NATIONAL PROGRAMME ISF

IDENTIFICATION OF THE DESIGNATED AUTHORITIES

Competent authorities responsible for management and control systems

Authority	Name of the authority	Head of the authority	Address	E-mail address	Date of designation	Activities delegated
Responsible authority	Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Latvia	State Secretary Ilze Pētersone-Godmane	Čiekurkalna.līnija 1, k-2 Riga, LV-1026 Latvia	kanceleja@iem.gov.lv	12-Aug-2015	
Audit authority	Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Latvia	Director of Audit Department of the European Union funds Nata Lasmane	Smilšu iela 1 Riga, LV-1919 Latvia	esfrd@fm.gov.lv		

Management and control system

MCS will mainly operate by using the current system under the Solidarity funds. Two main structural units have been set up within the RA. 1st unit will perform the functions of planning, selection and approval of the projects, reporting to the EC, ensuring the secretariat functions of the Monitoring Committee, publicity, etc., whereas 2nd unit will ensure the functions of project control of the Fund, including administrative and on-the-spot controls.

The Ministry of Finance will continue fulfilling the obligations of the AA.

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Support a Common Visa Policy

LV will focus on development of information systems and training.

This goal will be achieved by:

- improving NVIS
- support and training for NVIS users
- efficient application of the Visa Code.

The following results are expected to be achieved:

- data exchange among EU MS in relation to visa applications and related decisions is facilitated
- person verification at external border control points is improved
- trained consular staff able to apply Visa Code.

Borders

LV will focus on implementation of EUROSUR, modernisation of REIS, development of N.SIS II and SIRENE, renewal and modernisation of technical means for border control.

This goal will be achieved by:

- development of current State Border Guard (SBG) a border monitoring and control systems
- linking national surveillance and control information exchange systems to SBG information exchange gear (national EUROSUR)
- creation of common national situation picture
- modernisation of marine surveillance system
- introduction of a new RAIS, development of N.SIS II and SIRENE

- purchase of modern border control equipment
- improving SBG mobility.

The following results are expected to be achieved:

- development of SBG land border video surveillance infrastructure, monitoring and control systems. Equiping land border for future connection with EUROSUR
- creation of the situation picture of SBG land/sea borders according to the EUROSUR requirements
- adjustment of the Surveillance and Control System, creation of the national information exchange network for further integration into EUROSUR system
- creation of the national (common) situation picture for further integration into the EUROSUR system
- establishment of the reliable sea border monitoring data transfer via secure network
- improvement of the N.SIS II and SIRENE IS according to the most up-to-date requirements
- improvement of the border control information systems (REIS and RAIS)
- purchase of special equipment for working with the Biometric Data Processing System (BDPS)
- elaboration of a new centralised BDPS
- improvement of SBG mobility
- purchase of technical equipment, improvement of professional qualification of officials involved in border control and surveillance
- improvement of SBG mobility, inter alia, quality of border surveillance/control of foreigners within border zone and border land, maintenance of SBG capabilities to control border regime along the external land border.

Preventing and combating crime

LV will focus on the strengthening the capacity of the Internal Investigation Office and the State Police (SP) to fight and prevent international cross border and organised crime using modern methods to ensure effective cooperation on European level.

The goal will be achieved by training and improving material technical basis of the Internal Investigation Office (ISB), providing Forensic Service Dureauepartment with modern forensics equipment, improving the exchange of information with other European law enforcement agencies, setting up common model for the prioritisation of involved forces to tackle serious and organised crime, improving the capacity of cybercrime prevention/enforcement, police training.

The following results are expected to be achieved:

- improved capacity of the ISB

- implemented quality management system of crime scene examination process according to the standard ISO / IEC 17020
- drug testing methods improved, new methods of drug testing explored and validated
- strengthened area of the EU's priority of forensic sector – DNA, finger-foot, counterfeiting, explosive substances
- quality of ballistic examinations improved
- improved capacity for fighting cybercrime
- NCIM implemented
- police training system developed
- standardized procedure of the criminal investigation
- improved IIIS for automatic data exchange with the ECRIS.

Risk and crisis

LV will focus on:

- risk reduction and disaster management of technological disasters and accidents involving CBRNE substances
- successful participation in the ATLAS Network.

This goal will be achieved by:

- improving training environment and conditions for first responders by developing the training system to ensure practical performance in rescue situations of various characters, including CBRNE
- improving capacity of the counter-terrorism unit OMEGA.

The following results are expected to be achieved:

- improved knowledge of the first responders
- developed training programme measures of occupational safety methodology for practical use of training ground
- developed tailored-training ground/practical training simulators for examination of the skills of first responders and for application of technical equipment
- first responders ensured with vehicles and trailers for eliminations of consequences of CBRNE incidents
- improved capacity of the counter-terrorism unit OMEGA for the ATLAS Network.

<u>Funding allocated to each specific objective</u>

ISF – borders/visa

Support a Common Visa Policy:5 673 901 EUR (29,48 %)

Borders:13 570 257,40 EUR (70,52%)

Preventing and combating crime:12 687 745 EUR (59,87%)

Risk and crisis:8 504 734,26 EUR (40,13 %)

2. BASELINE SITUATION IN THE MEMBER STATE

Summary of the current state of play as of December 2013 in the Member State for the fields relevant to the Fund

Support a Common Visa Policy

The number of visas issued at diplomatic and consular representations of LV abroad keeps increasing and has almost doubled since 2009.

In general, the number of visas issued by representations has a tendency to increase each year, e.g., in 2011 there were 163 957 visas issued, in 2012 -183 829, in 2013 -206 148.

LV continues implementation of VIS roll-out plan and it will require to obtain additional human resources for VIS connection tests, technical equipment connection, as well as for consulting employees of consular authorities after connection of the respective region to VIS.

LV has a good data exchange between the National Visa Information System (NVIS) and the Central Visa Information System (CVIS), however, in the future it will be necessary to improve NVIS software through implementation of several new changes (e.g., changes related to implementation of the Visa Code).

Problems identified:

- NVIS technical solution is no longer sufficiently optimal and stable, taking into account the age of VIS architecture and data structure
- technical equipment for work with VIS will be outdated and deteriorated by 2016
- technical support of NVIS and VIS Mail is not sufficient
- NVIS users do not have a sufficient level of knowledge to work with the system
- due to the replacement of consular officials the qualification and skills of consular officials have not been improved according to the new regulations and issues in consular matters.

Current achievements:

NVIS technical solution:

- regular introduction of changes within NVIS pursuant to EC final technical specifications
- good data exchange between NVIS and CVIS is provided

- NVIS has been supplemented with new/improved functionalities —VISION, VIS Mail I, VIS Mail II by ensuring fast and convenient consultation mechanism among EU member states
- VIS reserve connection point has been set up to ensure continuous operation of NVIS
- Schengen visa application e-service has been elaborated
- a new Register of Invitations has been elaborated.

Technical equipment:

As of December 2013, the Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs (OCMA), SBG and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) have been provided with technical equipment that facilitate the submission of visas and control of the foreigners entry and stay.

Technical support: Currently two people are involved in dealing with NVIS-related issues at OCMA that along with other responsibilities provide support to NVIS users.

