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1. Programme strategy: main challenges and policy responses

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

During the **previous programming period**, Belgium (BE) made **significant progress in addressing certain compliance gaps with relevant Union acquis and EU Action Plans in the area of borders & visa**. In line with Regulation (EC) 1987/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 December 2006 on the establishment, operation and use of the second generation Schengen Information System (SIS II), funding was provided through the ISF National Program to guarantee a 24/7 functioning national SIS II-system. Improvements to ensure the full implementation of Regulation (EU) 1052/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2013 establishing the European Border Surveillance System (EUROSUR) were also conducted with the help of the ISF. In line with both national strategy and EC policy dialogue recommendations, efforts continued towards more automatised of the border control process.

With the additional funding provided through the **2019 top-ups** for the ISF Borders & Visa National Programmes, BE has already made significant progress in the fulfillment of its obligations under the most recent set of relevant EU Regulations, notably Regulation (EU) 2018/1240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 September 2018 establishing a European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS), Regulation (EU) 2017/2226 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2017 establishing an Entry/Exit System (EES), and Regulation (EU) 2018/1861 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 November 2018 on the establishment, operation and use of the Schengen Information System (SIS in the field of border checks (SIS RECAST)). In all of these areas, concrete projects have been launched and are currently underway.

In general, BE intends to continue and, where possible, enhance the actions developed under the preceding funding programmes. An important focus of BE's BMVI NP 2021-2027 will be the **continued implementation of the above-mentioned EU Regulations**, notably the ETIAS Regulation, the EES Regulation and the SIS RECAST. Furthermore, it is envisaged that a significant part of the future actions under BE's BMVI NP will result from / build on the requirements of Regulation (EU) 2019/817 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 on establishing a framework for **interoperability** between EU information systems in the field of borders and visa. The above-mentioned EU regulations will also affect the functioning and operational requirements of the **VIS**, as currently regulated by Regulation (EU) 2021/1133 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 amending the Visa Information System (VIS) Regulations.

In addition to these, a number of other compliance gaps with relevant EU acquis in the area of borders & visa will require specific attention through possible actions under BE's BMVI NP 2021-2027. These include, among others, Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2019 on the European Border and Coast Guard, which will have significant implications on the **functioning of Eurosur and its national components**. Obligations flowing from Regulation (EU) 2019/1239 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 establishing a **European Maritime Single Window environment**, will also require extra investments on BE level, which can be (partly) funded with BMVI funds. Furthermore, it is expected that the significant changes contained in the **amended 'VIS Regulations'** will require important additional IT system updates and developments on the national level.

Aside from the (continued) implementation of the above-mentioned Union acquis, **other main challenges** identified in terms of BMVI are linked to the **outcome of the ongoing / planned Schengen evaluation (Borders)**, which – while premature at this stage – will most likely focus on training needs, the development and implementation of Integrated Border Management (IBM), and risk-analysis. Also, there exists a direct link between the (further) development of the above-mentioned digital tools and **BE's enhanced needs in terms of modern border control equipment and training of personnel**. On the visa-side, the last Schengen evaluation dates from 2018 and resulted in a number of recommendations (see 'Council Implementing Decision 15563/18 setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2018 evaluation of Belgium on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the common visa policy'). While these recommendations are / have been taken up in the framework of the day-to-day functioning of the relevant authorities, no concrete remedial actions are scheduled to take place with support of BMVI funds.

In light of the situation in the Channel, measures relating to the prevention of departures of irregular migrants to the UK and any other relevant measures in the area of **border surveillance** may be appropriate, including cooperation between Member States and the UK. However, given the limited size of BE's BMVI allocation and the multitude of competing policy priorities, BE does not envisage any concrete actions at the moment.

On BE level, the actions under the BMVI National Program will themselves on a strategic level have to comply with BE's 'Integrated Border Management Strategy', a strategic guidance document which is currently in the final drafting stage and thus soon to be adopted. In line with the obligation for Member States to establish a national strategy for European integrated border management as put forward by Regulation (EU) 2019/1896, this document describes the BE strategy for integrated border management, while integrating BE's national security policy and supporting EU border policy and its integrated border management. It is an open-ended, evolutionary document which can be adjusted in line with new needs and challenges. The strategy consists of two main parts, whereby the 1st part refers to the European legal framework of Integrated Border Management, complemented with transversal components such as fundamental rights, training & education, and research & innovation. Specifically formulated objectives provide the necessary strategic orientation. The accompanying national action plan – outlining a set of priority actions – forms the 2nd part of the strategy.

In terms of **Smart Borders**, a **'Steering Committee on EU Information Systems'** has been established in October 2019, which is chaired by the President of the Committee of Directors of the Ministry of Interior (= Secretary General) and is composed of all the Directors General of all federal public services concerned, as well as the Federal Police and all the project leads. With representation on the highest administrative level, the Steering Committee takes all the necessary strategic decisions. On a lower administrative level, BE has established in June 2019 a **'Coordination Working Group Smart Borders (CWG)'** in order to keep track of the state of play of all the different projects, as well as to exchange information and best practices, thereby allowing to identify and address common challenges on an operational level. It brings together all the stakeholders – i.e. project leads and relevant staff working on the different Smart Borders projects.

In terms of concrete actions under the BMVI, BE will continue to focus on ensuring that border posts are equipped with the necessary modern equipment and technology. In addition, BE will primarily focus on the (further) development of different existing (and/or new) IT-applications in terms of border management (Eurosur, BorderTask, BELVIS, EES, ETIAS, SIS II,...) and their maintenance and system updates, as well as their 'interoperability'. Given the multitude of developments at EU-level in this field during the last programming period, BE believes that the continued well-functioning of these systems is crucial in order to obtain an efficient border control process. This may also include training activities as well as continued investment in infrastructure, equipment and communication.

With regard to **visa policy**, BE has identified the need for **continuous investment in measures improving visa application processing**, including the **purchase of operating equipment and communication systems such as VIS equipment in consular posts**. Compared to the previous programming period, BE does not plan to continue to use the financial means of the BMVI for investments in improved infrastructure in consular posts. These will be henceforth be financed through the national budget. However, BE is planning to continue with the development of a targeted approach against fraudulent visa applications, including through the **(continued) employment of locally recruited 'Document Verification Officers' (DVO's)**. As it currently stands, the DVO's in Abuja, Abidjan, Casablanca, Dakar, Kinshasa, Lubumbashi & Yaoundé will continue to be financed through the BMVI. Additional DVO's might be recruited for other diplomatic posts, whereby the number of fraudulent cases and the complexity of visa applications will be the determining factors.

In addition, the **possibilities to further digitalize both basic processing mechanisms as well as the screening and fraud detection mechanisms will be assessed and explored**. Both the continuous changes to the 'Visa Code' (i.e. Regulation (EU) 810/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas) as well as the above-mentioned new EU legislative developments with regard to ETIAS, interoperability and the adoption of the amended 'VIS Regulations' will (continue to) pose significant challenges for BE's visa personnel. It therefore remains crucial for BE to **continue to improve, including by organizing trainings, the knowledge of visa agents concerning the most recent applicable Schengen-related entry-legislation**. Furthermore, there

is a **need to maintain and upgrade IT material for the registration of biometric data and to ensure adequate data protection. Maintenance of the VISA Information System (VIS)**, IT system modifications and **necessary system updates** in line with recent EU-legislation (including on EES and ETIAS, as well as GDPR-requirements) will therefore also be an important focus of BE.

Lastly, when it comes to **lessons learned** from the implementation of the previous programming period, BE aims to increase the administrative capacity of its Responsible Authority (RA) by selecting fewer but larger projects on the one hand, and by making intelligent use of 'simplified cost options' (SCO's) on the other hand. The multiplication of projects containing a significant number of (very) small costs, as well as the - with the Audit Authority (AA) – agreed strategy to control all projects at 100 %, resulted in a very heavy workload for the RA during the previous programming period, thus significantly limiting the RA's possibilities to streamline and simplify administrative procedures.

When selecting concrete actions for funding, BE will take into account the above-mentioned needs and identify the areas where funding channeled through the BMVI will result in significant added-value, in line with the strategic priorities mentioned earlier. In this regard, it is also important to mention the potential role of the Thematic Facility. Hence, BE confirms herewith that the 'types of intervention' matching the "0 EUR" amount in table 3 of the programme correspond to those for which possible future needs linked to the implementation of the Thematic Facility are anticipated, in line with Article 22(4)(d) CPR.

The **complementarity and synergies** between the BMVI and other forms of support are mainly managed at the level of the final beneficiaries. For example, the Federal Police disposes of a dedicated project unit that works with a.o. the ISF and Horizon Europe. Specifically when it comes to the Customs Control Equipment Instrument (CCEI), the Federal Police and the Customs Control authorities are in close contact with each other and organize meetings in which they (1) discuss which instrument might best fit the incurred needs and (2) whether certain investments might serve both parties. In addition, an overall picture in terms of complementarity between the activities in the different funding streams is centralized within the Belgian Permanent Representation who have a view on all the projects submitted in the various programmes. There is permanent communication between the Managing Authority and the Permanent Representation in order to allow for the detection of possible synergies and complementarities.

Furthermore and as mentioned in BE's Partnership Agreement, in case of emerging doubts around certain aspects of submitted project proposals, the necessary coordination and alignment will take place with Managing Authorities of other respective programmes, and this with the aim of ruling out the risk of double funding.

To conclude, BE confirms that this Programme duly reflects the national capability development plan and the future capability roadmap of BE. It also confirms that the development of national border management capabilities will be carried out in the framework of the EBCG capability development planning in accordance with the EBCG Regulation.

