

ANNEX
Template for the annual performance report on the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund by the Member States to the Commission, as referred to in Article 35 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147

IDENTIFICATION

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| CCI | 2021BE65AMPR001 |
| Title | National Programme Belgium - AMIF |
| Version | 1.3 |
| Accounting year | 01/07/2022 – 30/06/2023 |
| Date of approval of the report by the monitoring committee | 06/02/2024 |

1. Performance

1.1. Progress in implementation – Article 35(2), point (a), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147

For each specific objective, report on progress in implementing the programme and in achieving the milestones and targets set out in it, taking into account the most recent data for the accounting year, as required under Article 42 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060. This refers to the cumulative data provided by 31 July of the year before the year that the report is submitted.

Within each specific objective, the information on progress should preferably be structured around the implementation measures, indicative actions and desired outcomes identified in the programme.

Describe also any steps taken and relevant activities related to the implementation of the partnership as per Article 8(2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.

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| The information below covers the period Jan. 22 till June 23. This because projects did report on their activities covering 2022 to the RA only for the first time in Jan. 2023. By consequence, project activities that took place before July 2023 could not have been reported in the APR 2022. SO1: 18 projects ongoing, total AMIF financing = 24.556.014,40 EUR.Regarding **reception**, BE focuses not only on a qualitative, flexible, and easily adaptable reception system but also on optimizing reception capacity and its ability to adapt to increasing or decreasing number of arrivals . This is achieved through 2 strategies: (1) strengthening the internal functioning of the reception agency by implementing monitoring, digitization, and communication measures; and (2) promoting national and international cooperation with organizations active in reception, procedural processes, or the accompaniment of applicants for international protection. Additionally, various projects have been initiated to enhance the well-being and autonomy of residents. These initiatives include a focus on communication with applicants, active participation in society, and providing a safe living environment. BE also pays attention to the well-being of the LGBTQ community within the reception centers via awareness campaigns and training programs.Par rapport à **l’asile**, au niveau de la procédure d’asile, BE se concentre sur l'amélioration de la qualité de l'accueil des personnes vulnérables, surtout des mineurs non accompagnés. Ainsi, plusieurs formations ont été organisées pour les interprètes qui participent à des interviews dans le contexte de l’asile implicant des mineurs. S’agissant de l’amélioration de la qualité et l’efficacité du processus d’asile, les préparatifs pour optimiser le processus de recrutement des interprètes est terminé. D’autre part, des efforts sont mis en œuvre concernant le traitement des dossiers d’asile, avec un accent sur des investissements sur la digitalisation. Une plateforme de gestion connaissance a été lancée. Elle porte sur la communication, le partage de connaissance et la collaboration virtuelle au sein de l’organisation. Enfin, des développements du matériel biométrique (empruntes digitales) ont été initiés, ceux-ci notamment dans le but de faciliter/automatiser les échanges d’informations biométriques entre l’Office des étrangers et la Police fédérale.SO2: 14 projects are ongoing at federal level (including 1 SA), total AMIF financing = 5.322.058,29 EUR. At Flemish level 10 projects were selected, total AMIF financing = 2.403.707,54 EUR, in Wallonia / Brussels 45 projects were selected, total AMIF financing = 23.981.392 EUR. With regard to **legal migration** projects, focus was set upon digitalization and development of efficient procedures to ensure an improvement of information management among the Belgian Immigration office. BE also engaged in a program of pilot projects promoting circular migration with partner countries outside the EU (partners are being selected). Another action is to give special attention to vulnerable persons, especially adult third country national female victims of trafficking in human beings. With regard to **integration projects**, it must be noted that most of the budget is delegated to 2 intermediate bodies: Flanders & Wallonia (43,3% each). The Federal level manages the rest, of which 0,7% is foreseen for the German Speaking Community.  On Federal level focus is to strengthen the social activation of third-country nationals: intensive social activation trajectories are proposed by local public welfare centres to increase the target group’s social participation and reduce their isolation. Moreover trainings are set to support the social workers of these local public welfare centres in their work with persons suffering from psychosocial disorders linked to migration. In Flanders, a strategy was prepared and a call was launched for the start-up of 18 new regional networks that should offer newcomers from third countries more opportunities to develop a social network and to participate in the host society. The application of 10 regions was approved. The projects started with the recruitment of network employees and first network building activities.In Wallonia / Brussels 5% of selected projects concern the implementation of language courses (FLE) with or without certification, 14% concern citizenship courses, 22% individual support for newcomers from third countries to promote their integration, and 15.5% the reception of minors and unaccompanied minors. Finally, 13% of projects concern the development of tools or the training of trainers to improve the reception and therefore the integration of this public.Finally, at the German-speaking Community goal is to improve integration at local level by deploying three local integration coordinators. SO3: 15 projects ongoing, total AMIF financing = 27.066.583,73 EUR. Emphasis under SO3 was to set up a coordinated approach between Fedasil, the migration office, cities and civil society, and to provide particular attention to returnees with special needs, and to improve return processes. With regard to **voluntary return** projects, the focus was on coaching both civil society and potential returnees. Belgium aims to reach to and inform migrants within and outside the reception network and the return centres. They are being informed about their rights and possibilities in Belgium, with voluntary return as one of the key possibilities. Working together with IOM & Caritas, Belgium managed to strengthen the cooperation with local partner organisations in countries of origin and to provide adequate pre departure counseling and tailor made assisted voluntary return to returnees. With regard to **forced return** focus was on setting up projects under the new EU programming period. Procurement procedures were launched to improve infrastructure and IT tools (in particular regarding exchange of information on irregular stays among the main partner), and to purchase new material. New staff was hired and trained to improve and humanize the return process and ensure the protection of the rights of returnees. SO4 : 1 project ongoing, total AMIF financing =1.700.638,15 EURDuring the reporting period, the **resettlement** programme has been further consolidated and possibilities for complementary pathways have been explored in order to provide a stable and predictable framework for pledging exercises, anchor national efforts in international solidarity and diversify the admission routes for people in need of protection. The cooperation with partners at national level that take up an important role of the resettlement program or other complementary pathways (f.e. local authorities) has been further developed. Belgian expertise acquired over the years (e.g. setting up of a resettlement programme; conducting of selection and cultural orientation missions; involvement of stakeholders, etc) has been shared with other States. |

