357,822.09
Intervention field	023.Large-scale IT systems - European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) - Article 85(3) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1240	0.00
Intervention field	024.Large-scale IT systems - Schengen Information System (SIS)	3,375,000.00
Intervention field	025.Large-scale IT systems - Interoperability	3,977,066.75
Intervention field	026.Operating support - Integrated border management	35,261,132.77
Intervention field	027.Operating support - Large-scale IT systems for border management purposes	15,372,311.23
Intervention field	028.Operating support - Special Transit Scheme	0.00
Intervention field	029.Data quality and data subjects' rights to information, access to, rectification and erasure of,their personal data, and to the retriction of the processing thereof	0.00

2.1. Specific objective: 2. Common visa policy

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

I. Baseline situation

NVIS is a key component of the National Integrated Consular System as well as a key tool to support processing of visa applications and issuing visas, applications for BG identity documents, temporary passports, consular registration of BG citizens, notarial certifications, legalization and registration of requests for administrative and other consular services.

It has been set up in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 767/2008 of the European Parliament and the Council to centralize the information processed in the diplomatic and consular offices of BG and to establish and maintain a national register of Bulgarian visa applications and visas issued as well as of the biometric data taken from the visa applicants. NVIS is a system of national importance and guarantees continuous year-round and round-the-clock (24x7) access to the EU VIS of all relevant national authorities-Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), GDBP-MoI, Migration Directorate-MoI, Migration units at the Regional Directorates of Interior and Sofia Metropolitan Directorate of Interior, State Agency for Refugees, internal and national security authorities as well as authorities combatting terrorism and organized crime.

The system is set up at two levels. The first level is implemented as independent information systems located in the consular offices of BG abroad and the second one - as a central information system located in the National Visa Center in the Consular Relations Directorate of the MFA. The main functions of NVIS are acceptance and processing of visa application requests, acceptance of BG identity documents applications and requests for validity extension of passports of BG citizens abroad.

NVIS ensures collecting of all types of data that have to be submitted to the EU Visa Information System including 10 fingerprints and a photograph of the individual taken with a digital camera.

The most recent statistical data covering the period 2017-2024 shows that approximately 55% of the services in N.VIS are rendered for the purposes of visa issuance for TCN.

In the context of the efforts to ensure the continued use of the best available technologies regarding the EU VIS and national interface in compliance with Regulation 767/2008 the modernization and upgrading of the existing specialised equipment and development of NVIS software will be continued as well as upgrading the existing hardware, expanding the infrastructure and system network connectivity in order to maintain the system's capabilities which are vital for the interoperability of the NVIS with the large-scale NVIS IT systems related to border management.

The further modernization and development of the software and hardware of the local and central NVIS component shall contribute to a greater security in the operation of the system, reduce the risk of data loss in case of disk array failure due to defective disks as a result of continued use, reducing maintenance costs and achieving a higher degree of continuous working capacity and reliability of the systems.

In the context of the efforts to support the common visa policy by establishing compatible visa information systems between EU MS, citizens' needs of facilitated legal travel, provision of high-quality services to visa applicants, equal and fair addressing of the TCN, raising the level of public safety, including prevention and tackling illegal immigration would be met.

The technological modernization and development of the NVIS would provide a continuous and permanent visa consultation infrastructure/platform with other EU MS, ensure full compatibility of the NVIS with the EU VIS in accordance with the Schengen standards which would allow the application of the Schengen visa-issuing provisions and the inclusion of BG in the EU VIS and the VIS Mail Visa Advisory Network as well as the SIS. This will contribute to the improvement of the quality of technical and software equipment, its modernization and upgrading designated for real-time processing of visa applications and communications on the coordination and issuance of visas at national and EU level. Thus the process of unifying the forms and protocols of the NVIS would be supported in order to actively access the EU VIS and hence to achieve legislative, institutional, technical and administrative readiness for full membership in the Schengen area.

BG exerts systematic efforts to maintain and strengthen the infrastructure, premises, equipment, technical means and the organization of consular offices in third countries in order to set them in compliance with the Schengen requirements and best practices and set consular offices in full technical readiness to fulfil the Schengen visa-issuing requirements for the future full membership in the Schengen area.

Currently BG has 89 consular offices 61 of which are located in third countries. Their reconstruction, modernization, expansion and repair will lead to improvement of the working conditions and the visa service and will upgrade on what has been achieved with the support of ISF-B&V.

II. Specific challenges and gaps

With view of BG's commitments to the implementation of the EU common visa policy and the development of bilateral consular relations it is necessary to ensure the continuous operation of large-scale IT systems, technical means and the relevant infrastructure.

The main Visa equipment of CSCs was installed in 2008-2010 under the Schengen Facility. The analysis shows that the uninterrupted functioning of N.VIS in all regions requires yearly maintenance, development and upgrade of the technical equipment and software for the needs of N.VIS, including repair and replacement of failed components of the N.VIS, Back-up VC, and the equipment of the CSCs. It's necessary that the versions of the operating systems, Mail servers, Relational Database Management Systems, etc., are upgraded. The analysis shows that the uninterrupted functioning of N.VIS in all regions requires yearly maintenance, development and upgrade of the technical equipment and software for the needs of N.VIS, including repair and replacement of failed components of the N.VIS, Back-up VC, and the equipment of the CSCs. It's necessary that the versions of the operating systems, Mail servers, Relational Database Management Systems, etc., should be upgraded.

The main needs related to the implementation of the visa policy refer to the establishing and maintenance of the necessary infrastructure and material environment as well as the preparation of the relevant legislative and administrative documents that comply with Schengen accession requirements in order to effectively implement Schengen acquis and practice. A vital part of this infrastructure is the maintenance of the NVIS in compliance with EU and Schengen requirements and its connection to the EU VIS. The procedure for access to the NVIS has been regulated by the Ordinance on the procedure for access to the NVIS of BG and to the EU VIS adopted by CMD № 129 of 12.05.2011.The NVIS software and hardware maintenance is essential for ensuring reliability and implementation of the national and the EU policy and legislation in the field of visa in accordance with the requirements for interoperability and ensuring continuous connection of NVIS with the EU VIS, VIS Mail Visa Advice Network and free-exchange of visa data and electronic advice.

The uninterrupted maintenance of the NVIS software and hardware is also based on the need of capacity improvement at national and EU level in order to overcome challenges related to unexpected or disproportionate migratory pressure that might have a negative impact on the overall functioning of the Schengen area.

There is a need of reconstruction and repair of consular offices, purchase, construction and rental of real estate as well as modernization of the technical equipment in the premises and infrastructure of consular offices in third countries where deviation from the Schengen requirements and best practices has been identified.

When exercising their duties consular officers must be provided with a high level of internal and external building and premises security. They have to be equipped with the latest technology and have reliable, faultless and interoperable systems for visa-information exchange while processing and issuing visas. In the context of the growing number of visa applications and given the impact of the intense migratory pressure from third countries there is an urgent need to ensure security in all its dimensions to the BG consular staff in the process of visa issuing.

