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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

The geographic location of Bulgaria as external border of the European Union (EU) makes it part of the foreign fighters' routes and of one of the most affected migration routes - the Eastern Mediterranean. This puts its internal security under the influence of the existing crises in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Infiltration into migration flow of individuals with terroristic ideology remains constant risk.

Bulgaria is also a transit territory and in some cases final destination for criminal routs attractive to local, regional and global organised crime groups (OCGs). Its territory is part of the 'Balkan Route', which is a trade and transportation corridor between the Middle East and Europe used for trafficking of drugs, people, arms and transportation of licit and illicit goods and assets and of large volumes of cash across the borders to and from Europe.

Bulgaria still remains mainly a country of origin (but it is also a transit and destination country) of trafficking in human beings (THB) victims.

There are tendencies for intensification of the smuggling activity in support of the attempts for illegal crossing of the state border. 2851 persons were detained at the state borders in 2018, 2184 in 2019 and 3487 in 2020.

Since 2016 the number of signals for committed cybercrimes has increased 4 times.

Various surveys and studies rank Bulgaria among the first places in terms of perception of corruption. Confidence in police and business sector's expenses related to the crime shows that business do not believe that police is able to enforce laws and to ensure security and maintenance of public order.

The statistics for 2019 reports the following:

- one of 21 foiled jihadist attacks and 11 terrorist arrests (14 terrorist arrests and one concluded court proceeding for terrorist offences are reported for 2018)
- detention of 43 Bulgarian and foreign nationals on Bulgarian territory, who were involved in a scheme for illegal financial transfers from the Middle East to Western Europe for the purposes of supporting terrorist activity. 6 persons were indicted for financing terrorism
- an increase of 11% of the observed OCG compared to 2018. The highest number were OCGs dealing with drugs followed by OCGs in the field of terrorism. THB, violent actions related to usury, drug trafficking and distribution and smuggling of excise goods were the dominant criminal activities
- the activities of 113 OCGs were disrupted - a decrease of 6% in comparison with 2018
- investigations against OCGs were conducted on a total of 618 pre-trial proceedings. The newly formed proceedings increased compared to 2018. 61 investigative cases were formed by investigative magistrates. A total of 671 individuals have been indicted
- an increase of 10% of identified perpetrators of narcotic substances crimes (3965), an increase by 9.5% of registered crimes related to narcotic substances (4189) and slight decrease of 2.17% of registered crimes with narcotic substances (5588) compared to 2018 - slight growth regarding the detected OCGs dealing with drugs compared to 2018
- stabilisation of the positive trend of increase of the number of monitored pre-trial proceedings for organised crimes and for crimes related to narcotic substances and precursors, of the prosecutorial acts submitted to the court and of the persons brought to the court
- an increase of 68% in the number of money laundering OCGs monitored and of the neutralized OCGs (5) compared to 2018
- 28% increase in investigated criminal groups in the field if cybercrime compared to 2018 - relative stability in the level of criminal activity in sexual and labor exploitation due to the considerable interest in the 'services' offered in Western European countries. There is an increase of about 15% in detected groups compared to 2018
- an increase of 15% of the monitored groups in the field of corruption and misuse of EU funds compared to 2018. The OCGs dealing with corruption in the state and local authorities formed the largest share, followed by healthcare system, the judiciary system, and the abuse of EU funds.

Main national strategic challenges and policy responses

Targeted and coordinated set of legislative, administrative and operational measures was undertaken on

national level to tackle the security risks and threats challenging the country as outlined in the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria.
Strategies in the area of prevention and counteraction of terrorism and radicalisation, drugs and THB were adopted. Laws in the area of money-laundering and terrorist financing were amended.
Following the legislative amendments National unit for Passenger name records, National Counterterrorism Centre and Financial Intelligence Unit were set up. In 2019, the first for Bulgaria overall National Risk Assessment of Money-Laundering and Financing of Terrorism was completed.
Competent structures at Ministry of Interior (MoI) apply the existing channels/instruments for exchange of information and for law enforcement cooperation with Member States (MS) counterparts. To counter effectively cross-border crime they cooperate also with third countries depending on the operational environment on national and international level.
Bulgaria has participated in all priorities outlined in the Council Conclusions on setting the EU's priorities for the fight against organised and serious international crime between 2018 and 2021 (9450/17).
The National Mechanism for Referral and Support of Trafficked persons in Bulgaria has been developed, consisting of MoI, Prosecutor's Office, National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, which is the coordinating body, State Agency for Child Protection, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and local government actors, which are assisted by NGOs.
Following the recommendations and considerations under the EC Cooperation and Verification Mechanism (CVM) Bulgaria carried out a comprehensive reform of its legal and institutional anti-corruption frameworks, including the establishment of the Commission for Counteracting Corruption and Illegal Assets Forfeiture. National Council on Anti-Corruption Policies monitors and coordinates the current anticorruption strategy (a new one is under preparation).
Following the CVM recommendations, anti-corruption measures of MoI continued to be applied and developed. Annually, the Internal Coordination Council for Combating Corruption in the MoI prepares an Anti-corruption plan, the aim of which is the practical implementation of the Concept for Prevention and Counteraction of Corruption in the MoI and the commitments of the MoI set in the anticorruption strategy.
Based on European and National Cyber Security Strategies Bulgaria has adopted the necessary legislation to transpose Directive (EU) 2016/1148 on measures for a high overall level of security of networks and information systems in the EU through the Law on Cybersecurity. Competent authorities have been identified and a comprehensive system of coordination and interaction between administrations has been established. New national cybersecurity strategy is in the process of public consultation.
In addition to the national budget, Police component of the Internal Security Fund (ISF-P) National Programme (NP) 2014-2020 contributed to the implementation of the priorities in the described policy issues by supporting projects aimed at increasing the effectiveness to prevent and combat terrorism, cross-border, serious and organised crime (in particular drugs trafficking and THB) and corruption.
With the implementation of the projects funded under the ISF-P NP and Norwegian Financial Mechanism (NFM) significant progress has been achieved in the area of strengthening operational and administrative capacity of the national competent authorities, exchange of information and development of the operational cooperation in compliance with the EU requirements and priorities. Other sources of support were ISF Union actions and Swiss Cooperation Programme (SCP).
Significant investments were made under the ISF-P NP to strengthen capabilities to protect critical infrastructure for managing effectively security-related risks and crises.
With support of the current programme National Cybercrime Centre is established. The National Cyber Security Coordinating Organizational Network and the National Cyber Situational Centre are envisaged to be set up by the end of 2022. Thus, the national cybersecurity system on strategic and operative level will be developed.
National budget provided the major part of investments for addressing the priority related to prevention of THB, awareness and sensitivity raising, early identification and provision of support to the victims. Other sources such as SCP, ISF-P NP, NFM, etc. also contributed to its implementation.
The participation of the national authorities and organisations in partnership projects under the ISF Union Actions, Hercules III, Horizon 2020, Rights and Values, Justice and Interreg Programmes also contributed to the implementation of the priorities funded under the ISF-P NP.

Lessons learned

The result of Mid-Term Review of the ISF-P NP showed disproportion between the identified needs and the available resources. The need for enlarging the scope of priority areas and for inclusion of new ones

was highlighted. In light of the limited resources the programme had to be implemented by applying the flexibility mechanisms, including the reprioritisation and reallocation of resources for other or new actions.
Given the specifics of the security sector and the significance of ISF for addressing the challenges in different priority areas, as well as the interdependency between them, no clear prioritisation will be beneficial.
However, for the next programming period more strategic approach will be applied, which requires direction of investments to more long-term and sustainable results.
Synergies with other funds and programmes will be sought and better exploited.

State of implementation of EU acquis

Bulgaria actively contributes to the development and implementation of the EU security policies and priorities through participation of the competent authorities in the cooperation mechanisms on strategic, political and operational level, including joint projects and initiatives under the agreed Action Plans.
Bulgaria has nominated its representative/contact point in the European Clearing Board as well as in the Europol Innovation Lab.
In addition to the need to continue this participation, for the next period Bulgaria faces the challenge to fulfil its commitments to ensure proper and timely implementation of the interoperability and SIS Regulations on national level.
A working group was set up with a view to coordinate the technical construction of the new functionalities of SIS, the elaboration of proposal for legislative amendments and the preparation of the responsible authorities.
The further upgrade and maintenance of the national SIS will be funded under the BMVI Programme.
Bulgaria has to analyse the needs of amendments/developments in its legislative, strategic and operational framework following the envisaged new legislation/legislative amendments related to Prüm II, Europol, on-line sexual exploitation of children, including under the Police Cooperation Code and the approval of the continuation of the EU Policy Cycle for organised and serious international crime: EMPACT 2022+.
The envisaged new requirements are supposed to result in increase of the workload of the national contact points and the need for their development.
ISF Programme is considered a useful tool for the implementation of measures in this regard.

Strategy for 2021-2027

In the context of increased security risks and cross-border threats, following the Strategic Analysis of Socio-Economic Development of Bulgaria 2007-2017 for determining the national priorities for the 2021-2027, the security and migration are among three horizontal areas in which the government`s policies will implement targeted measures during the next period.
The main priorities in the area of security outlined in the strategic document are related to the enhancement of the capacity for countering crime in particular organised crime, terrorism and corruption.
A Thematic Working Group was set up with the aim to develop the ISF Programme.
Project ideas were gathered and broad discussions were held resulting in the following considerations:
- Increase in scale and size, diversity and complexity of security threats as well as the developed capabilities of criminal groups continue to represent challenges, that require unified and coordinated response
- Lack of sufficient and/or modern systems, tools and equipment, as well as insufficient expertise and qualification in some areas (e.g. cybercrime) and the need to upgrade the established ones represent challenges for the effective application of cooperation mechanisms in compliance with the national and EU requirements and priorities
- Actions funded under the current period related to prevention and combating terrorism and radicalisation, cross-border, serious and organised crime, cybercrime and corruption are considered necessary and relevant for addressing security challenges and have to be continued and developed.
ISF Programme will cover all Specific Objectives of the ISF Regulation and will focus on:
- increasing the effectiveness and active use of national and EU security-related tools, systems and data bases and ensuring that they are fed with high quality data - strengthening the operational cooperation through participation in joint operations, joint trainings, exercises and exchange programmes.
- enhancing the administrative and operational capacity and technical capabilities of Law Enforcement Authorities (LEA) through trainings, exchange of experiences and best practices, delivery of specialised equipment/transport means/devices and setting up or upgrading security-relevant infrastructure.

