

**FAQs about Specific Actions under Thematic Facility Work Programmes AMIF, BMVI, ISF 2023-2025**

❖ **BMVI/1.1.2/- Transit facilitation/automation of border crossings**

Topic classification	Questions	Reply
<b>Air border crossing points</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Under 3.3 letter a) (Lot 1.1.3.1) you describe that only Schengen land and sea borders are affected by the measures. Am I correct in assuming that requirements at the air borders (airport) are not eligible for funding?</li> <li>– Lot 1.1.3.1 of the SA says priority will be given to applications for activities in land and sea border crossing points. Does this mean that applications for activities on air border crossing points do not stand a realistic chance of succeeding? If so, why are sea and land border crossing points given priority?</li> </ul>	<p>Applications for activities at air border crossing points are not eligible under this call. Generally, Member States and Schengen Associated Countries have given priority to automation at air border crossing points. The purpose of this call is to support those border crossing points that face an increase of traffic flows and/or waiting times, where efforts for automation have been more limited and which are, therefore, less prepared for the entry into operation of the EES.</p>
<b>Retroactive eligibility of expenditure</b>	<p>Is it possible to use the SA to fund ongoing activities? MS already implements activities that aim to facilitate and automate land and sea border crossings, but these activities are currently funded domestically.</p>	<p>To be eligible for funding under this Specific Action, activities that aim at facilitating and automating land and sea border crossings must meet the objectives and criteria set out in the call. As explained under point 5 of the call, activities can either be <b>eligible as from 1 January 2023</b>, if the respective intervention codes are included in the initially approved version of the BMVI programme, or <b>as from the request of amendment of that programme</b> if this is not the case.</p>
<b>Application concerning a border crossing point where traffic is suspended</b>	<p>In relation to the current situation at the Polish-Belarussian state's border, border traffic at the border crossings located in the Podlaskie Voivodeship has been suspended until further notice. According to art. 16, section 3, point 2 of the Act of 12 October 1990 on protection of the state border, the Ministry of the Interior and Administration made a decision on the temporary suspension of border traffic at certain border crossings. Whereas one of the requirements of the call] demands to present necessary statistical data on border traffic flows, ... there is currently no such possibility (eg. decrease of at least 20% in border crossing times at the border crossing points targeted by the project compared to existing levels before project implementation).</p> <p>According to the abovementioned information and thus the inability to provide the necessary statistical data, also in terms of</p>	<p>DG HOME will assess each Member State proposal in the light of the admissibility and eligibility criteria set out in the call for expression of interest and the objective of the Specific Action as defined in the call, i.e. "to assist Member States with the optimisation of border controls in the context of the entry into operation of the EES, in order to facilitate the implementation and operation of the system and to prevent an excessive increase in waiting times at the EU external borders after its launch".</p> <p>It is for the Member State to assess the consistency of any project with the objectives and criteria of the call before submitting an application.</p>

	<p>achieving expected results, could we - as Podlaskie Voivodeship – submit project proposal within indicated call?</p>	
<p><b>Eligibility of BG and RO</b></p>	<p>According to p. 3.3 of the call documentation, in the context of the entry into operation of the EES the call targets:</p> <p>a) single Member States that have experienced or are expected to experience an upsurge in traffic flows and/or in border crossing times at external Schengen land and sea border crossing points and who want to build, update or deploy relevant infrastructure and equipment at border crossing points to address it (Lot 1.1.3.1);</p> <p>b) single Member States or groups of Member States that want to develop and implement national facilitation programmes (NFPs) as defined in Article 8d of the Schengen Borders Code (5) and the mutual recognition of these programmes (Lot 1.1.3.2).</p> <p>On the other hand in point 4.1. of the call is stated that all Member States participating in the BMVI are eligible.</p> <p>Having in mind that Bulgaria is not a Schengen Member State and that according to the call documentation Lot 1.1.3.1 can include activities at external Schengen land and sea border crossing points, could you please inform us if Bulgaria is eligible under Lot 1.1.3.1 of the call or only under Lot 1.1.3.2 of the call.</p>	<p>In accordance with point 1 of Article 3(1) and Article 4(1) of Regulation (EU) 2017/2226 establishing the Entry/Exit System (EES), the EES shall be operated at the external borders. Bulgaria (and Romania) fulfil the conditions for operating the EES as from its entry into operation. Hence, they are eligible for both lots of this call (1.1.3.1 and 1.1.3.2).</p>