Smooth continuity of ISF-B&V priorities will be ensured under the BMVI programme by supporting similar actions building on the previous outputs, experience and good practices such as delivery and maintenance of technical equipment; development and maintenance of large-scale ICT systems; repair and maintenance of infrastructure, etc.

Further to the development of the relevant EU legislation and strategic priorities a new action will be included in the programme related to the purchase of infrastructure for the needs of consular services.

III. Implementation measures

Support under BMVI will contribute to achieving the specific objective set out in point (b) of Article 3(2) by focusing on the following implementation measures:

1. Setting up, operating and maintaining large-scale IT systems in the area of the common policy on visas

Support will be provided to the following types of actions:

1.1. Equipment and communication systems necessary to ensure the proper functioning of large-scale IT systems

The implementation of the following indicative actions/projects is envisaged:

·Upgrade of the communication connectivity and setting up of an integrated guaranteed communication connection and alternative communication channels of the consular services with the National Visa Center

Desired outcomes:

·High level of reliability and security of the connection of the consular services with the MFA ensured

1.2. Development and upgrading of large-scale IT systems;

The implementation of the following indicative actions/projects is envisaged:

·Upgrade and update of the NVIS software and hardware and deployment of electronic services

Desired outcomes:

·State-of-the-art technological level of the NVIS ensured

2. Operating support

Operating support will be provided to the MFA with regard to its functions as a national public authority responsible for the visa policy implementation, the organization, management, operation and maintenance of NVIS and the development of bilateral consular relations and consular cooperation.

Support will be provided to the following types of actions:

2.1. Operating support for the implementation of large-scale IT systems

The implementation of the following indicative actions/projects is envisaged:

·Maintenance of the application software (standard licenses) and NVIS hardware and technical equipment

2.1. Specific objective 2. Common visa policy

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 1: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
O.2.1	Number of projects supporting the digitalisation of visa processing	number	0	0
O.2.2	Number of participants supported	number	0	0
O.2.2.1	of which number of participants in training activities	number	0	0
O.2.3	Number of staff deployed to consulates in third countries	number	0	0
O.2.3.1	of which number of staff deployed for visa processing	number	0	0
O.2.4	Number of IT functionalities developed / maintained / upgraded	number	3	4
O.2.5	Number of large-scale IT systems developed / maintained / upgraded	number	1	1
O.2.5.1	of which number of large-scale IT systems developed	number	0	0
O.2.6	Number of infrastructure maintained / repaired	number	0	0
O.2.7	Number of real estates rented / depreciated	number	0	0

2.1. Specific objective 2. Common visa policy

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 2: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
R.2.8	Number of new / upgraded consulates outside the Schengen area	number	0	number	2021	0	number	Project reporting	
R.2.8.1	of which number of consulates upgraded to enhance client-friendliness for Visa applicants	number	0	number	2021	0	number	Project reporting	
R.2.9	Number of addressed recommendations from Schengen Evaluations in the area of the common visa policy	number	0	number	2021	0	percentage	Project reporting	
R.2.10	Number of visa applications using digital means	number	0	share	2021	0	number	Project reporting	
R.2.11	Number of initiated / improved forms of cooperation set up among Member States in visa processing	number	0	number	2021	0	number	Project reporting	
R.2.12	Number of participants who report three months after the training activity that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training	number	0	share	2021	0	number	Project reporting	

2.1. Specific objective 2. Common visa policy

2.1.3. Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Reference: Article 22(5) CPR; and Article 16(12) AMIF Regulation, Article 13(12) ISF Regulation or Article 13(18) BMVI Regulation

Table 3: Indicative breakdown

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	001.Improving visa application processing	0.00
Intervention field	002.Enhancing the efficiency, client-friendly environment and security at consulates	0.00
Intervention field	003.Document security / document advisors	0.00
Intervention field	004.Consular cooperation	0.00
Intervention field	005.Consular coverage	0.00
Intervention field	006.Large-scale IT systems - Visa Information System (VIS)	9,562,836.76
Intervention field	007.Other ICT systems for visa application processing purposes	1,676,250.00
Intervention field	008.Operating support - Common visa policy	0.00
Intervention field	009.Operating support - Large-scale IT systems for visa application processing purposes	3,300,000.00
Intervention field	010.Operating support - Special Transit Scheme	0.00
Intervention field	011.Issuance of visas with limited territorial validity	0.00
Intervention field	012.Data quality and data subjects' rights to information, access to, rectification and erasure of, their personal data, and to the restriction of the processing thereof	0.00

2.2. Technical assistance: TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)

Reference: point (f) of Article 22(3), Article 36(5), Article 37, and Article 95 CPR

2.2.1. Description

The Technical assistance shall support actions of the Managing Authority (MA) of the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (BMVI) for effective and efficient implementation of the objectives and indicators, set in the programme.

The International Projects Directorate is a structure within the Ministry of Interior (MoI) for the management of programmes and projects funded by the European Union and other international programmes and contracts, including the Norwegian Financial mechanism. Functions of the Directorate are described in the Regulations for the Structure and the Activity of MoI and in the Management and Control Systems (MCS). The Directorate is consists of three departments with clearly defined and differentiated responsibilities, which ensures the effective implementation of the activities, related to the management and control of European funds.

The International Projects Directorate has a significant background in managing programmes and projects from the previous programming periods.

With Decision № 712 from 6th of October 2020 of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of BG, the International Projects Directorate was designated as Managing authority (MA) of the programme under the BMVI for the 2021-2027 programming period.

The investments envisaged under the Technical Assistance shall continue to providing a good working environment and expert and motivated human resources in order to achieve a high standard of effective management and control of the programme.

This will be achieved through the implementation of the following actions:

·providing the necessary technical equipment (hardware and software), including office equipment as in need to ensure the management, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and control of BMVI;

·strengthening the capacity of the personnel through trainings, seminars, workshops, study visits, exchange of good practices and experience, and others.

·ensuring the official trips of the personnel;

·ensuring remuneration costs of the personnel, including insurances and all other expenses according to the national law;

·hiring external consultants and experts, if necessary;

·communication and visibility measures.

These activities assist to strengthen the capacity and efficiency of the MA, contributing to the successful implementation of the European Integrated Border Management policy.

Expected results:

·achieving a high standard of implementation, monitoring, evaluation and control of the programme;

·ensuring a good working environment and an improved culture of work aimed at achieving results;

·having an intensified and active dialogue with stakeholders and the general public in order to promote the programme, its objectives and results, as well as the EU's contribution.

