

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

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**❖ BMVI/2024/SA/1.1.5 – “Promoting innovation in border checks and/or border surveillance by taking up research results – INNO”**

Topic classification	Question	Reply
<b>Innovation</b>	Would we meet the requirements of a new project if we used the experience from a former project – not identical technologies but examples on the basis of developed technologies?	<p>According to the call for expression of interest (Note <a href="#">HOME-Funds/2024/04</a>, section 3.3, scope and purpose of the specific action), project proposals should build on the outcomes of research and innovation on border management.</p> <p>The use of technologies developed under a previous project may, therefore, be considered to develop an application under this specific action.</p> <p>DG HOME will assess each submitted application in the light of the objectives of the specific action and the admissibility and eligibility criteria set out in the call for expression of interest.</p>
<b>Application</b>	<p>1. Application form: to what extent should point B.1 (Design, organisation and management of the proposal at national and/or transnational level) be addressed?</p> <p>2. Application form, point B.2, indicative timetable: what format should the indicative timetable be submitted in? Can it be submitted as a separate document?</p>	<p>1. This part of the application should describe the planned implementation methodology, the organisation of work and strategy for project management and monitoring, including the coordination mechanism between project partners, and the measures undertaken or envisaged to mitigate the identified risks, with a level of detail allowing the Commission to assess the quality and content of the proposal (please see the assessment criteria set out in this respect in section 4.1 of the call for expression of interest).</p> <p>2. There is no prescribed format for the indicative timeline of the envisaged activities under this specific action. This part of the application may consist of a cross-reference to information submitted as a separate document.</p>

<p><b>Eligibility period</b></p>	<p>Can you confirm the period for project funding/eligibility of expenditure?</p>	<p>For the <b>start date of eligibility of expenditure</b>, please see section 5 of the call for expression of interest: expenditure is eligible as of <b>1 September 2024</b>, if all types of interventions relevant for this specific action are included in the initially approved programme, <b>or</b> from the <b>date of submission of the request for amendment of the programme</b>.</p> <p>For the <b>final date of eligibility of expenditure</b>, in the absence of any limitations set out in the call for expression of interest, the provisions in Article 63(2) of the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 apply: expenditure is eligible if it has been incurred by the beneficiary and paid <b>before 31 December 2029</b>.</p>
<p><b>Eligibility</b></p>	<p>Are private sector partners eligible to participate? Can they be appointed as sub-contractors?</p>	<p>As pointed out in relation to other calls (please refer to Note <u>HOME-Funds/2023/17</u>), private entities may be beneficiaries.</p> <p>The call for expression of interest under this specific action does not set out restrictions on subcontracting, which may be allowed by the Managing Authority in line with national eligibility rules, including on financial management and audit. The application submitted by the Managing Authority should clearly set out the roles and tasks of all participating partners.</p>
<p><b>Partnership declaration, third countries</b></p>	<p>We envisage involving some third countries – including Schengen associated countries. Is it necessary to have the partnership declaration signed by the participating third countries, and if so who should sign given that they do not have a managing authority?_</p>	<p>Transnational applications under this BMVI specific action are meant to involve several Member States. The reference to Member States encompasses here also the Schengen Associated Countries, whose agreements with the Union for their participation in the BMVI entered into force.</p> <p>In case of a transnational application, the partnership declaration agreements should be signed by the Managing Authority of all participating Member States and Schengen Associated Countries.</p>

		Entities from third countries may be involved, exclusively on a non-cost basis, not as partners but as participants in the consortium.
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❖ **BMVI/2024/SA/1.4.2 – “Enhancing border surveillance capabilities for countries at the borders with Russia and Belarus”**

<b>Topic classification</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Reply</b>
<b>Eligibility period</b>	<p>We notice in the FAQ presented in the annex to HOME-Funds/2024/31 that there is a question about the eligibility period for the allocations under this specific action.</p> <p>However, the answer given is not totally clear to us. On the one hand the following is written in the answer from the Commission: <i>"When no limitations regarding the duration of the activities are included in the call, the general eligibility rules of the programme apply."</i></p> <p>We expect this to among others mean that the rules for de-commitment will apply and that, given that the funds for this Specific action are e.g. committed in the EU budget in 2025, the funding would be de-committed on 31.12.2028. However, it is also written that <i>"For Schengen Associated Countries, to ensure continuity in providing support in the relevant policy area and to allow implementation to start from the beginning of the 2021–2027 multiannual financial framework, the measures covered by the BMVI Regulation may start before entry into force of the Agreement at the earliest as of 1 January 2021 and until 31 December 2029, according to Article 63(2) of the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) 2021/1060."</i> Does this mean that the funding from this Specific action can be used until 31.12.2029 or will the rules of de-commitment apply?</p>	<p>Yes, funding from this specific action can be used until 31/12/2029. For all projects/actions under programmes, the rules of the CPR apply, including Article 105 on the rules and principles of decommitment.</p> <p>The calculation of the decommitment is per financial year in the programme, not per action/ project.</p> <p>The budget for the specific action will count for the total amount for the financial year in which it is added to the programme.</p>
<b>Eligibility</b>	Will both activities/measures at our external land border towards Russia and our external sea border towards Russia be eligible under this call, or are only measures implemented at land borders eligible?	Activities may be undertaken at both external land and sea borders with third countries (Russia/Belarus).

