EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS

The Director-General (acting)

Brussels
HOME.E.1/FC

Decision of the Director-General (acting) for Migration and Home Affairs on a non-substantial amendment to Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 8334 final of 23.11.2022 on the financing of components of the Thematic Facility under the Internal Security Fund, and adoption of the work programme for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025

Whereas:

1) The Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of components of the Thematic Facility under the Internal Security Fund and the adoption of the Work Programme for 2023, 2024 and 2025 was adopted by the Commission as C(2022) 8334 final on 23 November 2022[1].

2) Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 8334 final foresaw a total amount for the 3 years of EUR 222 375 740 , of which EUR 132 750 000 for grants, EUR 58 005 740 for procurement, EUR 10 800 000 for indirect management, EUR 16 500 000 for shared management, and EUR 4 320 000 for other actions and expenditure.

3) A first non-substantial modification of Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 8334[2] added an amount of EUR 1 447 488 in commitment appropriations coming from assigned revenues. This amount reinforced the Union actions via the grant components of the Thematic Facility.

4) This first non-substantial amendment brought the total amount of the Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 8334 to EUR 223 823 228, of which EUR 134 197 488 for grants, EUR 58 005 740 for procurement, EUR 10 800 000 for indirect management, EUR 16 500 000 for shared management, and EUR 4 320 000 for other actions and expenditure.

5) A second substantial amendment was adopted by the Commission as C(2024)3066 [3] on 14 May 2024.

6) The purpose of this second substantial amendment was, on the one hand, to accommodate the increase of EUR 7 million coming from the budget conciliation for EU budget 2024 and EUR 0.9 million in commitment appropriations relating to assigned revenues of 2023, and, on the other hand, to plan a new action -"New Global Firearms Study"- and to bring some substantial changes in the text of the

[1]https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/dg/home/howwedoit/funds/programme-21-27/Pages/thematic-facility.aspx

[2]Ares(2023)3179650

[3]https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/funding/internal-security-funds/internal-security-fund-2021-2027_en

work programme. The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the work programme after this amendment stood at EUR 231 728 901, of which EUR 141 750 000 for grants, EUR 56 708 901 for procurement, EUR 12 450 000 for indirect management, EUR 16 500 000 for shared management, and EUR 4 320 000 for other actions and expenditure.

7) This third non-substantial amendment aims at reinforcing the Union Action "Support the review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)" by transferring EUR 300 000 from procurement to indirect management.

8) The redeployment proposed affects the different management modes of the work programme, but the changes remain within the allowed budgetary flexibility and can therefore be implemented through this non-substantial modification of the work programme. The maximum Union contribution will remain EUR 231 728 901, but the allocations to the different management modes will be EUR 141 750 000 for grants, EUR 56 408 901 for procurement, EUR 12 750 000 for indirect management, EUR 16 500 000 for shared management, and EUR 4 320 000 for other actions and expenditure.

9) Article 4 of Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 8334 provides that "Cumulated changes to the allocations to actions not exceeding 20 % of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and the objective of the work programme. The increase of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this Decision shall not exceed 20 %. The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality."

10) The proposed cumulated changes to the allocations to actions do not exceed 20 % of the maximum Union contribution, and no increase of the initial maximum Union contribution is proposed. These changes, not significantly affecting the nature of those actions and the objective of the work programme, are considered non-substantial.

I HEREBY DECIDE THE FOLLOWING:

The annex to Decision C(2022) 8334 final is replaced by the text in the annex to this Decision.

Beate GMINDER

EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, XXX
[…](2024) XXX draft

ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

Commission Implementing Decision

amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2022)8334 final on the financing of the components of the Thematic Facility under the Internal Security Fund and the adoption of the work programme for 2023, 2024 and 2025

ANNEX

Work programme for 2023, 2024 and 2025 for the implementation of the components of the Thematic Facility under the Internal Security Fund

1. Introduction

On the basis of the objectives given in Regulation (EU) 2021/1149 of the European Parliament and of the Council[1], this work programme contains, with regards to the thematic facility components, the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 as follows:

- for grants (implemented under direct management) (point 2),
- for procurement (implemented under direct management) (point 3),
- for actions implemented under indirect management (point 4),
- for actions implemented under shared management (point 5),
- for other actions or expenditure (point 6).

Financial assistance to be provided in the event of an emergency situation[2] is described in points 2.6 and 4.5.

Legal basis

Regulation (EU) 2021/1149 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Internal Security Fund

In line with Article 19 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1149, eligible entities established in a Member State (or an overseas country or territory linked to it) participating in the Internal Security Fund (ISF) and international organisations can receive EU financing under ISF supported actions implemented under direct or indirect management. These are all Member States with the exception of Denmark; entities established in Denmark can participate on a no-cost basis only. Eligible entities established in a third country may be eligible for ISF funding under the conditions specified in Article 19(3).

In line with Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1149, all activities implemented under the work programme for 2023, 2024 and 2025 shall respect and shall be implemented in line with the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Consistency, complementarity and synergies will also be maintained with other relevant EU funds and programmes, including for instance with relevant actions of the Justice programme, Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund or the Border Management and Visa Instrument. Moreover, in accordance with Articles 5(3) and 19 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1149, actions in and in relation with third countries will be carried out

[1] Regulation (EU) 2021/1149 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the Internal Security Fund (OJ L 251, 15.7.2021, p. 94, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1049/oj.

[2] Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1149.

in synergy and full coherence with the principles and general objectives of the Union's external action, its foreign policy and its international cooperation policy and their actions outside the Union supported from Union funds, in particular external instruments such as Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions as relevant. Such actions are identified and implemented in full coordination with the European External Action Service (EEAS) and relevant Commission external relations services, especially with the Directorates-General for International Partnerships (INTPA), Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR), and the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) throughout their numerous programmes and projects under the different instruments whereby actions on counter terrorism, organised crime, critical infrastructure protection, combating and preventing crime, including drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings and combating cross-border criminal smuggling networks etc. will help the actions foreseen in this Decision to be more effective, by reinforcing the internal-external security nexus. Likewise, actions will be implemented in full coordination with the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) as far as humanitarian assistance is concerned. They will be fully consistent with and, where relevant, complement the Union's humanitarian policy, and respect the principles set out in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid[3].

Actions will be implemented taking into account the political priorities set out in the conclusions adopted by the European Council at its meeting on 24-25 June 2021.

Budget line(s)

12 02 01

Implementation arrangements	**Budget line 12 02 01 (EUR)**
Grants*	141 750 000
Procurement	56 408 901
Indirect management*	12 750 000
Shared management	16 500 000
Other actions and expenditure	4 320 000
TOTAL	**231 728 901**
** Potential emergency assistance is included under grants and indirect management.*	

Objectives pursued

The overall policy objective[4] of the Internal Security Fund is to contribute to ensuring a high level of security in the Union, in particular:

- by preventing and combating terrorism and radicalisation, serious and organised crime, and

[3] *The European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid*, Joint Statement by the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission 2008/C 25/01 (OJ C 25, 30.1.2008, p. 1).

[4] Article 3(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1149

cybercrime;

- by assisting and protecting victims of crime; as well as

- by preparing for, protecting against and effectively managing security-related incidents, risks and crises within the scope of the Regulation.

The work programme 2023-2025 will focus on the following policy domains:

- Law enforcement cooperation
- Counter-Terrorism
- Prevention of Radicalisation
- Cybercrime
- Organised crime
- External dimension

These are complemented by necessary security-related procurement and by emergency assistance as a flexibility component to respond to unforeseen and urgent needs.

Expected results

The work programme, via the support provided from the thematic facility, will contribute to addressing the challenges and needs involved in meeting the objectives of the Internal Security Fund, and more specifically will contribute to:

- improved and facilitated exchange of information between and within the relevant authorities and Union bodies and, where relevant, with third countries and international organisations;

- improved and intensified cross-border cooperation, including joint operations, between competent authorities in relation to terrorism and serious and organised crime with a cross-border dimension;

- the strengthening of Member States' capabilities in relation to preventing and combating crime, terrorism and radicalisation as well as managing security-related incidents, risks and crises

- increased cooperation between public authorities, relevant Union bodies, offices or agencies, civil society and private partners in different Member States.

Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming

The ISF should support activities that respect the climate and environmental standards and priorities of the Union and would do no significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council[5]. The financial assistance provided through the ISF aims to prevent serious and organised crime, including the detection, investigation and prosecution of environmental crime.

[5] Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (OJ L 198, 22.6.2020, p. 13).

2. Grants

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is EUR 141 750 000.

2.1. Calls for proposals for transnational actions on internal security

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Legal entities such as :

- Public bodies or, by the competent authority's mandate, a public or non-public implementing agency or body of a Member State participating in the ISF.
- Non-profit making private entities
- Profit making private entities (including non-public implementing agencies, industrial or service/consultant companies)
- International organisations

The list may be further restricted in the calls for proposals. In particular, some categories may be only eligible as co-applicant.

Geographical conditions:

- Legal entities established in a Member State participating in the ISF (all EU Member States except Denmark) or an overseas country or territory linked to it can participate in the calls for proposals.
- International organisations may be established outside the Member States participating in the ISF.
- In duly justified cases, where their participation is necessary to achieve the objectives of the programme and if explicitly mentioned in the calls for proposals text, legal entities (other than international organisations) established in third countries can participate in this call for proposals under the conditions established in article 19 of the ISF.
    - only as part of a consortium composed of at least two independent entities, at least one of which is established in a Member State
    - only for the third countries which are relevant for the call for proposals. These countries will be further specified in the calls for proposals.

