

### **FAQs about Specific Actions under the Thematic Facility Work Programmes 2023-2027 for the AMIF, BMVI, ISF**

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#### **❖ BMVI/2026/SA/1.5.2 - “Support to Member States to enhance their biometric capabilities in relation to the Schengen Information System (SIS)**

<b>no</b>	<b>Topic classification</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Reply</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Eligibility of indirect cost</b>	Are indirect costs eligible under the BMVI specific action?	Indirect costs may be considered eligible under this specific action to the extent that they are in line with the applicable national and EU rules. Pursuant to Article 54, point a) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, when a flat rate is used to cover indirect costs of an operation concerning grants, it may be based on up to 7% of the eligible direct costs - in which case the Member State is not required to perform a calculation to determine the applicable rate.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Eligibility of activities</b>	During the SIS project lifecycle, we developed and implemented all technical solutions necessary to fulfil obligations under the EU SIS Regulations. This included the development of the national SIS application, upgrades of national systems connected to SIS, implementation of a unified SIRENE workflow, and deployment of the SIS AFIS biometric verification application currently used at border crossing points and within the national territory. In addition, the equipment required for the implementation of the Entry/Exit System (EES) was procured under project BMVI-36/23, co-financed by EU funds. The Member State currently has a fully operational EES system at its borders and fulfils all obligations related to the EES Regulation.	The purchase of additional fingerprint capture workstations and related system adaptations may be considered eligible under this specific action to the extent that the additional workstations and related adaptations are also used for searches in the SIS and linked to the workflows of EES at borders.

		<p>As additional procurement of the same type of equipment is not currently planned, we intend to focus on further enhancing biometric capabilities and interoperability by procuring additional fingerprint capture workstations for searches in EU and national databases. At the same time, we are implementing a project, aimed at establishing a national biometric system aligned with the EU interoperability framework. Following the completion of the EU interoperability project, the system will enable fingerprint searches across SIS ABIS, EES and other relevant EU and national databases.</p> <p>Considering that the European Commission has repeatedly encouraged Member States to increase biometric checks in SIS AFIS and strengthen interoperability, we would kindly ask whether the procurement of additional fingerprint capture workstations and related system adaptations would be considered eligible activities under this Specific Action.</p>	
<p><b>3.</b></p>	<p><b>Eligibility of activities</b></p>	<p>In the Member State putting forward the question, the immigration authorities are responsible for entering the data on returns specified in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1860 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Article 20 of Regulation (EU) 2018/1861 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and Annex II to Commission Implementing Decision C (2021) 660 final into the CS.SIS.</p> <p>The Member State plans to make modifications to the immigration registration system to enable, the biometric and alphanumeric data of third-country nationals subject to return decisions issued by the national authorities to be included automatically at</p>	<p>Before entering of a new alert in the SIS, competent authorities of a Member State should search the SIS to check if there is already an alert entered by the same or another Member State; this verification can be done automatically using fingerprints when these are added to the alert. In this context, adaptations to national systems and processes improving the biometric search functionalities in the SIS at the borders may be considered as eligible under this Specific Action.</p>

		<p>the time the return is recorded in the central SIS system upon their crossing the Member States' external border as an alert indicating a ban on entry and stay, replacing the current manual procedure. Once recorded, this alert shall be immediately available in the system to border guards and authorities in all Schengen Member States, thereby preventing the individual from entering the EU.</p> <p>In the light of the activities and objectives outlined in call no. BMVI/2026/SA/1.5.2, does the development of the immigration registration system qualify as an eligible activity.</p>	
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