1.2. Issues affecting performance – Article 35(2), point (b), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147

For each specific objective, describe any issues affecting the performance of the programme during the accounting year and any actions taken to address them.

Whenever possible and relevant, you are encouraged to distinguish between issues related to:

* underreporting of achievements;[[1]](#footnote-2)
* target setting;[[2]](#footnote-3)
* procedural delays and administrative capacity;[[3]](#footnote-4)
* contextual changes;[[4]](#footnote-5)
* the design and/or implementation of the operations;[[5]](#footnote-6)
* any other matter.

Describe any changes to strategy or national objectives, or any factors that may lead to changes in the future, as well as the modifications that those changes have produced in the targets estimated as per the methodology to establish the performance framework.

Include information on any reasoned opinions delivered by the Commission in respect of infringement proceedings under Article 258 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), and which are linked to the implementation of the fund.

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| Main obstacle affecting the performance of projects under all SO was the late approval of projects. Projects only received grant agreements in December 2022 / January 2023. This caused delay with regard to the start of the projects (hiring staff / starting public procurement procedures). In addition, the war in Ukraine has led to the arrival of many unaccompanied minors and has shifted the focus of attention, delaying some of SO1's activities.As far as SO4 is concerned, major obstacles were:1) The further spill-over of the Ukraine crisis and the pressure this puts on local cities and municipalitieso Workload and staff shortages at local cities and municipalities contribute to making resettlement/follow-up VIBs an additional challenge, on top of the already existing workload.o Housing crisis in Belgium.2) Pressure on our reception networko Increased inflow - difficult / limited outflow, resulting in saturation of the reception network. o Little enthusiasm / possibilities among local cities and municipalities to create additional local reception initiatives despite various initiatives such as the Impulse Fund. o Despite various initiatives / calls to enlarge our reception network, many Local Reception Initiatives (LOIs) have been closed, and because of the difficulty in terms of outflow, also suspended.o It remains a difficult task to get residents to leave (in a timely manner), which is why homes in our network are suspended in large numbers. o The housing crisis in Belgium not only prevents recognised persons from leaving, this also prevents local administrations from finding sufficient and adapted housing to then use for our reception network.As consequence, Fedasil had to look for alternatives to carry out arrivals through resettlement. This mainly to ensure long-term continuity of operations and avoid having to shut down resettlement with every reception crisis: - Reception directly by family or friends is one of the new reception slots Fedasil has started using. - Fedasil continued to invest in developing the community sponsorship programme so that it would be a full-fledged part of the resettlement programme. |

1.3. Specific mitigation measures

**If relevant**, describe briefly how the programme activities contributed to mitigating the effects of any sudden changes in the migratory pressure resulting from any unforeseen deterioration of the socio-economic or political situation in relevant third countries. Whenever possible, refer to the volume of resources redeployed for this purpose, and the related outputs and results achieved.

Pay specific attention to activities carried out to mitigate the effects of such sudden changes and whose achievements may not be fully captured by the common output and result indicators.