Description of the activities to be funded under the calls for proposals

2.1.1 Organised crime

In line with the Strategy to Tackle Organised Crime 2021-2025, actions may be funded that work towards the objective of dismantling of organised crime structures, targeting those groups that are a higher risk to Europe’s security and notably the individuals in the higher echelons of criminal organisations. Actions may be funded that contribute to breaking the business model of organised crime, by depriving criminals from their illegally obtained assets.

Environmental crime increasingly attracts organised crime groups and deserves particular attention because of its harmful effects on biodiversity and on the environment. Actions

resulting in improving the detection, investigation and prosecution of environmental crime may be funded, as well as actions focused on promoting the specialisation of law enforcement authorities fighting environmental crime.

In the field of trafficking of cultural goods, actions may be funded to improve the prevention, detection and investigation of cultural goods trafficking and related crimes.

In the field of drugs and in line with the EU Drugs Strategy 2021-2025, actions aimed at enhancing cooperation between EU Member States or EU Member States and third countries located along drug trafficking routes to and from the EU may be funded with the aim to ensure better law enforcement in the area of illicit drug trafficking. In particular, projects should seek to improve investigations and law enforcement activities, to facilitate the exchange of operational information, to develop training programmes for law enforcement authorities. In addition, activities aimed at drug demand reduction, in particular actions seeking to prevent drug use and raise awareness of the adverse effects of drugs may be funded.

In the field of trafficking in human beings, and in line with the EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings 2021-2025, actions may be funded with the objective to reduce the demand that fosters trafficking and to break the criminal model to halt victims' exploitation. In particular, actions should seek to achieve enhanced cross-border and transnational cooperation among law enforcement and judicial authorities, as well as other relevant stakeholders, such as labour inspectorates and the private sector, with the aim to increase investigations, prosecutions and convictions of traffickers may be funded. Such activities would cover prevention activities, such as training and awareness raising, as well as operational actions (e.g. exchange of operational information and best practices, joint action days and investigations, activities aimed at improving the capacity of stakeholders to address the crime online).

2.1.2 Fight against corruption

The objective is to support activities for the prevention of corruption, including specifically, risk assessments and other preventive measures to counter corruption especially in corruption-prone high-risk sectors, such as public procurement; further, the call will aim at activities supporting civil society and citizens in exposing corruption and other serious crime, including the provision of legal aid and assistance to whistle-blowers, as well as corruption-specific research and activities resulting in fostering the analysis and use of robust statistics on corruption for evidence-based policy-making. The call will also aim at supporting activities concerning the repression of corruption, including tackling the misuse of financial and professional services to launder the proceeds of corruption, strengthening the digitalisation of law enforcement and the wider justice chain as well as police's investigative capacities with regard to new methods used by criminals and criminal networks, including in the dark web.

2.1.3 Protection of public spaces

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The topics are aimed at supporting the implementation of the EU Counter-Terrorism Agenda and EU strategic documents linked with it. The objectives focus on places of worship, schools and community gatherings, including jewish places aim at enhancing the protection of places of worship of all faiths. Educational institutions, as well as places of community gathering that are visibly associated with a religious faith, also hold a symbolic value, and face similar threats, hence they are also included. The objective focus on the protection against chemical biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats in public spaces is to enhance the protection against and detection of CBRN threats for different types of public spaces and critical infrastructures. The objectives focus on the protection against the misuse and trafficking of firearms are to support the Commission in fulfilling the objectives of the 2020-2025 EU Action Plan on firearms trafficking.

The objective focus on the protection against explosives trheats with detection dogs is to contribute to the creation of certification tools and trainings to enhance the capacities of detection dogs in the EU to detect explosives, firearms and precursors. The objective focus on the protection against threat posed by non-cooperative drones is to support the Commission in the implementation of the adopted counter-drone Communication.

2.1.4 Supporting the implementation of the new legislation on the critical entities resilience

The Directive on the resilience of critical entities (CER Directive) creates a much broader and deeper framework of cooperation and obligations at EU, national and entities level in eleven sectors (Energy, Transport, Drinking Water, Waste Water, Health, Banking, Financial Markets, Digital, Public Administration, Space and Food). It introduces new rules aiming to strengthen the resilience of critical entities:

- Member States will need to adopt a national strategy and carry out regular risk assessments to identify entities that are considered critical or vital for the society and the economy.
- Critical entities will need to carry out risk assessments of their own, take technical and organisational measures to enhance their resilience and notify incidents. They will also be able to request background checks on personnel holding sensitive roles.
- Critical entities in the EU, from the sectors covered, providing essential services in six Member States or more, will benefit from extra advice on how best to meet their obligations to assess risks and take resilience-enhancing measures.
- A Critical Entities Resilience Group will facilitate cooperation among Member States and the exchange of information and good practices.
- An enforcement mechanism will help ensure that the rules are followed: Member States will need to ensure that national authorities have the powers and means to conduct on-site inspections of critical entities. Member States will also introduce penalties in case of non-compliance.
- Member States will need to provide support to critical entities in enhancing their resilience with, for instance, guidance material. The Commission will provide complementary support to Member States and critical entities, by developing a

Union-level overview of cross-border and cross-sectoral risks, best practices, methodologies, cross-border training activities and exercises to test the resilience of critical entities, among others.

The Directive mentions support measures from the Commission towards the Member States and critical entities, to help them comply with the obligations under the law and to support concrete resilience enhancing measures. For that purpose, the objective of the call will be to fund projects where Member States authorities, operators of essential services, other industry partners as well as research can build consortia to address one of several of the dimensions of the CER Directive.

2.1.5 Digital Investigations

The activities to be funded have the following objectives:

(1) Developing capacity and expertise of law enforcement and judicial authorities and supporting cross-border cooperation; (2) contributing to the implementation of EU law; (3) fostering cross-border cooperation between law enforcement/judicial authorities and private entities.

The projects expected results include:

- Implementation of solutions to increase and enhance reporting of cybercrime to law enforcement authorities.
- Formal transfer of capacity and ownership of digital tools, including future maintenance, to EU Law Enforcement Authorities, including EU Agencies.
- Enhancing the capacity of law enforcement and/or judicial authorities to investigate cyber-attacks and cyber enabled crime, for instance through investigative techniques and tools (including for digital forensics) adapted, in particular, to emerging smart environments.
- Enhancing the capacity of law enforcement to support victims during investigations
- Enhancing the capacity of law enforcement and/or judicial authorities to address the use of encryption by criminals and its impact on criminal investigations,
- Implementing solutions to enhance the capacity of law enforcement and/or judicial authorities to cooperate across borders
- Setting up practical mechanisms, systems and tools to enhance the cooperation between private entities and law enforcement and/or judicial authorities, for the purpose of detecting, reporting, investigating and preventing crime and taking remedial action
- Increasing the accountability of registrars of domain names and ensuring accuracy of information on website ownership
- supporting law enforcement's participation in relevant standardisation activities

Specific priority areas might be further specified in the call. Cooperation in the framework of EMPACT and with relevant EU Agencies (Europol, CEPOL, Eurojust) and with existing projects to ensure sustainability of results will be considered an asset.

2.1.6 Radicalisation - CSEP Civil Society Empowerment Programme

Radicalisation is primarily a local phenomenon and its prevention is most effective when performed by local prevent actors that know their communities best. This is why the Commission already supports prevent practitioners via the Radicalisation Awareness Network and helps them acquire state of the art expertise in dealing with this phenomenon. Nonetheless, knowledge is not everything and many civil society organisations in the EU struggle financially and cannot expand their day-to-day work to match the pace of today's radicalisation processes nor adapt to new realities linked with the growing phenomenon of online radicalisation.

Therefore, this action aims at continuing to support the Civil Society Empowerment Programme (CSEP), to support promising projects boost the offline deradicalization work they are doing with enhanced capacity and skills to reach out to radicalised clients in the online sphere. The implementation of the action will take into account the results of the evaluation of the last iteration of the CSEP programme.

Radicalisation no longer only takes place offline but has a considerable online dimension. The EU Internet Forum brings together tech platforms, EU member states and their law enforcement agencies as well as civil society organisations to jointly address the dissemination of violent extremist and terrorist content online. Not all industry actors or member states have the same capacity and capability to respond to emerging challenges. This action therefore aims at supporting the priorities of the EU Internet Forum, in particular detecting and moderation content produced with generative artificial intelligence, to ensure a holistic response to violent extremist and terrorist exploitation of the Internet.

2.1.7 Support to activities of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) and operational actions.

The objective is to enable stakeholders to develop more complex and long-term operations to tackle the various serious and organised crime threats (the "EU crime priorities" as defined on the basis of the EU SOCTA in the EMPACT process), to implement the common horizontal strategic goals and to increase coordination and cooperation of law enforcement and other competent authorities within and between Member States and with other actors.

2.1.8 Common Operational Partnerships to prevent and fight against migrant smuggling with competent authorities of third countries

Activities aiming at enhanced prevention and fight against migrant smuggling by establishing Common Operational Partnerships (COPs)[6] that support structured cooperation between law enforcement, judicial authorities and other relevant services of the participating

[6] The concept of Common Operational Partnerships also covers Article 19 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, and the EU legislation following the conclusion of the Convention by the European Union in 2004 (Council Decision 2004/579/EC) which foresees that in relation to matters that are the subject of investigation, prosecution or judicial proceedings in one or more States, the competent authorities concerned may establish joint investigation bodies.

Member States and third countries.