Training on the use of NVIS:

- one training course is provided to OCMA, SBG, MFA employees
- an electronic NVIS user guide has been elaborated.

Consular training:

Since 2009 regular training of consular officers regarding the EU common policy for the issue of visas according to the requirements of the Visa Code is organised.

Challenges:

- improvement of NVIS
- equipping of work places where visa applications are processed with new technical equipment
- creation of VIS and NVIS user consulting centre
- training of NVIS users
- training of MFA personnel in the field of Schengen visa issuance.

Borders

LV is not the travel destination of the irregular immigrants, but it is mainly used for the transit purposes from Russia, Turkey, Greece to Scandinavia or Western Europe. In 2014 SBG registered 11,430 violations related to border crossing, stay conditions, use of the forged documents and other violations. The number of registered violations at the border crossing places increased by 7%, compared to 2013. In 2014, 65 persons were detained at the border crossing points and upon performance of the immigration control (in 2013 —61 person) with forged and false travel documents. In total 80 forged/false travel documents were either used or kept by these persons (in 2013 —77 documents). During the last year number of detained facilitators has increased to a considerable extent, which means that criminal organizations

have been facilitating irregular migration. In 2014 –19 facilitators had been detained, in 2015 (during 7 months) —58 facilitators have been detained. Cooperation with law enforcement agencies of destination countries has been developing (bilateral and multirateral) — it has been developing through strengthening of mutual contacts in working groups, by organizing joint operations inter alia, in the criminal investigation area.

Problems identified:

- several important IS and technical resources SBG Electronic Information System (REIS) developed in 2002 (when link with EU IS and processing of biometric data were not planned) are outdated and are no longer capable of providing sufficiently fast, qualitative and secure data processing and exchange to meet contemporary requirements and demands (e.g. EU Entry/Exit system and Registered Traveller Programme (RTP))
- current radio relay lines that ensure SBG sea border video surveillance (hereinafter - SBVSS) video data flow, are outdated
- insufficient and outdated technical means of border control. As a result, acquisition of information, processing, storage, as well as preservable information quality and capacity are considerably limited
- insufficient mobility — vehicles are used very intensely, the amount of financial means necessary to ensure their operation is increasing
- connection to main information exchange network (speed therein mostly does not exceed 2 Mbit/s) is ensured at location sites of equipment and facilities
- continuous need for improvement of N.SIS II and SIRENE.

Some of the Schengen Evaluation recommendations have not been adressed yet, but the implementation of the relevant eligible recomendations are foreseen within the framework of the ISF and national budget:

- modernise the sensor system
- provide video surveillance at all detention rooms
- increase the number of mobile terminals and well-functioning secure wireless connection in the whole territory of BCP.

Current achievements:

- in order to launch EUROSUR the National Coordination Centre (NCC) which operates since 22 October 2012, was established within SBG
- SBG information exchange mechanism is created within the scope of EUROSUR
- succesfull operation/continuous improvement of the border control information systems, including REIS and RAIS. REIS is a central system ensuring the processing of an entire national Entry/Exit information flow and data exchange with the numerous other systems like VIS, SIS II etc., while RAIS (Border Security IS) ensures

the internal flow of data necessary for security of the green border, and verification of persons within the territory of the country
- a new centralised Biometric Data Processing System (BDPS) has been elaborated
- elaboration, testing, bringing into operation and use of the SIS II. Consequently large-scale preparation and improvement of national registers, SIRENE IS development and preparation, development of SIS II-related technical infrastructure, development of optical data transmission network and other activities
- Riga Board and Daugavpils Board of SBG, as well as the State Border Guard College have been set up, border control mobility has been improved, technical equipment has been purchased, as well as improvement of professional qualification of officials involved in border control and migration control has been conducted
- cooperation with law enforcement agencies of destination countries has been developing (bilateral and multirateral).

Challenges:

- introduction of EUROSUR system by ensuring efficient, safe, stable and fast border control process
- significant modernisation of the current REIS system, accounting for new and forthcoming operational requirements
- further development of N.SIS II and SIRENE IS
- renewal and modernisation of the technical means of border control and IS
- establishment and further development of ILOs activities
- improvement of SBG mobility.

Preventing and combating crime

Since 1991, SP is an institution whose duty is to protect from criminal and other illegal threats life, health, rights and freedoms, property, and the interests of society and the State.

Problems identified:

- rapidly increasing pace of the Internet segment development brings rise in the number of committed cybercrimes. More than 3000 events related to cybercrime were registered in 2014, whereof in excess of 400 criminal proceedings were initiated
- FSD performs about 20 000 forensic examinations crime scene investigations annually. Over the years workload has increased thus indicating that improvement of FSDs capacity is needed
- information systems (IS) of institutions of the Ministry of the Interior are decentralised and have limited compatibility

- current IS of the Criminal police consists of many stand-alone systems and networks and NCIM is not implementedThere is no unified standard applicable on how the investigator should do an investigation
- with the constantly growing number of MS using the ECRIS system, the manual workload constantly growing, which results in LV, starting to fall outside the response time limits and facing potential risk of errors and long delays in data transfer.

Current achievements:

- FSD has realized successful project on implementing quality system according to ISO/IEC 17025 and has accredited more than 16 different forensic science methods. Training of CSI staff has been has been conducted for the CSI process according to the ISO/IEC 17020. Some of the outdated equipment updated, qualifications of the forensic experts improved and new methods of drug analysis have been accredited
- SP has formed and implemented Criminal intelligence model (CIM) in 2010, NCIM was formed within the national law enforcement agencies in 2014
- ECRIS and IIIS systems are used independently, while data exchange and processing between them is carried out manually.

Challenges:

- improvement of Internal Investigation Office
- to enhance and improve capacity of the FSD
- to build capacity for fighting cybercrime
- to implement the NCIM and integrate it into EU policy cycle
- to organize joint theoretical and practical training and implementation at all levels of the police (~590 persons)
- to simplify and to standardise the process of investigation
- to improve IIIS-ECRIS thus ensuring more precise and up-to-date information for data analysis and statistical materials.

Risk and crisis

Since 1992, the State Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) have been instructed to organize, manage and fulfill measures for urgent emergency response and elimination of consequences along with fire-fighting operations. SFRS has been named as the leading institution in case of accidents of oil, petroleum products and other hazardous substances, including marine pollution. In such cases it must fulfill response measures of elimination of consequences.

The mission of the counterterrorism unit OMEGA of the SP is to prevent terrorism, release hostages, neutralize improvised exploding devices, tackle organized and serious crime, as well as take part in special operations within ATLAS network.

Problems identified:

Response measures and elimination of consequences in CBRNE cases are some of the most problematic field in which SFRS must ensure fulfillment of its functions. Natural or malicious caused CBRNE accidents, including acts of terrorism, may cause considerable damages to people, health, the environment and property, as well as leave a long-term feeling of insecurity within the society. According to statistics, in recent years the volume of rescue work for first responders with hazardous substances has tendency to increase: 98 — in 2010, 100 — in 2011, 229 — in 2013 and 279 – in 2014. The number of fire accidents has increased as well; the character and fire-fighting operations are unpredictable since such accidents may occur at objects of increased danger (like SEVESO establishments) where consequences of rescue and fire-fighting measures must be eliminated.