2.2. Technical assistance TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)

2.2.2. Indicative breakdown of technical assistance pursuant to Article 37 CPR

Table 4: Indicative breakdown

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	001.Information and communication	1,000,000.00
Intervention field	002.Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	12,000,000.00
Intervention field	003.Evaluation and studies, data collection	1,000,000.00
Intervention field	004.Capacity building	5,346,875.65

3. Financing plan

Reference: point (g) Article 22(3) CPR

3.1. Financial appropriations by year

Table 5: Financial appropriations per year

Allocation type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Initial allocation		19,331,640.00	23,488,093.00	25,332,336.00	19,614,515.00	16,236,089.00	16,457,316.00	120,459,989.00
Mid-term review					8,098,667.00	8,098,667.00	8,098,668.00	24,296,002.00
Thematic facility WPI		1,041,057.00	45,000,180.00					46,041,237.00
Thematic facility WPII			24,498,720.00	74,447,677.31	8,675,196.00	8,675,196.00	34,700,786.00	150,997,575.31
Thematic facility WPIII								
Total transfer (in)								
Non-Thematic facility transfer (in)								
Thematic facility WPII transfer (in)								
Total transfer (out)								
Non-Thematic facility transfer (out)								
Thematic facility WPII transfer (out)								
SACs contribution								
Total		20,372,697.00	92,986,993.00	99,780,013.31	36,388,378.00	33,009,952.00	59,256,770.00	341,794,803.31

3.2. Total financial allocations

Table 6: Total financial allocations by fund and national contribution

Specific objective (SO)	Type of action	Basis for calculation Union support (total or public)	Union contribution (a)	National contribution (b)=(c)+(d)	Indicative breakdown of national contribution		Total (e)=(a)+(b)	Co-financing rate (f)=(a)/(e)
					Public (c)	Private (d)		
European integrated border management	Regular actions	Total	71,031,902.81	23,677,300.94	23,677,300.94	0.00	94,709,203.75	74.9999999974%
European integrated border management	Specific actions	Total	136,780,787.09	18,420,087.46	18,420,087.46	0.00	155,200,874.55	88.1314538250%
European integrated border management	Annex IV actions	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
European integrated border management	Operating support	Total	50,633,444.00	16,877,814.67	16,877,814.67	0.00	67,511,258.67	74.9999999963%
European integrated border management	ETIAS regulation Art. 85(2)	Total	357,822.09	119,274.03	119,274.03	0.00	477,096.12	75.0000000000%
European integrated border management	ETIAS regulation Art. 85(3)	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
European integrated border management	Pact specific action	Total	49,104,884.91	5,456,098.33	5,456,098.33	0.00	54,560,983.24	89.9999999890%
Total European integrated border management			307,908,840.90	64,550,575.43	64,550,575.43	0.00	372,459,416.33	82.6690982695%
Common visa policy	Regular actions	Total	11,239,086.76	3,746,362.26	3,746,362.26	0.00	14,985,449.02	74.9999999666%
Common visa policy	Annex IV actions	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Common visa policy	Operating support	Total	3,300,000.00	1,100,000.00	1,100,000.00	0.00	4,400,000.00	75.0000000000%
Total Common visa policy			14,539,086.76	4,846,362.26	4,846,362.26	0.00	19,385,449.02	74.9999999742%
Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)			19,346,875.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,346,875.65	100.0000000000%
Grand total			341,794,803.31	69,396,937.69	69,396,937.69	0.00	411,191,741.00	83.1229738415%

3.3. Transfers

Table 7: Transfers between shared management funds[1]

Transferring fund	Receiving fund						
	AMIF	ISF	ERDF	ESF+	CF	EMFAF	Total
BMVI							

[1]Cumulative amounts for all transfers during programming period.

Table 8: Transfers to instruments under direct or indirect management[1]

Instrument	Transfer Amount
	0.00

[1]Cumulative amounts for all transfers during programming period.

4. Enabling conditions

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

Table 9: Horizontal enabling conditions

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
1. Effective monitoring mechanisms of the public procurement market	Yes	Monitoring mechanisms are in place that cover all public contracts and their procurement under the Funds in line with Union procurement legislation. That requirement includes: 1. Arrangements to ensure compilation of effective and reliable data on public procurement procedures above the Union thresholds in accordance with reporting obligations under Articles 83 and 84 of Directive 2014/24/EU and Articles 99 and 100 of Directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	Act, amending and supplementing the Public Procurement Act -PUBL. – SG, 102/19, in force from 01.01.2020 https://www.eufunds.bg/sites/default/files/uploads/eip/docs/2021-09.pdf (The information continues below due to its size and its relevance to each of the criteria under items 1-4)	The legislation regarding the monitoring of the public procurement is set out in details through: - adopted at the end of 2019 the amendments of art. 229 of PPA, part of which affect the powers of the executive directorate of the Public Procurement Agency in regards to the conducting of monitoring of the public procurements (p.14 and p. 24 in (1) are amended, (4) and (9) are supplemented); - an amendment of art. 114 of RAPPA and the newly created Annex 3 to the same article (in the annex is included information that the different authorities with functions in the field of public procurement should provide annually to the Public Procurement Agency for the needs of the monitoring.)
		2. Arrangements to ensure the data cover at least the following elements: a. Quality and intensity of competition: names of winning bidder, number of initial bidders and contractual value; b. Information on final price after completion and on participation of SMEs as direct bidders, where national systems provide such information.	Yes	Decree № 49/23rd of March 2020 for amending and supplementing the Rules on the application the Public Procurement Act, adopted by Decree of the Councils of Ministers № 73/2016 (SG, 28/2016) – publ., SG 29/2020 in force from 1st of April 2020. https://www.eufunds.bg/sites/default/files/uploads/eip/docs/2021-HEC1.pdf	A centralised electronic system – CAIS EEP – has been built and is functioning. According to Art. 39a of the PPA, it is used in the awarding of public contracts, including through a dynamic system for purchase, a framework agreement and a qualification system, as well as in competition for a project. Since 1st of January 2020 the use of CAIS EPP is obligatory for some groups of contracting authorities and from the 14th of June 2020 for all the contracting authorities.

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					The system consists of 32 modules, part of which are obligatory for the contracting authorities to use: These include: e-Registration, e-Notification, e-Sender, e-Access, ESPD, Information exchange, e-Submission, e-Opening, Dynamic Purchasing System, Qualification system, Mini competition within Framework Agreement, e-Catalogue, e-Invoicing etc. Trainings for working with CAIS EPP have been conducted, addressing different target groups. Provision of practical assistance to system users is also ensured, including through the User Service Center established in 2019.
		3. Arrangements to ensure monitoring and analysis of the data by the competent national authorities in accordance with article 83 (2) of directive 2014/24/EU and article 99 (2) of directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	Centralized Automated Information System,'Electronic Public Procurement"(CAIS EPP) https://www.eop.bg • CAIS EPP – e-Registration: https://app.eop.bg/today • CAIS EPP – Bulletin: https://app.eop.bg/today/reporting/bulletin • CAIS EPP – Statistics: https://app.eop.bg/today/reporting/statistics	The system consists of 32 modules, part of which are obligatory for the contracting authorities to use: These include: e-Registration, e-Notification, e-Sender, e-Access, ESPD, Information exchange, e-Submission, e-Opening, Dynamic Purchasing System, Qualification system, Mini competition within Framework Agreement, e-Catalogue, e-Invoicing etc. Trainings for working with CAIS EPP have been conducted, addressing different target groups. Provision of practical assistance to system users is also ensured, including through the User Service Center established in 2019.
		4. Arrangements to make the results of the analysis available to the public in accordance with article 83 (3) of directive 2014/24/EU and article 99 (3) directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	Register of public procurements conducted before the obligatory use of CAIS EPP: https://www.aop.bg	See the information for criteria 1-4. In addition, art. 229 (2), p. 14 and 24 and (9) of the PPA and art. 114 (5) of the Rules on the Application of the PPA.