Activities should aim at achieving one or more of the following expected results: enhanced mutual trust building between different agencies, at regional, national and international level; targeted capacity building and on-the-job mentoring / training, in coordination with CEPOL; the exchange of liaison officers; support for the exchange of information through legal, administrative and statistical tools, all with the aim of enhanced cooperation between Member States and third country competent authorities in preventing and combating migrant smuggling.

Activities may support deepening the cooperation within the framework of existing Common Operational Partnerships and expanding the geographical coverage through new Common Operational Partnerships along migratory routes towards the EU (for example in West, North, Central and Horn of Africa, along the Silk Route and in the Western Balkans) and should involve EU agencies such as Europol, Eurojust and Frontex where applicable. Such measures can provide support to the Anti-Smuggling Operational Partnerships, as per the renewed EU action plan against migrant smuggling (2021-2025)[7].

Implementation

The actions will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

2.2. Direct Awards in the field of Counter-Terrorism

2.2.1. EU High Risk Security Network

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

Established as a direct deliverable to the 2017 EU Action Plan for Support in Protection of Public Spaces, the EU High Risk Security Network connects 24 members from European operational units of law enforcement units tasked with the prevention, detection, armed protection and securing of civil critical infrastructure, soft targets and transport hubs against acts of terror and violence.

Due to its composition, the EU High Risk Security Network represents a highly specialised body that can significantly contribute to the strengthening of the capabilities and capacities of the relevant law enforcement units, contributing to a better level of preparedness and security amongst all Member States.

The Guardia Civil, as relevant national authority, was appointed as chair of the network for 2021-2023 (and will be applying for a further extension of six months), and will apply for the grant on behalf of the network.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals in line with Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation as the targeted applicants, members of the EU High Risk Security Network, hold a high degree of specialisation necessary to implement the activities to be

[7] COM(2021)591 final.

supported under the grant. Members of the network may participate in the action as co-beneficiaries or as affiliates provided that the latter are linked to a (co-)beneficiary with legal personality.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

As announced in the 2017 EU Action Plan for Support in Protection of Public Spaces the objective of the EU High Risk Security Network and this action is to support Member States to enhance preparation and resilience to possible terrorist attacks, which requires activities with specific characteristics to be coordinated by the EU High Risk Security Network. These activities will result in enhanced prevention, detection and response to the first phase of a possible terrorist attack by sharing and cross-training knowledge on tactics, techniques, standard operating procedures, threat/risk assessments as well as (predictive) profiling.

The EUHRSN has organised its strands of work among different technical subgroups providing the practical/training activities in those fields: vulnerability assessment, UAS/Counter-UAS (C-UAS), Tactical Rescue Response, Human Factor, Multi-agency command and control.

The network is part of the Protective and Security Advisors (PSA) pool of experts and also closely linked to the EU-US collaboration, represented by the FBI. It has also activities sponsored by DG INTPA which are going beyond the European borders providing experts and expertise to different European Projects in Africa and Middle East. Finally, EUHRSN is the only network where DG HOME is a member of the Steering Group.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

2.2.2. EEODN - The European Explosive Ordnance Disposal Network

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The European Explosive Ordnance Disposal Network (EEODN) is one deliverable of the European Union's policy on the fight against terrorism. Through the EEODN, the knowledge in the field of explosives and chemical, biological, radiological/nuclear (CBRN) security is being developed and enhanced, by facilitating the sharing of best practices among EU experts. The EEODN was established as requested in the 2008 EU Action Plan on Enhancing the Security of Explosives. Since then, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and CBRN experts have met 1-2 times a year to discuss the existing threats from the illicit use of explosives and CBRN agents. EEODN is the only EU-level network which develops the technical skills of the bomb technicians dealing with different types of threats and provides the crucial forum for intelligence sharing on different explosive and CBRN bomb designs and terrorist trends discovered not only in EU but also in the world. Among other activities, the participants receive updates on recent attacks involving the use of homemade explosives (HME) and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). They work together on improving techniques to render safe improvised explosive devices, sharing their invaluable experience gained worldwide in three different continents. EEODN is a deliverable of the above-mentioned EU Action Plan on Enhancing the Security of Explosives, but also supports the implementation of the EU CBRN

Action Plan as it integrated the fight against the CBRN threat into the network goals, and created two specialised working groups: one for explosives and another one for CBRN. Both working groups are exchanging their expertise and best practices under the common umbrella of the EEODN, which amended its protocol to reflect these changes.

For the purpose of this grant, EEODN will be represented by a law enforcement authority from one of the EU Member States selected based on the following criteria:

- the law enforcement authority has to be a recognised EOD/IEDD or CBRN Competent Authority from an EU Member State;

- the law enforcement authority has to be pre-approved by the EEODN Management Board, with all its activities addressed to the EEODN community of experts.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals in line with Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation as the targeted applicants, members of the European Explosive Ordnance Disposal Network, hold a high degree of specialisation necessary to implement the activities to be supported under the grant. Members of the network may participate in the action as co-beneficiaries or as affiliates provided that the latter are linked to a (co-)beneficiary with legal personality.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The objective of the action is to organise specialised trainings focused on development of the technical skills of the bomb technicians dealing with different types of threats. Further information on the objectives and expected results is provided in the section above.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

2.2.3. EIFS - EU Air Marshal Network

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The EU Air Marshals Network, represented by the Inflight Security Officers units (known otherwise as Air Marshals) of the Member States (current chair: Germany), consists of EU Member States participating in the International Inflight Security Officer Committee. The objective of the EU network is to enhance expertise and efficiency of the EU Inflight Security Officers. Due to its composition, the Air Marshals Network represents a highly specialised body that can significantly contribute to the strengthening of the capabilities and capacities of the individual inflight security officers units, as well as enhance the much needed cooperation and standardisation, thus increasing aviation security beyond just the ground security measures and in order to build preparedness against the emerging threats. The network has organised the strands of work in sub-groups: define a standard for weapon procedures, create standards and best practices for post-incident procedures, exchange of expertise through regularly held meetings/trainings and internships

The German Police, as relevant national authority, was appointed as chair of the network for

2023-2025 and will be applying for the grant on behalf of the network.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation as the targeted applicants, members of the EU Air Marshal Network, hold a high degree of specialisation necessary to implement the activities to be supported under the grant. Members of the network may participate in the action as co-beneficiaries or as affiliates provided that the latter are linked to a (co-)beneficiary with legal personality.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The objective of the action is to further enhance the aviation security beyond the existing ground security measures and to build preparedness against the emerging threats. The planned activities requires to undertake activities with specific characteristics and resulting in enhanced expertise and efficiency of Inflight Security Officers, such as: specialised common trainings, international coordination and response to emerging threats.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

2.2.4. ENLETS - European Network of Law Enforcement Technology Services 2.0

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The European Network of Law Enforcement Technology Services (ENLETS) is an informal network set up in 2008[8] with the objective of gathering user requirements, scanning and raising awareness of new technology and best practices, benchmarking and giving advice as well as enhancing cooperation of security technology end-users. The representatives (national contact points) – coming from law enforcement agencies from almost all EU Member States – are dealing with the security technology for frontline policing, serious organised crime as well as the protection of public spaces in their respective country, and therefore play a role also in technology watch and scanning of new (key) emerging technologies as well as the uptake of the available technologies. The project will together with the Horizon 2020 project Broadway be integrated into the efforts to create BroadNET: an EU-wide interoperable communication system for security and an EU wide communication capability for law enforcement. The beneficiary of the grant to coordinate support for the activities of the ENLETS network will be a Member State law enforcement agency or its affiliated entity, which will be agreed upon by the Core Group of the ENLETS network.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation as the targeted applicants, members of the European Network of Law Enforcement Technology Services 2.0, hold a high degree of specialisation necessary to implement the activities to be supported under the grant. Members of the network may participate in the action as co-beneficiaries or as affiliates provided that the latter are linked to a (co-)beneficiary with legal personality.

[8] Importance of ENLETS was underlined also in the Council conclusions on strengthening the internal security authorities' involvement in security-related research and industrial policy of 6-7 June 2013.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The objective of the action is to support ENLETS in its efforts to ensure proper coordination between Member States for public procurement by sharing expertise on technology for serious organised crime, front line policing and the protection of public spaces and thus bridging the gap between the end users and providers of law enforcement technologies.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

2.2.5. BROADNET

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The beneficiary targeted by the direct award is Public Safety Communications Europe (PSCE). It is a European Forum that was established as a result of a European Commission funded project in 2008 and which has since then operated independent forum of public safety user organisations, industry and research institutes. As such, it is currently the optimal interlocutor in the relatively small community of public safety and security communications. PSCE primarily driven by the public members, not the industry and therefore a more suitable beneficiary then industry associations in terms of independence. When it comes to the specific knowledge, PSCE has coordinated both Horizon 2020 BroadMap and BroadWay, which are the basis for the HOME initiative to develop an EU communication system for law enforcement and emergency response. There is no other organisation that combines such a network of partners and the necessary technical expertise. The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation as the targeted applicants, members of the BROADNET, hold a high degree of specialisation necessary to implement the activities to be supported under the grant. Members of the network may participate in the action as co-beneficiaries or as affiliates provided that the latter are linked to a (co-)beneficiary with legal personality.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The ISF funding for BroadNET will underpin the political initiative aiming at establishing an EU critical communication system for law enforcement and emergency response. This initiative is based on the Conclusions of the Justice and Home Affairs Ministers Council meeting of 7 June 2021, which emphasised *'the importance of secure operational and EU interoperable communication for law enforcement agencies and other security practitioners'* and invited *'Member States to further support EU initiatives aiming at the improvement of existing systems and EU-wide interoperable communication systems for public security, notably the Horizon 2020 BroadWay project*' The BroadWay project came to an end in September 2022 and delivered the technical solution for such interoperable communication system. Building on the successful technical work, an ISF grant should allow to work on the necessary governance that would allow Member States

to deploy national systems that are interoperable. This would realise the final aim, which is to create an EU wide critical communication . This will increase operational mobility, reduce time to react and facilitate planned missions. It will also enhance the resilience of the Union's communication network infrastructure for public security and ensure its capacity to react in times of crises.