ISF Programme will continue to provide support for the implementation of the priorities addressed under the current period in complementarity to the national funding.
As a new priority support for enhancement of learning environment and cost-effectiveness of the National Contact Point (NCP) of CEPOL is envisaged with the aim to achieve European standards and established practices in the training of LEA within the EU, as well as harmonization, internationalization, and interoperability of training programs and materials. NCP will coordinate the envisaged training activities with CEPOL in order to enhance synergies and avoid duplication.
With a view to address the main needs and policy developments at national and EU level new actions aimed at establishment of specialised cybercrime training centre will be included and the scope of current actions related to implementation of joint operations will be expanded to include new priorities such as migrant smuggling.
The envisaged measures related to anti-corruption will contribute to addressing the country specific recommendations and observations of the European Semester, according to which corruption remains among the main obstacles to investments and an area of serious concern and that the risk of it needs to be better addressed.
Close coordination between the Managing Authority (MA) of the ISF Programme and the MAs of programmes financed from other CPR funds under the Partnership Agreement will be maintained in order to maximize the effect of the assistance in the close and similar thematic areas in particular in the area of cybercrime, anti-corruption, protection of citizens, public spaces and critical infrastructure.
Administrative capacity
Trainings for enhancing the professional qualification are performed and significant experience is gained by the MA and the beneficiaries in the current period. The diverse thematic scope of the programme, the broad scope of potential beneficiaries and stakeholders and the inclusion of the Home Funds in the CPR are challenges that the investments in the administrative capacity could address.
In order to address the challenge related to the administrative burden under the ISF-P NP, the selection procedures were reorganised to combine several actions in one procedure under more than one specific objectives. This practice will be applied under the ISF.
The Information System for Management and Monitoring of EU funds in Bulgaria 2020 will continue to be used, including for submission of project proposals and reporting of performance progress.
Bulgaria will use the contribution under the ISF Programme to provide support to beneficiaries in the form of grants.
The envisaged activities respect the climate and environmental standards and priorities of the EU and would do no significant harm to the environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 2020/852.
Desired outcomes:
- enhanced effectiveness of the prevention, investigation and counteraction of crime, which will be measured by increased number of monitored/disrupted OCGs, number of police operations, newly formed pre-trial proceedings
- increased and improved interoperability of national competent authorities' resources, technologies, skills and practices with those available and used by the partner services in other MS and by EU agencies, which will be measured by increased information exchange and increased number of joint operations
- enhanced knowledge of law enforcement officials.

2. Specific Objectives & Technical Assistance

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

Selected	Specific objective or Technical assistance	Type of action
☒	1. Exchange of information	Regular actions
☐	1. Exchange of information	Specific actions
☒	1. Exchange of information	Annex IV actions
☒	1. Exchange of information	Operating support
☐	1. Exchange of information	Emergency assistance
☒	2. Cross-border cooperation	Regular actions
☒	2. Cross-border cooperation	Specific actions
☒	2. Cross-border cooperation	Annex IV actions
☒	2. Cross-border cooperation	Operating support
☐	2. Cross-border cooperation	Emergency assistance
☒	3. Preventing and combating crime	Regular actions
☒	3. Preventing and combating crime	Specific actions
☒	3. Preventing and combating crime	Annex IV actions
☒	3. Preventing and combating crime	Operating support
☐	3. Preventing and combating crime	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. Exchange of information

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

In recent years, competent structures at MoI have intensively applied the existing channels/instruments for exchange of information and for law enforcement cooperation. New bilateral and multilateral agreements for police cooperation and exchange of information have been signed and the scope of partners has been enlarged. The exchange of information in MoI is coordinated by the International Operational Cooperation Directorate (IOC-MoI), designated as National Europol Unit, SIRENE Bureau, National Central Interpol Bureau.

The Bulgarian Firearms Focal Point (NFFP) is also set up in the Directorate. It comprises also other structures of MoI – General Directorate National Police (GDNP), General Directorate Combating Organised Crime and National Forensic Institute (NFI). The main function of the NFFP is to coordinate the cooperation between all stakeholders, as well as to exchange information with international partners.

NFFP has access to the National Intelligence Database, National Firearms Licensing Database, SIS, Forensic – Ballistic Database, EIS and as well as all available channels for international information exchange (I 24/7, SIENA, etc.).

Interagency cooperation is carried out in order to allow exchange of operational and strategic information at national and international level. The NFFP performs checks upon request of national and international law enforcement authorities (LEA), exchanges information and coordinates the participation of Bulgaria in international operational activities. Improvement of cooperation within the NFFP in more structured way is envisaged by drafting explicit rules of procedure with detailed explanation of the tasks of the different stakeholders.

Unified Administrative Register for the Control of Generally Dangerous Goods (UARCGDG) for legal firearms has been established in GDNP - intended for control of the production, trade, storage, carrying, use and transportation of weapons, ammunition, explosives and pyrotechnic articles.

The need to tackle the increased security threats and the implementation of the EU acquis led to intensive international exchange of information. IOCD which integrates Europol, SIRENE, Interpol and bilateral cooperation channels every year exchanges a big amount of information documents between foreign and national competent authorities. The number for 2017 is 203 659, 2018 – 213 102, 2019 – 203 232. Most of the files refer to wanted persons and objects, investigation of criminal groups and thus support the LEA regarding fight against illegal cross-border activities.

With support under the ISF-P IT systems, databases and registers (UARCGDG including) in MoI were developed, upgraded and maintained to contribute to the effective implementation of mechanisms of operational cooperation. Funding from national budget and other EU sources (Good Governance Operational Programme) complement the efforts for development of IT systems in the areas falling beyond the scope of ISF. Support was provided under ISF-P NP for the development of the necessary IT solutions to increase the exchange of information and to improve the interoperability.

A continuous process of optimisation of the information management processes under the international police cooperation is ongoing. The implemented and forthcoming changes in the legal framework (SIS and Europol) lead to the need of introduction of more modern information and communication tools to support law enforcement and international cooperation. Investments in training of competent authorities and in setting up a contact points network of officers responsible for the international cooperation in the Regional Directorates of Interior are also needed in order to increase the efficiency and speediness of interaction in the course of operational cooperation.

The constantly changing and the new requirements for exchange of information and data with other Member States (MS) and EU impose high requirements on the operability, security and reliability of the Automated Information Systems (AIS) of the MoI and their maintenance at the respective technological level.

NFI maintains three information systems for regular exchange of dactyloscopic, DNA and ballistic data with EU MS. They were built and developed with support from national budget and ISF-P NP.

In 2009, in connection with the implementation of the provisions of the Prüm Treaty and Council Decision 2008/615/JHA, the national dactyloscopic identification system AFIS was expanded with a new module with possibilities for automated search and exchange of dactyloscopic information with EU MS. Since 2010, Bulgaria has started regular exchange of dactyloscopic data with MS (currently with 22 MS).

In 2017 AFIS was renewed. Currently, it stores more than 650,000 fingerprints of persons with criminal records and more than 100,000 prints of unsolved crimes. Between 25,000 and 30,000 people are introduced into the system annually. More than 15,000 fingerprints and more than 9,600 prints of unsolved crimes are exchanged between MS under Prüm.

New challenges such as global terrorism and illegal immigration reinforce the need to upgrade AFIS, including by inclusion of facial recognition module. The new module will enable entering, storing, automated checking and exchange of facial images with other MS to identify individuals who pose a threat to national security and safety. The implementation will start after the adoption of Prüm II and following consultation with the Commission for Personal Data Protection (conduction of data protection impact assessment and amendments in national law if needed).

The national DNA database was set up and put into operation in 1999. A regular international exchange of DNA data with MS began in 2010. Bulgaria currently exchanges DNA data with 16 MS.

In 2017, the hardware was updated, the database was migrated to the CODIS system developed by the FBI and a specialised software product was developed to maintain the demographic database and enter the newly obtained DNA profiles into the CODIS system. The database stores the profiles of over 60,000 people. The number of new police registrations per year and the volume that must be entered in the database is between 25,000 and 30,000. Under Prüm, more than 10,000 DNA profiles are exchanged between MS. The capacity of the system will soon be insufficient for the storage of the profiles of people subject to police registration.

The Automated Ballistic Identification System (ABIS) has been in operation since 2005. Cartridges and bullets - samples of illegally possessed firearms seized on the territory of the country are introduced in it in order to identify whether crimes have been committed.

In 2017 the system was renewed and Bulgaria was included in the international network of INTERPOL - IBIN for international exchange of ballistic data. A specialised ballistic database has been created and introduced in the system. Since 2020 the introduction of cartridges and bullets from lost and stolen weapons on the territory of the country has started. In order to ensure the interoperability of the international exchange of ballistic data with other countries, as well as the reliable and trouble-free operation 24 /7, it is necessary to ensure constant updating and maintenance of the system for the period after 2022.

The link with the NFFP is established through the NFI’s experts who participate in it and provide data from ABIS.

In accordance with the Directive (EU) 2016/681 (PNR Directive) and Council Directive 2004/82/EC Bulgarian Passenger Information Unit (PIU) was set up with the financial support of the Prevention of and Fight against Crime (ISEC) Programme of the EU and was developed under the ISF-P NP and Union Actions. Both directives are transposed on national level by the Law for State Agency for National Security, which enables the application of a single window approach for the collection of API and PNR data.