2. Specific Objectives & Technical Assistance

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

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

2.1. Specific objective: 1. European integrated border management

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

A. Baseline situation

BE is, with its 30 158 km², one of the smaller countries of the EU, but its **central position** between FR and DE and its relatively short distance to the UK, gives rise to specific migration problems. The length of its external land borders is 3 km, while its sea borders covers approximately 109 km.

BE does not have a "border-guard"-structure as such. The **Immigration Office (IO)** organizes and controls the set-up of border control in close cooperation with the **Federal Police (FedPol)**. Both authorities have responsibilities in terms of border control: the IO as the authority which takes the decisions and FedPol as the authority which implements the decisions. **Operational border control activities are the responsibility of FedPol**. For the implementation of border control tasks, the personnel receives an additional and specifically oriented training, which complements basic training. Hence, these trainings are already developed and are in line with Sectoral Qualifications Framework (SQF) and Fundamental Rights courses. In relation to **border checks**, the IO is competent for taking the decisions, whilst FedPol is responsible for the practical implementation of the decisions. In order to coordinate the procedures and activities at national level, bilateral meetings between the Immigration Office and the border crossing points ('BCPs') are organized on a regular basis.

FedPol employs an effective workforce of approx. 844 persons in border control (971 border guards scheduled). The IO employs 13,1 FTE in the Border Control Unit. For IT systems related to visa and border control (VIS, SIS II, ETIAS, EES...), a budget of approx. € 4.3 M was earmarked in 2019. This concerns funding under projects financed via the Internal Security Fund (ISF Borders), complemented by national funding.

BE has **13 Schengen external border crossing points (BCP's)**: 6 ports, 6 airports and a HST-terminal (entry through the latter is checked by FR on UK territory since 2004). Approximately 26,4 M passengers travelled through Brussels International Airport in 2019, of which 9,8 M passed through the Schengen border control. Over the past years, the number of passengers in Gosselies Airport has risen sharply to 8,2 M in 2019, with 2,5 M passengers passing through the external Schengen border. This significant increase is mainly due to the presence of low fare carriers.

The **number of decisions issued by the IO** in 2019, 2018 and 2017 at the external borders provides an additional measure of migration pressure: refusals at the border (3057 in 2019, 2964 in 2018, and 2882 in 2017), asylum applications at the border (868 in 2019, 768 in 2018, and 470 in 2017), visa C for seamen (4965 in 2019, 4347 in 2018, and 4615 in 2017), other visa C (314 in 2019, 351 in 2018, and 233 in 2017), removal from another country (Schengen and non-Schengen) with transit on a BE Airport with FedPol's assistance (375 in 2019, 646 in 2018, and 549 in 2017), detection of unaccompanied alien minors (29 in 2019, 22 in 2018, and 34 in 2017).

The **number of refusals at the border** is unevenly split between air and sea borders:

- Air borders: 2878 in 2017, 2963 in 2018, and 3057 in 2019;
- Sea border : 4 in 2017, 1 in 2018, and 0 in 2019.

In the previous programming period and with the financial support of the **Internal Security Fund (ISF)**, **BE implemented several projects**, such as:

- At Brussels National Airport, a total of 24 e-gates is now operational. In addition to the purchase and installation of these e-gates, also (a part of) the maintenance costs was funded under ISF 2014-2020. Planned actions at the border crossing points of Brussels South Charleroi Airport and Brussels Midi Train Station were postponed, while an action at Liège Airport Bierset was cancelled.
- In the framework of the '*Document Readers*' project, further border control equipment was purchased with ISF support.

- Different *IT-developments* were implemented with the help of the ISF. The *Bordertask project* focused at developing an integrated web-based border control application linking different modules within the domains of both commercial and private aviation and shipping, as well as international train traffic. An *ETIAS functional analysis project* was conducted under the supervision of the Belgian Passenger Information Unit. Building on this, an implementation project was initiated with the 2019 ETIAS-top-up, aimed at realizing (part of) the required infrastructure and the ETIAS-environment (physically and IT-wise).
- A *Smart Borders project* allowed for the preparation of all partners involved in the future implementation of the Entry-Exit-System (EES) in BE. With the 2018 EES top-up, a *large-scale EES-implementation project* was launched, involving all relevant partners.
- Further development and maintenance of *SIS II system* in BE continued to be carried out by FedPol, with support of the ISF and in line with relevant new EU regulations. Various technical and functional updates and adjustments of both the national SIS system (NSIS) and different national police applications interacting with the NSIS took place.

Outside the framework of ISF funded projects, FedPol and BelPIU started discussions on how to effectively extend the scope of the current use of Advance Passenger Information (API) to combatting illegal immigration, following a modification of legislation in May 2019. Further fine-tuning of procedures and possibly new technical developments will be necessary, taking into account upcoming EU legislative developments in the field of API.

B. Main challenges, national needs & proposed responses

As mentioned earlier in section 1, an important focus of BE's BMVI NP 2021-2027 will be to address the challenges posed by the continued implementation of the ETIAS Regulation, the EES Regulation and the SIS RECAST. In addition, the multitude of EU information systems and tools in the field of BMVI poses significant challenges in terms of 'interoperability' of these systems, including on a BE level. In terms of other elements of the EU acquis, Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 on the European Border and Coast Guard will have significant implications on the functioning of Eurosur and its national components, and thus also require specific attention through possible actions under BE's BMVI NP 2021-2027. Obligations flowing from Regulation (EU) 2019/1239 establishing a European Maritime Single Window environment ('EMSWe'), will also require extra investments on BE level, which could be (partly) funded with BMVI funds. Actions foreseen by the Belgian Federal Police within the context of the 'EMSWe' are f. ex. mostly related to border control. Furthermore, and with regard to complementarity, it is important to note that there is no national funding available for 'EMSWe' related border control developments. In addition, since the 'EMSWe' is situated within DG MOVE and not DG HOME, and as fishing vessels are out of scope of the EMSWe, no funding can be obtained through the EMFAF.

On top of the **challenges and needs flowing from the (continued) implementation of the above-mentioned Union acquis**, BE has identified a continuous need for modern technology at its border posts. The **upgrading and maintenance of modern technologies** at the border are therefore also key issues for BE.

Lastly, BE's BMVI NP 2021-2027 also aims to leave the flexibility to address the challenges and recommendations flowing from the (planned) **ongoing Schengen evaluation process (borders)**.

Hence, in terms of **concrete actions**, BE will primarily focus on the (further) development of different existing (and/or new) IT-applications in terms of border management (Eurosur, BorderTask, BELVIS, EES, ETIAS, SIS II, API,...) and their maintenance and upgrading, as well as their 'interoperability'. Given the multitude of developments at EU-level in this field during the last programming period, BE believes that the continued well-functioning of these systems is crucial in order to obtain an efficient border control process. This may also include training activities as well as continued investment in infrastructure, equipment and communication. Possible actions flowing from Scheval recommendations can also be taken up in the framework of BE's BMVI NP 2021-2027. Lastly, BE might also focus on activities which will help to enhance inter-agency cooperation on a national level, including by focusing on risks related to biometrics and unique identity sources.

In order to tackle the above-mentioned challenges and in order to contribute to the achievement of the

objectives of the BMVI Regulation, BE plans to heavily rely on ‘operating support’, especially but not exclusively in terms of ‘**operating support for large-scale IT-systems**’. In line with Article 16 of the BMVI Regulation, operating support will only be used to support public authorities responsible for accomplishing the tasks and services which constitute a public service for the Union. In this regard, BE’s focus on large-scale IT systems is a straightforward one, given the rapid expansion of EU border management obligations in this field in recent years. Under this SO, operating support will primarily be used for ensuring the necessary maintenance and system updates of SIS II, as well as for ensuring the necessary maintenance and system updates of the ETIAS / EES Message Brokers. BE hereby also reaffirms its compliance with the Union *acquis* on borders and visas.

Potential beneficiaries include, a.o.:

- Belgian Federal Police;
- Ministry of Home Affairs – Immigration Office;
- Ministry of Home Affairs – IT department, responsible for IT-infrastructure management and development of IT-applications relevant to the field of home affairs, including border control;
- Ministry of Home Affairs – National Crisis Centre, responsible for hosting and managing the national ETIAS unit;
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responsible for the issuing of visas.

The **desired outcomes under this SO** are the following:

- (continued) use of interoperable modern technologies and equipment for border control and border checks in line with (existing) European standards, allowing the border control process to be conducted in a more efficient and effective way and to enhance the ability to intercept fraudulent travelers;
- Continued and up-to-date functioning and interoperability of relevant large-scale IT systems in the area of EU border management (SIS II, ETIAS, EES and Eurodac for border management purposes);
- Compliance with relevant recommendations from Vulnerability Assessments and Schengen Evaluations.
- Well-trained border personnel and other staff contributing to the uniform application of the Union *acquis* on external borders.

In line with Article 12(3) of the BMVI Regulation, BE reserves itself the right to select actions that would be eligible for higher co-financing, for example when it comes to measures aimed at improving the ‘interoperability’ of IT-systems and communication networks.

BE only intends to provide support in the form of grants referred to in Article 52 of the CPR.