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| Not applicable. |

1.4. Operating support – Article 21(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147

If operating support was used during the accounting year, describe how it contributed to achieving the objectives of the fund.[[6]](#footnote-7)

If the total cumulative eligible cost of operating support for the operations selected for support exceeds 15% of the total programme allocation at the end of the accounting year, explain the reasons. Additionally, if there is a risk that the threshold is exceeded by the end of the programming period, describe the measures envisaged to mitigate it.

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| Under SO1 an operating support project (868.667,07 EUR) has been selected with the aim to produce statistics on international protection and to meet European obligations (mainly Eurostat, EASO and Frontex). It has been launched at administrative level (procedures to hire project staff). Some statistic works related to international protection could be initiated, there was a participation at the development of a data warehouse (to be able to extract statistical data) and statistics were delivered to the European Commission (Eurostat). Within SO3 an operating support project has been awarded to the General Inspectorate of the Federal Police (AIG) through a direct award with the total amount of 1,499,999.22 EUR. AIG has is the only responsible body for execution and monitoring of forced returns in Belgium (Royal Decree 19/06/2012). As such, AIG is responsible for the implementation of the Return Directive 2008/115/EC. In this respect, AIG has carried out several activities during the reporting period: 107 boarding controls (including 2 controls supported by Frontex); training of 7 officers on the job and on techniques for accompanying forced returns; and 1 control to the country of destination. AIG has also been active on the international level, for example by taking part in a workshop on examples of forced return in practice organised by the Portuguese counterpart and an online webinar on returns organised by the ICMPD and Frontex. The main obstacle was the delay in hiring staff due to the timing of grant agreements (December 2022/January 2023), which has limited the capacities in monitoring of returns. |

1.5. Specific actions[[7]](#footnote-8)

Describe the main achievements of any specific actions carried out during the accounting year, and how they contributed to achieving the objectives of the programme and to generating Union added value.[[8]](#footnote-9)

Describe how the individual actions have advanced, both procedurally[[9]](#footnote-10) and operationally[[10]](#footnote-11) and highlight any issues affecting their performance, in particular any risk of underspending.

If relevant, break this information down to the project level. If any deviation from the original planning is expected, explain the reasons for this, describe any mitigating actions taken, and provide the revised timetable.

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| During the reference period, one Specific Action was selected and launched : Projet “VONA – Enhancing gender-sensitive and trauma-informed victim support in Belgium” implemented by Payoke (AMIF/2022/SA/2.4.1\_001). During the reference period actions have been around : staff training, gender sensitive capacity building and direct assistance.Based on their experience in the matter of assistance to adult victims of human trafficking, the three government recognized centers (Payoke and the two partners for this project : PAG-ASA and Sürya) conducted or prepared trauma-informed care training for their respective staffs. They also appointed gender focal point (one saff member per center in charge mainstreaming gender-appropriate measures throughout the centers’ programs and services, including observations and reflections on the needs of gender minorities and LGBTQI people ; the beneficiary refered in this matter to Directive 2011/36/EU of 5 April 2011, the EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings (2021-2025), the Istanbul Convention and CEDAW’s General Recommendation No. 35) and reported a diversity of actions accomplished by these gender focal points. The centers also reported having served 32 persons (SO2.3), which is in line with the fixed objective.The beneficiary reported as an obstacle to the implementation of the project the difficulty to recruit and retain suitably qualified and experienced staff members (a difficulty shared by the social work sector in Belgium). Another reported obstacle is the tendency of some clients to refuse mental health assitance because of negative conceptions (e.g. people with mental health conditions being labeled “crazy”). This asks the social workers to deconstructs those negative conceptions. |

Enter in the Table below the details of all the national specific actions implemented in the programme. The reporting on transnational specific actions should be consistent with the chosen reporting option.[[11]](#footnote-12)

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| Specific Objective | Name / reference number of the action | Beneficiary | Implementing period | Eligible cost[[12]](#footnote-13) | Eligible expenditure[[13]](#footnote-14) | Progress in the relevant common and / or programme-specific indicators[[14]](#footnote-15) |
| Output | Result |
| SO2 | AMIF/2022/SA/2.4.1 | Payoke | 01/01/2023 – 31/12/2024 | 412.764,59 € | 93.057,31 € (= Staff costs + indirect costs) | SO2.3 = 32 |  |

1.6. Resettlement and relocation – Article 35(2), points (g) and (h), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147

Report on the consolidated figures for the accounting year in the table below.