Therefore, this initiative is coordinated by DG HOME and links to relevant actions of other Commissions services, as well as the EU Agencies Europol and Frontex. The action is coherent with Union policies in the field of security (operational law enforcement cooperation), border management, civil protection (UCPM), communication (networks and spectrum policies) and secure connectivity (GOVSATCOM).This action will solidify coherence between Member States to create a pan-European mission critical mobile broadband communication system. It builds on the Horizon 2020 projects BroadMap and BroadWay, as well as the current BroadNET prep work package on ENLETS. While the technical solution has been developed and tested in those projects, the ISF grant should allow DG HOME to steer the work to build the necessary governance at EU-level that such a critical communication system requires. For this, additional work with the involved Member States stakeholders, EU Agencies and other Commission services is required. An ISF grant is necessary, since the work will need to include many different actors outside of the EU institutions, mainly from the Member States, but also partner countries, as well as industry.

The ISF funding will be used to allow for secondments of staff from member states to focus their expertise and national interests on a series of work items to continue to build BroadNet Governance in advance and alongside the realisation of a technical solution. The BroadWay pilot evaluations that took place in summer 2022 have proven to be very beneficial to bring together the community of practitioners, industry, governments and EC stakeholders. Industry have reacted to practitioner feedback and the technical solutions are clearly maturing. Practitioners experience the new cross-border/pan-European capability and start to consider benefit to their operations and how the operational procedures will have to evolve. Work items will involve practitioners to catalyse the consideration of evolved operational procedures.

The ISF funding will help to continue to carry out pilot evaluations to build on technical maturity. This will involve a technical capability, spanning beyond the 2 BroadWay solution providers. This will ensure the integration of a wider scope of applications to operate over the mission critical mobile broadband system, hence catalysing the marketplace.

This action will also help build the interests across Europe through a wider involvement of practitioners, member states and stakeholders.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

2.2.6. Airpol - European network of airport law enforcement services

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The AIRPOL network, represented by the AIRPOL Management Board, is a multidisciplinary

cooperation network of the police services, border guards and other relevant law enforcement services active in and around airports, established as an initiative to fight trans-border crime following a Council resolution of December 2010[9]. As a result of this transnational cooperation, the network possesses a unique technical competence in the area of airport policing, aviation security and air border security, thus contributing to a more secure European Union.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation as the targeted applicants, members of the European network of airport law enforcement services, hold a high degree of specialisation necessary to implement the activities to be supported under the grant. Members of the network may participate in the action as co-beneficiaries or as affiliates provided that the latter are linked to a (co-)beneficiary with legal personality.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The objective of the direct award to the AIRPOL Management Board currently consisting of 13 EU Member States and UK, NO, CH, AU, US, CA is in support of the EU security policies, including the EU Action Plan for Protecting of Public Spaces and strengthening the development of the AIRPOL network in order to enhance - via the different AIRPOL subgroups (intelligence, technology, insider threats, exercise/security, behaviour detection, securing the airport community) – the EU mitigation and response towards recently arising security threats.

The grant should finance activities supporting AIRPOL in enhancing the overall security in the EU airports and civil aviation domain by:

- Optimizing the effectiveness and efficiency of airport and aviation related law enforcement, border guard issues and the control of frontiers;

- Building awareness, exchanging best practices and developing guidance for Member States.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

2.2.7. RAILPOL - European network of railway police forces

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The RAILPOL network, represented by the RAILPOL Secretariat, is an international association of police organisations responsible for policing the railways in EU Member States. The aim of its activities is to strive for a safe and secure rail-transport by establishing cross-border law enforcement cooperation on the main European railway corridors, in order to prevent threats and guarantee the effectiveness of measures against cross-border crime. As a result of this transnational cooperation, the network possesses a unique technical competence in the area of rail network security, thus contributing to a more secure European Union. RAILPOL strands of work are developed by dedicated working groups, focusing on: Crime

[9] Council resolution on the creation of a European network of airport law enforcement services (AIRPOL), 3051st JUSTICE and HOME AFFAIRS Council meeting, Brussels, 2 and 3 December 2010

and illegal migration, Public order, Counter Terrorism, Police investigation in railway accidents and other major incidents, Strategic Analysis, RAILEX.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation as the targeted applicants, members of the European network of railway police forces, hold a high degree of specialisation necessary to implement the activities to be supported under the grant. Members of the network may participate in the action as co-beneficiaries or as affiliates provided that the latter are linked to a (co-)beneficiary with legal personality.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The objective of this action is to enhance the overall security in the EU rail network. The achievement of this objective requires to undertake a number of activities aiming at exchanging real time operational information, performing joint training, building awareness, exchanging best practices and developing guidance for Member States e.g. via organization of the Rail Action Days, that can be best implemented by the RAILPOL network.

The RAILPOL Secretariat vested with the National Police of France will receive the grant to finance these activities, which will result in:

- fighting cross-border crime in the RAILPOL domain more effectively by fostering cross-border law enforcement operations, supported by information and intelligence exchange;

- enhancing the effectiveness of the law enforcement practices all over the EU by identification and dissemination of good practices;

- organising joint exercises -RAILEX- testing approaches and policies to manage public order issues alongside possible lone wolf attacks and CBRN scenarios;

- improving the cooperation with other law enforcement networks beyond the already well established cooperation with AIRPOL and ROADPOL;

- providing an active contribution to the EU work on rail security by participating to the EU RAILSEC and EU Land Security Committee fora and actively engaging in the cooperation with other law enforcement agencies to leverage the fight against crime, irregular migration and terrorism: the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) and Europol.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

2.2.8. Aquapol

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

AQUAPOL, represented by the French *Gendarmerie nationale*, is a network of maritime- and inland water navigation related law enforcement authorities from EU member states and countries outside the EU as partners. It aims to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of maritime and inland shipping related law enforcement in Europe and to contribute to a more harmonised approach of enforcement in this domain. As a result of this transnational cooperation, the network possesses a unique technical competence in the area maritime-and inland navigation, thus contributing to a safe, secure and environmentally friendly transport

over water. AQUAPOL is working beyond the cross-border cooperation among waterborne law-enforcement, domain in which important tools have been developed such as AQUATRACK, run by the French Gendarmerie since 2020 helping the monitoring of vessel traffic**.** These activities result in improving the protection of ships and maritime port installations, which might be exposed to cyberattacks, or disruption attempts, addressing the issues of insider threats, C-UAS, CBRN-e detection.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation as the targeted applicants, members of Aquapol, hold a high degree of specialisation necessary to implement the activities to be supported under the grant. Members of the network may participate in the action as co-beneficiaries or as affiliates provided that the latter are linked to a (co-)beneficiary with legal personality.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

According to the EU Security Union Strategy, the objective of this action is to strengthen operational police cooperation in the area of maritime- and inland navigation. The achievement of this objective requires undertaking a number of activities with specific characteristics that is best implemented by the AQUAPOL Network, in complementarity with the EMPACT strategy and other law enforcement agencies such as Europol as well as other law enforcement networks.

Within the new Counter-Terrorism agenda, these activities include in particular counterterrorism-focused activities such as chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) detection actions, actions addressing the issue of insider threat or aiming at improvement of protection of ships and maritime port installations (public spaces) against potential terrorist attacks.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

2.3. Direct Awards in the field of Organised Crime

2.3.1. ONNET- Internal Security Fund for @ON Network to tackle top level Organised Criminal Groups and mafia-style structures.

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The @ON Network is a law enforcement network that was created following the Council Resolution of 4 December 2014[10]. Its purpose is to strengthen cooperation among law enforcement authorities against top-level organised criminal groups including on High Value Targets (HVT). The @ON Network also aims at developing a more accurate intelligence picture of top-level organised criminal groups in the EU. The @ON network is uniquely positioned to facilitate this sort of operational support because of its expertise, reach and proven track record. The network counts 32 law enforcement authorities representing 27

[10] 'Creation of an operational network - @ON – to counter mafia-style serious and organised crime groups', Justice and Home affairs Council meeting, Brussels, 4 December 2014.

Countries (among them 20 EU Member States: IT, FR, DE, ES, BE, NL, AT, HR, CZ, HU, MT, PL, PT, RO, SL, SW, LV, LU, LT, EE).

The beneficiary of the grant will be the 'Anti-Mafia Investigation Directorate' (DIA), an Italian multi-force investigation body under the Department of Public Security of the Ministry of Interior. DIA is the Italian representative in the @ON Network, a founding member thereof and applies on behalf of the network while also assuming the project management responsibilities.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation as the targeted applicants, members of the @ON Network, hold a high degree of specialisation necessary to implement the activities to be supported under the grant. Members of the network may participate in the action as co-beneficiaries or as affiliates provided that the latter are linked to a (co-)beneficiary with legal personality.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The objective of the action is to support operational investigations into top-level organised criminal groups including on High Value Targets in a cross border settings. The @ON Network facilitates the deployment of investigators on the spot and exchange of experts to support investigations in other Member States. The Network also provides financial support for special investigative tools. This happens in close cooperation with Europol and with the EMPACT priority on High Risk Criminal Networks (HRCN).