BE will also implement the Specific Action titled ““Support to Member States for Smart Borders”” (BMVI/2024/SA/1.5.1). BE intends to concentrate the majority of activities under this SA under lot 1 (EES/ETIAS). These include, a.o., IT-developments aimed at linking the existing e-gates / kiosks with the EES/ETIAS-systems via the Bordertask application & ensuring integration of Frontex-application(s), end-to-end business testing for the national /European ETIAS application used by the BE ETIAS National Unit, renewal / upgrade of server infrastructure used for the EU Message Broker (relevant for EES, ETIAS, VIS, etc.), replacement of ICT-hardware at Border Control Posts, and recruitment of an ‘ETIAS NU start-up team’. Under lot 2 (SIS), BE aims to implement a limited set of activities, including a.o., IT developments related to the new SIRENE form and a functional analysis related to the integration into the CMS.

C. Implementation measures

The following implementation measures will be addressed:

a) improving border control in line with Article 3(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 by:

- *reinforcing the capacities for carrying out checks and surveillance at the external borders;*

Indicative list of actions:

Action 1: Provision of support to infrastructures, buildings, systems and services, including operating equipment and communication systems (inter alia IT-systems) required for effective and secure border control at border crossing points and for border surveillance;

This could include, a.o.:

- Purchasing technical equipment for border control (for example e-gates, passport readers, fingerprint scanners, border control infrastructure...) and their maintenance;
- Purchasing technical equipment for border surveillance (rigid-hulled inflatable boats (RHIB), night vision devices, camera systems,...);
- Increasing national capacities to detect document fraud through various measures.

Action 2: Ensuring existing systems for carrying out checks and surveillance at the external borders are securely inter-connected (e.g. systems used for the transmission of API matches from BelPIU to the border posts);

- *implementing technical and operational border control measures within the Schengen area which are related to border control;*

No actions planned.

- *carrying out internal security risk analyses and external border threat analyses;*

No actions planned.

b) developing the European Border and Coast Guard;

No actions planned.

c) enhancing inter-agency border control cooperation at national level, and at EU level;

Indicative list of actions:

Action 3: Creation of a specialized multidisciplinary team with experts of the Immigration Office and the Interior Affairs IT-department, focusing on the issues of 'biometrics, central risk analysis of identities, and unique sources' in the context of the management of large-scale IT-systems, such as VIS, SIS II, EES & ETIAS;

d) implementation of recommendations from quality control mechanisms such as the Schengen evaluation mechanism, vulnerability assessments, and national quality control mechanisms;

Indicative list of actions:

Action 4: Addressing and remedying weaknesses and recommendations identified by the Vulnerability Assessments and Schengen Evaluations.

Action 5: Training of border personnel and other staff (including operators working in the ETIAS National Unit) contributing to the uniform application of the Union acquis on external borders. This could include, a.o.:

- Updating of existing curricula, including e-learning modules, aimed at ensuring the uniform application of the Union acquis on external borders, including on EES, ETIAS, SIS II...;
- Development of a new training module (mobile application) on 'How to use SIS'.

Action 6: Ensuring the necessary IT-developments, adaptations – such as the required national connections with existing systems – and technical investments in relation to the impact of the new European Border and Coast Guard Regulation ('ECBG 2.0') on the functioning of EUROSUR;

e) setting up, operating and maintaining large-scale IT systems pursuant to Union law in the area of border management, as well as the interoperability of these large-scale IT systems and their communication infrastructure, and actions to enhance data quality and the provision of information.

Indicative list of actions:

Action 7: (Further) development of different existing (and/or new) IT-applications in terms of border

management (Eurosur, BorderTask, EES, ETIAS, SIS II, API ...) and their continued maintenance and system updates (including, where relevant, through operating support for the implementation of European integrated border management);

These could include, a.o.:

- Additional IT-developments linked to the full implementation of Regulation (EU) 2018/1240 establishing a European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS);
- Additional IT-developments linked to the full implementation of Regulation (EU) 2017/2226 establishing an Entry/Exit System (EES);
- Maintenance and IT system modifications / updates related to SIS II, including for example functional and technical adjustments to the national SIS copy (NSIS) and the various police applications linked to the NSIS, thereby bringing it in line with the SIS RECAST;
- Further development, maintenance and system modifications / updates related to the BorderTask application;
- Development, IT system modifications / updates and integration of a unique access portal to the European Maritime Single Window (EMSW), including through ensuring the necessary 'connectors';
- Development, maintenance, IT system modifications /updates and integration of both the back-end environment and the front-end user application landscape of national competent border management authorities, for example the creation of new business modules in the EVIBEL New Generation application (*i.e. the generic workflow system and database of the Immigration Office, consisting of a variety of different IT-modules*), the development of a Smart Borders application (EES, ETIAS, SIS, VIS, ...), the development of an ETIAS search engine for the designated authorities, etc.);
- Maintenance and system updates of the ETIAS / EES Message Brokers, including through operating support for the implementation of European integrated border management;
- Maintenance and operating costs of the ETIAS National Unit (NUI);
- Operational management of the EES Message Broker, for example by ensuring the presence of a team of administrators;

Action 8: Ensuring the necessary 'interoperability' and 'interconnectivity' between the above-mentioned and/or newly developed large-scale IT-systems, both on a European and national level, including through the creation of technical tools and components, such as a national search portal, secure connections for the transmission of data, etc. (including through operating support for the implementation of European integrated border management);

Action 9: Organize the necessary training and communication activities in relation to the above-mentioned and/or newly developed large-scale IT-systems, where possible through use of and/or building on existing CEPOL materials. This could include, among others, for example:

- Training of staff members seconded to the ETIAS National Unit;

Action 10: Purchase the necessary equipment and communication systems necessary to ensure the proper functioning of the above-mentioned and/or newly developed large-scale IT-systems;

f) increasing capacity to render assistance to persons in distress at sea;

No actions planned.

g) supporting search and rescue in the context of carrying out border surveillance at sea;

No actions planned.

2.1. Specific objective 1. European integrated border management

2.1.2. Indicators

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

Table 1: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
O.1.1	Number of items of equipment purchased for border crossing points	number	40	541
O.1.1.1	of which number of Automated Border Control gates / self-service systems / e- gates purchased	number	24	42
O.1.2	Number of infrastructure maintained / repaired	number	0	0
O.1.3	Number of hotspot areas supported	number	0	0
O.1.4	Number of facilities for border crossing points constructed / upgraded	number	0	0
O.1.5	Number of aerial vehicles purchased	number	0	0
O.1.5.1	of which number of unmanned aerial vehicles purchased	number	0	0
O.1.6	Number of maritime transport means purchased	number	0	0
O.1.7	Number of land transport means purchased	number	0	0
O.1.8	Number of participants supported	number	34	61
O.1.8.1	of which number of participants in training activities	number	25	50
O.1.9	Number of immigration liaison officers deployed to third countries	number	0	0
O.1.10	Number of IT functionalities developed / maintained / upgraded	number	4	14
O.1.11	Number of large-scale IT systems developed / maintained / upgraded	number	3	3
O.1.11.1	of which number of large-scale IT systems developed	number	3	3
O.1.12	Number of cooperation projects with third countries	number	0	0
O.1.13	Number of persons who have applied for international protection at border crossing points	number	2,454	6,544

2.1. Specific objective 1. European integrated border management

2.1.2. Indicators

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

Table 2: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
R.1.14	Number of items of equipment registered in the Technical Equipment Pool of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency	number	0	number	2021	0	number	Data provided by the Belgian Federal police (via 'OperaEvo').	Linked with output indicator O.1.1. No items under this output indicator are concerned.
R.1.15	Number of items of equipment put at the disposal of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency	number	0	number	2021	0	number	Data provided by the Belgian Federal Police.	Linked with output indicator O.1.1. No items under this output indicator are concerned.
R.1.16	Number of initiated / improved forms of cooperation of national authorities with the Eurosur National Coordination Centre (NCC)	number	0	number	2021	2	number	Data provided by the Eurosur National Coordination Centre.	Need to integrate / liaise with other partners involved in BE border management was an explicit remark in BE's most recent Schengen Evaluation.
R.1.17	Number of border crossings through Automated Border Control gates and e-gates	number	0	share	2021	18,573,384	number	Data extracted from e-gates and communicated by the Belgian Federal police	2029 target is based on assumptions that existing 24 e-gates are replaced by 2024 and taking into account the annual average

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
									2018-2019. This results in the following: 6 * 3.095.564 for the years 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028 & 2029.
R.1.18	Number of addressed recommendations from Schengen Evaluations and from vulnerability assessments in the area of border management	number	0	number	2021	100	percentage	See guidance in Ref. Ares(2022)2447 428 - 01/04/2022	See guidance in Ref. Ares(2022)2447 428 - 01/04/2022: 100% of the recommendations from Schengen Evaluations and from vulnerability assessments with financial implication falling under the scope of this SO.
R.1.19	Number of participants who report three months after the training activity that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training	number	0	share	2021	35	number	Currently no data available on this.	After consulting with potential beneficiaries who might conduct these training activities: 70 % usefulness rating = realistic estimate. Calculation method: 70 % of milestone / 2029 of data estimates under output

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
									indic. 1.8.1.
R.1.20	Number of persons refused entry by border authorities	number	0	number	2021	14,056	number	Data gathered by the Immigration Office + Eurostat data.	Target for 2029 is based on extrapolation of the average 2018-2020 (= 8*1757).