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| Number of persons admitted through resettlement  | 96 |
| Number of persons admitted through humanitarian admission in line with Article 19(2) of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 | 0 |
| Number of vulnerable persons admitted through humanitarian admission in line with Article 19(3) of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 | 37 |
| Number of applicants for or beneficiaries of international protection transferred in  | 6 |
| Number of applicants for or beneficiaries of international protection transferred out | 0 |

If relevant, describe any corrections or changes made to the values sent bi-annually via the data transmission module in the System for Fund Management in the European Union (SFC), and which are reflected in the table above in the consolidated figures for the accounting year.

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| The reported numbers concern controlled persons. Those controls were only carried out in the 2nd semester of 2023. |

1.7. Only in 2024: Continuation of projects – Article 39(4), point (e), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147

Report on any projects continued after 1 January 2021 that were selected and started under Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council[[15]](#footnote-16), in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council[[16]](#footnote-17).

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| Not applicable. |

2. Complementarity – Article 35(2), point (c), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147

Describe the complementarity and, if relevant, synergies achieved during the accounting year between the actions supported by the fund and the support provided by other Union funds, in particular external financing instruments,[[17]](#footnote-18) the European Social Fund + (ESF+) or its predecessors, European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) – be it under the Investment for Jobs and Growth or the European Territorial Cooperation goals –, the Internal Security Fund (ISF) and the Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI).[[18]](#footnote-19)

Pay specific attention to:

* complementarity with Union’s external financing instruments for actions taken in or in relation to third countries, underlining the aspects that are consistent with the principles and general objectives of the Union’s external policy; and
* the use of enabling mechanisms, such as existing organisational and procedural arrangements that help achieve synergies and complementarities, and to any actions implemented to improve them in the accounting year.

If relevant, describe also the complementarity of the activities carried out from the perspective of strengthening inter-agency cooperation.[[19]](#footnote-20)

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| During the reporting period no Home Affairs Funds activities complementary with other funds activities have been implemented (excepted for FSE+).However consultations are regularly organised within our Steering Committee and Monitoring Committee where representatives of the cabinets responsible for Foreign Affairs (External relation instruments), Social Integration, Interior (ex. Horizon 2020) and Asylum-Migration are present. When they introduce a new project, all project promotors are also requested to provide information on other sources of European funding they benefit from and how the risk of double financing will be avoided. This provides additional useful information to the Managing Authority.A coordination mechanism has been set up with the Intermediary Bodies (Flanders and the Wallonia-Brussels Federation) - who are also the ESF+ Managing Authorities - to ensure complementarity and good coordination between AMIF and ESF+.With regard to the Wallonia – Brussels federation, 19 beneficiaries are supported by AMIF and ESF+. AMIF focuses on the reception and integration of newcomers from third countries and the ESF+ on the socio-inclusion of vulnerable audiences or lifelong learning of jobseekers or workers. The projects are complementary and distinct.In Flanders, complementarity, synergy and coordination between ESF+ and AMIF is ensured trough joint management of the funds by Europa WSE. ESF+ is used for socio-professional inclusion of vulnerable groups. AMIF is used for complementary actions for newcomers from third countries that are in the beginning of their integration process. |

3. Implementation of the Union *acquis*, cooperation and solidarity – Article 35(2), point (d), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147

Describe briefly how, during the accounting year, the programme contributed to implementing the Union acquis (the body of Union law) on asylum, legal migration, integration, return and irregular migration and relevant action plans, and to cooperation and solidarity between Member States.

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| In the area of asylum, one project has as goal to actively support the activities of EASO/EUAA in different domains:- provision of asylum experts to EASO in the framework of operations in other EU Member States- active contribution of experts to EASO/EUAA activities- contribution to the development of COI (country of origin information) reports based on a common EU methodology; -promoting harmonisation of methodology and knowledge sharing on COI.During the reporting period, only a limited part of the project started.In the area of return, one project directly contributed to implemention of the Return Directive (2005/115/CE) by providing for an effective forced-return monitoring system.Another project has as focus to produce statistics to meet European obligations (mainly Eurostat, EASO and Frontex). It has been launched at administrative level and some statistic works could be initiated. |

4. Communication and Visibility – Article 35(2), point (e), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147

Describe how communication and visibility activities were carried out during the accounting year. In particular, refer to any progress made on the objectives set out in the communication strategy, as measured by the relevant indicators and their targets. If relevant, describe any good practices in reaching out to the target groups and/ or disseminating and exploiting the results of the projects.