SFRS is not capable to ensure efficient training for first responders to practice their skills to perform rescue works in case of elimination of CBRNE incidents, as well as accidents involving victims of road traffic and extraction of victims of collapsed buildings or other accidents caused by human failure. At the moment SFRS has no training ground at the disposal for first responders where it would be possible to ensure practical training for personnel.

OMEGA lacks capacity to do tactical work on sea. There is a need for a special sea RIB boat to develop capabilities of tactical work in open waters. To develop sea capacity it's necessary to purchase additional equipment – like boarding equipment, diving equipment, truck as a transport mean for boat on land, etc.

Current achievements:

- in minimal extent and in certain regions of the country it is possible to ensure response measures for elimination of the consequences in case of CBRNE. Few SFRS rescue vehicles are partly adjusted and equipped with diverse equipment and appliances for such accidents
- SFRS have gained small amount of new CBRNE equipment and promoted first responders skills by participating in Latvia – Lithunia Cross-border Cooperation Programme as well as Latvia – Lithuania – Belarus Cross-border Cooperation Programme projects
- Currently first responders are trained to rescue victims from different accidents. The training process for rescue works are conducted at improvised automobile graveyards, open water bodies (rivers, lakes) decayed buildings etc
- SFRS has the Fire Safety and Civil Protection College as an educational establishment, which ensures development and implementation of professional study programme
- OMEGA has participated in Counter-Terrorism Network ATLAS working groups and projects
- OMEGA was the leading Unit in ATLAS Common Challenge 2013 exercise

- in recent years OMEGA has participated in series of hostage rescue operations in kidnapping cases.

Challenges:

- to develop training system and implement in the professional study process by preparing highly qualified specialists at SFRS
- to strengthen the appropriate capacities of SFRS, including professional capacity of first responders, in order to stand against CBRNE threats
- to strengthen capacity of the counterterrorism unit OMEGA within ATLAS network.

3. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

Specific objective	1 - Support a common visa policy

Strategy 2014-2016 of the Ministry of Interior (MoI) has been approved in the field of a common visa policy in Latvia. The strategy states that upon implementing the migration and asylum policy, it is important to develop coordinated collaboration with Latvian services and EU institutions involved in the implementation of migration processes. EU legal framework is under constant improvement thereby ensuring a possibility to control observance of conditions for the stay of foreigners by developing the EU common visa policy to facilitate travelling and to prevent illegal migration, as well as OCMA Strategy 2014-2016 has been approved.

An agreement was reached within the framework of the political dialogue between Latvia and the European Commission and consequently NVIS development issues, equipping of work places with appropriate and modern technical equipment (~ 200 work places), as well as training of employees in the field of NVIS were introduced within the national programme.

Efficient application of the Visa Code requires large-scale and high-quality training of personnel working at the representations (consular officers). MFA takes the necessary efforts in order to enhance the qualification and skills of consular staff at all diplomatic and consular representations of Latvia taking into account the specifics of the regional thereby strengthening safty of EU external borders. In this regard it is necessary to organise annual regional training on the Schengen visa matters (inside and outside the Schengen area) on Schengen visa issues. During the regional training in addition to the lecturers from Latvia the representatives of other Schengen Agreement Member States are being invited what helps to share the best practice among other Member States.

Due to the regular rotations of the consular officials from representations who daily issue Schengen visas to the representations inside the Schengen area who issues Schengen visas on case by case bases, it is very important that all consular officials are constantly updated on specific visa matters and possible amendments of the Schengen *acquis*. This practice has proved itself very efficient during the previous annual trainings that have been held since Year 2005.

Investment in the infrastructure of diplomatic and consular representations, as well as investment in consular collaboration mechanisms with other EU Member States were not included in the national programme from the issues on which agreement within the scope of the EC political dialogue was reached.

Financing in the amount of about EUR 250,000 per year has been granted from the state budget in 2014 and 2015 for the maintenance of NVIS.

All examples of actions are funding priorities.

National objective	1 - National capacity

1. Use and development of NVIS

<u>Examples of action:</u>

- improvement of NVIS — regular supplementation and improvement of NVIS software to ensure optimal work of NVIS after completion of CVIS roll-out, e.g.:

- changes within NVIS architecture and application thereof pursuant to the Visa Code
- improvement of the NVIS business process support, review and optimisation of business laws
- optimising the procedure of processing biometric data of the visa applicant and security thereof
- creation of new e-services and development of the functionality of the current e-services
- mutual integration of NVIS and other IS.

- equipping of work places set up for processing visa applications with appropriate and modern technical equipment (e.g. computers, monitors, software, scanners, UPS printers, visa printers, cameras, 4-fingerprint scanners). Such work places where Schengen visas can be issued are developed in representations of the Republic of Latvia abroad, border-crossing points and OCMA territorial divisons. In total it is necessary to equip approximately 200 work places (163 for representations of Latvia abroad, 27 – for SBG, 10 – for OCMA)
- creation of VIS and NVIS user training and support centre:

- creation of Helpdesk, which could provide all types of consultations (both concerning business logic and technical requirements), would develop and ensure the methodological management, and would create a database of knowledge (Frequently Asked Questions). It is necessary to involve 4 experts that would ensure testing and introduction of changes introduced within NVIS software, would do the necessary work to ensure complete execution of the VIS roll-out plan and provide consultations in terms of the use of VIS, would provide NVIS and VIS Mail II technical support, methodological management, system error analysis and prevention, and also control over NVIS business processes, provide configuration, testing and installation of the technical equipment purchased for the visa issuance (in some cases)
    - creation and equipping of training centre – acquiring and setting up necessary furniture and technical equipment in the training centre
    - training of NVIS users – elaboration of training methodology and study materials, regular training of both NVIS users and IS administrating personnel.

<u>Desired outcomes:</u>

- ensured optimal and stable NVIS functionality
- equipped 200 work places of processing visa applications with appropriate and modern technical equipment

- VIS and NVIS user training and support centre is created:
  - technical personnel (4) is employed and necessary consultations provided
  - furniture and technical equipment is set up in training centre
  - 330 NVIS users and IS administrating personnel is trained.

National objective	2 - Union acquis

2. Provision of regional training to consular officers on EU common Schengen visa issuance policy

Example of the action:

- to organise regional training of consular officers in the field of Schengen visas by dividing them into two groups — separately to consular officers of representations outside the Schengen Agreement region and consular officers working in the Schengen Agreement region.

Desired outcome:

- ensuring the Schengen visa issuance practice in the entire consular network by strictly subordinating it to the requirements of the Schengen acquis (European Borders Code and Visa Code) and paying special attention to the specifics of separate regions (for instance, increased illegal migration risk).

National objective	3 - Consular cooperation

N/A

Contracts on the issue of the Schengen visas are concluded with other members of the Schengen Agreement within the scope of consular cooperation. Currently in the field of the issue of the Schengen visas Latvia is represented by 13 member states of the Schengen Agreement in 88 places in the world, whereas Latvia represents 13 member states of the Schengen Agreement in nine places of the world. Latvia plans to continue concluding such contracts, which do not require additional financing, also in the future.

Due to the aforementioned reasons Latvia shall not direct activities for financing within the scope of this priority.