In the conditions of increased security risks, PIU has multiplied almost 10 times the exchange of information both with the national competent authorities and with the other units for data processing of passengers in the MS.

There is also a tendency for increasing data exchange with third countries. In accordance with bilateral agreements, the PIU exchanges information with the competent US authorities. The EU has already signed agreements allowing EU carriers to transmit PNR data to the US and Australia. Negotiations to revise the envisaged agreement with Canada on passenger reservation data have been completed and are to be finalised. In 2020 the Council adopted a decision authorising the opening of negotiations between EU and Japan.

Bulgarian PIU needs to continue to develop its analytical and technical capabilities for processing and use of passengers' data, which requires additional investment in IT equipment and in enhancing staff skills for efficient information processing, including in compliance with the EU requirements on common protocols and data formats.

An action aimed at development of BGPIU is envisaged to be implemented under the ISF Programme. It will be financed in 2024 after the Mid-term review of the Programme.

According to EC reports for Bulgaria, corruption remains among the main obstacles to investments and the risk of it needs to be better addressed. Most of the acts of corruption are committed with the participation or complicity of other employees of the MoI, citizens or employees of other institutions. 61% of respondents to the Eurobarometer are of the opinion that bribery and abuse of power for personal gain are widespread among law enforcement and customs authorities.

According to the reports on the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Plans for 2018 and 2019 Internal Security Directorate at MoI (ISD-MoI) processed 562 reports for alleged criminal offenses, including corruption crimes committed by officials from MoI in 2019 and 172 in 2018. 81 pre-trial investigations for police misconduct have been carried out in 2019 and 98 in 2018. Most of the judgments on corruption-related cases delivered by the Supreme Court of Cassation in 2019 concerned the offering/giving/demanding/receiving of bribes to/by officers from the MoI (ten convictions out of 28 corruption cases).

With support under the current programme an automated system for active monitoring was built, which includes constant audio and video surveillance, information exchange, access to data, control, storage of information, operational analysis and evaluation, proposals for appropriate measures. A system for information exchange, data access, control, information storage, operational analysis and assessment of the corrupt environment was established. Under the Norway Financial Mechanism support was provided for increasing the analytical capacity in MoI through building information exchange system, access to data, control and storage of information, operational analysis and assessment of the corruption environment.

Fast and reliable exchange of information is needed for the effective investigation of acts of corruption (including the implementation of tactical and specialised operations). Competent authorities in charge of anticorruption should be provided with access to all registers and databases in the MoI, and in other state institutions. In order to improve the detection and investigation of corruption cases connected to MoI officers, mechanisms for facilitation and streamlining the flow of information between the institutional actors should be applied.

ISF Programme will continue to support actions implemented under the current period such as: setting up, development, maintenance and upgrade of AIS and networks in the MoI; improving the exchange of information and interoperability; development and implementation of the PNR system in Bulgarian PIU; extension, upgrade and maintenance of the national forensic databases maintained by NFI-MoI; analysis and exchange of financial-intelligence information; development of systems to prevent illegal activities and corrupt behaviour of MoI officials.

They will be continued and further elaborated based on the lessons learned and the best practices by expanding the scope and capacity of ICT systems, including connection to other systems, establishment of new systems, enlarging the scope of partners and channels for exchange of information.

The actions aimed at development and maintenance of AFIS and DNA systems are expected to contribute to the implementation of Prüm II. Additional review will be conducted and the scope of changes in the national information systems will be set after the final adoption of the EU Police Cooperation Code. If necessary, new actions will be planned.

Based on the analysis of programme performance in 2025, newly proposed interventions build on the progress achieved so far and direct the savings generated during programme implementation towards enhancing national capacity for timely and secure information exchange. The projects will support interoperability, improved data processing and analytical capabilities, contributing to more effective detection, prevention and investigation of cross-border crime.

The ISF Programme will contribute to achieving the specific objective set out in Article 3(2)(a), by focusing on the implementation measures such as those listed below:

·Ensuring the uniform application of the Union acquis by supporting the exchange of information via Prüm II, EU PNR, SIS, etc.

The following indicative actions/projects are envisaged:

- Extension, upgrade and maintenance of three national forensic databases maintained by NFI. Strengthening the operational cooperation with Member States and the international information exchange of dactyloscopic, DNA and ballistic information

-Improving the quality and effectiveness of the DNA examinations in the forensics area

-Ongoing development and implementation of the PNR system within the Bulgarian Passenger Information Unit (BGPIU) at national level.

Support will be provided, inter alia, for the following types of actions:

- setting up, adapting and maintaining ICT systems

- financing of equipment that is directly linked to the setting up, adapting and maintaining ICT systems.

·Supporting relevant national measures including the interconnection of security-relevant national databases

The following indicative actions/projects are envisaged:

- Building up and development of automated police information systems

- Ensuring the effective and continuous connection to the secured information systems of EU

- Establishing an intelligent system for data collection, systematisation, analysis and visualisation to prevent and counteract corruption

-Enhancement of police capabilities in conducting crime scene investigations through use of information systems

-Support for the implementation and operation of SIENA and Case Management Systems in line with Directive (EU) 2023/977 on information exchange between law enforcement authorities

-Enhancing the effectiveness of corruption risk assessment and management within the Ministry of Interior.

Support will be provided, inter alia, for the following types of actions:

- setting up, adapting and maintaining ICT systems

- financing of equipment and communication systems that are directly linked to the setting up, adapting and maintaining ICT systems

- education and training provided that they are directly linked to the setting up, adapting and maintaining ICT systems

- providing support to thematic or cross-theme networks of specialised national units and national contact points to improve mutual confidence, the exchange and dissemination of know-how, information, experience and best practices if it is directly linked to the setting up, adapting and maintaining ICT systems.

All training activities will be coordinated with CEPOL, in order to enhance synergies and avoid duplication.

The implementation of the envisaged actions will contribute to addressing the following priorities:

- ensure the full interoperability of the national systems in MoI, which enable the work of N.SIS, such as National Police Register, AIS Bulletin, AIS Operative Document, AIS Operative Analysis, CIS EUROPOL BG, MoI Geographic Information Systems, etc.

- support the development of the National Single Point of Contact for international police cooperation in the exchange and management of criminal intelligence linked to cross-border crime

- ensure the effective connection to security relevant Union information systems and communication networks, including their interoperability

- creating conditions for the national systems to connect to the European Search Portal.

Desired outcomes:

- speedier access to information needed for effective investigations of serious and organised crime, including corruption

- developed analytical capabilities for receiving and processing data

- increased use of systems and databases at national and EU level

- fast and timely exchange of information and ensured continuity, including in case of emergencies

- improved interoperability and security in the exchange of data and information

- improved information exchange with Europol, MS, third countries and other EU agencies

- more effective exchange of information and cooperation between relevant authorities on anti-corruption issues.

Quantified targets

- new database with facial images of persons with police registration established

- DNA database increased with 40 000 profiles

- ABIS increased with about 2 000 objects

- number of users of information through the ICT system in the area of anti-corruption increased by approximately 10%

- wider use of the SIENA and Europol Information System (EIS) in number of users and searches

Operating support

In connection with Bulgaria's commitments to the EU legislation regarding the instruments and systems for exchange of information in the field of security, it is necessary to ensure a reliable and smooth functioning and maintenance of the systems used for law enforcement purposes.

Operating support (OS) is envisaged for the following public authorities regarding their tasks and services that constitute a public service for the EU:

Communication and Information Systems Directorate at MoI - is responsible for construction, maintenance and development of ICT systems of the MoI, including TETRA Radio system. It is charged with the technical provision and security of ensuring information exchange of data with national, EU and international structures

State Agency for National Security - national PIU and Financial Investigation Unit are established/located in the Agency

Potential beneficiaries of OS are also:

IOCD-MoI - the national contact point for Interpol, Europol and SIS

NFI-MoI - information systems for exchange of dactyloscopic, DNA and ballistic data are set up in NFI

Internal Security Directorate at MoI - is specialised unit of MoI for operative search and information-analytical activity related to the prevention, detection and investigation of criminal offences committed by MoI employees. It coordinates and directs the activity at national level regarding the fight against fraud, corruption and other crimes, committed by MoI employees.

OS shall cover: maintenance and helpdesk of Union and national ICT systems and networks.

The following actions/projects for OS are envisaged:

- Maintenance of automated police information systems

- Providing support from the producer of licenses for Database Management System, system software and operating systems

- Post guaranty support of built TETRA systems of MoI

- Payment of annual fees for maintenance of a specialised software system for analysis of Financial Intelligence received under the Law on Measures against Money Laundering and Law on Measures against Financing of Terrorism.