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| 1. Site internet (art. 49§1 du Règlmenent (UE) 2021/1060)

*Le site internet* de l’autorité de gestion *a été adapté pour accueillir les pages relatives à la programmation 2021-2027. Toutes les informations utiles aux bénéficiaires s’y trouvent (Règlements AMIF, ISF, BMVI, CPR, Basic acts of the 2021-2027 Funds), les programmes nationaux (AMIF, ISF, BMVI), des fiches explicatives concernant les indicateurs, le budget du projet, l’éligibilité des dépenses, le rapportage, les paiements, etc., le calendrier des appels à proposition (art. 49§2), la liste des projets sélectionnés (art. 49§3), les transmissions de données à la Commission (art. 42), les données et informations partagées avec le Comité de suivi (art. 38). A l’avenir, les évaluations faites par l’autorité de gestion (mid-term + ex-post) et le rapport de performance final (article 43$4) feront également l’objet d’une publication.*1. *Portail unique (art. 49§1 du Règlmenent (UE) 2021/1060)*

*Un portail unique permettant d’accéder à tous les programmes a été mis en place par le SP Wallonie. Le site « Europe in Belgium » a été adapté pour répondre aux exigences de la nouvelle programmation.* 1. *Communication Officer (art. 48 du Règlmenent (UE) 2021/1060)*

*L’autorité de gestion a désigné en son sein un responsable de communication pour les trois programmes (AMIF, ISF et BMVI). Il participe aux échanges d’informations avec les autres autorités de gestion, le coordinateur national en matière de communication et la Commission européenne en participant notamment aux « country team meetings » (deux fois par an). Il informe chaque fois que nécessaire les bénéficiaires quant à leurs obligations de publicité. De nombreuses réunions teams ont déjà été organisées à cet égard (>20). En outre, une fiche explicative a été publiée sur le site internet de l’autorité de gestion « Obligations de publicité ». Les outils préparés par la Commission pour aider les bénéficiaires à cet égard sont également mis en évidence sur le site internet ( EU Commission Logo Download Center + Générateur d'affiches). Des contrôles des obligations de publicité des bénéficiaires ont déjà eu lieu dans le cadre de leur rapportage intermédiaire (tous les six mois).*  |

Provide a link to the website portal referred to in Article 46, point (b), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 and, if different, to the website referred to in Article 49(1) of that Regulation.

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| <https://amif-isf.be/> website of the Managing Authority<https://www.europeinbelgium.be/> unique portal |

5. Enabling conditions and horizontal principles

5.1. Enabling conditions – Article 35(2), point (f), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147

Describe how it was ensured that the applicable enabling conditions in Annex III of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 were fulfilled and applied throughout the accounting year, in particular as regards complying with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. If relevant, describe any change that had an impact on how the enabling conditions were fulfilled, as provided for in Article 15(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.

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| 1. Arrangements to ensure compliance of the programmes supported by the Funds and their implementation with the relevant provisions of the Charter and the UNCRPD:* Sensibilisation by the MA while launching the calls (coaching sessions).
* Commitment of the beneficiaries to respect the Charter / UNCRPD in the project proposal (legal declaration).
* Obligation to respect the Charter / UNCRPD registered in the ministerial decree (art.7).
* Reporting by the beneficiary in the intermediary and final reports (questions).
* Control by the MA during the operational and narrative controls (questions).
* Nomination of a Fundamental Rights « expert » within the MA.
* Training on the Charter (FRA) followed by the expert.
* Reference to the Commission’s guidance (2016/C 269/01).
* Support from the partners specialized in Fundamental Rights (UNIA, FPS Justice,…).
* Transfer of the complaints by the expert to the relevant instances and follow-up by the MA.
* Intermediate bodies AMIF (ESF Vlaanderen et Agence FSE) monitor the respect of the Charter / UNCRPD.

2. Reporting arrangements to the monitoring committee regarding cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the Charter / UNCRPD and complaints submitted in accordance with the arrangements made pursuant to Art 69(7):* Compliance of the projects with the Charter presented to the MC (protocol art.3).
* Cases of non-compliance with the Charter, complaints and their follow-up reported to the MC (template).
* A specilized partner (UNIA, FPS Justice) can be invited to the MC to explain a case (protocol art.2 §7).

*3. The controls of public procurements are also carried out by the Managing Authority and Intermediate bodies in order to ensure the respect of the Belgian legislation.*No complaints have been received so far. |

5.2. Compliance with horizontal principles – Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060

Describe how compliance during the accounting year with the horizontal principles laid down in the Common Provision Regulation was ensured, in particular equality between men and women and the promotion of gender mainstreaming, as well as avoiding discrimination based on gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

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| Actions explained under the point 5.1 apply as well to the horizontal principles. |

6. Projects in or in relation to third countries - Article 35(2), point (i), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147

Describe any actions taking place in or in relation to third countries during the accounting year and how these bring Union added value in achieving the objectives set by the fund. Indicate the names of the third countries concerned. Provide a description that clarifies that the actions supported by the fund are not development-oriented, serve the interest of internal Union policies and are consistent with activities undertaken within the Union. If relevant, refer to the consultations with the Commission before the project was approved (Article 16(11) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147).