Specific action	1 - Consular cooperation

Specific objective	2 - Borders

Specific Objective has been depicted and implementation thereof shall be ensured pursuant to the Strategy 2014-2016 of the Ministry of Interior (MF), SBG Strategy for 2014-2016 and Integrated border management concept 2013-2018, IC Strategy 2014-2016, European Border Surveillance System Implementation Plan 2014- 2015. Common objective is implementation of national level security interests of the society and priorities of the post- Stocholm programme, including „Europe that protects". Actions within the framework of the national programme are planned according to the following main point of the Integrated border management concept:

- **Border control (border checks and border surveillance) as defined in the Schengen Borders Code including related risk analysis and criminal investigation.**

Improvement and modernisation of the national ISs related to border control and its management, as EUROSUR system, REIS 2009 and RAIS, further improvement of the N.SIS II and SIRENE, modernisation of technical means and renewal of the land vehicles, and replacement of SBG Mobile video surveillance vehicles by modern ones are provided in this Fund.

Currently operating local systems in summary:

- REIS - Electronic Border Control Information System – for processing and reviewing of the entry/exit information flow. It is used for checking of all third country nationals. It connects with such IS as VIS, SIS, etc.
- RAIS - Border Guarding Information System – used for land border guarding and to check persons within the country
- SBG AFIS – intended for the biometric processing of asylum seekers. Connects with EURODAC
- BDAS - Biometric Data Processing System – used to check identities and possible identity fraud. Connected with EURODAC and Prüm.

- **Cross-border crime solution and investigation, ensuring coordinated activity of all competent law enforcement bodies, in line with Art. 3.3 b of the ISF/B Regulation.**

Purchase of 2Thermal Vision Vehicles for the improving sea border guearding and control, providing the opportunity to quick respond in case of emergency. TVVs are specially designed for boundary and strategic zone on border line protection. Surveillance and monitoring vehicles are equipped with a detector that can identify a person during both a nighttime and a daytime from a great distance and under adverse weather conditions.

- **Cross-institutional cooperation for border management and international cooperation.**

Establishing and further development of Immigration Liaison Officers ('ILOs') activities in Georgia, in Belarus and in Russia is a funding priority within the framework of the national programme.

All examples of actions are funding priorities.

National objective	1 - EUROSUR

3. Implementation of EUROSUR

Examples of action:

- development of current SBG land/sea border surveillance and control systems, improvement of land border video surveillance, monitoring and control system infrastructure
- development of the land/sea border video surveillance, monitoring and control system for information processing and exchange (monitoring of LV teritorial waters/control line) within the scope of SBG, transmission of Picture (among border surveillance units) depicting the situation on the sea/ land border of SBG structural units to NCC; The components of the updated system will be located at NCC – Riga; RCC – Ventspils (responsible for maritime sector),on ports, SBG sea border surveillance units
- development of current data transmission channel capacity among all involed institutions
- creation of common national situation picture and possibility of transmission of information to Frontex Situation Centre by using the common SBG NCC
- modernising of the marine surveillance system (installing/building an optical data network between Video surveillance system objects, modernising dayvision/nightvision cameras/video servers, and purchase of some new specific components)

Desired outcomes:

- further SBG common border monitoring/control mechanism concept developed
- geopositioning equipment purchased (to identify the location of the patrols and coordinate the patrols work)
- land border surveillance sensor chains sets and the sensors for surveilance of external "green" border purchased
- land border video surveillance systems infrastructure improved

- video surveillance system day/night camera Sentry II purchased for surveilance of external "green" border
- technical project developed and commoned software in accordance with EUROSUR requirements
- new software introduced, continuous exchange of information between at least two SBG units and NCC provided
- short-range day/night cameras purchased for the sea video surveillance system on vessels, day cameras for the video survellance system purchased
- land border surveillance system infrastructure improved, sensors and Motion Capture System purchased
- SBG information exchange mechanism improved (to ensure connection of the surveilance/control/information exchange systems of National Armed Forces, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Finance, Information centre of the MoI to EUROSUR
- data transfer and storage equipment purchased for SBG teritorial boards and borderguarding sections
- transmission of the national situation picture to Frontex and integration in EUROSUR system
- high video data flow transparency among SBVSS objects provided, in long-term perspective possible provision of video data exchange among MS and objects located at land border
- 11 marine surveillance objects upgraded

National objective	2 - Information exchange

National objective	3 - Common Union standards

N/A

ABC gate installation and financing options will be assessed by SBG and Airport authorities within the framework of the Riga International Airport terminal expansion project. This action is not a funding priority.

After establishing of the ABC gates it is planned to link the ABC gates with REIS system. This activity is foreseen within the framework of the action „REIS modernization" under national objective 6 "National capacity".

It is planned to use this system within the framework of the new EES/RTP.

When implementing ABC gates, Latvia will use the Guidelines for ABC gates developed by Frontex in close cooperation with the Member States.

National objective	4 - Union acquis

National objective	5 - Future challenges

National objective	6 - National capacity

4. SBG REIS modernisation

Examples of the actions:

- to develop a new State Border Control electronic IS (REIS) (including integration with the planned EU Entry/Exit system, RTP data processing and the foreseen smart border control solutions (e.g.ABC gates etc.))
- to create interface with REIS system within the framework of the International Freight Logistics and Port Information System (IFLPIS) project

Desired outcome:

- reliable,modern and sustainable national Entry/Exit system created

5. Development of N.SIS II and SIRENE

Examples of the actions:

- to elaborate N.SIS II AFIS
- further SIRENE IS development
- further development of N.SIS II
- to improve SIS/SIRENE server and storage infrastructure.

Desired outcomes:

- operational SIS II AFIS
- improved SIRENE IS processing speed and upgraded user interface

6. Modernisation of technical means and IS intended for border control (RAIS)

Examples of the action:

- to modernise border control equipment for the "green border" control
- to train experts to work with the new equipment
- to modernise RAIS system (upgrade of the hardware/software)
- to link RAIS system with other systems (e.g.EUROSUR)
- purchase, installation and configuration of the SBG frontline biometric equipment for operation with BDPS,Eurodac

- configuration of the SBG frontline biometric equipment for operation with national BDPS, Eurodac
- centralization of SBG resources and incident management system
- to modernise equipment required for combating of organized cross-border crime

<u>Desired outcomes:</u>

- improved transmissivity indicators of person verification at border crossing places
- increased ability to uncover border crossing violations and organized cross-border crime
- increased speed of RAIS information exchange
- SBG frontline units capable of adding new biometric (fingerprint) data associated with the irregular entry to national BDPS system, Eurodac

7. Improvement of SBG mobility

<u>Example of the action:</u>

- purchase of land vehicles (~30).