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

2.3.2. CARIN - Camden Asset Recovery Interagency Network

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The Camden Assets Recovery Inter-Agency Network (CARIN) is an inter-agency network of law enforcement and judicial practitioners in the field of asset recovery. Established in 2004, it brings together practitioners with robust expertise in the field of asset tracing, freezing, management and confiscation. CARIN, covering 61 jurisdiction (37 members, 24 observers) and 17 international organisations, is affiliated with seven regional networks of asset recovery practitioners, including Latin America (RRAG), the Caribbean region (ARIN-CARIB), Eastern Africa (ARIN EA), Western Africa (ARIN WA), Southern Africa (ARIN SA), the Asia-Pacific Region (ARIN AP) and the West and Central Asia (ARIN-WCA).

The aim of CARIN is to enhance the effectiveness of depriving criminals of illicit profits to ensure they cannot be reinvested into further criminal activities. It also aims at tackling the profit-motivators behind crime, providing asset recovery practitioners from law enforcement and judicial authorities with a platform to discuss legal frameworks, operational challenges and support in all aspects of asset recovery.

It has the ultimate objective to grow as the global centre of expertise on all aspects of tackling the proceeds of crime, acting as an advisory group to asset recovery authorities and facilitate cooperation and training in all asset recovery aspects.

The CARIN Steering Group – composed of nine members – updates and develops the CARIN strategy and supports the presidency in organising the Annual General Meeting of the Network. Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, UK and USA are the members of the CARIN Steering Group for 2023, whereas Europol and Eurojust are permanent observers.

On an annual basis CARIN issues recommendations, based on the activities carried out. The recommendations address relevant topics from an operational perspective, pertaining to various EU Justice and Home Affairs policy priorities. From the point of view of DG Migration and Home Affairs, these recommendations provide valuable insight into current operational challenges and inform the policy-making. Moreover, CARIN plays an important role in complementing EU efforts to fight international financial crime, fostering cooperation between the EU Asset Recovery Offices and jurisdictions outside of the EU. The network plays a key role in promoting EU standards on asset recovery around the globe, and strengthening and supporting international cooperation against cross-border financial crime.

The beneficiary(ies) of the grant will be the public body(ies) nominated by the Member State(s) holding the CARIN rotating presidency in any of the years in the period 2023-2025. The exact roles of the relevant Member States' public bodies will be defined in the grant. Should the presidency be held by a third country or a Member State not participating in ISF, those could be involved as associated partners[11] in the grant.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation as the targeted applicants, members of the Camden Assets Recovery Inter-Agency Network, hold a high degree of specialisation necessary to implement the activities to be supported under the grant. Members of the network may participate in the action as co-beneficiaries or as affiliates provided that the latter are linked to a (co-)beneficiary with legal personality.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The objective of the action is to support law enforcement practitioners in recovery of criminal assets through activities of the CARIN network in order to maintain and expand this network. The grant will cover the activities of the network in 2023 - 2025, which include:

- the CARIN Annual General Meetings, which provide a platform where the members exchange knowledge, operational information and discuss best practices on new developments in the area of asset recovery, through presentations, trainings and workshops, as well as networking opportunities for the members to establish a network of contact points to foster the recovery of assets;

- the meetings of the CARIN Steering Committee, which helps preparing the Annual General Meetings and takes the necessary decisions for the functioning of the network.

[11] Associated partners are entities that implement action tasks but without receiving EU funding.

- facilitation of activities in relation to asset recovery to be further specified with the Steering Committee under the umbrella of facilitation of cooperation between the members of the CARIN, acting as advisory group to relevant national authorities, facilitation of contacts with the private sector, and encouraging members to establish national Asset Recovery Offices.

The above-mentioned activities of the network should take place on the territory of the EU. In that case, provision of Article 5(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1149 shall apply.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

2.3.3. Anti Money Laundering Operational Network (AMON)

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The Anti Money Laundering Operational Network (AMON), represented by the yearly rotating presidency of its Steering Group, is a network of national contacts from centralised money laundering investigation units in the Member States. These units are the only agencies that can exchange national best practices on money laundering investigations in the context of an EU-wide network. It was set up in 2012 as a group for anti-money laundering investigators and its permanent secretariat is hosted by the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol). Due to its composition, the AMON Network represents a highly specialised body that can significantly contribute to the enhancing of the effectiveness of the prevention and investigation of money laundering activities through promoting and improving the international cooperation between experts from different jurisdictions.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation as the targeted applicants, members of the Anti Money Laundering Operational Network, hold a high degree of specialisation necessary to implement the activities to be supported under the grant. Members of the network may participate in the action as co-beneficiaries or as affiliates provided that the latter are linked to a (co-)beneficiary with legal personality.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The objective of the action is to strengthen the fight against organised crime, in particular by focusing on financial investigations into organised crime and money laundering activities. The achievement of this objective requires to undertake a number of activities with specific characteristics that can be best coordinated by the AMON Network.

The money laundering investigation unit of the Member State holding the rotating presidency of the AMON's Steering Group will receive the grant for financing activities supporting and facilitating the work of the AMON Network, and resulting in:

- maintaining and expanding its network of law enforcement operational contact points;
- establishing itself as a centre of expertise in money laundering investigations;
- promoting the exchange of information and good practice in this area;
- making recommendations addressed to the European Commission and the Council of the European Union.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

2.3.4. Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre – Narcotics (MAOC-N)

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre – Narcotics (MAOC-N) is an operational platform with the co-location of experienced law enforcement liaison officers and military attachés from 6 EU Member States (PT, FR, IT, ES, NL and IE) as well as the UK. Its objective is to improve the cooperation in the fight against illicit drug trafficking by air and sea across the Atlantic Ocean towards Europe and the West African Seaboard and in the Mediterranean. In addition, MAOC-N takes an active role in the EU Policy Cycle and works closely notably with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol), the EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) and the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol).

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation as the targeted applicants, members of the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre – Narcotics (MAOC-N)., hold a high degree of specialisation necessary to implement the activities to be supported under the grant. Members of the centre may participate in the action as co-beneficiaries or as affiliates provided that the latter are linked to a (co-)beneficiary with legal personality.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The objective of the action is to disrupt maritime and air drug trafficking routes to the EU, in particular MAOC-N's efforts in coordinating naval and air assets patrolling the Atlantic and over the Mediterranean sea. This would be achieved through the following activities and expected results:

- Intelligence Collection and Intelligence Development, building close networks with national investigators and operational teams, with international and European Agencies, such as EUROPOL and INTERPOL;
- de-confliction by maintaining a regular information flow with each of the relevant countries and actors in Europe and across the Atlantic;
- investigation support with the support of Country Liaison Officers and analysts;
- support for the development of maritime interdictions;
- participation in interdiction operations and exercises;

- strategic engagement in the relevant EU efforts including policy activities;
- capacity building and training a centre of reference for best practices exchange.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

2.4. Direct Awards in the field of law enforcement cooperation

2.4.1. ENFSI -European Network of Forensic Science Institutes

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The European Network of Forensic Science Institutes (ENFSI) was founded in 1995 with the purpose of improving the mutual exchange of information and best practices in the field of forensic science. This, as well as improving the quality of forensic science delivery in Europe have become the main issues of the network. Besides the general work in the fields of quality and competence management, research and development, and education and training, different forensic areas of expertize are dealt with by 17 different Expert Working Groups. A majority of forensics laboratories in the EU are members of ENFSI. ENFSI is therefore the only body with the specific technical competence and outreach capacity in the forensics community in the EU to carry out the proposed action.

The network (composed of its members) ENFSI is therefore the only body with the specific technical competence and outreach capacity in the forensics community in the EU to carry out the proposed action.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation as the targeted applicants, members of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes, hold a high degree of specialisation necessary to implement the activities to be supported under the grant. Members of the network may participate in the action as co-beneficiaries or as affiliates provided that the latter are linked to a (co-)beneficiary with legal personality.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The following activities may be funded to achieve the expected results of the action:

- Continuous improvement of the fundamentals of forensic science: despite continuous improvements, there is still a need to develop further forensics methods which are valid and robust in forensic conditions, in particular as regards biometrics, emerging biological and chemical evidence, or emerging technologies. ;

- Assessment of emerging tools for crime scene investigation, determining the opportunities and limits offered by the new digital methods to record and document the physical and digital environment in crime scenes ;

- Best Practice Manuals for forensic disciplines, proficiency tests and collaborative exercises for forensic disciplines, training on forensics to the law enforcement and judicial communities.

- Upcoming Council Conclusions on European Forensics Science Area – 2030

- Support the implementation of the actions that will be included in the Council Conclusions that will be prepared under the Czech Presidency of the Council.

The beneficiary of the grant will be the ENFSI Secretariat established in Germany[12].

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

2.4.2. EPRIS- European Police Records Index System

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

According to the EU Security Union Strategy, cooperation and information sharing are the most powerful tools to combat crime and pursue justice. In 2017, the Commission supported a pilot project EPRIS-ADEP (ISFP-2016-AG-IBA-EPRIS), which tested the outcomes and recommendations of the Commission feasibility study on EPRIS[13] by a small number of Member States led and managed by FR (FR, DE, FI, IE, ES): a system was developed and tested, which allows, through an index, to see if police records on a given person exist in one or several other Member States. The automated reply to a search in the index would only indicate whether data is available or not; a so-called "hit" or "no hit" reply. In case of a "hit", additional personal data can be requested in a second step, via Europol's Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA).