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| 6 projects taking place in or with third countries have been selected during the reporting period (EU contribution 14.536.809,79€):BE received a positive opinion from COM with some comments : “ensure synergies and avoid overlaps with Frontex Joint Reintegration Services as well as NDICI-funded activities and give more details on the legal migration project (choice of partner countries that you intend to prioritize and learn if you intend to continue ongoing bilateral mobility schemes or launch new schemes with new partner countries. This information can be provided in the Annual Performance Report. Furthermore, we encourage you to seek coherence with projects funded under the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF)).”4 return and reintegration projects (IOM, Caritas, Fedasil, Immigration Office) : * Partner organizations in the countries of origin are financially supported, lessons learned and best practices are shared, the final beneficiaries are assisted and monitored by the staff of partner organizations in the countries of origin after their return. List of countries: Armenia, Algeria, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Colombia, Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Georgia, Ghana, Guinee, India, Iraq, Ivry Coast, Jordan, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Palestina Peru, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Somalia, Sudan, Tunesia, Togo and Turkey. Additionnaly to the structural support to the the countries mentioned above, individual assistance activities, such as but not limited to, additional in-kind reintegration sustainability grants for income generating activities, in-kind reintegration sustainability grants for families, individual medical and psychosocial support, and TVET were extended to eligible beneficiaries returning to countries outside of these priority countries
* Improvement of the identification process and ensuring of human conditions during the whole return process (voluntary & forced). It includes support and cooperation with third countries in BE, technical assistance in the countries of origin (technical support for identification process), support (included medical support) and guidance through reintegration (by Immigration Office or partner organizations) & monitoring after return.

1 resettlement project (Fedasil) with the aim to improve the Belgian resettlement procedures & developping other legal paths for third country nationals in need of a protection. The outside component consists of : interviewing persons in need of a protection (by BE asylum instances) & providing them a socio-cultural training (by Fedasil) before they are resettled to BE. Concerned countries: Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Rwanda, Uganda. 1 legal migration project (Immigration Office) with the aim to start pilot projects on circular migration with partner countries. The external activities of this project haven’t started yet. |

7. Summary – Article 35(2) of regulation (EU) 2021/1147

Provide a summary of the Sections 1 to 6, which will be translated and made available to the public.

As a minimum, the summary shall cover all the points listed in Article 35(2), and should preferably be structured around them.

The use of bullet points, bold text or informative headings is encouraged, so that interested stakeholders can easily identify the programme’s main achievements, and the main issues affecting its performance.

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| PerformanceProgress in implementation – Article 35(2), point (a), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147*SO1: 18 projects ongoing, total AMIF financing = 24.556.014,40 EUR.** ***Reception :*** *BE focuses not only on a qualitative, flexible, and easily adaptable reception system but also on optimizing reception capacity and its ability to adapt to increasing or decreasing number of arrivals.* ***Two main strategies****:*
	+ *strengthening the internal functioning of the reception agency by implementing monitoring, digitization, and communication measures*
	+ *promoting national and international cooperation with organizations active in reception, procedural processes, or the accompaniment of applicants for international protection.*
* ***Asylum :***
	+ *Concerning the asylum procedure, BE is focusing on improving the quality of* ***reception for vulnerable persons****, especially unaccompanied minors (specific training on interviews in the context of asylum involving minors + recruitment of interpreters).*
	+ *Efforts are being made to* ***process asylum files****, with the emphasis on investment in digitisation (knowledge management platform, development of biometric equipment).*

*SO2: 14 projects are ongoing at federal level (including 1 SA), total AMIF financing = 5.322.058,29 EUR.* *At Flemish level 10 projects were selected, total AMIF financing = 2.403.707,54 EUR**in Wallonia / Brussels 45 projects were selected, total AMIF financing = 23.981.392 EUR.* * ***Legal migration projects*** *: focus was set upon:*
	+ *digitalization and development of efficient procedures*
	+ *program of pilot projects promoting circular migration with partner countries outside the EU*
	+ *special attention to vulnerable persons*
* ***Integration projects :***
	+ ***Federal level*** *focus is to strengthen the social activation of third-country nationals*
	+ ***Flanders*** *: the start-up of new regional networks that should offer newcomers from third countries more opportunities to develop a social network and to participate in the host society.*
	+ ***Wallonia / Brussels*** *: implementation of language courses, on citizenship courses, on individual support for newcomers from third countries to promote their integration, on the reception of minors and the unaccompanied, development of tools or the training of trainers to improve the reception and therefore the integration of these public*
	+ ***German-speaking Community*** *goal is to improve integration at local level by deploying three local integration coordinators:*