2.1. Specific objective 1. European integrated border management

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

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

Table 3: Indicative breakdown

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	001.Border checks	5,578,309.59
Intervention field	002.Border surveillance - air equipment	0.00
Intervention field	003.Border surveillance - land equipment	0.00
Intervention field	004.Border surveillance - maritime equipment	0.00
Intervention field	005.Border surveillance - automated border surveillance systems	0.00
Intervention field	006.Border surveillance - other measures	0.00
Intervention field	007.Technical and operational measures within the Schengen area which are related to border control	4,935,146.57
Intervention field	008.Situational awareness and exchange of information	0.00
Intervention field	009.Risk analysis	0.00
Intervention field	010.Processing of data and information	1,085,640.00
Intervention field	011.Hotspot areas	0.00
Intervention field	012.Measures related to the identification and referral of vulnerable persons	0.00
Intervention field	013.Measures related to the identification and referral of persons who are in need of, or wish to apply for, international protection	0.00
Intervention field	014.European Border and Coast Guard development	0.00
Intervention field	015.Inter-agency cooperation - national level	0.00
Intervention field	016.Inter-agency cooperation - European Union level	0.00
Intervention field	017.Inter-agency cooperation - with third countries	0.00
Intervention field	018.Joint deployment of immigration liaison officers	0.00
Intervention field	019.Large-scale IT systems - Eurodac for border management purposes	0.00

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	020.Large-scale IT systems - Entry-exit System (EES)	6,035,735.05
Intervention field	021.Large-scale IT systems - European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) - others	800,000.00
Intervention field	022.Large-scale IT systems - European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) - Article 85(2) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1240	4,000,000.00
Intervention field	023.Large-scale IT systems - European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS) - Article 85(3) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1240	0.00
Intervention field	024.Large-scale IT systems - Schengen Information System (SIS)	859,301.35
Intervention field	025.Large-scale IT systems - Interoperability	2,617,481.76
Intervention field	026.Operating support - Integrated border management	0.00
Intervention field	027.Operating support - Large-scale IT systems for border management purposes	6,618,977.95
Intervention field	028.Operating support - Special Transit Scheme	0.00
Intervention field	029.Data quality and data subjects' rights to information, access to, rectification and erasure of,their personal data, and to the retriCTION of the processing thereof	0.00

2.1. Specific objective: 2. Common visa policy

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

A. Baseline situation

The **Immigration Office (IO)** is responsible for Schengen visa applications. The IO **closely collaborates with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (FA)** for visa issuing. In most cases, the latter is authorized to decide on visa applications. In case of doubt or a negative assessment of the visa application, FA can transmit the application file to the IO for decision.

In 2017, BE registered 231.482 Schengen visa applications, in 2018 219.861, and in 2019 248.023.

Currently FA issues visas for 118 countries. For 80 of those countries, an external firm receives the visa applicants. In the remaining countries, FA receives visa applicants in its premises. In addition to the 118 countries for which visa are issued, BE is represented by another MS in 78 diplomatic posts. Likewise, BE represents other MS in 60 consular posts. The issue of “representation” in the framework of visa issuing continues to grow in importance in the light of budgetary restrictions many MS are facing.

The IO employs 36,4 FTE visa officers, at an estimated cost of € 2.184.000. The FA employs 43 visa officers, in addition to local personnel recruited abroad. The yearly cost of visa-personnel in the central administration is estimated at € 12.000.000. The cost of building premises of the FA used to facilitate the visa process, both in Brussels and consulates abroad, is estimated to be over € 3 million on a yearly basis.

With financial support of the Internal Security Fund (ISF), BE implemented several projects:

- (Continued) employment of locally recruited ‘Document Verification Officers’ (DVO’s), who verify supporting documents submitted with the visa files in case of suspected document fraud;
- Infrastructural changes in a number of visa sections (Kinshasa (Maison Schengen), Abidjan, Dakar, Yaoundé), thereby ensuring a safe and efficient visa application process;
- Use of immigration officers who provided advice and training in terms of detecting false documents to consular services, airline companies (including through pre-boarding controls) and local immigration officers in countries of origin prone to illegal migration towards the Schengen area;
- The organization of several regional trainings for visa officers posted abroad continued in the framework of the VisaBio project. In addition, numerous visa policy monitoring missions took place and diplomatic posts continued to be equipped with biometric devices. Various IT-developments and investments, aimed at ensuring a smooth connection with the VIS-equipment, took place, including for example the purchase of photo booths, computers for biometric purposes, and fingerprint scanners.
- Work continued on the development, maintenance and upgrading of the national VIS, including the BelVIS Message Broker system, and this in line with the most recent legislative developments on EU-level.
- An initiative to fight document fraud and visa abuse, based on an analysis of trends in visa abuse, document fraud and illegal migration (Fighting Abuse project). This included, among others, the provision of up-to-date information (including through a website and information / prevention campaigns) and the deployment of Immigration Liaison Officers in third countries.

B. Main challenges, national needs & proposed responses

As mentioned earlier in section 1, one priority of BE’s BMVI NP 2021-2027 will be to address the challenges posed by the impact of the ETIAS Regulation, the EES Regulation and the Interoperability Regulation on the functioning and operational requirements of the VIS, as currently regulated by Regulation (EU) 2021/1133 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 ('amended VIS Regulations'). Furthermore, it is expected that the significant changes contained in the 'amended VIS Regulations' will require important additional IT-system updates and developments on the national level,

which will pose additional challenges for BE.

On top of the **challenges and needs flowing from the (continued) implementation of the above-mentioned Union acquis on the VIS**, BE has identified a **need for continuous investment in measures improving visa application processing**, including the purchase of operating equipment and communication systems such as VIS equipment in consular posts. Compared to the previous programming period, BE does not plan to continue to use the financial means of the BMVI for investments in improved infrastructure in consular posts.

However, BE is planning to continue with the development of a **targeted approach against fraudulent visa applications**. This is envisaged to take place through, inter alia, the deployment of immigration officers who provide advice and training in terms of detecting false documents to consular services, airline companies and local immigration officers. The work of locally recruited 'Document Verification Officers' (DVO's) will also be continued under the BMVI. In addition, the possibilities to further digitalize both basic processing mechanisms as well as the screening and fraud detection mechanisms will be assessed. Pilot projects aimed at digitalizing (parts of) the visa policy may be launched in this regard.

Mala fide visa applications for countries represented by BE continue to form a substantial workload for the IO. Therefore it remains crucial for BE to continue to **improve, including by organizing trainings, the knowledge of visa agents concerning Schengen-related entry-legislation**. On top of this, both the continuous changes to the 'Visa Code' (i.e. Regulation (EU) 810/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 establishing a Community Code on Visas) as well as the above-mentioned new EU legislative developments with regard to ETIAS, interoperability and the 'amended VIS Regulations', will (continue to) pose additional challenges for BE's visa personnel.

Lastly, there is a **need to maintain and upgrade IT material for the registration of biometric data and to ensure adequate data protection. Maintenance of the VISA Information System (VIS)**, IT system modifications and necessary updates in line with recent EU-legislation (including on EES and ETIAS, as well as GDPR-requirements) will also be an important focus of BE.

As it stands, no concrete actions are scheduled to take place with support of BMVI funds in order to address recommendations from BE's latest (2018) Schengen evaluation (visa), as put forward in Council Implementing Decision 15563/18 setting out a Recommendation on addressing the deficiencies identified in the 2018 evaluation of Belgium on the application of the Schengen acquis in the field of the common visa policy. However, these recommendations are / will be taken up in the context of the day-to-day functioning of the relevant authorities.

In order to tackle the above-mentioned challenges and to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the BMVI Regulation, BE plans to make use of 'operating support', especially but not exclusively in terms of **'operating support for large-scale IT-systems'**. In line with Article 16 of the BMVI Regulation, operating support will only be used to support public authorities responsible for accomplishing the tasks and services which constitute a public service for the Union. In this regard, BE's focus on large-scale IT systems is a straightforward one, given the rapid expansion of EU border management obligations in this field in recent years. Under this SO, operating support will primarily be used for ensuring the necessary maintenance and system updates of the BELVIS Message Broker. BE hereby also reaffirms its compliance with the Union acquis on borders and visas.

In terms of operating support under SO2, potential beneficiaries include, among others:

- Ministry of Home Affairs – Immigration Office, responsible for Schengen visa applications;
- Ministry of Home Affairs – IT department, responsible for IT-infrastructure management and development of IT-applications relevant to the field of home affairs, including the Visa Information System (VIS);
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responsible for visa issuing.

The **desired outcomes under this SO** are the following:

- Improved visa application processing and more customer-friendly / higher quality visa services, in line with EU-standards;

- Prevention of irregular migration by fighting visa abuse and travel document fraud;
- Continued and up-to-date functioning of the Visa Information System (VIS), taking into account the most recent applicable EU legislation.

In line with Article 12(3) of the BMVI Regulation, BE reserves itself the right to select actions that would be eligible for higher co-financing.

BE only intends to provide support in the form of grants referred to in Article 52 of the CPR.

C. Implementation measures

The following implementation measures will be addressed:

(a) providing efficient and client-friendly services to visa applicants;

Indicative list of actions:

Action 1: Improving visa application processing, including through digitalization and reinforcement of staff resources dedicated to examining visa applications (for example due to an increased workload following the implementation of European standards and obligations, such as the commissioning of the entire VISMAIL module, etc.). Potential developments in the field of visa digitalization at EU level in the 2nd half of the MFF – following the possible adoption of legislation on this issue by the Council and the Parliament – could also be supported.