In 2019, the Commission supported a follow-up project (ISFP-2018-AG-IBA-EPRIS), which further developed the pilot project by establishing the business-related processes and preparedness for the rollout of the system, the extension to additional Member States and the automation of certain steps of the procedures related to the exchange of personal information after a confirmed hit between the Member States and with Europol.

Germany (applicant) manages and coordinates the overall project (ISFP-2018-AG-IBA-EPRIS) with the support of all co-applicants (BE, ES, FI, FR and IE). Germany is well prepared for the management and coordination of the project because of its experience from the previous EPRIS and other European projects (e.g. UMF3plus). These Member States were also involved in the previous EPRIS projects and they have been working closely together for several years.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation as the targeted applicants, members of the European Police Records Index System, hold a high degree of specialisation necessary to implement the activities to be supported under the grant. Members of the network may participate in the action as co-beneficiaries or as affiliates provided that the latter are linked to a (co-)beneficiary with legal

[12] EUROPEAN NETWORK OF FORENSIC SCIENCE INSTITUTES E.V. (ENFSI), a non-profit organisation.

[13] Study on possible ways to enhance efficiency in the exchange of police records between the Member States by setting up a European Police Records Index System EPRIS, produced by Unisys IRCP on 8 October 2012.

personality.

The activities can indeed be carried out and the technical solution deployed only by Member States' law enforcement authorities and Europol[14]. Specific expertise and technical knowledge have been built up and should be leveraged to further develop the technical processes for the exchange of information on police records between the Member States and with Europol.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

Although the 2019 follow-up project has reached a good level of maturity and has developed a working technical solution for the exchanges of police records, the Commission is interested in the testing of a rollout capable system in an operational environment between project participants. Additionally, activities to be funded must focus on achieving further refinement of the technical solution and business processes. A good community around this project was established and should be maintained in order to preserve the specific expertise and technical knowledge acquired. This community ideally will be extended to additional Member States. A close cooperation with Europol must be maintained.

The activities must also focus on further developing EPRIS for the potential inclusion of the exchange of police records in the Prüm framework and alignment to its specificities.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

2.4.3. ENFAST - European Network of Fugitive Active Search Teams

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

An informal European Network of Fugitive Active Search Teams (ENFAST) was created in November 2010 following the Resolution on ENFAST by the Council of 8-9 November 2010. All EU Member States are members of ENFAST. According to ENFAST Constitution (as adopted on 12 February 2020), ENFAST Partner status is available to countries and international police organisations that are not members of the EU as long as the cooperation helps achieving the goals and objectives of ENFAST.

ENFAST aspires to increase the security within the European Union by optimising the efficiency in tracing and arresting internationally wanted serious criminals. An important operational asset of ENFAST is that all necessary information aiming to arrest the person of interest sought by law enforcement agencies, can be exchanged through the Network 24/7.

ENFAST main task is tracing fugitives who are either convicted or are subject to ongoing investigations. ENFAST operates on the basis of an international search request warrant, with a view to locate and arrest these fugitives. ENFAST is composed of representatives from national Fugitive Active Search units. Their activities aim to increase the security within the European Union by optimising the efficiency in tracing and arresting internationally wanted serious criminals within the scope of sentences to be served or on-going investigations on the

[14] Europol tests the EPRIS software solution from the perspective of a central IT service provider and also from an end-user perspective. It does not have any access to the real data of the Member States.

basis of an international search request with a view to locating, arresting and surrendering fugitives.

The co-operation between the European Fugitive Active Search Teams and its partners is nevertheless to be reinforced by supporting a permanent network of experts in the field. Learning from other Member States' experiences and common practical activities/operations furthermore lays down a solid ground for successful future cooperation.

The national authority holding the rotating presidency of the network in 2023-2025 will be applying for the grant on behalf of the network.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation as the targeted applicants, members of the European Network of Fugitive Active Search Teams, hold a high degree of specialisation necessary to implement the activities to be supported under the grant. Members of the network may participate in the action as co-beneficiaries or as affiliates provided that the latter are linked to a (co-)beneficiary with legal personality.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

Activities that can be funded include the organisation of conferences, operational meetings and workshops, exchange of best practices and operational experiences, more agile and coordinated operations resulting in facilitating the location and arrest of fugitives in the EU. Moreover, activities in support of the roll out and customisation of the Europol's Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA) for secure information exchange between national FAST, and in support for further development of the website "European Most Wanted' are mostly welcomed. These activities should strengthen cooperation between all Member States within the ENFAST network, facilitate joint actions to locate and arrest persons within the framework of the European Arrest Warrant and develop the knowledge on operational tactics and works.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

2.5. Direct Awards in the field of cybercrime

2.5.1. EACTDA - European Anti-Cybercrime Technology Development Association

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The European Anti-Cybercrime Technology Development Association is composed of European Union Member States' law enforcement agencies, international bodies, academia, and industry. Building on the successful experience of EU projects funded under Horizon 2020 and ISF-Police, the Association gathers members that have a unique and highly specialised

expertise in developing tools for digital investigations for law enforcement authorities.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation as the targeted applicants, members of the European Anti-Cybercrime Technology Development Association, hold a high degree of specialisation necessary to implement the activities to be supported under the grant. Members of the network may participate in the action as co-beneficiaries or as affiliates provided that the latter are linked to a (co-)beneficiary with legal personality.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The objective of the action is to develop tools for digital investigations.

The beneficiary of the grant will be the European Anti-Cybercrime Technology Development Association (EACTDA).

EACTDA, working in close cooperation with Europol, will:

- gather input and requirements from EU law enforcement authorities on the tools and functionalities that they need for digital investigations;

- foster cooperation between law enforcement experts, academia and industry to assist law enforcement authorities in the development of tools for digital investigations;

- organise the necessary process to test and refine the tools, with the involvement of law enforcement experts in iterative improvements of the tools through dedicated 'hackatons';

- make the final products (tools) available to EU law enforcement authorities, in principle at no costs

- support standardisation activities in relation with digital investigation.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

2.5.2. ECTEG - European Cybercrime Training and Education Group – Development of training materials, experts certification schemes, knowledge sources

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The European Cybercrime Training and Education Group (ECTEG) is composed of 23 law enforcement agencies from 16 European Union and European Economic Area Member States, international bodies, academia, and industry. It is a unique and highly specialised entity that is able to develop training programmes for law enforcement staff taking into account its real needs, leading to an improved quality and harmonisation of all training materials for law enforcement. The key role of ECTEG in developing training materials for law enforcement experts was acknowledged in the EU Agenda to Tackle Organised Crime 2021-2025 (COM(2021)170 final), as well as in several other strategic documents. ECTEG has been active in developing training materials for law enforcement practitioners in the area of cybercrime and digital investigations since 2001 (it has become an informal group in 2009 and

since 2016 it is an International Non-Profit Association), acquiring longstanding experience and creating solid working relationships with national Law Enforcement Authorities, Europol and CEPOL, which are involved in their activities and contribute to maximize the impact of projects.

ECTEG develops training materials to be made available (free of charges) to all EU LEAs (also beyond ECTEG members), capitalising on considerable economies of scale (if each EU country had to develop the training materials at national level, costs would increase by 27 times. In past projects, ECTEG has already showed added value by, for instance, producing (and when relevant piloting) training materials addressing law enforcement needs across, including specifically online materials targeting 'first responders', the continuous development of standards for IT crime trainings for specialised police officers across EU law enforcement and the support of training activities that law enforcement authorities deliver (for example, by making available the necessary IT infrastructure).

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation as the targeted applicants, members of the European Cybercrime Training and Education Group, hold a high degree of specialisation necessary to implement the activities to be supported under the grant. Members of the group may participate in the action as co-beneficiaries or as affiliates provided that the latter are linked to a (co-)beneficiary with legal personality.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The activities to be funded by the grant will result in:

- Developing, updating and when relevant piloting training materials to be made available (free of charges) to CEPOL and all EU Law Enforcement Authorities (also beyond ECTEG members) as well as to judicial training authorities in EU Member States and EJTN as their network, where relevant,
- Developing, updating and when relevant piloting online materials targeting 'first responders',
- Developing standards for IT crime trainings for specialised police officers across EU law enforcement
- Developing certification requirements for the different profiles of law enforcement specialists
- Supporting of training activities that law enforcement authorities deliver (for example, by making available the necessary IT infrastructure).

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

2.5.3. WPGA - WePROTECT Global Alliance -Supporting a coordinated response to the fight against child sexual abuse online at an EU and global level

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The WePROTECT Global Alliance to End Child Sexual Exploitation Online (WPGA) is a merger of two initiatives: the Global Alliance against Child Sexual Abuse Online, co-launched by the EU and the US in 2012, and WePROTECT, set up by the UK in 2014. The merger was formalised by setting up a limited liability foundation in late 2019. Its unique composition brings together a comprehensive array of expertise and influence that can overcome the fragmentation in the fight against online child sexual abuse and exploitation globally. The organisation aims to secure high-level tangible commitments from parties on the need to end online child sexual exploitation, support comprehensive national action and bring about global action to develop critical interventions needed. The organisation has created a global network, including Member States, to bring about a more effective and global response to this borderless crime including through dedicated reference groups, guiding efforts of industry and civil society members and the recently established global taskforce bringing together governments.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The objective of the action is to contribute to achieving a coordinated response to the fight against child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation online at the EU and global level. The achievement of these objectives requires undertaking a number of activities with specific characteristics that can be best implemented by the WPGA. In particular, it is foreseen to finance activities aiming at achieving the following expected results:

- improving the WPGA's engagement with its membership and serve as a hub where countries, including all EU Member States, can share good practices and expertise and support one another (delivery of a cutting-edge website and a dedicated online portal for WPGA members, seminars);
- increasing the profile of the WPGA in order to better leverage opportunities to raise awareness of the threat of child sexual exploitation and highlight effective tools to tackle this global crime;
- stepping up monitoring and evaluation of delivery of commitments made by members of the Alliance to strengthen the global fight against online child sexual exploitation;
- strengthening outreach and collaboration with key countries, industry and civil society partners not yet members of the WPGA, instrumental in overcoming challenges in the EU's fight against child sexual abuse online.
- implementing research into emerging trends and threats in the space of online child sexual abuse to identify recommendations and better inform concrete actions taken by the WeProtect Global Alliance.