2.1. Specific objective 1. Exchange of information

2.1.2. Indicators

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

Table 1: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
O.1.1	Number of participants in training activities	number	400	450
O.1.2	Number of expert meetings/workshops/study visits	number	19	19
O.1.3	Number of ICT systems set up/adapted/maintained	number	7	11
O.1.4	Number of equipment items purchased	number	160	250

2.1. Specific objective 1. Exchange of information

2.1.2. Indicators

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

Table 2: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
R.1.5	Number of ICT systems made interoperable in the Member States/ with security- relevant EU and decentralised information systems/with international databases	number	0	number	2021	11	number	Project reporting	Including the maintenance of 94 TETRA base stations that are integrated in the uniform TETRA radio communication system/network
R.1.6	Number of administrative units that have set up new or adapted existing information exchange mechanisms/procedures/tools/guidance for exchange of information with other Member States/EU agencies/international organisations/third countries	number	0	number	2021	2	number	Reports for the activities of the relevant institutions	IOCD and SANS
R.1.7	Number of participants who consider the training useful for their work	number	0	share	2021	370	number	Questionnaires	
R.1.8	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	320	number	Questionnaires	

2.1. Specific objective 1. Exchange of information

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)
Type of action	001.ICT systems, interoperability, data quality (excluding equipment)	12,656,209.55
Type of action	002.Networks, centres of excellence, cooperation structures, joint actions and operations	22,500.00
Type of action	003.Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) or other joint operations	0.00
Type of action	004.Secondment or deployment of experts	0.00
Type of action	005.Training	96,600.00
Type of action	006.Exchange of best practices, workshops, conferences, events, awareness-raising campaigns, communication activities	135,657.38
Type of action	007.Studies, pilot projects, risk assessments	0.00
Type of action	008.Equipment	4,930,660.12
Type of action	009.Means of transport	0.00
Type of action	010.Buildings, facilities	0.00
Type of action	011.Deployment or other follow-up of research projects	0.00

2.1. Specific objective: 2. Cross-border cooperation

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

Cross-border crime is characterised by a high degree of organisation and considerable financial and technical resources at disposal of perpetrators. The participation of citizens of different nationalities falling under different legislations makes it extremely difficult to investigate and detect it. General Directorate Combating Organised Crime at MoI (GDCOC-MoI) participates in international activities related to the fight against serious and organised crime through international police cooperation agreements, international investigations and ad-hoc operations in accordance with the operational necessity, etc. One of the most widely used models for effectively combating cross-border organised crime is the establishment of and participation in Joint Investigation Teams (JITs).

In 2018 56 joint operations with foreign partners were conducted – 22 internationally and 34 operations based on parallel investigations, signals, exchange of information, etc. and 12 organised crime groups (OCGs) were documented. Participation in 11 JITs was implemented. Information has been provided upon 1624 /5,5 % more compared with 2017/ requests made by Interpol, Europol, partnership officers, etc. In 2019, 231 specialised police operations were conducted, 59 of which with foreign partner services. In the course of the operations, significant quantities of drugs, cultural and historical values, weapons, money, smuggled goods, false official documents and money, etc. were seized, and 6 cross-border channels for drug trafficking, 7 for smuggling and 3 for cultural and historical values were disrupted. An OCG that commits crimes related to the financing of terrorist organisations has been neutralized. Two cross-border channels for trafficking of arms have been identified. Bulgarian LEA took part in 6 JITs, 5 of them in the area of THB with Norway, Great Britain, Switzerland, Sweden and France.

Bulgaria is considered a transit country for illicit drugs along the Balkan route, on which about 80% of the heroine is trafficked to Western and Central Europe.

GDCOC cooperates and will cooperate with the countries involved in the prevention of drug trafficking, including under EMPACT. It is leader of the action Heroine and Acetic anhydride along the Balkan route under the Cannabis, cocaine and heroin priority.

GDCOC exchanges information with third countries (neighbor countries and their neighbors such as Republic of Albania, Republic of Turkey, Republic of North Macedonia, Republic of Kosovo, Montenegro, etc.) depending on the operational environment. It cooperates with third countries under the EMPACT Operational Actions Plans (OAPs), in which Bulgaria participates or supports.

With the Cyber Security Act the Cybercrime Department of the GDCOC has been designated as a specialised centre for cybercrime at the national level. It is actively cooperating with Europol (European Cybercrime Centre (EC3). Employees of the department participate in the EU working groups on cybercrime (European Union Cybercrime Task Force) and in the preparation of annual plans for the implementation of policies within the EU. Since 2010, the staff of the department has been participating in the EU Policy Cycle in the priority area "Cybercrime" (EMPACT).

Bulgaria envisages to participate in all priorities under EMPACT 2022+. For the first time the country represented by GDCOC will be involved in the capacity of Driver for a new EU priority for the fight against serious and organised crime „Intellectual property (IP) crime, counterfeiting of goods and currencies“.

Transnational nature of cybercrime requires participation of different countries in joint investigations. A delay by one country would lead to a delay in the overall investigation of a computer crime, which, given the rapidly changing digital world, could be crucial for the successful detection of the case.

For tackling effectively the common security threats the national competent authorities have to be provided with the relevant means, tools and conditions that will enable them to contribute to the implementation of the agreed EU priorities in the field of combating organised crime and to participate effectively in the operational actions under the EMPACT 2022+.

Most of the cross-border crimes related to corruption are committed in complicity with employees of MoI and citizens, including from other countries. With regard to the frequency of such cases, operations have

been conducted, including with partner organisations from neighbouring countries to combat corruption in border areas.

In 2016, Regional Network for Enhanced Cooperation of Internal Security Units - NERCISU was established as a platform for active operational regional cooperation with a 24-hour hotline for coordination and exchange of operational information. A number of operations have been successfully carried out, incl. to disrupt channels for trafficking in cultural property and trafficking in migrants.

The successful cooperation under NERCISU should be strengthened and developed by increasing the capacity of the structures for conducting cross-border joint operations in the fight against corruption and cross-border crime.

Joint Contact Centres (JCC) have been established to enable coordinated response to security related risks and threats. Their activities are aimed at exchange of information and provision of support as regards prevention and counteraction of crime; coordination of actions of other competent structures and authorities and cooperation with other Police Customs Cooperation Centres. Synergies are exploited by pooling resources, knowledge and best practices enabling the development of joint risk assessments and provision of support for jointly conducted operations.

General Directorate Border Police (GDBP)'s officers working in the JCC analyse and exchange information in real time with neighbouring partner services about crimes and offences committed at the common border, including about illegal migration, smuggling of migrants and THB.

Bulgaria is a transit route and a destination country for stolen vehicles. The main goal of OCGs is the registration of stolen vehicles and issuance of documents that could be used for their further transportation. For 2020 460 sought vehicles, for which alerts were entered into SIS and International Criminal Police Organization INTERPOL databases, have been identified on the territory of Bulgaria. To counteract to crimes related to motor vehicle trafficking, forensic expertise has to be increased and network of experts on national level has to be set up. This will result in increased effectiveness in the framework of joint operations.

The lack of sufficient training activities in the thematic areas such as combatting the sexual exploitation of children and the use of joint investigation teams, joint patrols, hot pursuits, discreet surveillance and other operational cooperation mechanisms in the context of the EU policy cycle, with special emphasis on cross-border operations has been identified as a challenge.

The envisaged activities under the ISF Programme continue and upgrade the projects financed under the ISF-P NP and other financial instruments such as Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 (NFM), Bulgarian-Swiss Development and Cooperation Program, etc.

ISF-P NP provided funding for projects in support of OAPs related to the EU crime priorities "Cannabis, Cocaine and Heroin", "Cybercrime" and "Environmental Crime".

Actions supported under the current programme such as conducting joint investigations with foreign partner services into people trafficking will be continued and further elaborated based on the lessons learned and the best practices by expanding the scope of the joint operations and of the partners involved and by targeting also other crimes. Joint national/ interdepartmental and international specialised operations, inspections and investigations of organised criminal structures dealing with trafficking and distribution of firearms and dangerous means of common character, people/migrant smuggling, THB, drug trafficking, trafficking of cultural goods, cybercrime, skimming and counterfeit, money laundering, assisting foreigners to reside or cross the EU illegally and terrorism are envisaged.

The thematic scope of the training activities financed under the ISF-P and NFM will be enlarged to include new training to improve inter-agency and cross-border cooperation with a focus on combating sexual exploitation of children in the context of Council conclusions (8 October 2019) 12862/19.

Further to the identified needs and priorities related to the cross-border cooperation in the area of combating corruption, new action will be included, which will be aimed at building up of contact points/centres for operational support in joint operations. The centres will be established with the aim to promote and develop measures for implementation of joint tools and practices in the course of joint operations in the border areas with partner services from the neighbouring countries. The expected

outcome is setting up an applicable mechanism for exchange of information under the NERCISU regarding illegal actions of the employees of the Ministries of Interior of the relevant countries in the conditions of emergency and according to the operational situation.

To strengthen cross-border cooperation between the countries participating in the JCC new action will be included. It envisages allowance costs for 30 months for Border Police officers carrying out tasks on the territory of neighbouring countries and participating in joint operations covering patrols in intra EU border areas to fight migrant smuggling, THB and other cross-border crimes. Maintenance of public order is excluded.

New action will be envisaged aimed at provision of state of the art devices for forensic examinations for identification of vehicles sought, for which alerts were entered in SIS and Interpol and establishment of national network of contact points with participation of experts from the competent authorities. MoI officers will be trained to work with the software and hardware.

Purchase of specific (as described in Annex to the Programme) transport means (approximately 42 units) is envisaged for:

- GDCOC to perform investigation and operative-search activities and cross-border operations for combating different form of organised crime, including THB and migrant smuggling

- Internal Security Directorate at MoI (ISD) to be able to take part in joint operations with partner organisations from neighbouring countries to combat corruption in border areas.

Activities related to strengthening cooperation and exchange of experience with third countries under the actions proposed by both structures are envisaged.

All training activities will be coordinated with CEPOL, in order to enhance synergies and avoid duplication. The coordination shall not refer to the organisation and conduction of GDCOC exercises for monitoring and control of undercover operations as well as other similar joint trainings/exercises.

Additional review will be conducted and the scope of changes in the area of police cooperation will be set after the final adoption of the EU Police Cooperation Code.

Based on the analysis of programme performance in 2025, strengthening international operational cooperation has been identified as essential for tackling evolving security threats. The allocation of savings therefore prioritises an initiative facilitating cooperation and exchange of knowledge and best practices with EU Member States.

The ISF Programme will contribute to achieving the specific objective set out in Article 3(2)(b), by focusing on the implementation measures such as those listed below:

·Increasing the number of law enforcement operations, in particular through facilitating and improving the use of JITs and other operational cooperation mechanisms

The following indicative action/project is envisaged:

- Improving and intensifying cross-border cooperation including joint operations in the area of combatting serious and organised crime.