<u>Desired outcome:</u>

- state border security improved, SBG capabilities to control border regime along the external land border and sea border increased

8. Equipping of special vehicles

<u>Example of the action:</u>

- equipping special vehicles

<u>Desired outcome:</u>

- 2 special vehicles equipped
- surveilance and control missions carried out from the stationary positions
- improved state border security, inter alia, quality of border surveillance and control of foreigners

9. Establishment and further development of ILOs activities

<u>Example of the action:</u>

- contribute to prevention/combating of illegal immigration in accordance with the Regulation 377/2004 requirements
- improve quality of risk analysis, gathering supplementary information for comprehensive operational picture

Desired outcomes:

- action/activities managed/developed in order to implement obligations of ILO's in accordance to the Regulation 377/2004

Specific action	2 - FRONTEX equipment

10. Purchase of the Mobile land and coastal surveillance vehicle

Example of the action:

- purchase of 2 vehicles that are equipped with with thermal cameras, land and coastal surveillance radars, special optical equipment, as well as secure radio communication and data transfer equipment.
- Desired outcome:surveilance and control missions are carried out from the stationary positions
- missions can be carried out also in reduced visibility conditions (including smoke, fog, rain and snow) during the daytime and nighttime.

Total budget: EUR 500 000, including EUR 450 000 EU cofinancing.

With the Mobile land and coastal surveillance vehicle SBG will be able to:

- to move along and outside roads in specific border zone conditions
- to detect objectives of interest in the area, using real-time passive detection principle
- to present objective images in real time
- to communicate by radio with the Command Center, patrols and intervention elements
- to record and demonstrate images
- to record operator verbal comments on happened at the site in real time and later – during video records time vewing
- to ensure electrical power needed to operate the equipment / systems for surveillance and control.

Mobile land and coastal surveillance vehicle will be used in Frontex joint operations in accordance with Article 3.3b of the ISF-B regulation.

Specific objective	3 - Operating support

Specific objective	5 - Preventing and combating crime

In 2015 Latvia as the presiding state of the European Union chose secondary victimization and the fight against cybercrime as its priority in EUCPN. That is reflected in the National Police operational strategy. EU Drugs strategy and EU Drugs Action Plan reveals the scope of problems related to drug offences and outlines actions that member states need to take. In order to fulfil these actions capacity of the FSD needs to be improved and strengthened as it is the main institution responsible for this area in Latvia. This will be done by implementing ISO/IEC 17020, acquiring new forensic equipment and conducting training for the experts. Decision of EC 2009/960/IT has set the simplification requirements of information and intelligence exchange for law enforcement agencies of EU. Implementing of NCIM would comply with the necessity to integrate the EU Policy cycle on the national level to combat effectively serious and organized international crime and to reach unified standards applied to all processes in this model. Simplification of investigation process and increase of efficiency would allow to tackle crime more efficiently thus saving resources for prevention of and fight against serious crime, organised crime and for work on other priorities set by the European Commission. Implementation of the ISO/IEC 17020 standard would also be in compliance with aforementioned decision. One of the goals outlined in Operational strategy of the Ministry of Interior of Latvia for 2014 – 2016 is to improve the skills and professional capacity of the officers. By organizing joint theoretical and practical training at all levels of the police security in the region is expected to increase.

All examples of actions are funding priorities.

National objective	1 - C - prevention and combating

11. Capacity bulding of the Internal Investigation Office

Examples of action:

- training of the staff
- improvement of material tehnical basis

Desired outcome:

- strengthened capacity of the Internal Investigation Office

12. Capacity building of the Forensic services

Examples of action:

- performance of internal and external audits of CSI processes
- purchase of specially equipped cars for the work of CSI
- implementation of new methods for drug analysis and strengthening the exchange of information on new psychoactive substances
- implementation of ballistic information exchange system
- purchase of new equipment for ballistic, DNA, fingerprint, tool mark and firearms examination
- purchase of specialized equipment, work stations and software for the gathering and analysis of electronic evidence
- purchase of client server and development of 10gbit network infrastructure for the analysis of electronic evidence
- training for the staff on the latest techniques and methods used in forensics and CSI; gathering and analysing of electronic evidence on recognition of new drug substances.

Desired outcomes:

- improved quality of forensic examinations
- raised awareness on the importance of CSI processes in the FSD and police, improved the quality of work of CS investigators
- the international quality standard requirements implemented for high level crime scene investigations
- quality and credibility of expert reports in drug analysis improved
- drug analysis performed in a shorter time
- requirements of the international quality standards maintained in order to perform high level forensic investigations
- investigations carried out faster, cases moved to the court faster thus speeding up the process in whole
- FSD connected to the Interpol IBIN system to exchange the ballistic information to comply with the Firearms Strategy of the EU.

13. Capacity building to prevent and fight against cybercrime.

Examples of action:

- to purchase equipment, work stations, software for clientserver
- to purchase client server and to develop 10gbit network infrastructure
- to train staff and to establish joined cooperation mechanism with CERT.LV

Desired outcomes:

- awareness raised in the society regarding cybercrime activities
- developed cooperation with the Information Technology Security Incident Response Institution of the Republic of Latvia (CERT.LV) in raising the awareness of cybercrimes

14. Standardization of the investigation process

Examples of action:

- development of action algorithms and simplified and standardized forms
- simplification of descriptive forms

Desired outcomes:

- process of investigation is carried out in a standardised and more efficient way. Quality of investigation has increased and the workload of investigators is reduced

- benefit for the public - contact time with the police is shortened and is used in more productive manner

| **National objective** | 2 - C - exchange of information |

15. Implementation of NCIM and integration in the EU policy cycle

Examples of action:

- development of analytical network by joining in one system all subjects involved in the NCIM
- setting up the secure technical network infrastructure
- expansion of the NCIM on all law enforcement bodies and security agencies on the national level.

Desired outcomes:

- developed and implemented model of cooperation within the framework of the Inter-Institutional NCIM expert group to ensure its compliance with the EU Policy cycle
- developed and implemented a unified methodology for analysis of criminal intelligence data
- developed a unified methodology for the working out of the National Serious and organized crime threat assessment (SOCTA) and other required criminal intelligence products

- established a training system for the involved personnel of the law enforcement institutions in the framework of NCIM and EU Policy cycle
- effective acquisition and processing of criminal intelligence, and better protection of personal data and protection of secret and top secret information, while enabling to perform a secure data exchange between local authorities and Europol.

16. Improvement of the IIIS for automatic data exchange with the ECRIS

Examples of actions:

- improvement of the functionality of national Integrated Interior IS (IIIS) for automated exchange, as well as better processing and analysis of conviction data obtained via ECRIS by the national authorities, by:

- ensuring automatic data import/export from ECRIS to the IIIS and vice versa
- giving competent agencies on-line access to the data received via ECRIS
- providing precise and current conviction information, allowing national courts and prosecutor's offices to use it for making informed and relevant decisions.

Desired outcomes:

- established automated data exchange between the IIIS and ECRIS
- on-line access to the data received via ECRIS by competent authorities, prosecutors and courts (data received via ECRIS to become available in IIIS within 1 working day)
- cessation of the manual data processing between ECRIS, IIIS and IIIS sub-systems (shortening response times by at least 50%).

National objective	3 - C - training

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17. Development of training system for the police authorities of the Baltic States / Improvement of the professional skills of the police officers of Latvia

Examples of action:

- development of joint curriculum for the law enforcement institutions of Baltic States in cooperation with CEPOL
- joint training for the police institutions of the Baltic region for cooperation in joint operations and joint training for the situations of emergency
- modernisation and upgrade of training equipement.

Desired outcomes:

- increased level of safety in the Baltic region through improvement of skills and knowledge of police institutions of Baltic States
- modernised and upgraded training equipment
- improved international cooperation on criminal matters.

