

**Annex 1 - Replies to FAQs on the submission and selection phases of Specific Actions under the Thematic Facility Work Programmes  
2023-2025 for AMIF, BMVI and ISF**

*The content of each reply is based on the information provided by the country concerned and therefore only applies to the precise question or situation described. The Commission is committed to providing accurate responses to the questions by the country concerned. However, the information provided cannot be considered or interpreted as being contractually binding. The Commission cannot be held liable for any use made of these replies. No aspect of these replies can be considered as a formal position of the Commission.*

**BMVI/2024/SA/1.5.1 – Support to Member States for Smart Borders**

Nr	Topic classification	Question	Reply
1.	<b>Calculation of technical assistance</b>	Are there issues with the formulas in the budget form? When we insert the total eligible cost, the amount calculated automatically by the form does not match our figures.	The starting point for the calculation of the figures to be included in the budget form should be the total EU contribution to be earmarked to the MS programme: b+c, in the row at the bottom of the budget form.
2.	<b>Codes for the intervention field dimension</b>	One operation (project) can have only one intervention code in SFC. EES, ETIAS and SIS have all different codes. If we need to carry out activities related to all 3 IT systems, do at least 3 different projects have to be foreseen?	You may design separate projects for each IT system or a single project associated to the IT system with a dominant role.  In this respect, please refer to the background note on key financial management aspects of the Member States' programmes for the programming period 2021-2027", Ares(2022)8286088, posted in SFC ( <a href="#">HOME-Funds/2022/69</a> ): in particular, section 4, p. 19, on operations (and projects) <sup>1</sup> and section 6.4 on the data transmission, complemented by the questions and answers <sup>2</sup> .

<sup>1</sup> Relevant excerpt: contracts and financial agreements normally help identify separate operations. Within the frame of the Home Affairs Funds, reference is typically made to single projects or actions. In any event, a single operation should refer to a sufficiently homogeneous strand of activities with respect to both financial as well as physical aspects (type of action, intervention, target group etc.), i.e. being it for performance or financial reporting. In the case of call for proposals for the award of projects, individual projects should be normally considered the operation level unless the call is made up of a large number of nearly identical projects.

<sup>2</sup> Please see questions No 24 and 25: the approach for the transmission of financial data is that the codes are used in a way that each operation has one intervention code (the predominant code) from each of the table of Annex VI of the Funds-specific Regulation.

3.	<b>Eligibility dates</b>	Are there eligibility dates for the start and the end of the activities under the application?	<p>As from 1 January 2021 - for Member States that included all the types of intervention listed in Annex VI, table 1, of the BMVI regulation that are relevant for the specific action in table 2.1.3 of the relevant specific objective in their initially approved BMVI programme<sup>3</sup> - and until 31 December 2029, according to Article 63(2) of the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.</p> <p>Given the purpose of the specific action (= support Member States' preparations at national level for the entry into operation of EES and ETIAS and for the necessary changes to the SIRENE Bureaux Case management systems related to the implementation and operation of ETIAS), DG HOME would expect that the projects under the applications would be limited in time and could in principle be completed relatively soon after the entry into operation of the EES/ETIAS.</p>
4.	<b>Eligibility activities of</b>	<p>Can you confirm that, since the implementing acts that are in the final stage of approval (= SIRENE manuals) require changes in all SIRENE forms, including the creation of the U-form, the following activities are eligible under lot 2 (SIS) of this specific action?</p> <p>1. Development of all components (e.g. archiving, statistics, search) required, not only for the creation of the U-form</p>	<p>1. Yes. The implementation of the U form entails also new obligations for the Member States to report additional statistics, new search functions etc. The indicated activities, which address legal obligations linked to the implementation of the U-form, are eligible under lot 2 of this specific action.</p>

<sup>3</sup> P. 8/9 of the invitation to submit an application, Ares(2024)3170256. For Member States that have not included all the types of interventions listed in Annex VI, table 1, of the BMVI Regulation that are relevant for the specific action BMVI/2024/SA/1.5.1 in the tables in table 2.1.3 of the relevant specific objective in their initially approved BMVI programme: expenditure for the specific action will be eligible from the date of submission by the Member State of its request for amendment that will add the respective types of interventions in the programme.

		<p>2. Development of all forms foreseen by the Data exchange between SIRENEs (DEBS)</p> <p>3. Development of all SIS post-hit notifications/forms that insure the standardized post-hit workflow.</p>	<p>2. Yes, with conditions.</p> <p>All Member States must adapt their existing case management system (CMS) or develop a new one to be able to receive and process U forms; the CMS must also be well integrated with the rest of the Data exchange between SIRENE Offices (DEBS).</p> <p>The development of a new case management system (CMS) to receive and process the U form, and its adaptations for integration with the Data exchange between SIRENE (DEBS) are eligible under lot 2 of this specific action, on condition that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) funding targets the development of the part of the CMS dedicated to the U form and connected process (processing, storing ...), and</li> <li>b) the Member States guarantees that the new CMS will be fully ready for the entry into operation of ETIAS during the first part of 2025.</li> </ul> <p>3. No. These activities go beyond the scope of the U form and are not related to the implementation and operation of ETIAS.</p>
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