NATIONAL PROGRAMME ISF

IDENTIFICATION OF THE DESIGNATED AUTHORITIES

Competent authorities responsible for management and control systems

Authority	Name of the authority	Name of the person responsible for the authority	Address	E-mail address	Date of designation	Activities delegated
Responsible authority	European Funds Unit, Ministry of Interior	Constantinos Kyprianou	2, Kyriakou Matsi Str. 1082, Nicosia	ckyprianou@moi.gov.cy	29-Dec-2014	
Audit authority	Internal Audit Service	Andreas Lambrianos	13 Limassol Ave., 2112 Aglantzia, CYPRUS	commissioner@internalaudit.gov.cy		

Management and control system

The European Funds Management Unit of the Ministry of Interior has been designated as the Responsible Authority (RA) for the two Home Affairs Funds. This Unit is part of the Ministry of Interior. It is responsible for the management and operational coordination of the two Funds. The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry will have the overall responsibility for the operation of the RA

The Internal Audit Service (IAS) is the Audit Authority. The IAS is an independent government service. The IAS is independent from the auditee and will not have any direct responsibility or power over the operations to be audited or take part in any executive decision.

There are no Delegated Authorities.

The Minister of Interior will be responsible for the designation and for monitoring the compliance with the designation criteria.

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During 2014-2020 Cyprus's general objective is to improve the areas of the common visa policy, effective border management, crime prevention and crisis management. With the help of EU funding the National Programme includes the following objectives:

VISAS (40% of budget under ISF-borders)

The national strategies have been mainly framed by the obligation of Cyprus to join the Schengen Area by fully complying with the respective acquis:

- adoption and implementation of the provisions of Visa Code
- building modifications at consulates
- upgrade of VIS
- installation of security equipment
- improvement of consular capabilities

The preparation for the full accession of Cyprus into the Schengen Area is in process in order for Cyprus to be ready to join. The integration of the national SIS and VIS systems into the European corresponding systems should not be expected before the full accession.

In order to achieve these strategies the following national priorities have been set:

1. Support visa sections with building modifications, upgrade security, installation of telecommunication systems, special equipment necessary for short-stay visa issuance and the detection of false/falsified documents, purchase of new premises to house visa sections and additional staff
2. Further development of national visa system, including improvement/replacement/maintenance of equipment, upgrade of network services, full support and monitoring, adoption of new archiving methods
3. Regular training on VIS issues

It is expected that Cyprus will improve the quality and effectiveness of consular capabilities and procedures and ensure a uniform level of security and proper infrastructure. It will also support the full operation and maintenance of the national visa system in order to comply with VIS at consulates and borders. All measures related to common visa policy supported under ISF will be proportionate to the short-stay visa issuing.

<u>BORDERS</u> (54% of budget under ISF-borders)

The general objective of Cyprus is to ensure a high level of control and protection of external borders as well as facilitating smoother border crossings.

The main focus areas are the following:

- Development of EUROSUR
- Use of modern technologies at the borders
- Support of SIS /SIRENE II
- Increase border surveillance capacity

In order to achieve these goals the following national priorities have been set:

1. Support of the National Coordination Centre (NCC) with the improvement of the existing premises, IT equipment, staff training, fleet capacity
2. Training of border guards on external borders issues, SIS/SIRENE II operations, maritime border operations
3. Improvement of national capacity with the installation of Automated Border Control Gates, installation of API/IAPI systems, development of SIS /SIRENE II
4. Enhance border surveillance

It is expected that with the above measures, Cyprus will further strengthen the development of EUROSUR, achieve a higher level of control of the borders, upgrade the National Situational Picture and improve the quality of services provided by the NCC. SIS/SIRENE II will be further improved and shall always be available and in full operation while ensuring a back up plan in case of emergencies.

<u>CRIME PREVENTION</u> (76% of budget under ISF-police)

Cyprus Police has established a 3year action plan which includes the strategy on preventing and combating crime. The main focus areas regarding anti-corruption, financial investigations, drug trafficking, cybercrime, human trafficking are:

- Enhance coordination and cooperation
- Promote exchange of information with other Member States and Europol
- Ensure continuous training
- Enhance operational capabilities though the upgrade of equipment and infrastructure

In order to achieve these goals the following national priorities have been set:

1. Strengthen operational capabilities through the purchase of equipment/software programmes, additional staff, trainings
2. Public awareness actions
3. Exchange of information with other Member States and/or third countries
4. Participation in the EU policy cycle

5. Implementation of LETS
6. Strengthen victim support

It is expected that Cyprus will strengthen its operational capabilities and will increase its effectiveness in preventing and combating crime.

RISK AND CRISIS (17% of budget under ISF-police)

The national strategy on countering terrorism is based on three pillars: protection, pursue and response through the enhancement of capacity for managing effectively security-related risks and crises.

To achieve this goal the following national priorities have been set:

1. Enhance operational capacity with the support of specialised equipment
2. Continuous training on crisis management
3. Cooperation with other Member States with experience in the field in order to achieve a more comprehensive approach

It is expected that the relevant authorities will be able to respond to major crises with efficiency and effectiveness at any given time by improving capacity and gaining access to specialised training.