National objective	4 - C - victim support

National objective	5 - C - threat and risk assessment

Specific objective	6 - Risks and crisis

Pursuant to the National Civil protection plan institutions involved in disaster management, according to they competences, ensure preventive, preparedness and response measures. Thus, in case of terrorism threats, CBRNE threats and the threats of mass destruction weapon distribution, SFRS in cooperation with other institutions has the competence to ensure response measures. Therefore to stand against CBRNE threats it is necessary to strengthen the appropriate capacities of SFRS, including professional capacity of first responders.

The Strategy 2014-2016 of the Ministry of the Interior (Order of the Ministry of the Interior No. 1-12/486 of 27 February 2014) sets the direction for implementation of Internal Affairs Policy in the work of SFRS. It is required to implement an efficient and high-quality training process, tactical skills, acquisition of new fire-fighting technologies and equipment (including in the field of CBRNE), it is necessary to solve the issue on the creation of a training ground.

Pursuant to the *National Defence Plan* functions of the counter-terrorism Unit OMEGA are to plan and prevent threats of terrorism, to rescue hostages, to neutralize improvised explosive devices, to fight direct and serious organized crime, to plan and carry out operational activities and special operations. In order to successfully carry out these tasks the Unit requires specialized gear and equipment as well as special training for the officials involved. OMEGA is the member of EU Counter-Terrorism Association ATLAS whose sole purpose is the prevention of threats of terrorism.

All examples of actions are funding priorities.

National objective	1 - R - prevention and combating

18. Improvement of performance capabilities of the OMEGA for the situations of emergency as well as capacity building of personnel.

Examples of action:

- purchase of specialized gear and equipment
- theoretical and practical training for the staff on the use of equipment.

Desired outcomes:

- 10M boat with 2 outboard gas motors, navigation and communication systems
- a trailer for the boat
- a multifunctional truck that's able to launch, retrieve and carry the boat and act as a support and command centre for the special operations on water and on land
- special boarding equipment
- 8 sets of diving equipment
- staff training.

National objective	2 - R - exchange of information

National objective	3 - R - training

19. Improvement of theoretical and practical knowledge of State Fire and Rescue Service officials for the purpose of eliminating consequences of CBRNE accidents

Examples of action:

- improvement of the knowledge of the teaching staff and officials and exchange of international experience on theoretical and practical training possibilities by involving foreign lecturers;
- elaboration of methodology for safe use of training equipment planned at the training ground of SFRS, as well as preparation copies in Latvian and English. It is necessary to elaborate and prepare methodological materials for efficient and safe use of training ground for SFRS and other institutions;
- theoretical and practical training at the newly-created training ground by imitating elimination of consequences caused by CBRNE accidents with participation of international experts;
- elaboration of a training programme, ensuring of theoretical training with audio and visual equipment, as well as accident modeling and tactics simulator programmes;
- practical training on the use of equipment and training with special equipment for efficient response to CBRNE accidents;
- organization of CBRNE cross-border training and its process with in order to improve mutual coordination and collaboration of the response personnel, compatibility of technologies and equipment (meetings on the planning of training, elaboration of training materials, process of training).

Desired outcomes:

- up to 4 exchange of experience trips for 10 lecturers done and foreign lecturers involved in theoretical and practical trainings in Latvia;

- developed up to 400 copies of methodology for safe use of training equipment at the training ground in Latvian and English language;
- 1 theoretical and practical training at the newly-created training ground by imitating elimination of consequences caused by CBRNE accidents with participation of international experts done;
- 1 training programme developed;
- 2 class-rooms equipped with audio and visual equipment, as well as accident modelling and tactics simulator programmes;
- 1 practical CBRNE training done.

National objective	4 - R - victim support

National objective	5 - R - infrastructure

20. Improvement of CBRNE response skills of operative services and capacity building of personnel

Examples of action:

- purchase of CBRNE technologies and special equipment (elaboration of procurement specifications, announcement of a procurement procedure, performance of a procurement, supply)
- building a training ground (arrangement of the territory pursuant to the planned infrastructure of the ground), as well as creation of a stadium and climbing tower (integrated hose drying system)
- complex building of practical training simulators (purchase and installation/construction of training simulators (extinguishing simulators, operative headquarters simulators, smoke gas simulators, labyrinth simulators, chemicals tank-truck simulators and railway tank- simulators), arrangement of equipped training places (road traffic accident elimination construction, open water extraction place and a construction for rescue works at collapsed structures), purchase and installation/construction of railway passenger carriage and tram carriage), etc.

Desired outcomes:

- 6 rescue trucks with equipped with CBRNE technologies and special equipment;
- 12 trailers with CBRNE technologies and special equipment;
- 1 practical training ground;
- practical training ground equipped with training simulators, etc.

National objective	6 - R - early warning and crisis

National objective	7 - R - threat and risk assessment

INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

Specific objective	NO/SA	Main action	Name of action	Start of planning phase	Start of implementation phase	Start of closing phase
SO1 - Support a common visa policy	NO1 - National capacity	1	Improvement of NVIS	2015	2016	2022
SO1 - Support a common visa policy	NO1 - National capacity	2	Purchase of NVIS technical equipment	2016	2016	2021
SO1 - Support a common visa policy	NO1 - National capacity	3	Creation of a consulting centre	2015	2016	2022
SO1 - Support a common visa policy	NO2 - Union acquis	2	Training of consular officers	2016	2016	2022
SO2 - Borders	NO1 - EUROSUR	1	Implementation of EUROSUR	2016	2016	2022
SO2 - Borders	NO1 - EUROSUR	2	Modernisation of marine surveillance system	2015	2016	2017
SO2 - Borders	NO6 - National capacity	1	SBG REIS modernisation	2017	2018	2020
SO2 - Borders	NO6 - National capacity	2	Improvement of the national SIS II and SIRENE	2016	2016	2022
SO2 - Borders	NO6 - National capacity	3	Improvement of SBG mobility	2017	2018	2020
SO2 - Borders	SA2 - FRONTEX equipment	1	Purchase of the Mobile land and coastal surveillance vehicle	2016	2017	2018
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	NO1 - C - prevention and combating	1	Capacity bulding of the Internal Security Bureau	2017	2018	2020
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	NO1 - C - prevention and combating	2	Capacity building of the Forensic Service Department	2016	2016	2020
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	NO1 - C - prevention and combating	3	Capacity building to prevent and fight against cybercrime	2016	2016	2020
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	NO2 - C - exchange of information	1	Implementation of NCIM and integration in EU policy cycle	2016	2017	2022
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	NO2 - C - exchange of information	2	Improvement of punishment register for data exchange with ECRIS	2015	2016	2017
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	NO3 - C - training	1	Development of training system for SP and improvement of professional skills of SP	2016	2016	2022
SO6 - Risks and crisis	NO1 - R - prevention and combating	1	Improvement of performance capabilities of the OMEGA	2016	2017	2020