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
		5. Arrangements to ensure that all information pointing to suspected bid-rigging situations is communicated to the competent national bodies in accordance with Article 83(2) of Directive 2014/24/EU and Article 99(2) of Directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	Public Procurement Act (PPA) – art. 106, (2) and (7), Rules on the application of the Public procurement Act (RAPPA) – Annex 3 to art. 114, al. 2 (new SG, 29/2020 in force 1st of April 2020), part B, p.17 Protection of competition act https://www.cpc.bg/General/Legislation.aspx	See art. 106 (2) and (7) of the PPA and Annex 3 to art. 114 (2) of the Rules on the application of the PPA (new – SG 29/2020 in force from 01.04.2020), part B, p. 17. Art. 15 and other relevant texts of the Protection of Competition Act.
3. Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights	Yes	Effective mechanisms are in place to ensure compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ('the Charter') which include: 1. Arrangements to ensure compliance of the programmes supported by the Funds and their implementation with the relevant provisions of the Charter.	Yes	Guidelines for application of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights by the for the managing, controlling and auditing authorities under the EU funded programmes co-financed under ERDF, ECF+, CF, FTF, EAFRD, AMIF, ISF, BMVI for programing period 2021 – 2027, adopted with an Order of the Deputy Prime Minister responsible for the European funds and Minister of Finance № B-105/19.07.2022 : https://www.eufunds.bg/bg/node/8223	National Guidelines for application of the Charter are adopted. The purpose is to support the managing, controlling and auditing authorities under the EU programmes financed under ERDF, ECF+, CF, FTF, EAFRD, AMIF, ISF, BMVI in the practical application and observation of the Charter. The national authorities should develop and incorporate in their work procedures rules for verifying the rights from the Charter and report to the Monitoring committee (MC) the cases of non-compliance and complaints in the context of the implementation of the funds. The guidelines include Annex 1, which outlines the 3 stages of implementation of the funds, the responsible national authorities, as well as the applicable set of Charter rights to be guaranteed; Annex 2, through which a check is made for potential violation of the fundamental rights under the Charter in the performance of actions and/or the preparation of the documents and Annex 3, in which the competent authorities at the national level for EU fundamental rights are indicated. The requirements of the Guidelines and their annexes will be incorporated into the

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					description of the program's management and control systems.
		2. Reporting arrangements to the monitoring committee regarding cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the Charter and complaints regarding the Charter submitted in accordance with the arrangements made pursuant to Article 69(7).	Yes	Draft of decree of Council of Ministers (CoM) for establishment of MC of the Partnership Agreement (PA) of the Republic of Bulgaria (R Bulgaria) and programs financed by EFSM for 2021–2027 programming period. Guidelines for application of the Charter by the for the managing, controlling and auditing authorities under the EU funded programmes- ERDF, ECF+, CF, FTF, EAFRD, AMIF, ISF, BMVI for programing period 2021–2027, adopted with Order of the Deputy Prime Minister responsible for the European funds and Minister of Finance № B-105/19.07.2022 https://www.eufunds.bg/bg/node/8223	Reporting of complaints under the Charter and of the cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the funds with the Charter to the MC will be regulated by decree of CoM for establishment of MCs of the PA of Bulgaria and the programs financed by the EFSM for the 2021- 2027 programming period. By 20.07.2022, draft decree is at final stage, and initiation of public discussions and interdepartmental coordination procedures are pending. The identified cases of non-compliance with the Charter in the context of EU funds will be reported by relevant MA, which should maintain up-to-date systematized information on the cases. Complaints received from citizens or other external sources/stakeholders regarding violations of the Charter rights in the process of the implementation of programs will be reviewed by relevant competent authority at national level and will be reported to MC by MA based on the information provided competent authorities that reviewed the complaints, in accordance with Annex 3. Competent authorities will maintain information on complaints received and the results of their consideration in accordance with their internal rules and procedures
4. Implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons	Yes	A national framework to ensure implementation of the UNCRPD is in place that includes: 1. Objectives with measurable goals, data collection and monitoring mechanisms.	Yes	Persons with Disabilities Act and the Rules for its Implementation: https://www.mlsp.government.bg/normativni-aktove Information on the National Council for	National framework that guarantees implementation of Convention includes PDA and RIPDA, Rules for activity and organization of work of National Council for persons with disabilities. The Council is consultative body to CoM with

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
with disabilities (UNCRPD) in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC				the Persons with Disabilities and all the documents for its functioning as well as the PDA and its implementation: https://saveti.government.bg/web/cc_11/1 Information on the Monitoring committee can be found here https://www.ombudsman.bg/pictures/Протокол%201.pdf https://mlsp.government.bg/uploads/38/khu/rms-6-11-2019-ap-2019-2020.pdf https://mlsp.government.bg/strategicheski-dokumenti	representatives of government, nationally representative organizations of and for persons with disabilities, nationally representative organizations of workers and employees, and national level representatives of employers' organizations and National Association of Municipalities in R Bulgaria. Information system for persons with disabilities was created, containing data on health, qualification, education, opportunities for social inclusion, professional realization, socio-economic status, demographics, etc. The data is used to monitor and analyze socio-economic status of persons with disabilities, to plan activities for the development of sector policies. There is available service Profile, allowing individual access to information on eligible services according to person's specific disability. National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 and action plan for the strategy were adopted
		2. Arrangements to ensure that accessibility policy, legislation and standards are properly reflected in the preparation and implementation of the programmes.	Yes	Guidelines on ensuring the respect for the UNCRPD by the for the managing, controlling and auditing authorities under the EU funded programmes co-financed under ERDF, ECF+, CF, FTF, EAFRD, AMIF, ISF, BMVI for programing period 2021–2027, adopted with Order of the deputy prime minister responsible for the European funds and minister of finance № B-105/19.07.2022 https://www.eufunds.bg/bg/node/8224	National Guidelines for ensuring respect for the Convention during the implementation of the programs have been approved. In the form of annex to the guidelines, checklists have been developed for the rights under the UNCRPD, applicable to the different stages and documents within the process of programming, management, monitoring and control of funds, as well as for checking potential violations of the UNCRPD to be applied by the authorities in the management and control system. The requirements of the Guidelines and their annexes will be incorporated into the description of the program's management