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals in line with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation as the targeted applicants, members of the WeProtect Global Alliance foundation, hold a high degree of specialisation necessary to implement the activities to be supported under the grant. Members of the foundation may participate in the action as co-beneficiaries or as affiliates provided that the latter are linked to a (co-)beneficiary with legal

personality.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs.

2.6. Emergency Assistance

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award for emergency assistance

The following entities can submit applications for emergency assistance: Member States, International Organisations or Union agencies. Other entities can be involved in the implementation of the action as co-applicants. The action grant will be awarded directly (without a call for proposals), in accordance with Article 195(a) or (b) of the Financial Regulation. The direct award of this grant is justified by the emergency support operations as described below or other exceptional and duly justified emergencies.

Where a Member State submits a request to use emergency assistance as an allocation to its national programme, and the Commission so decides, the budget will be implemented in shared management.

N.B. For international organisations and organisations assimilated with international organisations in accordance with Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, the budget will be implemented in indirect management (see point 4).

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation.

The ISF shall provide financial assistance to address any security-related incident, newly emerging threat or newly detected vulnerability within the scope of the ISF Regulation, which has or may have a significant adverse impact on the security of people, public spaces or critical infrastructure in one or more Member States.

The emergency assistance will be provided for as long as the emergency situation lasts.

The emergency assistance will be provided in the form of action grants awarded directly without a call for proposals, following a proposal for action, including a request for funding, submitted to the Commission by one of the eligible entities.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

Selection and award criteria

Selection criteria

In accordance with Article 198 of the Financial Regulation, proposals for action shall be evaluated on the basis of the following selection criteria:

- Financial capacity - Applicants and co-applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period for which the grant is awarded and to participate in its funding.

- Operational capacity - Applicants and co-applicants must have the professional competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed action.

In accordance with Article 198(5) of the Financial Regulation, the verification of the financial and operational capacity shall not apply to public bodies and international organisations.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 199 of the Financial Regulation, proposals for an action will be evaluated on the basis of a duly justified emergency situation and relevance of the proposal with regard to the objectives and the expected impact of the proposed activities on the situation in the countries concerned.

Co-financing rate and other information

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs: Up to 100% of the total eligible costs.

Other information: Where necessary for the implementation of an action, emergency assistance may cover expenditure which was incurred prior to the date of submission of the grant application or the request for assistance for that action, provided that that expenditure was not incurred prior to 1 January 2021.

3. Procurement

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts in years 2023, 2024 and 2025 is EUR 56 408 901.

IT development and procurement strategy choices will be subject to pre-approval by the European Commission Information Technology and Cybersecurity Board.

3.1. Actions implemented by procurement contracts

General description of the contracts envisaged

In 2023, 2024 and 2025, the Commission intends to undertake actions through contracts following public procurement (calls for tenders as well as specific contracts under existing framework contracts, with the possibility to launch calls for the award of new framework contracts).

These procurement activities will cover the following activities:

- Organisation of conferences, expert meetings, seminars, events and communication activities.
- Support to the development and maintenance of IT platforms and systems.

- Undertaking of surveys, studies, evaluations and impact assessments.
- Communications activities, including campaigns, social media and web communications, and contribution to the overall Commission corporate communication priorities[15].

These activities will aim at monitoring the proper implementation of existing legislation or to prepare, or accompanying new legislation or responding to policy changes in the area covered by the Internal Security Fund.

It may in particular cover specific fields, including but not limited to:

- Implementation of the counter-terrorism agenda, including implementation of actions within the EU Action Plan on firearms trafficking
- Support for the functioning of the secure zone hosted in the building of DG Migration and Home Affairs.
- Support for the Radicalisation Awareness Network – Practitioners and Policy Support- and its successor, the Knowledge Hub on prevention of radicalisation (specific contracts under existing framework contracts contracts and a new framework contract, to be signed in the first half of 2024).
- Support to other specific networks or groups in the fields of counter-terrorism, law enforcement cooperation, corruption, trafficking in human beings, organised crime, cybercrime (specific contracts under existing framework contracts, with the possibility to launch calls for new framework contracts).
- EU City Pledge Initiative (new framework contracts).
- Collection and improvement of crime statistics.
- Support for Protective Security Advisory (PSA) missions/detection, including support for the EU PSA mission.
- Support to the knowledge and expertise hub on Combatting Trafficking in human beings (specific contracts under existing framework contracts, with the possibility to launch a call for the award of new framework contracts)
- - Support the development of international standards in the area of internal security

Implementation

These actions will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, or via a co-delegation to Eurostat, the Directorate-General for Informatics, the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, the Directorate-General for Communication and to the Publications Office, or via a co-delegation to the Joint Research Centre or to PMO.

4. Actions implemented in indirect management

The global budgetary envelope reserved for actions implemented in indirect management in years 2023, 2024 and 2025 is EUR 12 750 000.

[15] C(2020) 9390 of 18.12.2020 Corporate communication action in 2021-2023 under the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027.

4.1. Support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for the review of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)

Implementing entity

The UNODC is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime. It operates in all regions of the world through an extensive network of field offices. The UNODC is mandated to assist Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism.

Description

The project is aimed at financially supporting the review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto (on trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and trafficking in firearms). The review process is ongoing and is coordinated by the UNODC.

Expected results include the gathering of information on the implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the Protocols thereto.

4.2. Support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for the implementation of the Niamey process

Implementing entity

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was nominated by the participating countries and organisations in June 2018 to lead the permanent follow-up mechanism of the Niamey declaration, and act as its Secretariat. The Secretariat is run by the UNODC Regional Office for West and Central Africa, based in Dakar, Senegal.

Description

In the Niamey Declaration, the participating Ministers expressed their full commitment to combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, and to protect the rights of migrants and victims of trafficking. The Declaration aims at improving coordination and operational effectiveness of responses to these crimes, among others by further supporting the efforts of origin and transit countries and strengthening the data collection, international judicial cooperation and cooperation between various law enforcement entities.

The follow-up mechanism aims to ensure that the strategic priorities and actions that State parties' delegations committed to in the March 2018 Niamey Declaration and during the June 2018 high-level meeting are systematically monitored and delivered. The mechanism is taking into account and seeking to complement the existing international migration dialogues and agreements, notably the Joint Valetta Action Plan, the Rabat Process and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

The tasks entrusted to the Secretariat include close liaison with all participating states and other organisations and entities involved (currently 21), as well as organising several high-level international meetings each year. In order to ensure up-to-date information on the status of implementation of the Niamey Declaration, UNODC as the Secretariat will need to continuously monitor the progress and collect and organise data received from national focal points on actions implemented by the various participating States.

UNODC is responsible for setting up and maintaining the structures and tools of the permanent

mechanism, to monitor and report on the implementation of the commitments made and actions taken by participating States. Proper follow-up to the intergovernmental mechanism will be provided through the organisation of bi-annual technical meetings of national focal points, which will allow to discuss actions implemented, challenges encountered and to take stock of progress made and set priorities for the coming period, as well as to support continued commitment at national level.

In addition, in order to facilitate communication, data collection and information sharing and to support coordination at national level, the participating countries have requested the support of the Secretariat at country level to ensure correct data collection and transmission and to provide technical assistance to African partners for harmonising national legislation, programmes and action plans.

4.3. Support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for a new global firearms study

Implementing entity

The UNODC is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime. It operates in all regions of the world through an extensive network of field offices. The UNODC is mandated to assist Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism.

Description

The project is aimed at financially supporting the development of a new global firearms study. One of the pillars of UNODC's work on firearms trafficking is the monitoring of illicit firearms flows, which is essential for the global monitoring of progress on indicator 16.4.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals – Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments.

The aim of the project will be to publish a new global firearms study, to monitor the illicit arms flows and getting a better understanding of the extent and impact that these different contexts have had on the illicit circulation of firearms and ammunition around the globe, as a crucial step to assess and respond to current risks and threats and to provide information to the indicator 16.4.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The monitoring of the illicit flows will be based on the regular collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data by UNODC, based on the contributions of the State Parties by an illicit flow of arms questionnaire (IFAQ). In 2020, with the support of the European Commission (DG HOME), UNODC published the first global firearms trafficking study, with data and information until 2018 on illicit firearms trafficking and their criminal context from over 100 countries, following a rigorous and recognized data collection and validation process.

This new project will include:

- Set the conditions for a new Global Study on Firearms Trafficking, by reviewing and improving the IAFQ
- Raise awareness and supporting Member States in their collection and analysis of data on illicit trafficking in firearms

- Develop a new global firearms trafficking study with regional focus and specialized thematic chapters
- Peer review, validation and publication. Information and visibility material, translation of (at least) the executive summary in other UN languages
- Regional workshops to widely disseminate the findings.