Specific objective	NO/SA	Main action	Name of action	Start of planning phase	Start of implementation phase	Start of closing phase
SO6 - Risks and crisis	NO3 - R - training	1	Improvement of knowledge and exchange of international experience	2016	2016	2022
SO6 - Risks and crisis	NO3 - R - training	2	Elaboration of training programmes, methodology, as well as theoretical and practical training	2016	2016	2022
SO6 - Risks and crisis	NO5 - R - infrastructure	1	Purchase of CBRNE technologies and special equipment	2016	2016	2017
SO6 - Risks and crisis	NO5 - R - infrastructure	2	Creation of a training ground and complex building of training equipment	2016	2016	2017

5. COMMON INDICATORS AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC INDICATORS:

Specific objective	1 - Support a common visa policy				
Indicator	**Measurement unit**	**Baseline value**	**Target value**	**Source of data**
C1 - Number of consular cooperation activities developed with the help of the Fund	Number	0.00	0.00	Projects
C2.1 - Number of staff trained in common visa policy related aspects with the help of the Fund	Number	0.00	393.00	Projects
C2.2 - Number of training courses (hours completed)	Number	0.00	560.00	Projects
C3 - Number of specialised posts in third countries supported by the Fund	Number	0.00	4.00	Projects
C4.1 - Number of consulates developed or upgraded with the help of the Fund out of the total number of consulates	Number	0.00	32.00	Projects
C4.2 - Percentage of consulates developed or upgraded with the help of the Fund out of the total number of consulates	%	0.00	64.00	Projects

Specific objective	2 - Borders				
Indicator	**Measurement unit**	**Baseline value**	**Target value**	**Source of data**
C1.1 - Number of staff trained in borders management related aspects with the help of the Fund	Number	0.00	210.00	Projects
C1.2 - Number of training courses in borders management	Number	0.00	14.00	Projects

Specific objective	2 - Borders				
Indicator		**Measurement unit**	**Baseline value**	**Target value**	**Source of data**
related aspects with the help of the Fund					
C2 - Number of border control (checks and surveillance) infrastructure and means developed or upgraded with the help of the Fund		Number	0.00	12.00	Projects
C3.1 - Number of border crossings of the external borders through ABC gates supported from the Fund		Number	0.00	0.00	Projects
C3.2 - Total number of border crossings		Number	0.00	30,800,000.00	Projects
C4 - Number of national border surveillance infrastructure established/further developed in the framework of EUROSUR		Number	0.00	19.00	Projects
C5 - Number of incidents reported by the Member State to the European Situational Picture		Number	0.00	21,000.00	Projects

Specific objective	5 - Preventing and combating crime				
Indicator		**Measurement unit**	**Baseline value**	**Target value**	**Source of data**
C1 - Number of JITs and EMPACT operational projects supported by the Fund, including the participating Member States and authorities		Number	0.00	2.00	Projects
C2.1 - Number of law enforcement officials trained on cross-border-related topics with the help of the Fund		Number	0.00	590.00	Projects
C2.2 - Duration of the training (carried out) on cross-border		Person days	0.00	30.00	Projects

Specific objective	5 - Preventing and combating crime				
Indicator		**Measurement unit**	**Baseline value**	**Target value**	**Source of data**
related topics with the help of the fund					
C3.1 - Number of projects in the area of crime prevention		Number	0.00	0.00	Projects
C3.2 - Financial value of projects in the area of crime prevention		EUR	0.00	0.00	Projects
C4 - Number of projects supported by the Fund, aiming to improve law enforcement information exchanges which are related to Europol data systems, repositories or communication tools (e.g. data loaders, extending access to SIENA, projects aiming to improving input to analysis work files etc.)		Number	0.00	2.00	Projects

Specific objective	6 - Risks and crisis				
Indicator		**Measurement unit**	**Baseline value**	**Target value**	**Source of data**
C1 - Number of tools put in place or upgraded with the help of the Fund to facilitate the protection of critical infrastructure by Member States in all sectors of the economy		Number	0.00	19.00	Projects
C2 - Number of projects relating to the assessment and management of risks in the field of internal security supported by the Fund		Number	0.00	0.00	Projects
C3 - Number of expert meetings, workshops, seminars, conferences, publications, websites and (online) consultations organised with the help of the Fund		Number	0.00	49.00	Projects

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6. FRAMEWORK FOR PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME BY THE MEMBER STATE

6.1 Partnership involvement in the preparation of the programme

The preparation of the national programme consisted of written consultations and meetings with the competent public authorities. The Ministry of Inerior as a Responsible Authority consulted with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Transport, State Police, State Border Guard, State Fire and Rescue Service, Office of Citizenship and Migration Affairs, Information Centre of Ministry of Interior (No consultations with non-state actors took place.).

Funding priorities were discussed based on the policy dialogue as well as based on the currents needs and previous funding experience. During consultation process and agreement was reached on the funding priorities between among public authorities under the supervision of the Ministry of Interior and other ministries. After the consultation process the national programme and funding priorities were officially consulted and approved by the Monitoring Committee of the Fund.

Monitoring Committee shall be chaired by the Head of the Responsible Authority. Members of the Monitoring Committee are: high-level representatives of the key institutions involved in the Fund implementation and a representative of the Audit Authority who perform consultative function and is empowered to give advisory opinion.

6.2 Monitoring committee

Monitoring Committee was established on 23.01.2015 by order of the Ministry of Interior and it operates in accordance with Monitoring Committee Regulations approved on 09.02.2015. Monitoring Committee shall be chaired by the head of the Responsible Authority. Members of the Monitoring Committee are high-level representatives of 8 institutions Representative of the Audit Authority perform consultative function and are empowered to give advisory opinion.

The Monitoring Committee shall take decisions by a simple majority of vote, either in person or in written form.

The key responsibilities of the Monitoring Committee are:

Approval of the planning documents;

Supervision of the objectives and results mentioned in the planning documents;

Monitoring of the complementarity of Fund objectives and results and its overlapping with other EU financial instruments;

Approval of the project selection criteria and approval of projects submitted using an open call for proposals procedure selection regulations.

Approval of the Fund National Programme Implementation Plan;

Approval of the Fund Reports.

6.3 Common monitoring and evaluation framework

Two RA units shall be involved in the monitoring and evaluation of the Fund.

While performing the monitoring the 1st unit shall be responsible for conclusion of grant agreements, amendments and collection of indicators. The unit will also be responsible for the organisation of the evaluation process. The results and indicators of the implementation of approved grant agreements will be summarized through the data and indicators acquired from the project progress reports and final reports. Outsourcing will be used while the evaluation and evaluation documentation will be coordinated by the Monitoring Committee. The Responsible Authority will organize centralized evaluation process, including the integration area.

While performing the monitoring process the 2nd unit will be responsible for the inspections and control of concluded grant agreements, including checks before the procurement is carried out.

An information management system of the Fund shall be set up to monitor and count project data and indicators.

6.4 Partnership involvement in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national programme

The process of preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national programme is carried out according to the national programme implementation plan and through written consultations and meetings with the competent public authorities - RA and public authorities under the supervision of the Ministry of Interior and other ministries. During the consultation suggestions and proposals of partners will be taken into consideration. After the consultation process is concluded the respective documentation regarding implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national programme is approved by the members of the Monitoring Committee of the Fund. Direct involvement of the partners is ensured by their participation in the process of consultations and direct meetings, as well as in the annual information events, covering all phases of the programme implementation. In all phases of the process, the principle of equal treatment and non-discrimination against al partners will be respected.