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					and control systems.
		3. Reporting arrangements to the monitoring committee regarding cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the UNCRPD and complaints regarding the UNCRPD submitted in accordance with the arrangements made pursuant to Article 69(7).	Yes	Draft of decree of CoM for establishment of MCs of the PA of Bulgaria and the programs financed by the EFSM for the 2021–2027 programming period. Guidlines on ensuring the respect for the UNCRPD by the for the managing, controlling and auditing authorities under the EU funded programmes co-financed under ERDF, ECF+, CF, FTF, EAFRD, AMIF, ISF, BMVI for programing period 2021 – 2027, adopted with an Order of the Deputy Prime Minister responsible for the European funds and minister of Finance № B-105/19.07.2022 https://www.eufunds.bg/bg/node/8224	Reporting of complaints under UNCRPD and of cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the funds with UNCRPD to the MC will be regulated by decree of the CoM for establishment of MCs of the PA of Bulgaria and the programs financed by EFSM for 2021-2027 programming period. By 20.07.2022, draft decree is at final stage, and initiation of public discussions and interdepartmental coordination procedures are pending. Identified cases of non-compliance with the UNCRPD in context of EU funds will be reported by the relevant MA, which should maintain up-to-date systematized information on these cases. Complaints received from citizens or other external sources/stakeholders regarding violations of UNCRPD rights in the process of the implementation of the programs will be reviewed by relevant competent authorities at national level and will be reported to the MC by the MA based on the information provided by competent authorities that have reviewed the complaints, in accordance with Annex 3. Competent authorities will maintain information on the complaints received and the results of their consideration in accordance with their internal rules and procedures

5. Programme authorities

Reference: point (k) of Article 22(3) and Articles 71 and 84 CPR

Table 10: Programme authorities

Programme Authority	Name of the institution	Contact name	Position	Email
Managing authority	International Projects Directorate – Ministry of Interior	Maya Petkova	Director of Directorate and Head of Managing Authority	dmp@mvr.bg
Audit authority	Executive Agency Audit of European Union Funds - Ministry of Finance	Ludmila Ranguelova	Executive Director	aeuf@minfin.bg
Body which receives payments from the Commission	International Projects Directorate – Ministry of Interior	Maya Petkova	Director of Directorate and Head of Managing Authority	dmp@mvr.bg

6. Partnership

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

The partnership principle is widely used in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme under the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (BMVI). The partnership is applied through: cooperation with the competent authorities, including their participation in the Thematic Working Group (TWG) for the preparation of the programme and the Monitoring Committee (MC); participation in the interinstitutional working groups for the elaboration of the other CPR programmes and close cooperation with the European Commission (EC) at each stage of the process.

With Decision № 196 from 11th of April 2019 of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of BG, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) was designated as the leading institution for the elaboration of the three programmes in the Home Affairs area.

In this regard, the International Projects Directorate of the MoI has started a procedure for establishing a TWG for the preparation of the programme under the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy for the 2021-2027 programming period.

In accordance with the partnership principle, based on Art. 8 of the Common Provision Regulation (CPR), an invitation for participation in the TWG was extended to the competent authorities and organisations at national level in the field of border management and visa policy.

In addition a call for the selection of non-profit legal entities of public benefit, international organisations and institutions working in the field of border management and visa policy for participation in the TWG was published on the webpage of the Instrument for the 2021-2027 period.

With ordinance of the Minister of the Interior, a TWG for the preparation of the programme under the BMVI for the 2021-2027 period, chaired by the Deputy Minister of Interior with competence and functions for coordination of the use of the EU funding relevant to the Ministry of Interior`s activity was set up. The TWG includes representatives of the relevant stakeholders working in the field of border management and visa policy – Council of Ministers (Central Coordination Unit; Good Governance Directorate); Ministry of Finance (Customs Agency); Ministry of Foreign Affairs; National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Interior (General Directorate Border Police; General Directorate National Police; Communication and Information Systems Directorate; International Operational Cooperation Directorate; Bulgarian Identity Documents Directorate; National Forensic Institute; European Union and International Cooperation Directorate; Academy of Ministry of Interior), the academic community (University of National and World Economy). Other stakeholders could participate or be consulted on an ad-hoc basis.

The indicated partners are included in the later constituted ISF&BMVI Monitoring Committee. Under the preparation of the BMVI programme, other organisations from the economic and social fields (e.g. trade unions, representatives of employers and entrepreneurs, industry associations) and regional partners (e.g. associations of regions, associations of towns and municipalities) were also approached.

In the period January 2020 – December 2021 4 meetings of the TWG were held. Due to the state of emergency in Bulgaria after March 2020 and the subsequent restrictions imposed in relation to the spread of COVID-19, non-attendance discussions on the programme were held and decisions were taken by written procedure. The members of the TWG participate in the process of preparation of the programme by submitting proposals for strategic priorities to be addressed through the funding provided under the programme examine and provide comments and remarks on the drafts of the programme before sending them to the EC.

In addition, a public consultation of the BMVI programme was held with participation of all stakeholders.

With Decision № 712 from 6th of October 2020 of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of BG, the International Projects Directorate was designated as Managing Authority (MA) of the BMVI programme for the 2021-2027 programming period.

In accordance with the partnership principle, based on Art. 8 of the CPR an invitation to participate in the MC was extended to the competent authorities and organisations at national level in the field of border management and visa policy. In order to ensure representation of all relevant stakeholders the MA can invite representatives of organisations not participating in the MC as well as those not receiving support from the Instrument to discuss topics related to specific issues or various initiatives. Other entities may also be approached by the MA during implementation if such cooperation proves to be appropriate and necessary. The practical experience and expertise of these entities is deemed valuable for the implementation and evaluation of the envisaged activities.

Respect of Privacy and Human Rights also play an important role in the projects and where this is sensitive, particular attention is also to be paid to it by involving relevant partners in the development, implementation and monitoring phase for the different aspects, including ethical, legal and privacy related of the selected projects linked to AI under the various specific objectives.

In accordance with the provisions of Art. 39 of the CPR, in January 2023 a Monitoring Committee for the Internal Security Fund and the Border Management and Visa Instrument programmes for the period 2021-2027 was set up by an order of the Minister of the Interior, in implementation of the Decree No 302 of the Council of Ministers. Pursuant to Decree No 302, the range of organisations nominating members to the Monitoring Committee has been expanded to include, similar to the TWG, NGOs and international organisations, representatives of social and economic partners (trade unions and employers' organisations), representatives of regional and local authorities, organisations of disadvantaged people, representatives of the academic community. The MC is chaired by the Head of the MA. The representatives of the respective institutions are designated on the basis of criteria predefined and approved by the MA, and developed in accordance with Art. 39(1) of the CPR. EC and Audit Authority representatives participate in the work of the MC as observers.