Action 2: Purchase, optimization and/or upgrading of operating equipment and communication systems (including IT-systems) required for the processing of visa applications and consular cooperation. These could include, among others, for example:

- Purchase of additional VIS equipment for consular posts;

Action 3: Realization of awareness-raising activities on visa policies among stakeholders and the general public;

Action 4: Development of a targeted approach against fraudulent visa applications. These could include, among others, for example:

- (Continued) employment of locally recruited ‘Document Verification Officers’ (DVO’s), who verify supporting documents submitted with the visa files in case of suspected document fraud;
- (Continued) use of immigration officers who provide advice and training in terms of detecting false documents to consular services, airline companies (including through pre-boarding controls) and local immigration officers in countries of origin prone to illegal migration towards the Schengen area;
- Digitalization of screening and fraud detection processes;

(b) Supporting Member States in issuing visas;

No actions planned.

(c) ensuring the uniform application of the Union acquis on visas, including the further development and modernisation of the common policy on visas;

Indicative list of actions:

Action 5: Training of consular and other staff contributing to the common visa policy and consular cooperation, in order to ensure harmonized application of the VISA Code, the VIS Regulation and other legislation to the extent that it affects the visa procedure;

Action 6: Addressing and remedying weaknesses and recommendations identified by the Vulnerability Assessments and Schengen Evaluations;

(d) developing different forms of cooperation between Member States in visa processing;

No actions planned.

(e) setting up, operating and maintaining large-scale IT systems pursuant to Union law in the area of the

common policy on visas, in particular the Visa Information System (VIS), including the interoperability of these large-scale IT systems and their communication infrastructure, and actions to enhance data quality and the provision of information.

Indicative list of actions:

Action 7: Ensuring the maintenance of the Visa Information System (VIS), IT system modifications and necessary updates in order to implement the revised VIS Regulation and other legislation such as the EES Regulation, to the extent that it affects the visa procedure (including through operating support for the implementation of the common visa policy). These could include, among others, for example:

- Maintenance and system updates of the BELVIS Message Broker.

2.1. Specific objective 2. Common visa policy

2.1.2. Indicators

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

Table 1: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
O.2.1	Number of projects supporting the digitalisation of visa processing	number	1	2
O.2.2	Number of participants supported	number	90	240
O.2.2.1	of which number of participants in training activities	number	90	240
O.2.3	Number of staff deployed to consulates in third countries	number	8	8
O.2.3.1	of which number of staff deployed for visa processing	number	8	8
O.2.4	Number of IT functionalities developed / maintained / upgraded	number	0	0
O.2.5	Number of large-scale IT systems developed / maintained / upgraded	number	1	1
O.2.5.1	of which number of large-scale IT systems developed	number	1	1
O.2.6	Number of infrastructure maintained / repaired	number	0	0
O.2.7	Number of real estates rented / depreciated	number	0	0

2.1. Specific objective 2. Common visa policy

2.1.2. Indicators

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

Table 2: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
R.2.8	Number of new / upgraded consulates outside the Schengen area	number	0	number	2021	84	number	Data provided by the Foreign Affairs Ministry.	Target is based on the assumption / intention that VIS-equipment in all diplomatic posts with visa authority will be replaced / upgraded in the coming years. As things currently stands, this concerns 84 diplomatic posts.
R.2.8.1	of which number of consulates upgraded to enhance client-friendliness for Visa applicants	number	0	number	2021	84	number	Data provided by the Foreign Affairs Ministry.	Target is based on the assumption / intention that VIS-equipment in all diplomatic posts with visa authority will be replaced / upgraded in the coming years. As things currently stands, this concerns 84 diplomatic posts.
R.2.9	Number of addressed recommendations from	number	0	number	2021	100	percentage	See guidance in Ref.	See guidance in Ref.

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
	Schengen Evaluations in the area of the common visa policy							Ares(2022)2447428 - 01/04/2022	Ares(2022)2447428 - 01/04/2022: 100% of recommendations from Schengen Evaluations in the area of the common visa policy with financial implication falling under the scope of this SO.
R.2.10	Number of visa applications using digital means	number	0	share	2021	2,089,400	number	Statistics gathered by the Foreign Affairs Ministry on the basis of requests for visa introduced via "Visa-on-web"	Target: 95% *average of total number of visa applications for 2018-2019 (i.e. $(260.199 + 289.644) / 2 = 274.921,50$) = 261.175 annually. Target for 2029 is based on extrapolation of this expected amount (= $8 * 261.175$).
R.2.11	Number of initiated / improved forms of cooperation set up among Member States in visa processing	number	0	number	2021	0	number	Number of anticipated projects by EU funds unit	Number of Specific Actions in the field of consular cooperation launched under ISF during the previous programming

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
									period. '4'. Under this NP, no new or continued projects are (at this stage) expected.
R.2.12	Number of participants who report three months after the training activity that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training	number	0	share	2021	168	number	Currently no data available on this.	After consulting with potential beneficiaries who might conduct these training activities, a 70 % usefulness rating = realistic estimate. Calculation method: 70 % of milestone / target of data estimates under output indic. 2.2.1.

2.1. Specific objective 2. Common visa policy

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

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

Table 3: Indicative breakdown

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	001.Improving visa application processing	332,000.00
Intervention field	002.Enhancing the efficiency, client-friendly environment and security at consulates	0.00
Intervention field	003.Document security / document advisors	1,012,436.98
Intervention field	004.Consular cooperation	0.00
Intervention field	005.Consular coverage	0.00
Intervention field	006.Large-scale IT systems - Visa Information System (VIS)	0.00
Intervention field	007.Other ICT systems for visa application processing purposes	0.00
Intervention field	008.Operating support - Common visa policy	0.00
Intervention field	009.Operating support - Large-scale IT systems for visa application processing purposes	3,486,000.00
Intervention field	010.Operating support - Special Transit Scheme	0.00
Intervention field	011.Issuance of visas with limited territorial validity	0.00
Intervention field	012.Data quality and data subjects' rights to information, access to, rectification and erasure of, their personal data, and to the restriction of the processing thereof	0.00

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

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

2.2.1. Description

The technical assistance (TA) of the three HOME funds AMIF, ISF and BMVI will be combined. The TA will mainly be used to cover the staff costs and related expenses of the Managing Authority (MA), the Intermediate Bodies (IB's) and the Audit Authority (AA).

BE currently envisages that at least 17 FTE will be paid by the TA of AMIF, ISF and BMVI combined. In line with article 44 of the CPR, the required evaluations will also be funded with the help of the TA. In addition, the TA will also be used for the further development and maintenance of the IT-system ('AMBIS') that is currently being developed by the Managing Authority under the 14-20 funding cycle.

Regarding communication and publicity, Belgium will fully support the initiatives created by the EU-inform network and will fulfill all its legal obligations. Within the MA, 1 FTE will be responsible to coordinate these obligations and activities. BE also foresees some budget for capacity building but the exact use of this still remains to be decided.

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

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

Table 4: Indicative breakdown

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	001.Information and communication	51,549.48
Intervention field	002.Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	2,035,463.82
Intervention field	003.Evaluation and studies, data collection	103,098.97
Intervention field	004.Capacity building	51,549.48

3. Financing plan

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

3.1. Financial appropriations by year

Table 5: Financial appropriations per year

Allocation type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Initial allocation		5,846,081.00	7,103,033.00	7,660,751.00	5,931,624.00	4,909,955.00	4,976,857.00	36,428,301.00
Mid-term review								
Thematic facility WPI		1,041,057.00						1,041,057.00
Thematic facility WPII				2,133,333.00				2,133,333.00
Thematic facility WPIII								
Non-Thematic facility transfer (in)								
Non-Thematic facility transfer (out)								
SACs contribution								
Total		6,887,138.00	7,103,033.00	9,794,084.00	5,931,624.00	4,909,955.00	4,976,857.00	39,602,691.00

3.2. Total financial allocations

Table 6: Total financial allocations by fund and national contribution

Specific objective (SO)	Type of action	Basis for calculation Union support (total or public)	Union contribution (a)	National contribution (b)=(c)+(d)	Indicative breakdown of national contribution		Total (e)=(a)+(b)	Co-financing rate (f)=(a)/(e)
					Public (c)	Private (d)		
European integrated border management	Regular actions	Total	18,916,906.77	6,305,635.59	6,305,635.59	0.00	25,222,542.36	75.0000000000%
European integrated border management	Specific actions	Total	2,994,707.55	332,745.29	332,745.29	0.00	3,327,452.84	89.9999998197%
European integrated border management	Annex IV actions	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
European integrated border management	Operating support	Total	6,618,977.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,618,977.95	100.0000000000%
European integrated border management	ETIAS regulation Art. 85(2)	Total	4,000,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,000,000.00	100.0000000000%
European integrated border management	ETIAS regulation Art. 85(3)	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total European integrated border management			32,530,592.27	6,638,380.88	6,638,380.88	0.00	39,168,973.15	83.0519404872%
Common visa policy	Regular actions	Total	1,344,436.98	448,145.66	448,145.66	0.00	1,792,582.64	75.0000000000%
Common visa policy	Annex IV actions	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Common visa policy	Operating support	Total	3,486,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,486,000.00	100.0000000000%
Total Common visa policy			4,830,436.98	448,145.66	448,145.66	0.00	5,278,582.64	91.5101137831%
Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)			2,241,661.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,241,661.75	100.0000000000%
Grand total			39,602,691.00	7,086,526.54	7,086,526.54	0.00	46,689,217.54	84.8219205346%

3.3. Transfers

Table 7: Transfers between shared management funds¹

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

¹Cumulative amounts for all transfers during programming period.

Table 8: Transfers to instruments under direct or indirect management¹

Instrument	Transfer Amount
	0.00

¹Cumulative amounts for all transfers during programming period.