6.5 Information and publicity

National programme, information about the announced competitions, approved projects and the progress Latvia has achieved in the implementation of the national programme will be published on the official home pages of the. The RA will prepare an annual publicity plan and will organize information activities with the participation of the representatives of all institutions involved in the implementation of the Fund in order to provide the information on the launch of actions approved for receiving financing within the Fund, the amount of financing allocated for the implementation of the actions etc. Expenditures related to the annual information activity will be covered from the financial means of the technical assistance. By implementing projects within the framework of the Fund, the beneficiaries of

the grant agreements will be obliged to provide information regarding the publicity and visual identity measures undertaken while the use of the Fund allocations. The requirements for all beneficiaries of the grant agreements on publicity and visual identity measures to be applied depending on the specifics of the project. The guidelines for publicity and the visual identity measures will be part of the agreement concluded between the RA and each beneficiary of the grant agreement.

6.6 Coordination and complementarity with other instruments

In order to avoid overlapping or double financing, the following mechanisms that are being applied in the different stages of management of the Funds will be established in Latvia.

- Planning stage:

Monitoring Committee established by the RA will take part in the elaboration of planning documents of the Funds by submitting the proposals on the action to be supported under the Fund taking into account the requirements of respective field and also compatibility of these actions with other actions that are being implemented in this field from other source of financing (other EU Funds and programmes and EU external relations instruments). Members of the Monitoring Committee (representatives of different institution) will be asked to express their opinion regarding the double financing. Representative from the Ministry of Transport is also a member of the MC with voting rights. One of the MC's obligations is monitoring of the complementarity of the Fund objectives and results and its overlapping with other EU financial instruments.

- Projects' selection stage:

When preparing the project application, project applicant is obliged to fill in the information on the project that have already been implemented, are being implemented or are planned in this or connected. When submitting the project application to the RA, project applicant should confirm that he has not received/does not intend to receive the financing from the other EU funds for the activities foreseen in the this project application.

In order to check absence of overlap with similar projects carried out before/currently and ongoing/planned, MoI has created internal data base for EU financed projects which contains data on:

- Projects administrated by RA or Intermediate Body and realized by institutions of Ministry of the Interior and other institutions;
- Projects realized by the institutions of Ministry of Interior under the EU funds administrated by other ministries.

Mentioned data base is being updated regularly, so RA possesses information on projects carried out before/currently and ongoing/planned in the respective field and compares it with the received projects applications.

In the project applications' evaluation process one of the criteria that will be checked is overlapping with similar projects carried out before/currently and ongoing/planned. Therefore the evaluation team will be responsible for provision of the assurance to the RA that

respective actions and projects that will be approved for receiving financing from the Fund will not overlap with other projects and actions financed by other financial instruments.

- Project's implementation controlling stage:

There is a requirement to the Final beneficiaries to maintain analytical accounts and visibility of EU funding for the EU financed projects. During the on-the-spot verifications RA will check whether the respective expenditures are correctly registered and whether there is a double financing.

6.7 Beneficiaries

6.7.1 List of main types of beneficiaries of the programme:

State authorities (OCMA, SBG, SP, MFA, MOI IC, SFRS).

6.7.2 Direct award (if applicable)

State authorities might be allocated funds directly (without a call for proposals) due to the *de jure* or *de facto* monopoly. State Authorities have *de facto* and *de jure* monopoly in case of the following actions:

- **OCMA** - Use and development of NVIS
- **MFA** - Provision of regional training to consular officers on EU common Schengen visa issuance policy
- **SBG** - Improvement of SBG mobility, etc.
- **IC** - Development of N.SIS II and SIRENE, etc.
- **Mo**I - Capacity building of the Internal Investigation Office
- **SP** - Capacity building of the Forensic services, etc.
- **SFRS** - Improvement of theoretical and practical knowledge of State Fire and Rescue Service officials for the purpose of eliminating consequences of CBRNE accidents, etc.

The justification shall be approved by the MC.

Where there is no such justification for the projects to be carried out on the basis of call for proposals.

7. THE FINANCING PLAN OF THE PROGRAMME

Table 1: Financing plan ISF-Borders

Specific objective / national objective	Total
SO1.NO1 National capacity	3,415,425.75
SO1.NO2 Union acquis	840,000.00
SO1.NO3 Consular cooperation	
TOTAL NO SO1 Support a common visa policy	**4,255,425.75**
SO1.SA1 Consular cooperation	0.00
TOTAL SO1 Support a common visa policy	**4,255,425.75**
SO2.NO1 EUROSUR	4,703,625.00
SO2.NO2 Information exchange	
SO2.NO3 Common Union standards	
SO2.NO4 Union acquis	
SO2.NO5 Future challenges	
SO2.NO6 National capacity	5,286,568.05
TOTAL NO SO2 Borders	**9,990,193.05**
SO2.SA2 FRONTEX equipment	450,000.00
TOTAL SO2 Borders	**10,440,193.05**
TOTAL SO3 Operating support	**0.00**
Technical assistance borders	1,276,085.20
TOTAL	**15,971,704.00**

Table 2: Financial Plan ISF-Police

Specific objective / national objective	Total
SO5.NO1 C - prevention and combating	4,323,235.00
SO5.NO2 C - exchange of information	4,578,365.00
SO5.NO3 C - training	614,209.00
SO5.NO4 C - victim support	
SO5.NO5 C - threat and risk assessment	
TOTAL SO5 Preventing and combating crime	**9,515,809.00**
SO6.NO1 R - prevention and combating	1,125,000.00
SO6.NO2 R - exchange of information	
SO6.NO3 R - training	67,500.00
SO6.NO4 R - victim support	
SO6.NO5 R - infrastructure	5,186,050.45
SO6.NO6 R - early warning and crisis	
SO6.NO7 R - threat and risk assessment	
TOTAL SO6 Risks and crisis	**6,378,550.45**
Technical assistance police	1,047,071.55
TOTAL	**16,941,431.00**

Table 3: Total annual EU commitments (€)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
ISF-Borders	0.00	3,729,396.00	3,487,421.00	2,583,423.00	2,283,953.00	2,322,285.00	1,565,226.00	15,971,704.00
ISF-Police	0.00	3,820,295.00	3,254,448.00	2,751,288.00	2,371,800.00	2,371,800.00	2,371,800.00	16,941,431.00

Justification for any deviation from the minimum shares set in the Specific Regulations

LV will not to provide 5% threshold according to the Regulation (EU) No 515/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing, as part of the Internal Security Fund, the instrument for financial support for external border and visa and repealing Decision No 574/2007/EC - Article 6 "Resources for eligible actions in the Member State" point 2(c) within National Objective 3: Common Union Standards. Latvia does not foresee to implement any action as a funding priority within the framework of this National Objective. The reason for the deviation from what is mentioned in the Article 6(2)(c) is:

- Currently in the field of the issue of the Schengen visas Latvia is represented by 13 member states of the Schengen Agreement in 88 places in the world, whereas Latvia represents 13 member states of the Schengen Agreement in nine places of the world. Latvia is planning to continue concluding such contracts, which do not require additional financing, also in the future;
- ABC gate installation and financing options will be assessed by SBG and Airport authorities within the framework of the Riga International Airport terminal expansion project.

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By