The list of Committee members is published on the website as per Art. 49, (1) of the CPR.

The work of the MC is regulated by Internal Rules adopted at its first meeting in February 2023. These rules that define the powers and responsibilities of the chairman and the Committee members and their behavior as well as that of the observers is based on the following principles: legality, selflessness, impartiality, independence, objectivity, publicity, responsibility and professional conduct.

The MC assembles at least two times annually (in person or via videoconference, depending on the current situation) and, if necessary, ad-hoc.

The functions of the MC are in compliance with the provisions of Art. 40 (1) and (2) of the CPR. The Committee examines the programme implementation, the achieving of the milestones and targets as well as any issues that affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken to address those issues, including irregularities. The MC also examines the contribution of the programme to tackling the challenges identified in the relevant country-specific recommendations that are linked to the implementation of the programme; the implementation of communication and visibility actions and last, but not least the progress made in carrying out evaluation, syntheses of evaluation and the follow-up given to findings. In addition, the Committee approves any proposal by the MA for the amendments of the programme as well as the Annual Performance Report.

The implementation of the BMVI programme follows the same principles of partnership as in the process of its preparation. The MA ensures wide publicity for the partners by providing relevant information on the Ministry of Interior’s website, as well as by holding regular information events open to all stakeholders. The Committee also plays primary role in the monitoring of the progress of the implementation of the BMVI programme, the future development, the consulting and/or decision-making related to the revision of the programme and/or the approval of the monitoring reports.

In addition, the Management and Monitoring Information System will continue to be used to monitor the indicators and information needed to trace the progress towards the objectives agreed upon in the programme.

The complementarity of the programme and the respective actions to other policies is carried out at the programming stage via the participation of representatives of the Ministry of Interior in the inter-institutional thematic working groups for the elaboration of the other programmes included in the CPR as

well as their representatives' participation in the preparation of the Home Affairs programmes. Currently, experts from the International Projects Directorate participate in 14 MCs of EU funded programmes and programmes for territorial cooperation of the Republic of BG for the 2021-2027 programming period as well as the MC for the Partnership Agreement for the 2021-2027 programming period.

7. Communication and visibility

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

The aim of the communication approach is to promote and communicate the Instrument and the added value of EU intervention, the programme and its goals, results and good practices among the general public, the non-profit legal entities, the public authorities engaged in the management of EU funds in BG, the academic community, etc.

Among the objectives of the envisaged communication measures is to guarantee the transparency and visibility of the Managing Authority (MA) activities, to increase the awareness and competence of the beneficiaries in the implementation of projects; to raise the awareness among the target audience of what is achieved with EU financial support.

The target audience includes: beneficiaries of the programme and potential ones, citizens, non-profit legal entities, the academic community, the administration engaged in the management of European funds in BG.

The measures related to communication and visibility in the programming period 2021-2027 will fully follow the provisions of the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) in this area.

The MA has appointed a communication officer who is responsible for the three Home Affairs programmes. The MA participates in the INFORM Network where it interacts with other Member States and participates in trainings, exchanges experience and shares good practices.

Appropriate and time-tested in the practice of the MA communication channels will be used, through which the relevant target audience will be reached and publicity and visibility of the initiatives under the programme will be ensured.

The MA uses the following channels to communicate with the relevant stakeholders:

1. The MA's website is the main communication channel through which the information reaches the widest range of users. Information on the programme covering the programme’s objectives, available funding opportunities, list of operations selected for support and achievements will be available.

The published documents will be in open, machine-readable formats, which will allow data to be sorted, searched, extracted, compared and reused.

In addition, short videos can be published on the website and on the Facebook page to promote success stories from national and EU projects supported under the programme.

2. Information days for potential beneficiaries will be held where clarifications and guidance for the elaboration of the project proposals will be given as well as identified issues will be discussed. Furthermore, public events will be organised during the implementation of the programme.

3. Facebook is an additional communication channel where on a separate page for the programme news and announcements for different events and initiatives of the MA, good practices etc. will be published.

4. The Information system for management and monitoring of EU funds in BG – UMIS 2020 enables potential beneficiaries to search for and apply under calls for project proposals, and, on the other hand, allows the MA to evaluate project proposals and monitor their implementation.

5. Up-to-date information about the programme, its implementation, MA initiatives, documents, etc. will be published on the Unified Information Portal for general information for the implementation and management of the EU Funds in BG (www.eufunds.bg).

The implementation of the measures set for communication and visibility will be monitored and evaluated regularly. The aim is to ensure the quality of the communication process, identify weaknesses and strengths and take corrective actions. In this regard the following indicators shall be applied:

·Number of events, incl. online (opening/closing events, information days, trainings, Monitoring Committee meetings and etc.) – 9;

·Number of attendees (physical and online) – 180;

·Number of publications on the website and social networks – 75;

·Number of visitors/readers/followers in the social networks – 150;

·Raising the level of awareness of the target audience about the EU policy and the Funds/Programmes as a result of the events/publications (percentage) – 25%.

Under the technical assistance an amount of EUR 1 000 000 is foreseen for communication and visibility measures. Such measures will also be included within the projects implemented under the BMVI programme.

8. Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

Reference: Articles 94 and 95 CPR

Intended use of Articles 94 and 95 CPR	Yes	No
From the adoption, the programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates under the priority according to Article 94 CPR	☐	☒
From the adoption, the programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs according to Article 95 CPR	☐	☒

Appendix 1: Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates

A. Summary of the main elements

Specific objective	Estimated proportion of the total financial allocation within the specific objective to which the SCO will be applied in %	Type(s) of operation covered		Indicator triggering reimbursement (2)		Unit of measurement for the indicator triggering reimbursement	Type of SCO (standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates)	Amount (in EUR) or percentage (in case of flat rates) of the SCO
		Code(1)	Description	Code(2)	Description			

(1) This refers to the code in Annex VI of the AMIF, BMVI and ISF Regulations

(2) This refers to the code of a common indicator, if applicable

Appendix 1: Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates

B. Details by type of operation

C. Calculation of the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates

1. Source of data used to calculate the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates (who produced, collected and recorded the data, where the data is stored, cut-off dates, validation, etc.)

2. Please specify why the proposed method and calculation based on Article 94(2) CPR is relevant to the type of operation.

3. Please specify how the calculations were made, in particular including any assumptions made in terms of quality or quantities. Where relevant, statistical evidence and benchmarks should be used and, if requested, provided in a format that is usable by the Commission.

4. Please explain how you have ensured that only eligible expenditure was included in the calculation of the standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate.

5. Assessment of the audit authority(ies) of the calculation methodology and amounts and the arrangements to ensure the verification, quality, collection and storage of data.

Appendix 2: Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs

A. Summary of the main elements

Specific objective	The amount covered by the financing not linked to costs	Type(s) of operation covered		Conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbusresment by the Commission	Indicators		Unit of measurement for the conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission	Envisaged type of reimbursement method used to reimburse the beneficiary(ies)
		Code(1)	Description		Code(2)	Description		

(1) Refers to the code in Annex VI of the AMIF, BMVI and ISF Regulations.