4. Enabling conditions

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

Table 9: Horizontal enabling conditions

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
1. Effective monitoring mechanisms of the public procurement market	Yes	Monitoring mechanisms are in place that cover all public contracts and their procurement under the Funds in line with Union procurement legislation. That requirement includes: 1. Arrangements to ensure compilation of effective and reliable data on public procurement procedures above the Union thresholds in accordance with reporting obligations under Articles 83 and 84 of Directive 2014/24/EU and Articles 99 and 100 of Directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	1. Publicprocurement.be 2. Lois a) Passation et attribution : Loi du 17 juin 2016 relative aux marchés publics; b) Attribution d'un marché public : Loi du 17 juin 2013 relative à la motivation, à l'information et aux voies de recours en matière de marchés publics, de certains marchés de travaux, de fournitures et de services et de concessions. 3. Arrêtés royaux a) Arrêté royal du 18 avril 2017 relatif à la passation des marchés publics dans les secteurs classiques; b) Arrêté royal du 14 janvier 2013 établissant les règles générales d'exécution des marchés publics	Tous les bénéficiaires sont soumis au respect de la législation sur les marchés publics. Si le montant du marché public > seuil de l'UE, seront notamment nécessaires: nom du contractant, numéro TVA ou d'identification financière, identification des bénéficiaires effectifs des contractants, date/nom/référence du contrat, etc. Si subventions en cascade : nom de l'entité concernée, numéro TVA ou d'identification fiscale et informations sur les accords entre l'entité et le bénéficiaire (date et montant de la convention & références).
		2. Arrangements to ensure the data cover at least the following elements: a. Quality and intensity of competition: names of winning bidder, number of initial bidders and contractual value; b. Information on final price after completion and on participation of SMEs as direct bidders, where national systems provide such information.	Yes	1. Art. 4 de la loi du 17 juin 2013 relative à la motivation à l'information et aux voies de recours en matière de marchés publics et de certains marchés de travaux, de fournitures et de services. 2. Décision motivée d'attribution.	1. La loi du 17 juin 2013 prévoit, à l'article 4, al. 1, 8° que l'autorité adjudicatrice doit notamment rédiger une décision motivée lorsqu'elle attribue un marché (soumis à publicité EU), quelle que soit la procédure. 2. Reprend notamment le nom du

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				<p>3. Charte «Accès des PME aux marchés public», éditée par le SPF Économie, PME, Classes moyennes et Energie en 2018</p> <p>4. Règlement (UE) 2021/1060 du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 24 juin 2021</p>	<p>soumissionnaire remportant le marché, le nombre de soumissionnaires initial et la valeur du marché attribué.</p> <p>3. Propose 13 principes afin d'accroître l'accès des PME aux marchés publics. Le public cible de la charte se compose en premier lieu des pouvoirs adjudicateurs fédéraux.</p> <p>4. Porte des dispositions communes relatives au Fonds européen de développement régional, au Fonds social européen plus, au Fonds de cohésion et au Fonds européen pour les affaires maritimes et la pêche, et établissant les règles financières applicables à ces Fonds et au Fonds «Asile et migration», au Fonds pour la sécurité intérieure et à l'instrument relatif à la gestion des frontières et aux visas.</p>
		<p>3. Arrangements to ensure monitoring and analysis of the data by the competent national authorities in accordance with article 83 (2) of directive 2014/24/EU and article 99 (2) of directive 2014/25/EU.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Acteurs du contrôle : SPF Intérieur (Autorité de gestion), Inspection des Finances, le Corps Interfédéral de l'Inspection des Finances (Autorité d'audit), la Cour des comptes de Belgique, la Cour des comptes européenne, la Commission européenne</p> <p>2. Voies de recours : Médiateur, Conseil d'État, Cours et Tribunaux</p>	<p>Publicprocurement.be est à disposition de tout adjudicateur belge et permet d'effectuer toutes les procédures et transactions liées à un marché public de manière électronique. Les fonctionnaires et les entreprises peuvent trouver plusieurs informations (des manuels, des exemples de documents types, des points de contact...) concernant les différents aspects des marchés publics depuis la législation jusqu'au traitement des marchés via les moyens électroniques.</p>

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				<p>3. Publicprocurement.be</p> <p>4. Loi du 17 juin 2013 relative à la motivation, à l'information et aux voies de recours en matière de marchés publics et de certains marchés de travaux, de fournitures et de services (art. 9/1 §2)</p>	
		<p>4. Arrangements to make the results of the analysis available to the public in accordance with article 83 (3) of directive 2014/24/EU and article 99 (3) directive 2014/25/EU.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>L'Arrêté royal du 15 avril 2018 désigne le point de référence en vue de collaborer avec la Commission européenne en matière de marchés publics et de contrats de concession.</p> <p>Un deuxième rapport de contrôle de la Belgique concernant les marchés publics et les concessions est également disponible : https://www.publicprocurement.be/fr/documents/rapport-de-controle-2021</p>	<p>L'Arrête royal du 15 avril 2018 désigne la chancellerie SPF du Premier ministre comme point de contact au sens de l'article 83, paragraphe 5, de la directive 2014/24/UE. Cette entité coordonne la préparation du rapport de surveillance. Ce rapport de contrôle est publié sur leur site Internet : https://www.publicprocurement.be/fr/documents/rapport-de-controle-concernant-les-marches-publics-et-les-concessions-belgique-2018</p>
		<p>5. Arrangements to ensure that all information pointing to suspected bid-rigging situations is communicated to the competent national bodies in accordance with Article 83(2) of Directive 2014/24/EU and Article 99(2) of Directive 2014/25/EU.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>L'article 36, §5 de l'arrêté royal du 18 avril 2017 relatif à la passation des marchés publics dans les secteurs classiques.</p> <p>L'Autorité belge de la Concurrence met à disposition des acheteurs un guide sur la collusion dans les marchés publics: https://www.abc-bma.be/sites/default/files/content/download/files/20170131_marches_publics.pdf</p> <p>Deuxième rapport de contrôle (2021) pour la Belgique concernant les marchés publics et les concessions. Informations pour les années 2018, 2019 et 2020: https://www.publicprocurement.be/nl/docu</p>	<p>L'article 36, §5 de l'arrêté royal du 18 avril 2017 relatif à la passation des marchés publics dans les secteurs classiques stipule que les offres interdites en raison de prix anormaux doivent être signalées à l'Autorité belge de la Concurrence : https://www.abc-bma.be/fr/propos-de-nous</p> <p>Il existe également la possibilité de se référer à ARACHNE, l'outil de notation des risques mis au point par la Commission européenne.</p>

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				menten/toezichrapport-2021	
3. Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights	Yes	<p>Effective mechanisms are in place to ensure compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ('the Charter') which include:</p> <p>1. Arrangements to ensure compliance of the programmes supported by the Funds and their implementation with the relevant provisions of the Charter.</p>	Yes	<p>Appels à projets et mise en œuvre des projets</p> <p>Direction IV Droits fondamentaux du SPF Justice</p> <p>FRA: « European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights » (https://e-learning.fra.europa.eu/; https://e-learning.fra.europa.eu/course/index.php?categoryid=6)</p> <p>Check list CE 2016/C269/01, annexe III</p> <p>UNIA : soutien et formations pour les personnes qui veulent mener une politique de diversité (https://www.unia.be/fr/sensibilisation-et-prevention)</p> <p>Webpagina EU-Charter : https://ec.europa.eu/info/aid-development-cooperation-fundamental-rights/your-rights-eu/eu-cha</p>	<p>Sensibilisation lors des appels à projets.</p> <p>Engagement des bénéficiaires par rapport à la Charte dans la fiche de projet, et engagement rappelé dans l'arrêté de subvention.</p> <p>Aux différentes étapes du projet, l'AG et ses autorités déléguées pour l'AMIF (ESF Vlaanderen et Agence FSE) veillent le respect de la charte.</p> <p>L'autorité de gestion désigne en son sein un expert des Droits Fondamentaux. Cette personne est l'interlocuteur privilégié en cas de signalement de plainte ou de doute quant au respect de la Charte des droits fondamentaux. Elle travaille, le cas échéant, en collaboration avec ses partenaires (UNIA, Direction IV Droits fondamentaux du SPF Justice).</p> <p>Pour disposer de l'expertise nécessaire pour assurer le respect de la Charte :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - L'expert suit une formation sur la Charte auprès de la FRA, renouvelée tous les deux ans (step-by-step Charter e-guidance, des exemples concrets montrant le champ d'application de la Charte, études de cas) ; - L'expert se réfère à la checklist de la CE; - L'expert se fait épauler par ses partenaires (UNIA, Direction IV Droits fondamentaux du SPF Justice)
		<p>2. Reporting arrangements to the monitoring committee regarding cases of non-compliance of operations supported by</p>	Yes	<p>Comité de Suivi et son règlement d'ordre intérieur:</p>	<p>En cas de doutes ou de constat de non-respect de la Charte par un des bénéficiaires, ou si elle est confrontée à</p>