<p><b>Application</b></p>	<p>In case the external sea border is also eligible under this call, we have the following question: Under sub-point 3.1 in the invitation for the call (ref. HOME-Funds/2024/30) it is written that "Countries may submit one application for each external border with a third country (Russia / Belarus)." Does this mean that we will need to submit two applications if we want to include activities/measures both at our external sea border towards Russia and our external land border towards Russia?</p>	<p>Countries may submit a single application per external border with Russia or Belarus, which should then comprise all the activities, relevant for land and sea border surveillance.</p>
<p><b>Eligibility</b></p>	<p>Under sub-point 3.3 in the call, it is written that <i>"The specific action proposed may however include, to a limited degree, activities that ensure or reinforce the deployment of the above listed activities at the EU external borders concerned, namely for means of transport (patrol vehicles), infrastructure (border guard stations at the proximity of the EU external border, etc.) or staff, training which are directly linked to the implementation of the main actions under this call."</i></p> <p>Our question is whether different types of fencing arrangements in relation to the external land border would be eligible as 'infrastructure' given this definition in the call?</p>	<p>The Commission's objective is to use EU funds in a way that brings the highest EU added value. Therefore, it should focus on integrated border management solutions, such as border surveillance, for example installation of cameras and motion detectors, means of transport for border surveillance, equipment for the border guard controls, radio communication systems or purchase of equipment.</p>
<p><b>Application</b></p>	<p>Under sub-point 4.1 in the call (HOME-Funds/2024/30) it is stated that <i>"In the case sensitive information exists relating to incidents at the external borders or threats that impact on border management and/or the internal security of the Member State, applicants are invited to indicate clearly the nature of the available information in the documents to be sent to the Commission. Either the information provided is sensitive and this quality is highlighted (presented separately), or it is indicated that the information cannot be shared and its existence is only described in general terms. Sensitive information should not be sent without encryption."</i> In order to avoid complications, we would like to keep our application on a level that does not require disclosure of sensitive information. At the same time, we notice that the call asks us to <i>"Explain how the proposed surveillance means would operate specifically and how it would improve the situation at the border in concrete terms, e.g., milestones</i></p>	<p>Please note that the evaluation committee for Specific Actions applications comprises representatives from various Commission services with diverse areas of expertise.</p> <p>To facilitate a comprehensive assessment, applications should provide sufficient detail to enable the evaluation committee to comprehend the specific needs, challenges, and proposed solutions.</p> <p>Sensitive or classified information, such as that contained in Vulnerability Assessments, should not be directly included in the application form. However, a concise description and a clear reference to the document should be provided. Relevant colleagues with appropriate security clearances will be</p>

	<p><i>and targets achievements &amp; deadlines, in relation to the expected results including a map to show where the additional capabilities would be deployed (before and after)."</i> Could you please advise us on how we should solve issues like this in our application? Are we expected to provide sensitive information as attachments to our application in order to provide you with sufficient information for the application to be considered relevant, and if so, which encrypted channels should we use to submit this together with the application?</p>	<p>responsible for reviewing these documents and contributing to the evaluation process.</p>
<p><b>Example of previous specific actions</b></p>	<p>The call HOME-Funds/2024/30 mentions several other Specific actions which have been funded in the area of surveillance, among others "Support for Border management" (BMVI/2021/SA/1.5.8, "Equipment for EBCG national components, purchased under BMVI and put at the disposal of Frontex to increase its operational capacity" (BMVI/2023-2024/SA/1.2.2) as well as the call to introduce, improve or extend electronic border surveillance systems at external land borders (BMVI/2023/SA/1.1.4). We are a country with limited experience in writing applications for funding under the Thematic facility /Specific actions we are wondering whether it would be possible to receive any of the successful applications submitted under these calls or whether they are already made available to us somewhere?</p>	<p>The Commission services cannot share applications between countries without their permission. We recommend that you contact a managing authority in Member States with experience in submitting applications.</p>