*SO3: 15 projects ongoing, total AMIF financing = 27.066.583,73 EUR.** ***Voluntary return projects*** *: the focus was on coaching both civil society and potential returnees, and on providing adequate pre departure counseling and tailor made assisted voluntary return to returnees*
* ***Forced return*** *:*
	+ *Procurement procedures were launched to improve infrastructure and IT tools*
	+ *purchase new material*
	+ *new staff was hired and trained to improve and humanize the return process and ensure the protection of the rights of returnees*

*SO4 : 1 project ongoing, total AMIF financing =1.700.638,15 EUR****Resettlement programme****:* * *has been further consolidated and possibilities for complementary pathways have been explore in order to :*
	+ *provide a stable and predictable framework for pledging exercises*
	+ *anchor national efforts in international solidarity*
	+ *diversify the admission routes for people in need of protection.*
* *The cooperation with partners at national level that take up an important role of the resettlement program or other complementary pathways (f.e. local authorities) has been further developed*
* *Belgian expertise acquired over the years has been shared with other States*

Issues affecting performance – Article 35(2), point (b), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147*Main obstacle affecting the performance of projects under all SO was the late approval of projects. Projects only received grant agreements in December 2022 / January 2023. This caused delay with regard to the start of the projects (hiring staff / starting public procurement procedures).* *In addition, the war in Ukraine has led to the arrival of many unaccompanied minors and has shifted the focus of attention, delaying some of SO1's activities.**More specifically:** *For* ***SO2 integration projects*** *with a primary target group, beneficiaries have had difficulty collecting all the information required to measure the satisfaction of all participants, we are thinking in particular of the indicator AMIF-SO2-9 'Number of participants who report that the activity was helpful for their integration'.*
* *For* ***SO4 projects :***
	+ *The further spill-over of the Ukraine crisis and the pressure this puts on local cities and municipalities*
	+ *Pressure on our reception network*

Specific mitigation measures*Not applicable*Operating support – Article 21(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147* ***Under SO1*** *an operating support project (868.667,07 EUR) has been selected with the aim to produce statistics on international protection to meet European obligations (mainly Eurostat, EASO and Frontex).*
* ***Under SO3*** *an operating support project has been awarded to the General Inspectorate of the Federal Police (AIG) through a direct award with the total amount of 1,499,999.22 EUR. The AIG has been nominated as the only responsible body for execution and monitoring of forced returns in Belgium (Royal Decree 19/06/2012). As such, the AIG is responsible for the implementation of the Return Directive 2008/115/EC. In this respect, the AIG has carried out several activities during the reporting period. The main obstacle was the delay in hiring staff due to the timing of grant agreements (December 2022/January 2023), which has limited the capacities in monitoring of returns.*

Specific actions*During the reference period,* ***one Specific Action*** *was selected and launched : Projet* ***“VONA”*** *(AMIF/2022/SA/2.4.1\_001). During the reference period actions have been taken in all three thrusts it’s articulated around : staff training, gender sensitive capacity building and direct assistance.**The beneficiary reported as an obstacle to the implementation of the project:** + *the difficulty to recruit and retain suitably qualified and experienced staff members*
	+ *the tendency of some clients to refuse mental health assitance because of negative conceptions*

Resettlement and relocation – Article 35(2), points (g) and (h), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147*96 persons resettled, 37 admitted (vulnerable) and 6 relocated (only controlled persones are reported).*Only in 2024: Continuation of projects – Article 39(4), point (e), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147*Not applicable.*COMPLEMENTARITY – ARTICLE 35(2), POINT (C), OF REGULATION (EU) 2021/1147* *Consultations are regularly organised within our Steering Committee and Monitoring Committee where representatives of the cabinets are present.*
* *A coordination mechanism has been set up with the Intermediary Bodies (Flanders and the Wallonia-Brussels Federation)*
* *At the level of the Intermdediate Bodies complementarity and good coordination is ensured between AMIF and ESF+, as they are the ESF+ Managing Authorities*

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNION ACQUIS, COOPERATION AND SOLIDARITY – ARTICLE 35(2), POINT (D), OF REGULATION (EU) 2021/1147* ***In the area of asile****:*
	+ *one project has as goal to actively support the activities of EASO/EUAA*
	+ *one project has as focus to produce statistics to meet European obligatiosn (mainly Eurostat, EASO and Frontex).*
* ***In the area of return****, one project directly contributed to implemention of the Return Directive (2005/115/CE) by providing for an effective forced-return monitoring system*

COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY – ARTICLE 35(2), POINT (E), OF REGULATION (EU) 2021/1147* *The Managing Authority's website has been adapted to include pages relating to the 2021-27 programme*
* *A single portal providing access to all the programmes has been set up by SP Wallonie*
* *The Managing Authority has appointed a Communication Officer for the 3 programmes (AMIF, ISF and BMVI).*