Support will be provided, inter alia, for the following types of actions: EU policy cycle/EMPACT operational actions; participation in seminars, joint exercises and events to improve mutual confidence, the exchange and dissemination of know-how, information, experience and best practices, the pooling of resources and expertise; regular tactical exercises of GDCOC officers, as well as with partner services for real-time monitoring and control of undercover operations and simulation operations; financing of equipment and means of transport, etc.

·Improving the coordination and increasing the cooperation of competent authorities within and between MS and with other relevant actors

The following indicative actions/projects are envisaged:

- Increasing the operational capacity of the Internal Security Directorate's officers to conduct cross-border operations with the structures of the Western Balkan countries in the field of prevention of and counteraction to corruption

- Participation of GDBP officers in activities related to improvement of cross-border cooperation

- Strengthening the coordination and cooperation of law enforcement authorities dealing with prevention of organised crime and crime related to vehicles. Establishment of points of contact national network

-Enhancing cooperation between the State Agency for Technical Operations (SATO) and counterpart services of EU Member States through exchange of best practices, training and cross-border activities to strengthen operational capacity.

Support will be provided, inter alia, for the following types of actions:

- providing support to thematic or cross-theme networks of specialised national units and national contact points to improve mutual confidence, the exchange and dissemination of know-how, information, experience and best practices, the pooling of resources and expertise in joint centres of excellence – conducting of annual working meetings of the responsible structures from the partner countries, round tables and seminars

- coordination of participation in joint operational actions

- daily allowances for the experts working in Contact Centres

- financing of equipment and means of transport

- trainings

- actions empowering communities to develop local approaches and prevention policies, and awareness-raising and communication activities among stakeholders and the general public on Union security policies – awareness raising and information campaigns in some universities in Bulgaria and in partner countries, etc.

·Improving inter-agency cooperation at Union level between the MS, and between MS and relevant Union bodies, offices and agencies, as well as cooperation at national level among the competent authorities within each MS

The following indicative actions/projects are envisaged:

- Training to improve inter-agency and cross-border cooperation with a focus on combating sexual exploitation of children

Support will be provided, inter alia, for the following types of actions:

- providing support to National Contact Point of CEPOL to improve mutual confidence, the exchange and dissemination of know-how, information, experience and best practices, the pooling of resources and expertise

- education and training

- financing of equipment and security-relevant facilities - renovation of training halls and purchase of equipment to build a specialised training center to combat sexual exploitation of children and improve cross-border cooperation, etc.

The actions that are proposed to be supported under the ISF Programme will contribute to addressing priorities such as:

- facilitate and improve the use of JITs, joint operations and other operational cooperation mechanisms in the context of the EU Policy Cycle

- support participation in the Joint Cybercrime Action Taskforce (J-CAT)

- enable efficient cross-border cooperation in the fight against child sexual abuse

- support participation in Operational Task Forces (OTF) to identify High Value Targets (HVT) posing the highest risk to the internal security of the EU

- facilitate operational cooperation, including with third country authorities for a more effective investigation of cross border corruption cases

- facilitate information exchange and training on best practices in investigating cross-border corruption cases

- enhance strategic and operational cooperation to fight drug and firearms trafficking and migrant smuggling

- increase coordination and cooperation of law enforcement authorities and other competent authorities dealing with organised crime through networks of specialised national units

- extend assistance to state-of-the-art forensic expertise.

• Specific actions

Bulgaria participates as a Partner in Specific Action ISF/2022/SA/2.2.1/012 CCH - EUROPEAN OPERATIONAL TEAM Costa del Sol and ISF/2022/SA/2.2.1/010 - Fire Arms (TORO) with Lead Member State Spain.

Desired outcomes:

- active participation in JITs and EMPACT cross border police cooperation

- increased effectiveness of counteraction, detection and disruption of organised criminal groups

- improved coordination and interaction and faster exchange of experience, know-how and information as regards joint investigations of serious and organised crime, including vehicle crimes and corruption

- increased confidence at national and transnational level with partner LEA

- increased number of international operations resulting in increased number of detected and disrupted OCGs

- high level of security in conducting cross-border joint operations and higher efficiency in the investigation of corruption in border areas

To guarantee the achievement of the specific objective, national budget and other funding sources will be also sought and used. In particular, GDCOC implements project financed under Europol High Value Grants and it has intention to request as well targeted short-term financing for the OAPs activities that are of distinctly operational nature under the low-value grants in case an operational need arises.

Operating support

Operating support shall be provided to:

GDCOC-MoI in connection with its tasks and services which constitute a public service for the EU: it is the national specialised police structure for combating organised crime committed by local and transnational criminal groups; participates in EMPACT, including in the implementation of the OAPs; performs the functions of a specialised Cybercrime Centre at national level, etc.

Operating support could be also provided to:

ISD-MoI - the only body with competencies for prevention, interception, investigation and detection of crimes committed by employees of the MoI and with the powers to develop and implement measures to combat corruption in police structures. It has coordinating functions at national level regarding the fight against fraud, corruption and other crimes, committed by MoI employees

International Operational Cooperation Directorate at MoI - which is the national contact point for Interpol, Europol and SIS.

The operating support shall cover maintenance of technical equipment and means of transport.

2.1. Specific objective 2. Cross-border cooperation

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 cross-border operations	number	9	29
O.2.1.1	Of which number of joint investigation teams	number	1	6
O.2.1.2	Of which number of EU policy cycle/EMPACT operational actions	number	6	14
O.2.2	Number of expert meetings/workshops/study visits/common exercises	number	16	54
O.2.3	Number of equipment items purchased	number	390	895
O.2.4	Number of transport means purchased for cross-border operations	number	15	42

2.1. Specific objective 2. Cross-border cooperation

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.2.5	The estimated value of assets frozen in the context of cross-border operations	amount	0	euro	2021	4,200,000	amount	GDCOC statistics	In terms of Interdepartmental Coordination Centre
R.2.6.1	Quantity of illicit drugs seized in the context of cross-border operations - cannabis	kg	0	kg	2021	0	kg	GDCOC statistics	Target under R.2.6.6 is for all types of drugs 4 indoor premises for the illegal cultivation of cannabis have been detected by GDCOC independently and together with other agencies
R.2.6.2	Quantity of illicit drugs seized in the context of cross-border operations - opioids, including heroin	kg	0	kg	2021	0	kg	Project reporting	Target under R.2.6.6 is for all types of drugs 5 cross-border channels were disrupted by GDCOC independently and together with other agencies - 2 for marijuana and for trafficking in heroin, cocaine and

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
									amphetamine
R.2.6.3	Quantity of illicit drugs seized in the context of cross-border operations - cocaine	kg	0	kg	2021	0	kg	Project reporting	Target under R.2.6.6 is for all types of drugs 5 cross-border channels were disrupted by GDCOC independently and together with other agencies - 2 for marijuana and for trafficking in heroin, cocaine and amphetamine
R.2.6.4	Quantity of illicit drugs seized in the context of cross-border operations - synthetic drugs, including amphetamine-type stimulants (including amphetamine and methamphetamine) and MDMA	kg	0	kg	2021	0	kg	Project reporting	Target under R.2.6.6 is for all types of drugs 3 illegal laboratories for synthesis of amphetamines and ecstasy were detected by GDCOC independently and together with other agencies
R.2.6.5	Quantity of illicit drugs seized in the context of cross-border operations - new psychoactive substances	kg	0	kg	2021	0	kg	Project reporting	Target under R.2.6.6 is for all types of drugs
R.2.6.6	Quantity of illicit drugs seized in the context of	kg	0	kg	2021	400	kg	Project reporting	Target is for all types of drugs –

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
	cross-border operations - other illicit drugs								including for R.2.6.1 – R.2.6.5
R.2.7.1	Quantity of weapons seized in the context of cross-border operations - Weapons of war: automatic firearms and heavy firearms (anti-tank, rocket launcher, mortar, etc.)	number	0	number	2021	5	number	GDCOC statistics	Target 15 is for all types of weapons A manufactory for processing, modification and repair of firearms has been detected by GDCOC independently and together with other agencies
R.2.7.2	Quantity of weapons seized in the context of cross-border operations - Other short firearms: revolvers and pistols (including salute and acoustic weapons)	number	0	number	2021	5	number	Project reporting	Target 15 is for all types of weapons
R.2.7.3	Quantity of weapons seized in the context of cross-border operations - Other long firearms: rifles and shotguns (including salute and acoustic weapons)	number	0	number	2021	5	number	Project reporting	Target 15 is for all types of weapons
R.2.8	Number of administrative units that have developed/adapted existing mechanisms/procedures/ tools/guidance for cooperation with other Member States/EU	number	0	number	2021	38	number	Project reporting	Including: - GDCOC - ISD - AMoI - 28 Regional Directorates of Interior, General

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
	agencies/international organisations/third countries								Directorate National Police, National Forensic Institute and 5 Regional Directorates Border Police where contact points will be set up
R.2.9	Number of staff involved in cross-border operations	number	0	number	2021	111	number	GDCOC and ISD statistics	GDCOC has official statistics for the number of operations and not for the number of officials involved. It is difficult to provide proofs for reporting the indicator as most of the operations contain classified information
R.2.10	Number of Schengen Evaluation Recommendations addressed	number	0	number	2021	100	percentage	Project reporting	

2.1. Specific objective 2. Cross-border cooperation

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)
Type of action	001.ICT systems, interoperability, data quality (excluding equipment)	528,328.22
Type of action	002.Networks, centres of excellence, cooperation structures, joint actions and operations	26,771.84
Type of action	003.Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) or other joint operations	327,801.92
Type of action	004.Secondment or deployment of experts	341,362.59
Type of action	005.Training	249,024.68
Type of action	006.Exchange of best practices, workshops, conferences, events, awareness-raising campaigns, communication activities	1,226,986.61
Type of action	007.Studies, pilot projects, risk assessments	22,500.00
Type of action	008.Equipment	668,140.17
Type of action	009.Means of transport	958,500.00
Type of action	010.Buildings, facilities	150,000.00
Type of action	011.Deployment or other follow-up of research projects	0.00

2.1. Specific objective: 3. Preventing and combating crime

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

Security environment featured serious change in 2019 regarding the counteraction of terrorism, extremism and their financing. Several cases of direct terrorist threat were registered in Bulgaria. Criminal group providing logistic support to international terrorist organisation was dismantled. Bulgarian citizen was arrested following the collected data about his intention to commit terrorist act influenced by the Islamic State ideology.