(2) Refers to the code of a common indicator, if applicable.

B. Details by type of operation

Appendix 3

Thematic facility (Article 11 AMIF Reg., Article 8 BMVI Reg., Article 8 ISF Reg.)

Procedure reference	Programme version	Status	Accept/Decline date	Comments
C(2022)8993 - 12 Dec 2022 - 4	4.0	Accepted	2 Jul 2025	

Specific objective	Modality	Type of intervention	Union contribution	Pre-financing rate	Description of the action
1. European integrated border management	Pact specific action		49,104,884.91		Specific Action to Support Member States in the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum (EU Contribution EUR 52 051 178 including Technical Assistance). Under this Specific Action, funding will contribute to the implementation of Building Blocks 1 and 2 of the Common Implementation Plan for the Pact on Migration and Asylum “A new system to manage migration flows at the EU external borders” by supporting: Under Building Block 1:The adaption of the National Eurodac and Cafis systems and delivery of equipment and licences. This will include the following activities: - Adaptation of the National Automated Fingerprint Identification system Eurodac to the requirements of Regulation 2024/1358. - Upgrade and modification of the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System CAFIS and Eurodac - CAFIS v5.5 to the current version - CABIS v7 or a new /Baseline installation/ to implement the application of Regulation (EU) 2024/1358. Under Building Block 2: Development of national capacity for screening and asylum border procedure and training for Migration Directorate staff for screening. This will include the following activities: - Construction of two screening centers of closed type at the external borders – in the Regional Directorate of Border Police in Elhovo with 100-person capacity and in the Regional Directorate of Border Police in Dragoman with 50-person capacity. - Staff for the screening centers of Chief Directorate Border Police.The activity envisages the reassigning of 88 persons from the internal borders to the new positions allocated in the two new screening centers in Elhovo and Dragoman representing 100% of the screening staff needed. - Training of staff for the screening centers of the Chief Directorate Border Police. - Delivery of 16 vehicles to be used exclusively for the needs of Chief Directorate Border Police screening centers. - Delivery of 36 vehicles to be used exclusively for the needs of Migration Directorate screening centers. - Establishment of a screening center for unaccompanied minors by carrying out construction and repair activities and providing equipment to the existing building stock of the Migration Directorate in Elhovo with 90-person capacity. Establishment of a screening center through the construction of an extension of the Special Home for Temporary Accommodation of Foreigners in Lyubimets with 540-person capacity. Establishment of a screening center for unaccompanied minors within the existing building stock of the Migration Directorate in Sofia with 50-person capacity.
TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)			2,946,293.09		Increase of Technical assistance (6%) stemming from: Specific Action to Support Member States in the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum (EU Contribution EUR 52 051 178 including Technical Assistance).

Procedure reference	Programme version	Status	Accept/Decline date	Comments

Specific objective	Modality	Type of intervention	Union contribution	Pre-financing rate	Description of the action
1. European integrated border management	Specific actions		47,033,657.84		BMVI/2024/SA/1.5.1 /013 - Specific Action “Support to Member States for Smart Borders”. Procedure reference: C(2022)8993 - 12.12.2022 (Ares(2024)5488258). Total EU Contribution EUR 1 633 333.00 = EUR 1 540 880.19 + EUR 92 452.81 (TA). Under Lot 1: the preparation at the national level for the entry into operation of the Entry/Exit System (EES) and the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS). This includes adaptations to the national systems connected to or used in relation with the EES and/or the ETIAS, adaptation to infrastructure or premises related to the EES and/or the ETIAS operation, the procurement of material and equipment, and services. Under Lot 2: changes to the SIRENE Bureaux Case management system related to the implementation and operation of ETIAS. This includes the development and implementation of national processes and IT solutions, as well as national procedures, handbooks, and training. The specific action provides a flexibility option that consists in the possibility to transfer all or part of the allocation for Lot 2 (EUR 500 000 including Technical Assistance) to Lot 1, on condition that the Member State confirms that activities under Lot 2 will be fully carried out and that the costs will be covered by the national budget or other actions financed from the BMVI programme. Bulgaria has decided not to make use of this possibility. and BMVI/2024/SA/1.1.6/04- Specific Action “Upgrade and extension of the existing Integrated Surveillance System (ISS) part I with new technical equipment and delivery of 6 specialized mobile surveillance systems (SMSS) integrated into the ISS”. Procedure reference: C(2022)8993 – 12.12.2022 (Ares(2024)7136433) Total EU Contribution EUR 27 491 417.05 = EUR 25 935 299.10 + EUR 1 556 117.95 (TA). The general objective of the action is the construction and modernization of (part of)the Integrated Surveillance System (ISS) of the Bulgarian-Turkish border, namely in the section from the Kapitan Andreevo border crossing to the Lesovo border crossing (ISN part 1): renewal with new technical equipment of ISS part 1 – 20 km and the construction of new sensor lines to cover the uncovered sections of ISS part 1 – 10 km. The project aims at: 1. Constructing and upgrading of the Integrated System1 (ISS1) for Control and Surveillance of the Bulgarian-Turkish Border in the section from BCP Kapitan Andreevo to BCP Lesovo – Upgrade of 20 km of the existing ISS1 + Extension of the last 10 km of the uncovered sections of ISS1 2. Purchasing 6 specialized mobile surveillance systems and BMVI/2024/SA/1.1.7/04 Specific Action “Upgrade of the Integrated Surveillance system Blue border - work package 1”. Procedure reference: C(2022)8993 – 12.12.2022 (Ares(2024)5258266) Total EU Contribution EUR 20 001 999.47 = EUR 18 869 810.82 + EUR 1 132 188.65 (TA). The project will support the integration of 12 new radars and 12 modern new thermal imaging and daylight cameras into the stationary posts for technical surveillance as well as the modernization/replacement of other relevant equipment and systems at these posts, the Black Sea Border