4.4. Migration Partnership Facility

Implementing entity

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is a specialised international organisation with sound experience in implementing regional migration dialogues with third countries and in managing funding and programmes linked to migration management. ICMPD successfully passed the Commission's ex ante "pillar assessment" (assessment in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation) on its level of capacity of financial management and protection of financial interests and has been selected as the entity entrusted to implement this action in indirect management based on its competence and successful implementation of MPF I, II and III.

Furthermore, ICMPD has established a strong network with EU Member States and partner countries relevant for migration engagement and has project-based offices in several partner countries.

Description

The Migration Partnership Facility (MPF) supports, in line with the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, the external dimension of the EU's migration policy with flexible support to EU member states and partner countries with a particular focus on priority regions including Neighbourhood, Eastern Partnership, EU candidate countries and potential candidates, Africa and Asia.

The MPF will keep offering tailor-made support for policy dialogue and operational cooperation with third countries. Examples of activities include: activities seeking to improve partner countries' policy and legal frameworks for migration and mobility; strengthened information, outreach and protection of migrants; review and development of legislation, policy documents/strategies, action plans, policy tools and instruments, standard operating procedures linked to migration management; capacity-building of partner country authorities in legal migration management (including migration monitoring); capacity-building of partner country authorities to reintegrate migrants illegally staying in the EU; practices and policies on migrants' contributions to national development; partner countries' policy and legal frameworks as well as capacity-building on asylum policy and protection in line with international standards; support to migration dialogues and relevant needs identified in the dialogues with relevant partner countries.

The MPF will also continue to support the implementation of Talent Partnerships with priority partner countries in order to attract talented students, researchers and workers to the EU. The

Partnerships could combine direct support for mobility schemes and training with capacity building in areas such as labour market or skills intelligence, vocational education and training, integration of returning migrants, and diaspora mobilisation.

Projects supported through the Migration Partnership Facility will be implemented preferably via call(s) for proposals, open to public bodies of EU Member States, EU Member States-based organisations, and in some cases international organisations as lead applicants. Public authorities of priority partner countries, public bodies of the same or other EU Member States, international organisations or non-governmental organisations working on a non-profit basis established in the EU or in the priority partner countries will be able to apply as co-applicants (future co-beneficiaries).

The overall strategic guidance, leadership and oversight for the implementation of the MPF is carried out by the MPF Steering Committee (SC). The SC consists of representatives of the European Commission (DG HOME, the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations - DG NEAR - and the Directorate-General for International Partnerships - DG INTPA, and the European External Action Service - EEAS). The SC is chaired by DG HOME, while ICMPD acts as secretariat and provides technical support/assistance for its functioning.

Actions eligible for funding by the Facility shall be in line with the objectives of the AMIF, the ISF and the BMVI, and each Fund will support actions falling within its remit.

4.5. Council of Europe - Budapest Convention on Cybercrime - second additional protocol

Implementing entity

The Cybercrime Programme Office of the Council of Europe (C-PROC) in Bucharest, Romania, is operational since April 2014 and is mandated to assist countries in all regions of the world in the strengthening of their criminal justice capacities on cybercrime and electronic evidence on the basis of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime.

C-PROC operated within a context of (a) evolving challenges of cybercrime and electronic evidence to human rights, democracy and the rule of law, (b) the increasing reach and impact of the Convention on Cybercrime since its opening for signature twenty years ago, (c) the finalisation of the Second Additional Protocol to the Convention, (d) the beginning of a UN process aimed at a new treaty on countering the use of information and communication technologies for criminal purposes, and (e) the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Office maintained its reputation as a centre of excellence on cybercrime and consolidated the Council of Europe's position as a global leader for capacity-building on cybercrime and electronic evidence by contributing significantly to:

- the strengthening of criminal justice capacities and legislation on cybercrime and electronic evidence;
- the development of guides and tools on cybercrime matters and their implementation;
- membership in and implementation of the Budapest Convention;
- the process of preparation of the Second Additional Protocol to the Budapest

Convention;

- synergies with other organisations and projects.

The formula of the Budapest Convention as the common standard backed up by the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY) and capacity building through C-PROC continued to ensure impact. With the Second Additional Protocol (SAP), the Budapest Convention is likely to remain the most relevant international mechanism for years to come.

Priorities for the office include (a) support to the implementation of the Second Additional Protocol, (b) strengthening of human rights, rule of law and data protection safeguards, (c) further enhancing capabilities for the online delivery of activities, (d) synergies with other Council of Europe instruments and mechanisms as well as with other organisations, and (e) extension of current and design of new projects to secure funding for future capacity building.

Description

On 12 May 2022 the Second Additional Protocol (SAP) to the Budapest Convention was opened for signature and since then 24 countries have sign it, out of which 14 are EU Member States.

More support is needed for Parties to the Budapest Convention to explain the new provisions and further implement into the domestic legislation. This process will continue within the current capacity building projects implemented by C-PROC.

For the SAP to become operational it is necessary to be ratified by at least 5 countries and then the mechanisms for the cooperation as stated in the SAP should be developed and provided to the countries.

A special emphasis needs to be given to the EU Member States, only part of them signed the SAP while others are still in different process of assessing the domestic legislation and harmonization with the new provisions.

Moreover, the EU Member States are not covered by the capacity building projects currently implemented by CoE and therefore the support is limited.

A dedicated line of action for these countries will definitely speed up the process of signature and ratification of the SAP given that this treaty will be a tool for cooperation within EU but also outside EU, with the Parties to the Budapest Convention.

This action for the EU Member State should have as overall objective enhancement of the cooperation on cybercrime and e-evidence between EU Member States as well as with the third countries and as specific objective the implementation of the new cooperation mechanism introduced by the SAP.

This can be achieved through the following expected results:

- strengthening the domestic legislation in view of harmonization with the provisions of the SAP

- supporting the domestic process for adoption of the necessary legislation and full implementation of the SAP

- facilitating the domestic process for signature of the SAP and enlarging its membership

- speeding up the process of ratification of the SAP

4.6. Emergency assistance

Implementing entity

International organisations and non-profit organisations assimilated with international organisations in accordance with Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, which submit an application for which the action is awarded. This concerns in particular organisations which have been subject to an ex ante assessment pursuant to Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a framework partnership agreement in force concluded with the Commission pursuant to Council Regulation (EU) 2016/369[16], or those that are covered by the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement concluded with the United Nations. Such organisations will have to demonstrate specific technical competence and experience appropriate for the action.

Description of the activities to be funded

The description of the activities to be funded, and the selection and award criteria, are as for emergency assistance grants.

Co-financing rate and other information

The maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs is as for emergency assistance grants, i.e. 100%.

Actions implemented under this section will be provided in the form of contribution agreements following a proposal for action, including a request for funding, submitted to the Commission by one of the eligible entities. If the Commission were not in a position to sign a contribution agreement, a grant may be awarded in accordance with Title VIII of the Financial Regulation (notably Article 195).

5. Actions implemented under shared management - specific actions

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for specific actions in the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 is EUR 16 500 000.

In line with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1149, Member States may receive funding for specific actions[17] in addition to their allocation through the national programmes and provided the conditions set out in this Article are fulfilled.

Type of applicants targeted by the specific actions

All Member States participating in the Internal Security Fund.

Description of the activities to be funded by the specific actions

[16] Council Regulation (EU) 2016/369 of 15 March 2016 on the provision of emergency support within the Union (OJ L 70, 16.3.2016, p. 1).

[17] As per Article 2(15) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1149: 'Specific actions' means transnational or national projects that bring Union added value in accordance with the objectives of the Fund for which one, several or all Member States may receive an additional allocation to their programmes.

The specific actions will fund transnational or national projects that bring Union added value in accordance with the objectives of the Fund.

They will contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Internal Security Fund and may in particular focus on specific topics including:

- Cybercrime, with a focus on issues such as: encryption and lawful interception; NCPF - non-cash-payment fraud ; standardisation activities.
- Innovation and security research, with a focus on issues such as promoting new technologies, taking up results of EU security research; artificial intelligence for law enforcement
- Implementation of the Council Recommendation on operational law enforcement cooperation.

Funding allocated for specific actions shall not be used for other actions in the Member State's programme, except in duly justified circumstances and as approved by the Commission through the amendment of the Member State's programme[18].

Complementarities with similar actions funded under the national programmes shall also be specified so to avoid duplications.

Implementation

The actions will be implemented in shared management by one or more Member States participating in the Internal Security Fund via funding received in addition to the allocation under the Member States' programmes, in line with Article 15 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1149.

6. Other actions or expenditure

6.1. Joint Research Centre's support for the counter-terrorism policy, including the implementation of the counter-terrorism agenda

Indicative amount

EUR 4 320 000

Description

Through a service-level agreement, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) is expected to provide support to actions supporting counter-terrorism policy, including but not limited to:

- Support the implementation of the European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP) and the implementation of the Critical Entities Resilience (CER) Directive.
- Support for initiatives aiming at better protection of public spaces, including

[18] In accordance with Article 15(2) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1149 establishing the Internal Security Fund

development of tools for the PSA missions.

- Support in the area of CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear), including organisation of trainings, workshops and exercises in connection with the European Nuclear Security Training Centre (EUSECTRA) and development of tools for practitioners.
- Support for the Europe Media Monitor (EMM) services and operations.
- Access to the EU Academy Platform (service-level agreement)
- Support for initiatives aiming at facilitating digital investigation, including tools for lawful access to electronic evidence