MoI report for 2019 noted that 96 checks for countering bomb terrorism have been conducted to ensure protection of state, governmental and other events. Special forces responded to the 8 calls for blasts on the territory of Bulgaria.

In response to the increased terrorist threats MoI staff (first responders) has passed a lot of trainings -200 officers were trained with the support of ISF-P NP. Interaction with the special forces of other MS (including joint trainings for sharing experience, elaboration of common operational procedures to respond to man-made crisis, etc.) was implemented under the ATLAS initiatives.

To respond adequately to the methods and means used by terrorist organisations, specialised training programmes and tools need to be modernised and extended, which requires also investments in training facilities and continued educational-training process.

In 2007, in accordance with the implementation of the Budapest Convention in local legislation, a National Contact Point 24/7 was established within the Department for Prevention, Interception and Detection of Cybercrime of General Directorate Combatting Organised Crime (GDCOC), serving for direct contact between cyber experts in 180 countries. With the Cyber Security Act the Cybercrime Department of the GDCOC has been designated as a specialised national Cybercrime Centre.

The number of cybercrime incidents in 2019 increased by approximately 35% compared to 2017.

The activity of 9 OCGs in the field of cybercrime was dismantled. 125 pre-trial cases were formed and 9 pre-trial cases led by an investigator 64 operations were conducted. 8 Mutual Legal Assistance requests, 5 European Investigation Orders were implemented. In 2019, more than 2,800 files were received by the Cybercrime Department, and 2,049 of them were closed and sent to the Prosecutor's office.

At the moment, there is no digital laboratory of computer-expert reports, which creates preconditions for delays in the preparation of computer-technical expertise and risks of hindering the effective investigations.

Modernisation of the Cybercrime centre established under the current programme should be envisaged to increase the effectiveness of prevention and fight against cybercrime. National resources will be used for providing the appropriate premises for the centre. The synergies will be used within the centre by pooling resources and knowledge between MS and other actors.

Illegal migration, smuggling of goods, arms and drugs and THB are source of serious threats for the national security and significant economic losses. The increase in smuggling activities in 2019 resulted in 122 application materials under the Criminal Code, of which 103 pre-trial proceedings have been instituted for committed crimes. 108 people have been prosecuted as defendants. Since the beginning of 2020, 134 application materials have been registered, of which 107 pre-trial proceedings have been instituted, 111 people were prosecuted. Attempts have been made to transfer 622 people. The active and timely exchange of information and cooperation with partner services from other MS, Europol, Interpol and Frontex is crucial for effective prevention and counteraction of crime across borders.

Balkans and in particular the territory of Bulgaria is used for drug trafficking and storage. Cocaine continues to be trafficked to Europe from the producer countries by air and sea. Trafficking of marijuana from Macedonia and Albania to Turkey through Bulgaria and Greece has increased. Acetic anhydride, the main heroin precursor is increasingly imported from Serbia, Netherlands and Belgium to Bulgaria and Turkey.

Recently there has been a dramatic growth in the new psychoactive substances (NPS) market, new

chemicals for their manufacturing, ways of trafficking and innovations in distribution channels, including Darknet.

The variation of molecules in the composition of illicit NPS and the lack of fully equipped laboratory and technical devices for the detection of NPS, their metabolites and their determination in biological samples make difficult to determine whether the substance belongs to the group of legal or illicit drug. The specifics of the "designer drug" requires preliminary operational information to be made available for its identification and seizure.

The illicit drug production is situated in difficult-to-access areas, which requires good mobility and remote surveillance.

Delivery of appropriate equipment and provision of trainings related to improving the forensic skills of employees are needed to prevent and combat innovative drug production and trafficking.

The significance of forensic examination for the pre-trial investigations and prosecution requires investments in the relevant technical equipment and technologies that are constantly evolving.

The accreditation of laboratories according to EN ISO/IEC 17025 standards (pursuant to Council Framework Decision 2009/905/JHA and Council Decision 2008/616/JHA) sets high requirements to the equipment and to the staff. The establishment and development of the relevant forensic infrastructure to ensure the highest quality of forensic service providers is set as a requirement towards MS in the Council Conclusions on the vision for European Forensic Science Area 2020.

Most of the main technical means and equipment were renewed with the support of EU financing, including under ISF-P NP. Their warranty will have expired during the next period.

The annual number of DNA examinations carried out at national level is smaller compared to that of other countries with similar population. The capacity of the DNA laboratories has to be maintained and expanded.

Currently, in the "Police Registration File" at General Directorate National Police over 800 000 data cards from police registrations are processed manually and the average annual number is about 25 000 cards.

To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of investigations, investments are needed for ensuring digitalisation of the processes related to forensic activities for detection, collection and examination of physical evidence, including the digital ones, as well as for the processes of their storage and analysis and police registration.

The requests for the application of Special Intelligence Means (SIM) to serve as evidence have continuously and significantly increased during the last 3 years in the following areas:

- terrorism, extremism, radicalisation, migration, trafficking in human beings (THB), destructive activities against strategic and critical infrastructure: 131 (2017), 138 (2018), 173 (2019);

- corruption, economical and financial security, internal security: 71 (2017), 223 (2018), 355 (2019).

According to the Third report of the EC on the progress made in the fight against THB Bulgaria is among the top five EU countries of citizenship of registered victims of THB. The most prevalent form has been that for the purpose of sexual exploitation, followed by trafficking for labor exploitation. According to 2020 Data collection study of the Commission on THB in the EU for the period 2017-2018 Bulgaria is among the 5 top EU countries of citizenship of registered victims (507).

Supreme Prosecutor's Office of Cassation reported 280 numbers of victims of sexual abuse actions for 2019 accounting for 69,3% of total number of registered victims of THB (404).

The number of formally identified victims who took part in pre-trial proceedings was 443 in 2018.

For 2019 the number of newly initiated pre-trial proceedings have increased with 45 % compared to the 2018. Statistics show slight increase in the number of persons brought before the court, although the number of prosecutorial acts submitted to the court have diminished from 53 to 41.

Despite the positive trends, the number of convicted persons and the number of newly initiated proceedings for THB as an absolute value remains small compared to the scale of crime at national and European level.

More actions should be envisaged to inform vulnerable groups about the risks associated with the crime and the ways to prevent them.

To ensure successful investigations and prosecutions of THB offences and counter the culture of impunity, early identification of victims is needed as well as provision of specific treatment during the criminal investigations and proceedings.

To address effectively the needs and challenges mentioned above, LEA have to be provided with sufficient, adequate and state-of-the-art means and tools to be applied in the prevention and investigation of crimes, reliable and secure channels for obtaining, analysis and exchange of information, know-how and experience, and sufficient and modern conditions for upgrading and maintaining of their capacity, professional qualification and skills.

Support for different projects provided under the ISF-P contributed to the improvement of the national technical resources and capabilities in the field of terrorism, countering serious, organised and cross-border crime in particular in the area of drugs, THB and money laundering and corruption, which led to increasing the effectiveness of their investigation (including forensic examinations) and counteraction. In complementarity to the national financing, projects were funded under ISF-P targeted at awareness-raising campaigns to step up the prevention of THB and radicalisation and early identification and provision of support to the victims.

Actions will be continued and further elaborated based on the lessons learned and the best practices by acquisition of new equipment/technologies/devices/transport means, maintenance of the equipment/systems that were put into operation under the current period, expanding the scope and capacity of ICT systems, establishment of new IT systems, modernization and extension of training programmes and tools, inclusion of new partners, target groups and stakeholders, including civil society.

Inclusion of new beneficiaries is also envisaged e. g. Sofia Metropolitan Directorate of MoI - as the biggest Regional Directorate of MoI – operating on the territory of a city with above 1 000 000 population.

The scope of support will be broadened to include new actions such as:

- increasing law enforcement (joint) trainings, exercises, mutual learning, specialised exchange programmes and sharing of best practice through development and upgrade of training programmes, means and infrastructure of the relevant training institution in particular Academy of MoI (AMoI), which is a CEPOL National Unit for Bulgaria, in coordination with CEPOL

- enhancing the effectiveness of investigation, including through digitization of forensic activities, application of SIM and collecting and preparation of physical evidences in the context of prevention and fight against serious and organised crime.

Based on the assessment of programme implementation in 2025, the reallocation of savings has been directed towards measures that reinforce operational and technical capacity in priority areas such as combating cybercrime and drug-related crime. The selected interventions aim to support the acquisition and maintenance of specialised tools, strengthen analytical and investigative capabilities, enhance professional skills through targeted training, and improve public awareness on internal security threats. These actions will contribute to increasing the preparedness and effectiveness of competent authorities in addressing evolving security challenges at national and EU level.

The ISF Programme will contribute to achieving the specific objective set out in Article 3(2)(c), by focusing on the implementation measures such as those listed below:

• Increasing training, exercises and mutual learning, specialised exchange programmes and sharing of best practices

The following indicative actions/projects are envisaged:

- Development of the capacity of CEPOL National Unit for Bulgaria

- Improvement and upgrading the training facilities and increasing the quality and effectiveness of the shooting, tactical and specialised training of the Specialised Operations and Combating Terrorism Directorate's staff

- Enhancing the professional training of Sofia Metropolitan Directorate of Interior's officers through modernisation of the infrastructure and security related trainings

- Enhancement of the operational capacity and the specific skills and competences of the State Agency for Technical Operations employees

- Developing and upgrading the capacity of LEA in the area of combating THB with a view to achieve more effective identification of victims, protection of their rights and referral mechanisms.