					Coordination and Information Center Burgas and the Local Coordination Centres Sozopol and Galata. and BMVI/2023-2025/SA/1.3.1/12 Specidfic Action “Enhancing of a national centralized governance function”. Procedure reference: C(2022) 8993 -12.12.2022 (Ares(2024)7108986) Total EU Contribution EUR 728 927.79 = EUR 687 667.73 + EUR 41 260.06 (TA) This specific action will support Bulgaria in the implementation of the European Integrated Border Management (EIBM) by co-financing: a) one table-top exercise and one practical exercise to improve the Action Plan for an emergency situation due to increased migration pressure along the border of the Republic of Bulgaria with the Republic of Turkey, with the aim to improve the inter-agency cooperation between the national authorities responsible for the border control or other tasks carried out at the external border borders and b) the development of an IT application for management of the information received from Frontex at the National Contact Point, as per Art. 13 of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896).
TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)			2,822,019.47		Increase of Technical assistance (6%) stemming from: Specific Action BMVI/2024/SA/1.5.1 (EU Contribution EUR 92 452.81). Procedure reference: C(2022)8993 - 12.12.2022 (Ares(2024)5488258). and Specific Action BMVI/2024/SA/1.1.6/04 (EU Contribution EUR 1 556 117.95). Procedure reference: C(2022)8993 – 12.12.2022 (Ares(2024)7136433) and Specific Action BMVI/2024/SA/1.1.7/04 (EU Contribution EUR 1 132 188.65). Procedure reference: C(2022)8993 – 12.12.2022 (Ares(2024)5258266) and Specific Action BMVI/2023-2025/SA/1.3.1/12 (EU Contribution EUR 41 260.06). Procedure reference: C(2022) 8993 -12.12.2022 (Ares(2024)7108986)

Procedure reference	Programme version	Status	Accept/Decline date	Comments
C(2022)8993 - 12 Dec 2022 - 2	2.0	Accepted	16 Jan 2024	

Specific objective	Modality	Type of intervention	Union contribution	Pre-financing rate	Description of the action
1. European integrated border management	Specific actions		23,200,000.00		BMVI/2023/SA/1.1.4/06 Specific Action“Electronic surveillance system at the external border (e-surveillance)” – work package 1 “Expanding the range of the ISS along the Bulgarian-Turkish border by building sensor lines and stationary posts for technical surveillance” (Total EU Contribution EUR 24 592 000.00, EUR 23 200 000.00+EUR 1 392 000.00). This project includes the construction of 15 sensor lines along the Bulgarian-Turkish border with a total length of 50.2 km. Two unmanned fixed technical surveillance posts will also be built in the area of responsibility of the BPU Elhovo. The sensor lines and the fixed technical surveillance posts are elements of the integrated surveillance system along the Bulgarian-Turkish border and will be remotely controlled from the already

					established remote command centres.
TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)			1,392,000.00		Increase of Technical assistance (6%) stemming from Specific Action BMVI/2023/SA/1.1.4/06 (EU Contribution: EUR 1 392 000.00).

Procedure reference	Programme version	Status	Accept/Decline date	Comments
C(2022)8993 - 12 Dec 2022 - 1	1.3	Accepted	7 Jul 2023	

Specific objective	Modality	Type of intervention	Union contribution	Pre-financing rate	Description of the action
1. European integrated border management	Specific actions		65,565,000.00		Specific Action BMVI/2023/SA/1.1.2/002 - Support for Member States (Republic of Bulgaria) to reinforce border control capabilities (EU Contribution: EUR 42 453 000.00). The aim of the action is to increase the capacity and abilities of the Bulgarian border authorities for more effective countermeasures against irregular migration through: - The expansion of the integrated surveillance systems at the Bulgarian - Turkish border with 13 sensor lines for a total length of 59.5 km; - The modernization of the vehicle fleet with the purchase of patrol cars; - The temporary appointment of additional personnel and secondment of police officers for a maximum duration of 15 months and Specific Action BMVI/2023-2024/SA/1.2.2/07 - Equipment for EBCG national components, purchased under BMVI and put at the disposal of Frontex (EU Contribution: EUR 21 474 000.00) . This Specific Action aims to increase Frontex operational capacity and the BG operational capacity to implement its obligations with regard to the overall protection of the EU external borders, through the purchase of equipment – to be put at the Agency's disposal - under the following categories: 1.Maritime means of transport and surveillance capacities: - 1 Coastal Patrol Vessel 2.Land-based means of transport and surveillance capacities - 20 Patrol cars - 5 Patrol cars equipped with canine team inserts 3.Aerial means of transport and surveillance capacities - 1 Tethered Surveillance System and Specific Action BMVI/2023/SA/1.1.3/004 - Integrated solutions for the facilitation and automation of border crossing (EU Contribution: EUR 1 638 000.00) The objective of the specific action BMVI/2023/SA/1.1.3 on Integrated solutions for the facilitation and automation of border crossing is to assist Member States with the optimisation of border controls in the context of the entry into operation of the Entry/Exit System (EES), to facilitate the implementation and operation of the system and to prevent an excessive increase in waiting times at the EU external land and sea borders after its launch. Projects are expected to achieve: a decrease of at least 20% in border crossing times at the border crossing points targeted by the project compared

					to existing levels before project implementation; or a decrease of at least 20% of the anticipated upsurge in border crossing times resulting from the entry into operation of the EES at the border crossing points targeted by the project. The main objective of project BMVI/2023/SA/1.1.3/004 is to establish an automated border control system to ensure quick and secure border check of persons crossing the external land border at two of the busiest checkpoints in the Republic of Bulgaria. A second component of the project is to establish border control zones and install our security systems at river border crossing points.
TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)			3,933,900.00		Increase of Technical assistance (6%) stemming from Specific Action BMVI/2023/SA/1.1.2/002 (EU Contribution: EUR 2 547 180.00). and Increase of Technical assistance (6%) stemming from Specific Action BMVI/2023-2024/SA/1.2.2/07 (EU Contribution: EUR 1 288 440.00) and Increase of Technical assistance (6%) stemming from Specific Action BMVI/2023/SA/1.1.3/004 (EU Contribution: EUR 98 280.00)

Procedure reference	Programme version	Status	Accept/Decline date	Comments
C(2022)3163 - 19 May 2022 - 1	1.2	Accepted		

Specific objective	Modality	Type of intervention	Union contribution	Pre-financing rate	Description of the action
1. European integrated border management	Specific actions		982,129.25		BMVI/2021/SA/1.5.4/003 - 982.129,25 - Support to comply with the implementation of the relevant interoperability legal framework" under BMVI. The objective of this Specific Action is to support Schengen countries to comply with the implementation of the interoperability legal framework. The action has two aspects: 1) preparing the end-users of EU IT system for handling properly the information on identities contained in other systems as a result of interoperability and 2) extending the capacity of the SIRENE offices to resolve yellow links during the period that makes the Multiple Identity Detector (MID) operational. BULGARIA implements the second aspect.
TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)			58,927.75		TA

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent by
BG BMVI Performance Methodology August 2025	Supplementary Information	29 Aug 2025		Ares(2025)7111959	BG BMVI Performance Methodology August 2025	2 Sept 2025	Petkova, Maya
BG BMVI Programme - The changes_August 2025	Supplementary Information	29 Aug 2025		Ares(2025)7111959	BG BMVI Programme - The changes_August 2025	2 Sept 2025	Petkova, Maya
Programme snapshot 2021BG65BVPR001 5.1	Snapshot of data before send	30 Aug 2025		Ares(2025)7111959	Programme_snapshot_2021BG65BVPR001_5.1_bg.pdf Programme_snapshot_2021BG65BVPR001_5.1_bg_en.pdf	2 Sept 2025	Petkova, Maya