ENABLING CONDITIONS AND HORIZONTAL PRINCIPLESEnabling conditions – Article 35(2), point (f), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147* *Arrangements have been taken to ensure compliance of the programmes supported by the Funds and their implementation with the relevant provisions of the Charter and the UNCRPD.*
* *Reporting arrangements to the monitoring committee regarding cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the Charter / UNCRPD and complaints submitted in accordance with the arrangements made pursuant to Art 69(7).*
* *The controls of public procurements are also carried out by the Managing Authority in order to ensure the respect of the Belgian legislation.*

*No complaints have been received so far.*Compliance with horizontal principles – Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060*Actions explained under the point 5.1 apply as well to the horizontal principles.*PROJECTS IN OR IN RELATION TO THIRD COUNTRIES - ARTICLE 35(2), POINT (I), OF REGULATION (EU) 2021/1147*6 projects taking place in or with third countries have been selected during the reporting period (EU contribution 14.536.809,79€)** *4 return and reintegration projects (IOM, Caritas, Fedasil, Immigration Office) with the aim to provide assisted return assistance to returnees and support local partner organisations*
* *1 resettlement project (Fedasil) with the aim to improve the Belgian resettlement procedures & developping other legal paths for third country nationals in need of a protection*
* *1 legal migration project (Immigration Office) with the aim to start pilot projects on circular migration with partner countries*
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1. This refers to the situation when there is a gap between the nominal target achievement rate measured by the indicators and the actual progress in implementation. For instance, under-reporting of output and results could be due to issues with the development of the IT system, ongoing operations for which output and results are not yet reported, issues with the data collection leading to slow or incomp lete reporting, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. This refers to a situation where the low target achievement rate is not due to slow progress but rather to incorrect or unrealistic target setting. It may include lessons learned in connection with the establishment of a methodology for target setting – such as wrong or incomplete assumptions or issues with the benchmark values selected – and any planned changes to it. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. For instance, issues related to tendering procedures, issues with audit procedures, issues linked to lack of resources at the managing authority level, an unforeseen delay in the adoption of the programme, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. This can include, for instance, socio-economic or political factors, changes in the regulatory context, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. For instance, issues to do with the scope of the action (e.g. eligibility criteria), low interest from beneficiaries or participants, any deviation in the implementation of the action, etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. If relevant for this purpose, refer to the information which is in scope of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 and available as a result of Schengen evaluations, carried out in accordance with Council Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013 of 7 October 2013 establishing an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen acquis and repealing the Decision of the Executive Committee of 16 September 1998 setting up a Standing Committee on the evaluation and implementation of Schengen (OJ L 295, 6.11.2013, p. 27) and Council Regulation (EU) 2022/922 of 9 June 2022 on the establishment and operation of an evaluation and monitoring mechanism to verify the application of the Schengen acquis, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1053/2013 (OJ L 160, 15.6.2022, p. 1). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. In the case of specific actions with a transnational nature, the scope of this section varies according to the distribution of roles and responsibilities between the lead Member States and the other participating Member States, as well as the choice of the reporting method used. This is described in the Commission’s note of 14 February 2022 - Transnational specific actions under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (BMVI),and the Internal Security Fund (ISF) – Arrangements between partners (Ares (2022)1060102). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Union added value is defined as the generation of results beyond what would have been achieved by Member States acting alone. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. For instance, in connection to procurement activities or any other preparatory steps taken. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. For instance, in terms of deliverables, outputs, results etc. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. As set out in the Commission’s note of 14 February 2022 (Ares (2022)1060102). [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. Total eligible cost of selected operations, as reported to the Commission by 31 July of the last accounting year. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. Total amount of eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority, by 31 July of the last accounting year. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. If specific actions represent a top-up of previous operations and there are no dedicated monitoring arrangements, report the output and results pro-rata. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, amending Council Decision 2008/381/EC and repealing Decisions No 573/2007/EC and No 575/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Decision 2007/435/EC (OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 168). [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 laying down general provisions on the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and on the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management (OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p.112). [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
17. In particular, e.g. the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) – Global Europe and the Instrument for Pre-accession assistance (IPA). [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
18. Complementarity with any other relevant EU funds (e.g. Recovery and Resilience Facility, Erasmus+, Creative Europe, Cohesion Fund, Just transition Fund etc.) could also be relevant. [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
19. Such as cooperation at EU level between the Member States, and between Member States and relevant EU bodies, offices and agencies, as well as cooperation at national level among the competent authorities within each Member State. [↑](#footnote-ref-20)