



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS

Directorate E – HOME Affairs Funds
The Director

Brussels
HOME.E.3/DA

HOME-Funds/2023/08

COMMITTEE FOR THE HOME AFFAIRS FUNDS

Subject: Planning of the specific actions to be launched under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (BMVI) and the Internal Security Fund (ISF)

Dear Members of the Committee for the Home Affairs Funds,

Following the adoption of the Commission's Implementing Decisions establishing the 2023-2025 Thematic Facility Work Programmes for each of the three Home Affairs Funds (AMIF, BMVI and ISF), this document sets out the overall planning of the envisaged specific actions¹, as included in the Annexes to those Decisions.

The indicative list of specific actions envisaged at this stage, considering foreseen policy developments and budget availability, is included in the Annex to this note.

The list includes calls for expression of interest already launched with the budget available, and calls for which the budget is confirmed, and which are planned to be launched in 2023 and early 2024. Once more information is available on other calls and their budget, we will provide you with an update.

As for the completion of the specific actions included in the 2021-2022 Thematic Facility Work Programmes², most of the specific actions were already added to the Member States' programmes, for some specific actions the assessment is ongoing³, some remain

¹ Specific actions are defined in the Fund-specific Regulations as '*transnational or national projects that bring Union added value in line with the objectives of the Fund for which one, several or all Member States may receive an additional allocation to their programmes*'

² Overview provided in the note to the Committee registered under the reference no. HOME-Funds/2021/29, from 22 December 2021 (Ares(2021)7929805)

³ For instance, the second call for expression of interest under the Specific Action "Support for innovation and new technologies for the protection of public spaces PPS II" under the Internal Security Fund (ISF) – (reference no. ISF/2022/SA/3.4.1)

to be launched this year⁴, and others were carried over to the 2023-2025 Thematic Facility Work Programmes⁵.

The Annex includes the description of the planned specific actions calls for 2023 and early 2024, under the existing Thematic Facility Work Programmes, in particular:

- the title of each specific action;
- the indicative budget of each specific action;
- an indicative short description of the purpose and the expected results for each specific action;
- an indication on Member States partnership (for a transnational project);
- the period envisaged for launching the call for expression of interest (⁶).

Please note that, being responsible for the overall programming of the Thematic Facility, the Commission will continue the practice established under the 2021-2022 Thematic Facility Work Programmes for launching, selection and inclusion in the Member States' programmes of the specific actions under the 2023-2025 Thematic Facility Work Programmes.

Thus, for each specific action under the 2023-2025 Thematic Facility Work Programmes, the Committee will be informed by means of a note about the launching of the call for expression of interest. This note will set out the purpose and objectives of the specific action(s), the available budget, the admissibility and assessment criteria, the deadline for submission, the envisaged planning for the selection process and any implementation conditions. The application form, the budget form and, for the transnational projects, a partnership declaration form will be enclosed.

The call for expression of interest may be adapted to the particularities of each specific action. Please note as well that, where appropriate, in the light of the subject matter and timing, the Commission may bundle one or more planned specific actions in one call.

As the nature and purpose of specific actions differ greatly, the timeline for completing all the steps after the call for expression of interest is launched may vary as well.

The selection of an application will result in the allocation of additional EU contribution to the specific programme of the Member State⁷ concerned. The additional amount will be earmarked for that particular specific action in the programme.

One of the lessons learnt from the specific actions launched under 2021-2022 Thematic Facility Work Programmes is that good preparation of the applications together with the

⁴ The specific action “The cooperation between Member States on language assessment in the field of asylum”, under AMIF, as well as the specific actions “Integrated solutions for transit border crossing: support to Member States for automation of border controls in Sea or Land Border Crossing Points affected by a recent major change of traveler flows and/or an increase of border crossing time for some or all categories of travellers”, “Facilitation/automation of border crossing” and “The support to Member State' efforts aligning their integrated border management (IBM) strategies with the multiannual policy strategic cycle”, under BMVI.

⁵ As it is the case for the launched specific action: “Equipment for EBCG national components, purchased under BMVI and put at the disposal of Frontex to increase its operational capacity, in accordance with Article 64(14) of the Regulation (EU) 2019/1896” (reference no. BMVI/2023-2024/SA/1.2.2), as per the Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 8993.

⁶ In some cases, there is no call for expression of interest, but information to Member States on the allocation of funding to their programmes, due to the nature of the action concerned. See the descriptions in the annexes.

⁷ In the case of the BMVI, to the Schengen Associated Countries also, provided that the supplementary agreements for their participation in the BMVI are concluded.

Managing Authority results more often in successful applications and benefits the process of a swift integration into the Member States programmes.

Therefore, the Managing Authorities must be closely involved not only in the submission of the application for a specific action by a Member State, but also in its preparation. The Managing Authority of the Member State requesting funding for a specific action will submit and take responsibility for the proposal. That is because the additional EU contribution, once approved, would be implemented in the framework of the Member State's AMIF, BMVI or ISF programme, in accordance with the EU and national legislation (e.g. signature of grant agreements with the project beneficiary etc), and the management and control system of the Member State concerned.

The Commission will invite Managing Authorities to submit their specific actions application(s) using the provided application form and, in the case of a transnational project, one or more partnership declaration form(s), within the deadline set in the call for the expression of interest sent to the Member States (usually between 8 12 weeks).

Member States will have an opportunity to request clarifications from DG HOME on the call for expression of interest (usually up to three weeks before the deadline to submit the application, through the Home Affairs Funds Committee functional mailbox⁸). DG HOME will send its replies to the members of the Committee, to ensure equal access to the information. To avoid any delays, please communicate exclusively via the above functional mailbox.

To ensure equal and fair treatment of the proposals and to allow the Commission to allocate at the same date all the available funding, DG HOME will assess all proposals simultaneously. Therefore, proposals submitted after the deadline will not be admissible.

The Commission will inform the Home Affairs Funds Committee on the outcome of each specific action call after having notified individual Member States of their successful proposals. We will then work with the individual Member States to carry out the amendment of their programmes as soon as possible.

Finally, we will continue the practice to inform the Committee in its meetings on the state of play on the implementation of the specific actions.

Yours faithfully,

Electronically signed

Silvia MICHELINI

Annex: Indicative overview of the specific actions launched and to be launched in 2023 and early 2024

c.c.: JHA Counsellors

⁸ HOME-AFFAIRS-FUNDS-COMMITTEE@ec.europa.eu