Support will be provided, inter alia, for the following types of actions: education and training, including for development of digital educational content, financing of equipment and security-relevant facilities – repair of training halls for construction of a specialised training center for combating cybercrime, reconstruction/repair of shooting ranges, training buildings, training grounds, sports halls for combat and applied techniques, construction of ammunition tactical training ballistic building, etc., exchange and dissemination of know-how, information, experience and best practices, etc.

• Acquiring relevant equipment and setting up or upgrading specialised training facilities and other essential security relevant infrastructure

The following indicative actions/projects are envisaged:

- Countering organised crime by upgrading/modernisation of the National Cybercrime Centre

- Enhancing the capacity of police officers in the area of prevention and counteraction of production, distribution and trafficking of drugs

- Digitalisation of forensic activities and processes related to police registration

- Enhancing the GDBP mobilisation capacity (where 30 specialised vehicles are foreseen) for countering crossborder crimes, including trafficking and migrant smuggling, in cooperation with the competent authorities on European and national level

- Enhancement of the capabilities in the area of forensic examinations of digital evidence and increasing the capacity and ensuring sustainable development of forensic examinations through maintenance, expansion of laboratories capacity and implementation of new technical means in NFI

-CYBERTools – Specialized analytical software for combating cybercrime

-Raising awareness on combating cybercrime and drug trafficking

-Enhancing national security through public awareness initiatives

-Smart and Secure Selection – Security and crime prevention through an advanced psychological assessment system in the Ministry of Interior.

Support will be provided, inter alia, for the following types of actions: education and training, financing of equipment and security-relevant facilities, exchange and dissemination of know-how, information, experience and best practices, etc.

• Promoting and developing measures, safeguards, mechanisms and best practices for the early identification, protection and support of victims of crime

The following indicative actions/projects are envisaged:

- Awareness and sensitivity raising of the society to THB issues

- Assistance, support and protection of victims of THB

- Building resilience in young people to radicalisation and extremist propaganda

Support will be provided, inter alia, for the following types of actions: actions empowering communities to develop local approaches and prevention policies, and awareness-raising and communication activities among stakeholders and the general public on Union security policies – information and awareness-raising campaigns, seminars, round-tables, etc.

• Exploiting synergies by sharing knowledge and best practices between MS and other relevant actors, including civil society through development of risk assessments

The following indicative project is envisaged:

- Assessment of threats of organised crime and corruption in Bulgaria.

Support will be provided, inter alia, for the following type of action: risk assessments, etc.

All training activities will be coordinated with CEPOL, in order to enhance synergies and avoid duplication.

• Specific action

Bulgaria participates as a Partner in Specific Action ISF/2022/SA/3.3.1/001 Service coordination for victims of trafficking in South and East Balkans with Lead Member State Greece.

Desired outcomes:

- increased capabilities to prevent and counteract to cybercrime

- increased effectiveness of operational-search activity and of investigations

- increased capacity, scope and reliability of forensic examinations and ensured compliance with the requirements for the common European Forensic Area

- enhanced capacity for prevention and fight against THB and for providing support to the victims of crime.

Quantified targets:

- National Cybercrime Center modernised

- 5 upgraded forensic laboratories

- Accreditation under ISO 17025:2018 maintained

- At least one new method accredited

Operating support (OS) will be provided to the public authorities regarding their responsibilities to accomplish tasks and services which constitute a public service for the Union:

GDCOC is the national specialised police structure for combating organised crime

General Directorate Gendarmerie Special Operations and Combating Terrorism is charged with the prevention and disruption/deterring of terrorist acts, detection, identification and neutralisation of explosives and explosive devices (ED), setting up technical means and methods, physicochemical examination and expert opinions of explosives, ED and their elements, documents and unknown substances. GDGSOCT participates in ATLAS

NFI-MoI is responsible for the elaboration of forensic examinations under the Penal Procedure Code, expert opinions for the purpose of operative search activities and international operational police cooperation; Its laboratory has EN ISO/IEC 17025:2018 accreditation pursuant to Council Framework Decision 2009/905/JHA requirements

State Agency for National Security performs counterintelligence activities related to the surveillance, detection, counteraction, prevention and neutralization of plotted, prepared or perpetrated encroachments against national security; ensures counterintelligence security and protection of facilities or activities of a strategic nature for the country; prepares and stores material evidence and presents them to the relevant judicial authorities; houses the National Counterterrorism Centre; is in charge of the cryptographic security of classified information and monitoring of the radio frequency spectrum; is designated as a contact point for GALILEO Public Regulated Service.

GDBP - in connection with its functions for implementation of operational-search activities to counteract illegal migration, smuggling and trafficking in human beings and control of radiological threats at the external borders. Continuation of the action is envisaged after 2025.

OS shall cover maintenance of technical equipment and means of transport.

2.1. Specific objective 3. Preventing and combating crime

2.1.2. Indicators

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

Table 1: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
O.3.1	Number of participants in training activities	number	3,380	6,627
O.3.2	Number of exchange programmes/workshops/study visits	number	42	121
O.3.3	Number of equipment items purchased	number	115	1,516
O.3.4	Number of transport means purchased	number	32	32
O.3.5	Number of items of infrastructure/security relevant facilities/tools/mechanisms constructed/ purchased/upgraded	number	562	576
O.3.6	Number of projects to prevent crime	number	2	6
O.3.7	Number of projects to assist victims of crime	number	2	3
O.3.8	Number of victims of crimes assisted	number	160	420

2.1. Specific objective 3. Preventing and combating crime

2.1.2. Indicators

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

Table 2: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
R.3.9	Number of initiatives developed / expanded to prevent radicalisation	number	0	number	2021	5	number	Project reporting	
R.3.10	Number of initiatives developed / expanded to protect / support witnesses and whistle- blowers	number	0	number	2021	3	number	Project reporting	
R.3.11	Number of critical infrastructure/public spaces with new/adapted facilities protecting against security related risks	number	0	number	2021	34	number	Project reporting	31 places with established systems for detection of nuclear and radiological materials – BCPs 1 constructed ammunition tactical training ballistic building; 1 reconstructed shooting range 1 new system
R.3.12	Number of participants who consider the training useful for their work	number	0	share	2021	5,826	number	Project reporting	
R.3.13	Number of participants who report three months after leaving the training that they are using the skills and competences	number	0	share	2021	5,664	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
	acquired during the training								

2.1. Specific objective 3. Preventing and combating crime

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)
Type of action	001.ICT systems, interoperability, data quality (excluding equipment)	5,716,811.91
Type of action	002.Networks, centres of excellence, cooperation structures, joint actions and operations	0.00
Type of action	003.Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) or other joint operations	0.00
Type of action	004.Secondment or deployment of experts	20,517.09
Type of action	005.Training	2,258,462.10
Type of action	006.Exchange of best practices, workshops, conferences, events, awareness-raising campaigns, communication activities	3,354,868.70
Type of action	007.Studies, pilot projects, risk assessments	246,812.48
Type of action	008.Equipment	2,706,921.34
Type of action	009.Means of transport	495,000.00
Type of action	010.Buildings, facilities	4,953,788.24
Type of action	011.Deployment or other follow-up of research projects	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 Internal Security Fund (ISF) 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 programs and projects funded by the European Union and other international programs and contracts, including the Norwegian Financial mechanism. Functions of the Directorate are described in the Regulations for the Structure and the Activity of the MoI and in the Management and Control Systems (MCS). The Directorate 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 programs and projects from the previous programing periods.

With Decision № 712 from 6th of October 2020 of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria, the International Projects Directorate was designated as Managing authority (MA) of the Programme under the Internal Security Fund for the 2021 – 2027 programing period.

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

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 the ISF Programme;

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

• ensuring 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 EU policy for ensuring high level of security.

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 program, 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	034.Information and communication	126,282.67
Intervention field	035.Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	1,767,957.45
Intervention field	036.Evaluation and studies, data collection	126,282.67
Intervention field	037.Capacity building	505,130.70

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	0.00	6,127,975.00	9,171,879.00	8,949,941.00	7,714,650.00	6,562,224.00	5,949,938.00	44,476,607.00
Mid-term review								
Thematic facility WPI		143,271.43						143,271.43
Thematic facility WPII								
Thematic facility WPIII								
Non-Thematic facility transfer (in)								
Non-Thematic facility transfer (out)								
Total	0.00	6,271,246.43	9,171,879.00	8,949,941.00	7,714,650.00	6,562,224.00	5,949,938.00	44,619,878.43

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)		
Exchange of information	Regular actions	Total	11,111,724.05	3,703,908.02	3,703,908.02	0.00	14,815,632.07	74.9999999831%
Exchange of information	Annex IV actions	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Exchange of information	Operating support	Total	6,729,903.00	2,243,301.00	2,243,301.00	0.00	8,973,204.00	75.0000000000%
Total Exchange of information			17,841,627.05	5,947,209.02	5,947,209.02	0.00	23,788,836.07	74.9999999895%
Cross-border cooperation	Regular actions	Total	3,995,416.03	1,331,805.35	1,331,805.35	0.00	5,327,221.38	74.9999999061%
Cross-border cooperation	Specific actions	Total	54,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00	60,000.00	90.0000000000%
Cross-border cooperation	Annex IV actions	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Cross-border cooperation	Operating support	Total	450,000.00	150,000.00	150,000.00	0.00	600,000.00	75.0000000000%
Total Cross-border cooperation			4,499,416.03	1,487,805.35	1,487,805.35	0.00	5,987,221.38	75.1503200638%
Preventing and combating crime	Regular actions	Total	18,246,082.63	6,082,027.55	6,082,027.55	0.00	24,328,110.18	74.9999999794%
Preventing and combating crime	Specific actions	Total	81,161.73	9,017.97	9,017.97	0.00	90,179.70	90.0000000000%
Preventing and combating crime	Annex IV actions	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Preventing and combating crime	Operating support	Total	1,425,937.50	475,312.50	475,312.50	0.00	1,901,250.00	75.0000000000%
Total Preventing and combating crime			19,753,181.86	6,566,358.02	6,566,358.02	0.00	26,319,539.88	75.0513950854%
Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)			2,525,653.49	0.00	0.00		2,525,653.49	100.0000000000%
Grand total			44,619,878.43	14,001,372.39	14,001,372.39	0.00	58,621,250.82	76.1155345644%

3.3. Transfers

Table 7: Transfers between shared management funds[1]

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

[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.
		5. Arrangements to ensure that all	Yes	Public Procurement Act (PPA) – art. 106,	See art. 106 (2) and (7) of the PPA and

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
		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.		(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	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 description of the program's management and control systems

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
		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 with disabilities (UNCRPD) in	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 the its Implementation - https://www.mlsp.government.bg/normativni-aktove- Information on the National Council for the Persons with Disabilities and all the documents for its functioning and the PDA and its implementation -	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 representatives of government, nationally representative organizations of and for

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC				https://saveti.government.bg/web/cc_11/1 Information on the Monitoring committee - 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	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 and control systems.