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
		the Funds with the Charter and complaints regarding the Charter submitted in accordance with the arrangements made pursuant to Article 69(7).		<p>Si des cas de non-conformité avec la Charte des droits fondamentaux de l'Union européenne sont identifiés, ils seront rapportés au comité de suivi ; les plaintes reçues et les suites qui leur ont été données seront également rapportées au comité de suivi.</p> <p>Règlement intérieur du comité de suivi : un point sera ajouté concernant la compatibilité des actions avec la Charte des droits fondamentaux.</p>	<p>une plainte, l'expert des Droits Fondamentaux prend contact avec avec un de ses partenaires (UNIA, Direction IV Droits fondamentaux du SPF Justice). Il peut ainsi être conseillé quant aux démarches à entreprendre.</p> <p>Les cas de non-conformité seront signalés au Comité de Suivi.</p> <p>Traitement des plaintes concernant spécifiquement l'application de la Charte de l'Union européenne : les plaintes seront transmises aux organismes compétents, avec une demande de suivi à l'autorité de gestion, le cas échéant.</p> <p>Un point est fait au minimum 1 fois par an au Comité de Suivi (actions concernant la Charte, résumé des plaintes et recours, et des cas de non-conformité constaté). Si nécessaire, un partenaire (UNIA, Direction IV Droits fondamentaux du SPF Justice) est invité au Comité de Suivi pour expliquer le cas. De la sorte, le Comité de suivi peut prendre une décision informée, le cas échéant.</p> <p>Inclusion d'une phrase dans le règlement intérieur du Comité de Suivi obligeant l'AG à l'informer des cas de non-conformité de la Charte ou des plaintes en lien avec celle-ci.</p>
4. Implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities	Yes	<p>A national framework to ensure implementation of the UNCRPD is in place that includes:</p> <p>1. Objectives with measurable goals, data collection and monitoring mechanisms.</p>	Yes	<p>Objectifs et mécanismes de suivi</p> <p>- UNIA : Service public indépendant propose un soutien et des formations pour les personnes qui veulent mener une politique de diversité (https://www.unia.be/fr/sensibilisation-et-prevention)</p>	<p>L'AG veille au respect de la CNUDPH par les bénéficiaires durant toute la durée de leur projet.</p> <p>En collaboration avec UNIA , l'autorité de gestion prépare une checklist comprenant les points importants à contrôler afin d'assurer le respect de la CNUDPH par les</p>

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
(UNCRPD) in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC				<p>- Article 22 ter de la Constitution belge</p> <p>- La CNUDPH prescrit la désignation d'une instance indépendante pour le suivi de la Convention et d'un mécanisme de coordination au sein de l'administration</p> <p>- Plan d'action fédéral Handicap 2021-2024 : https://socialsecurity.belgium.be/fr/handistreaming</p>	<p>bénéficiaires.</p> <p>En collaboration avec UNIA, l'autorité de gestion décide de la fréquence et des modalités selon lesquelles les bénéficiaires doivent être contrôlé sur le respect de la CNUDPH.</p> <p>Plan national „Handistreaming“ compte 145 mesures. Un rapport à mi-terme (fin '22) présentera les avancées et contiendra des mesures visant à réaliser la Stratégie interfédérale handicap ('21-30). L'AG évalue si, oui ou non, ces mesures sont réalisées par les bénéficiaires.</p> <p>Transmission des données collectées au SPF sécurité sociale.</p> <p>SPF sécurité sociale DG Soutien et Coordination (BESOC) est point de contact et de coordination.</p> <p>Rapport étatique belge concernant la mise en œuvre de la CNUDPH (2011)</p> <p>Observations finales du rapport périodique de la Belgique (2014)</p> <p>Rapport alternatif “Belgian Disability Forum (BDF) (2014)</p> <p>Evaluation à mi-parcours de la CNUDPH par le BDF (2017)</p>
		2. Arrangements to ensure that accessibility policy, legislation and standards are properly reflected in the preparation and implementation of the programmes.	Yes	<p>Programmes opérationnels</p> <p>Appels à projets et mise en œuvre des projets</p>	<p>Engagement des bénéficiaires par rapport à la CNUDPH dans fiche de projet, rappelé dans arrêté de subvention.</p> <p>Dans la préparation et la mise en œuvre des programmes, l'AG et ses autorités déléguées (ESF Vlaanderen et Agence</p>

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					<p>FSE) vérifient le respect de la charte :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pour disposer de l'expertise nécessaire, elles sont formées par UNIA; - Les cas de non-conformité sont signalés au Comité de suivi; - Les plaintes sur application de la CNUDPH sont transmises aux organismes compétents, avec une demande de suivi à l'AG, le cas échéant. <p>Un point est fait au minimum 1 fois par an au Comité de Suivi (actions concernant la CNUDPH, résumé des plaintes et recours, et des cas de non-conformité constatés). Si nécessaire, UNIA est invité au Comité de Suivi pour expliquer le cas. Le Comité de suivi peut alors prendre une décision informée, le cas échéant.</p> <p>L'AG désigne dans son équipe une personne de référence concernant la diversité et l'égalité des chances. Cette personne est l'interlocuteur privilégié de l'AG et de ses autorités déléguées pour l'AMIF en cas de signalement de plainte ou de doute quant au respect de la CNUDPH. Cette personne, le cas échéant, travaille avec UNIA.</p>
		<p>3. Reporting arrangements to the monitoring committee regarding cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the UNCRPD and complaints regarding the UNCRPD submitted in accordance with the arrangements made pursuant to Article 69(7).</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. 1. Le comité de suivi et son règlement d'ordre intérieur</p>	<p>Un point sera fait au minimum 1 fois par an au Comité de suivi (actions concernant la CNUDPH, résumé des plaintes et recours, et des cas de non-conformité constaté). Si nécessaire UNIA est invité au Comité de Suivi pour expliquer le cas.</p> <p>Le Comité de Suivi peut ainsi prendre une décision informée, le cas échéant.</p> <p>Inclusion d'une phrase dans le règlement</p>

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					intérieur du Comité de Suivi obligeant l'AG à l'informer des cas de non-conformité ou des plaintes liées à CNUDPH.

5. Programme authorities

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

Table 10: Programme authorities

Programme Authority	Name of the institution	Contact name	Position	Email
Managing authority	Federal Public Service Home Affairs - European Funds Unit	Stijn Lenjou	Head of Unit	stijn.lenjou@ibz.fgov.be
Audit authority	Interfederal Corps of the Inspectorate of Finance	Béatrice Baumann	Head of the Federal Audit Cell of the Inspectorate of Finance for the European Funds	BJS.Baumann@inspfin.fed.be
Body which receives payments from the Commission	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	amif.isf@ibz.eu

6. Partnership

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

The Managing Authority launched a **wide consultation process in January 2020**, aimed at collecting the necessary input for the preparation of the AMIF, ISF & BMVI draft National Programmes for the period 2021-2027. This process continued throughout 2020 and 2021, up until the point of submission of the draft programmes. As a starting point, a **questionnaire** was sent out for each draft National Programme to relevant administrations and current beneficiaries, in order to inquire about the experiences of beneficiaries during the past programming period, the perceived challenges in terms of AMIF/ISF/BMVI, the needs in terms of ‘operating support’ and ‘emergency assistance’, possible interest in participating in joint ‘Specific Actions’, operational objectives of the relevant AMIF/ISF/BMVI funds to be financed, and an indicative list of actions/projects. Given the nature of potential actions under the BMVI and the fact that funds are typically attributed via 'direct award procedure', consulted entities were mainly limited to so-called **'institutional players'** whose competences fall within the scope of the BMVI. These include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Belgian Federal Police, the Immigration Office, the National Crisis Centre, and the ICT department of the Ministry of Interior. **Based on the received inputs, a first draft National Programme was drawn up by the Managing Authority for each of the concerned funds.** After each cycle of revision and updating/integrating comments, including those from European Commission experts, a revised version of the draft National Programme was circulated.

Moreover, the preparation and implementation of the National Programmes has been done under the auspices of the **existing 'Steering Group'**, comprising representatives of the relevant political cabinets (Interior Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Asylum & Migration, Social Integration, Budget (as an observer),...), the Managing Authority and relevant administrations.

While the majority of the above-mentioned partners are primarily (entities belonging to) federal public administrations, this can be explained due to the fact that within the Belgian institutional context, the **most important 'BMVI competences' such as border control and surveillance on the one hand, and visa policy on the other, are typically managed on the federal level.** Hence, **actors on the regional level play a less prominent role in this regard**, unlike in the AMIF Fund for example.

With regard to the **involvement of actors on the local level**, it is worth highlighting the role of the Belgian Integrated Police. The **Belgian Integrated Police** is structured on two levels, with the **Federal Police** on the one hand and the **185 local police zones** on the other hand. Although both levels are autonomous, they cooperate to perform an integrated police function. The Federal Police also ensures the necessary specialized support to local police entities. Hence, in this respect, there is a continuous feedback loop present within the Belgian Integrated Police which ensures that the policy priorities of local level entities are taken up and translated into general policy priorities.

For the new programming period 2021-2027, BE plans to build on its existing – and functioning – operating structures. The current **'Steering Group'** will be transformed in a **'Monitoring Committee'**, which will be responsible for monitoring the progress in the implementation of the different National Programmes, as well as for the approval of the annual (and final) performance reports for the AMIF, ISF and BMVI Funds. In line with article 40 of the CPR, the Monitoring Committee will also examine any issues that might affect the performance of the programme and the measures taken to address those issues. Hence, the partners who play the largest role in the implementation of the programmes are indirectly represented via the representatives of their respective political cabinets. In addition and in line with article 39§3 of the CPR, relevant decentralised administrations may also participate in the work of the Monitoring Committee.

Beyond the work of the Monitoring Committee and specifically when it comes to the **involvement of economic and social partners**, it is important to highlight BE's long tradition of institutionalized social dialogue on a multitude of levels. For example, on the federal (national) level, both the National Labour Council ('Nationale Arbeidsraad' (NAR) / 'Conseil National de Travail' (CNT)) and the Central Council for the Economy ('Centrale Raad voor het Bedrijfsleven / Conseil Central de l'Economie) have an important role to play. Both bodies consist of delegates of the employers and workers organizations who

are considered representative for the Belgian economic and social world. They act in an advisory capacity, either on their own initiative or on the request of members of the Belgian federal government or Parliament.