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
		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 the Republic of Bulgaria and the programs financed by the EFSM for the 2021 – 2027 programming period. 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 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 R 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 International Projects Directorate	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 International Projects Directorate	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 Internal Security Fund (ISF). 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 inter-institutional 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 Bulgaria, 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 ISF Programme for the 2021-2027 programming period.

In accordance with the partnership principle, based on Art. 8 of the Common Provision Regulation (CPR), an invitation to participate in the TWG was extended to the competent organisations at national level in the field of internal security.

In addition, a call was published on the webpage of the financial instruments for the 2021-2027 period for the selection for participation in the TWG of non-profit legal entities of public benefit, international organisations and institutions working in the field of prevention and combating crime, fight with terrorism, early identification and support of victims of crime, training for law enforcement and judicial authorities, etc.

With ordinance of the Minister of the Interior, a TWG for the preparation of the Programme under the ISF 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` activity was set up. In order to ensure a more effective planning and implementation of the programme and better representation of stakeholders, the scope of the partners involved in the TWG was enlarged, including through involvement of NGO and international organisation.

The TWG includes representatives of the relevant stakeholders working in the field of internal security – public authorities (MoI structures – General Directorate National Police, General Directorate Combating Organised Crime, General Directorate Border Police, General Directorate Gendarmerie, Special Operations and Combatting Terrorism, General Directorate Fire Safety and Civil Protection, International Operational Cooperation Directorate, Communication and Information Systems Directorate, National Forensic Institute, Internal Security Directorate, European Union and International Cooperation Directorate, Metropolitan Directorate of Interior, Academy of MoI, Bulgarian Identity Documents Directorate; Central Coordination Unit within Council of Ministers' administration; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Environment; Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works; Operational Programme Good Governance; State Agency for National Security; State Agency Technical Operations; Ministry of e-Government; Ministry of Innovation and Growth; National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings; National Service for Protection), international and non-governmental organisations (International organisation for Migration in Bulgaria and Centre for Study of Democracy), the academic community (University of National and World Economy). Other stakeholders could participate or be consulted on an ad-hoc basis.

The indicated partners will be invited to participate in the ISF monitoring committee.

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. The draft of the Programme was published for public consultation on the MA web page, Bulgarian Portal for Public Consultation and European Structural and Investment Funds Information Portal. An online event for public consultation of the ISF Programme was held with participation of all stakeholders.

During the preparation of the ISF programme, other organisations from the economic and social fields and regional partners (such as trade unions, representatives of employers, industry associations, associations of regions, associations of towns and municipalities) were also informed on several occasions of the MA's webpage and the European Structural and Investment Funds Information Portal of the invitation to participate in the online event (preparation of programme). Since the activities proposed under the Programme do not relate to the expertise of such organisations, no official invitation letters were sent to them.

Given the focus of the programme, such partners will not be involved in the monitoring committee for now. During the programme's implementation other entities may be approached by the MA and invited for the monitoring committee, should their cooperation prove to be appropriate and necessary.

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

In accordance with the provisions of Art. 39 of the CPR, a Monitoring Committee shall be established through a transparent process and in compliance with the principle of balanced representation of the relevant public authorities and the representatives of the partners.

In accordance with the partnership principle, based on Art. 8 of the CPR an invitation to participate in the MC will be extended to the competent authorities and organisations at national level in the field of internal security. 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 Fund to discuss topics related to specific issues or various initiatives. 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.

The MC of the ISF Programme shall be established by an ordinance of the Deputy Minister of Interior and shall be chaired by the Head of the MA. The representatives of the respective institutions shall be 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 shall participate in the work of the MC as observers.

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

The work of the MC will be regulated by Internal Rules, that shall be adopted at its first meeting. These rules define the powers and responsibilities of the chairperson and the Committee members and that 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 shall assemble 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 shall be in compliance with the provisions of Art. 40 (1) and (2) of the CPR. The Committee shall examine the programme implementation, the achieving 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 shall also examine 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 shall approve any proposal by the MA for the amendments of a

programme as well as the annual performance report.

The implementation of the ISF programme shall follow the same principles of partnership as in the process of its preparation. The MA shall ensure wide publicity for the partners by providing relevant information on Ministry of Interior website, as well as by holding regular information events open to all stakeholders. The Committee shall also play a primary role in monitoring of the progress of the implementation of the ISF Programme and of the future development, 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 programs included in the CPR as well as their representatives' participation in the preparation of Home Affairs programmes. Currently, experts from the International Projects Directorate are participating in 14 TWGs for the elaboration of EU funded programmes and of programmes for territorial cooperation of the Republic of Bulgaria for the 2021-2027 programming period; and for the preparation of 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 fund 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 Bulgaria, 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 Bulgaria.

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 Bulgaria – 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 Bulgaria (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. – 15 (target 2029)
- Number of attendees (physical and online) – 300 (target 2029)

- Number of publications on the website and social networks – 240 (target 2029)
- Number of visitors/readers/followers in the social networks – 150 (target 2029)
- 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 % (target 2029).

Under the Technical assistance an amount of 125 877 EUR is foreseen for communication and visibility measures. Such measures will also be included within the projects implemented under the ISF 2021-2027 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(2025)8142 - 2 Dec 2025 - 1	2.0	Accepted	1 Apr 2026	

Specific objective	Modality	Type of Intervention	Union contribution	Pre-financing rate	Description of the action
TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)			17,630.96		Technical assistance for ISF/2026/SA/1.1.2 SIENA.
1. Exchange of information	Specific actions		293,849.37		ISF/2026/SA/1.1.2 aims to support Member States to implement the roll-out of SIENA.

Procedure reference	Programme version	Status	Accept/Decline date	Comments
C(2021)8460 - 26 Nov 2021 - 1	1.2	Accepted	19 Sept 2022	

Specific objective	Modality	Type of Intervention	Union contribution	Pre-financing rate	Description of the action
2. Cross-border cooperation	Specific actions		54,000.00		ISF/2022/SA/2.2.1/012 EMPACT EUR 54.000,00 The objective of this specific action is to develop complex and long-term EMPACT activities and actions, laid down in the operational action plans (OAPs) and implementing one or more common horizontal strategic goals (CHSGs) contained in the EMPACT multi-annual strategic plan (MASP) designed for the EMPACT cycle 2022-2025 (reference: Council document 10109/21 of 23 June 2021 (EU LIMITE). Spain is carrying out the project CCH - EUROPEAN OPERATIONAL TEAM Costa del Sol, mainly related to EMPACT CCH (Cannabis /Cocaine/Heroin), but also to EMPACT HRCN (High-Risk Criminal Networks), covering strategic goals n°1, 2, 3, 4 and 8. The project partnership is composed of Spain, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sweden, Slovenia, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Serbia, UK, USA, Frontex and Europol. The Pilot Project is meant to establish a European Operational Team (EOT) in the Spanish region 'Costa del Sol', to develop and implement a joint investigative and operational strategy against the main criminal organisations and rel+G12ated High Value Targets (HVTs) affecting the EU Member States from the region. The activity of the EOT will be primarily aimed at identifying, investigating and dismantling HVTs and related organised criminal networks. The selection of HVTs and the establishment of related Operational Task Force (OTF) will be carried out in accordance with Standard Operating Procedure developed jointly by the EU Member States and Europol.
3. Preventing and combating crime	Specific actions		81,161.73		ISF/2022/SA/3.3.1/001 THB EUR 81.161,73 - In the framework of the implementation of Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims ("EU Anti-trafficking Directive") and the EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings (2021-2025), the objective of this specific action is to provide assistance and support services for victims of trafficking in human beings who hold the citizenship of an EU Member States or are long-term residents in one of the EU Member States participating in the Internal Security Fund. Greece is carrying out the project Service coordination for victims of trafficking in South and East Balkans. The partnership involves Greece and Bulgaria, and eventually Romania. The project aims at improving services provided to victims of human trafficking by strengthening the mechanism for locating and assisting trafficked persons from Bulgaria and Romania (mainly women and children) and improving the mechanisms for cooperation between authorities of the countries of origin (Bulgaria, Romania) and the locating country (Greece). It also aims at developing a Protocol of Cooperation that will coordinate their support activities towards (potential) victims of human trafficking. This initiative qualifies as a transnational referral mechanism between

					Greece, Bulgaria and eventually Romania.
TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)			8,109.70		TA

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent by
Programme snapshot 2021BG65ISPR001 2.0	Snapshot of data before send	24 Nov 2025		Ares(2025)10213822	Programme_snapshot_2021BG65ISPR001_2.0_bg_en.pdf Programme_snapshot_2021BG65ISPR001_2.0_bg.pdf	24 Nov 2025	Petkova, Maya