The same goes true with regard to the **involvement of relevant bodies representing fundamental rights as well as equality and inclusion**, where it is for example worth mentioning the role of 'Unia'. 'Unia' is an independent public institution that fights discrimination and promotes equal opportunities. Its independence and engagement in favor of human rights is recognized by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. As an institution, it has inter-federal competence, which means that, in BE, it is active at the federal level as well as the level of the regions and communities. Unia also mounts campaigns for equal opportunities and against discrimination, formulates recommendations for government authorities and generates tools, publications and statistics. Specifically with regard to ensuring the compliance of the Home Affairs programmes and their implementation with the relevant provisions of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, the Managing Authority foresees an important supporting role by 'Unia'. Both in terms of ensuring the necessary expertise as well as through providing relevant advice in case of doubts, a finding of non-compliance with the Charter, or a specific complaint, 'Unia' is considered as a key partner. In addition, the Managing Authority anticipates the possibility for 'Unia' or another partner in the field of human rights (f. ex. Directorate IV on Fundamental Rights of the Federal Public Service Justice) to be invited to meetings of the Monitoring Committee, i.a. in order to provide explanations on specific cases for example. Lastly, the Managing Authority will also prepare a checklist in cooperation with 'Unia' containing the most important verification elements with regard to the implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCPRD). More details on the exact role of 'Unia' and its participation in the Monitoring Committee can be found in the section on 'enabling conditions'.

In line with the Monitoring Committee's (future) rules of procedure, **BE will foresee the possibility to invite the above-mentioned partners and/or others, including representatives of the local / regional authorities**, where appropriate, to meetings of the Monitoring Committee according to the issues on the agenda or the progress stage of the programme in line with Article 39 (1) of the CPR. In addition, when relevant, **information sessions** will be organised by the Managing Authority involving both institutional players and other partners in line with Article 8 of the CPR, with the aim to discuss progress in programme implementation.

To conclude, BE will comply with the requirements of article 44 of the CPR by entrusting (an) **evaluation(s)** of the AMIF/ISF/BMVI programmes to internal/external experts who are **functionally independent**, and this both for the 'impact assessment evaluations' to be carried out by 30 June 2029 as well as for the 'criteria evaluations' (effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and Union added value, etc.). Building on the evaluation experiences of the ongoing programming period (2014-2020), this approach allows for a **wide and broad involvement of all types of stakeholders**, both within and beyond the administrations represented within the Monitoring Committee. The same logic applies for the ex-post evaluation report on the effects of actions under the ongoing national programmes (2014-2020), in line with article 57(1)(b) of Regulation (EU) No. 514/2014 (to be conducted by 31 December 2023). For the purpose of transparency, all evaluations will also be published on the website of the Managing Authority.

7. Communication and visibility

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

In terms of ensuring the necessary **communication and visibility** with regard to BMVI, BE will primarily target (existing) project beneficiaries as a target audience. This is based on the fact that funding under BMVI is (mainly) attributed to institutional players via “direct awards”. **Information sessions** will be organized to provide information and support to beneficiaries on the conceptualisation of their project, its implementation and the reporting obligations associated with it. During these sessions, the beneficiaries will also be informed about their new communication obligations (such as the correct use of the EU emblem) in order to increase the visibility of their project and that of the European Union. Secondary objectives in terms of communication and visibility are informing the general public about the activities and results of the programme(s), and showing the positive impact and added value of EU financing.

In order to achieve this, **BE will primarily build on the existing measures and communication channels which are currently in place**. At the level of the Managing Authority, these include, first and foremost, the AMIF-ISF website (<https://amif-isf.be/nl>, available in Dutch and French), which will be updated in view of the new programming period 2021-2027. The **AMIF-ISF website** will therefore continue to be the main entry portal for any potential beneficiary who is looking for information and/or funding opportunities in the context of the BE National Programmes on BMVI. A link to the relevant EU web-portal providing information about funding opportunities through the ‘EU thematic facility’, will also be added to the website.

The AMIF-ISF website will be integrated as soon as possible into the **Belgian joint portal of the European Structural and Investment Funds** (<http://www.europeinbelgium.be/fr/>), in accordance with Article 46b) of the CPR.

In accordance with Article 48 of the CPR, Belgium has designated a **National Coordinator** for visibility, transparency and communication activities related to the support of the funds. In addition, the Managing Authority has appointed a **Communication Officer**. He/she is responsible for the communication of the BMVI funds. He/she will be in regular contact with the National Coordinator and the other Belgian communication officers. He/she participates in the country team meetings, as well as the various activities set up by the INFORM platform.

Furthermore, the Managing Authority will participate in the '**Kohesio project**' (<https://kohesio.eu/>) led by the European Commission, from the moment when its scope will be expanded to Belgium. The Kohesio project aims at creating a knowledge base of EU co-funded projects and beneficiaries. In this way, a greater public visibility of the projects carried out by the various beneficiaries will be ensured.

In terms of estimated budget, the **costs for communication will form an integral part of BE’s technical assistance**, and will mainly consist – at the level of the Managing Authority – of personnel costs (salary ‘Communication Officer’) and maintenance costs for the website.

Lastly, in terms of **indicators and associated targets for communication activities**, BE aims to achieve the following results on the level of the programme:

- 100% of calls published on the public website;
- 100% of selected projects published on the public website;
- 100% of selected projects published on Kohesio;
- 2 participations to joint communication activities with other managing authorities.

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

Reference: Articles 94 and 95 CPR

Intended use of Articles 94 and 95 CPR	Yes	No
From the adoption, the programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates under the priority according to Article 94 CPR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
From the adoption, the programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs according to Article 95 CPR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

A. Summary of the main elements

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

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

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

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

B. Details by type of operation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A. Summary of the main elements

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

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

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

B. Details by type of operation

Appendix 3

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

Procedure reference	Programme version	Status	Accept/Decline date	Comments
C(2022)8993 - 12 Dec 2022 - 2	2.0	Accepted	15 Dec 2025	erreur dans le montant transféré du fonds AMIF (il doit s'agir d'un nombre entier) : 1821415,05 doit être remplacé par 1821415,00

Specific objective	Modality	Type of intervention	Union contribution	Pre-financing rate	Description of the action
1. European integrated border management	Pact specific action		14,827,835.85		<p>Specific Action to Support Member States in the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum.</p> <p>Funding will contribute to the implementation of the Building Block 1, 2, and 9 of the Common Implementation Plan for the Pact on Migration and Asylum as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - enhance the Eurodac system by digitalizing and optimizing the Printrak service, including the purchase of the new livescan equipment and software updates. Additional staff will be hired to ensure efficient system operation; - establish Medical Screening and Assistance Points for Applicants for international protection and develop a monitoring framework to be able to adequately follow-up on vulnerabilities detected during screening. Update the eMigration IT system to align with new procedures and rules on screening and solidarity rules. Recruitment of extra staff to handle increased registration and screening workloads - improve the process of taking biometric data for UAMs during registration and screening. Age determination procedures will be enhanced by hiring and training additional staff. Funding will also cover interpretation costs for screening and legal assistance
TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)			889,670.15		Increase of Technical assistance (6%) stemming from: Specific Action to Support Member States in the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum (EU Contribution EUR 15.717.506,00 including TA – this is without a transfer of 1.821.415,00 € to BMVI).

Procedure reference	Programme version	Status	Accept/Decline date	Comments
C(2022)3163 - 19 May 2022 - 2	1.2	Accepted	19 Sept 2024	

Specific objective	Modality	Type of intervention	Union contribution	Pre-financing rate	Description of the action
1. European integrated border management	Specific actions		2,994,707.55		<p>BMVI/2021/SA/1.5.4/002 - EUR 982.129,25 Support to comply with the implementation of the relevant interoperability legal framework” under BMVI. The objective of this Specific Action is to support Schengen countries to comply with the implementation of the interoperability legal framework. The action has two aspects: 1) preparing the end-users of EU IT system for handling properly the information on identities contained in other systems as a result of interoperability and 2) extending the capacity of the SIRENE offices to resolve yellow links during the period that makes the Multiple Identity Detector (MID) operational. BELGIUM implements both aspects.</p> <p>BMVI/2024/SA/1.5.1- EUR 2,012,578.30 supports:</p> <p>Under Lot 1: the preparation at the national level for the entry into operation of the</p>

				<p>Entry/Exit System (EES) and the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS). This includes adaptations to the national systems connected to or used in relation with the EES and/or the ETIAS, adaptation to infrastructure or premises related to the EES and/or the ETIAS operation, the procurement of material and equipment, and services.</p> <p>Under Lot 2: changes to the SIRENE Bureaux Case management system related to the implementation and operation of ETIAS. This includes the development and implementation of national processes and IT solutions, as well as national procedures, handbooks, and training.</p> <p>The specific action provides a flexibility option that consists in the possibility to transfer all or part of the allocation for Lot 2 (EUR 500 000 including Technical Assistance) to Lot 1, on condition that the Member State confirms that activities under Lot 2 will be fully carried out and that the costs will be covered by the national budget or other actions financed from the BMVI programme. Belgium has decided to make use of this possibility.</p>
TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)			179,682.45	TA

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent by
Programme snapshot 2021BE65BVPR001 2.0	Snapshot of data before send	2 Oct 2024		Ares(2024)6982223	Programme_snapshot_2021BE65BVPR001_2.0_en.pdf	2 Oct 2024	Laevens, Griet