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

VISAS

Cyprus has a diplomatic/consular presence in 44 countries (44 Diplomatic Missions, 7 Consulates General and 9 Permanent Representations). Only 6 of the buildings are state owned; all others are rented.

Cyprus is not yet a Schengen Member State and does not issue Schengen visas. The date of completion of preparation and the submission of the Declaration of readiness for Cyprus evaluation to join the Schengen Area is the 31/08/2016 and it is expected to join the Schengen area in 2018.

Many **consulates** (eg. Moscow, Cairo, New Delhi, Beijing, Tel-Aviv, Tehran, Pretoria, Athens, Washington, Canberra, Paris, Brussels) face serious shortcomings regarding security of the premises and short-stay visa issuing process. To comply with Schengen Acquis and due to the insecure environment of certain countries and the large number of visa applications, building modifications and installation of security systems are required (eg. bullet proof constructions, security for the classified areas). In some cases reconstruction will be needed, including maintenance. Purchase is needed for some consulates currently rented since this is more cost-effective and building modifications for security are possible.

There is a need for seasonal **staff** to deal exclusively with short-stay visa issuing in the consulates in Kiev, Moscow, Cairo, St. Petersburg, Tehran and Beirut, as a result of the increased needs during the summer period which delay the visa issuing process (e.g. 400% increase in Moscow).

Some consulates need to purchase additional/replace the existing **IT and security equipment** in order to process visas more efficiently, including maintenance. Around 28 consulates need modern equipment for the detection of false and falsified documents to improve controls in the visa process, including automated answering systems. Also, there is a need for additional security staff and operators for the equipment installed (Walk through Metal Detectors and X-ray inspection systems).

There is a need to improve/replace part of the equipment of the **national visa system** and upgrade the network services (single Internet Service Provider that will create a Multi-Protocol Label Switching network) in all consulates which will enable the flow of data between the consulates and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).

Although not yet a Schengen Member State, Cyprus validates visas against the data stored in its national visa system as part of the visa validation workflow. The system needs to be monitored and managed by well-trained personnel on a shift basis to ensure the availability of the system. New archiving methods are needed to ensure effective storing of data. The **staff assigned to the national visa system** need continuous training on all aspects of the visa system.

Main measures under EBF

- Implementation of VIS at 40 Consulates, MFA, 11 entry points
- Building modifications/installation of security equipment at 10 Consulates

National Resources

MFA: 20 million € in 2013 for operational costs of diplomatic/consular missions (maintenance/ repair/ purchase and/or rental of infrastructure/equipment/communication and information systems/means of transport/training of staff)

BORDERS

Cyprus uses its own National **Entry/Exit System** which has access to the National Arrival/Departure database, travel document/visa/flight data for TCNs that visit Cyprus. Once the Smart Borders package is developed, the national system will be upgraded in order to send information to the EU Central System.

During 2014, 7.482.221 passengers have crossed the **air borders** compared to 7.198.311 in 2013 with expected increase in 2015. Airports have a variety of x-ray machines for cargo and passengers, walk through metal detectors. There is a need for advanced security controls regarding explosives based on a recent incident with ammonium nitrate.

There is an ongoing feasibility study regarding the cost efficiency of **ABC Gates** and the installation points; its first results are expected by September 2015 and the final results by the end of 2015.

The national **SIS II/ SIRENE II** systems have already been developed. SIS II has been in operation since 9 April 2013 and there is a need to maintain and further upgrade the national SIS II to allow compatibility with the Central SIS II. Also, a Disaster and Recovery plan is needed; now, in case of unavailability, the Central SIS II is used as a backup system for querying purposes.

Cyprus has applied **EUROSUR** in December 2013. The **NCC** is located in the Port and Marine Police Unit stationed within the Limassol Port. The Unit does not have permanent premises to accommodate NCC, so there is a need to establish new facilities.

The **National Situational Picture** is maintained within NCC and includes events and operations at sea borders. The Analysis Layer is prepared and maintained by the Aliens and Immigration Unit (AIU) which makes it available at NCC. NCC has the command and control of all police mobile units once they operate at sea for the purpose of Eurosur, including fleet operations.

Units involved in the surveillance of sea borders are the Port and Maritime Unit of the Police, Air Wings Unit and AIU. They coordinate through the Police central communication system, police portal, common radio channel for internal communication and an internal e-mailing system. NCC cooperates and exchanges information with the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre of Cyprus Navy, Department of Merchant Shipping, Department of Fisheries, Customs, Cyprus Ports Authority in the case of incidents. NCC does not deal with border checks/surveillance of **air borders**. For the time being there are no plans to include the air borders in EUROSUR.

Cyprus has initiated discussions with the Greek Authorities to develop a project for the exchange of the situational picture at the common maritime area.

NCC has a combination of **mobile and fixed units**. Fixed units involve the Coastal Radar Surveillance System with sensors along the coast of Cyprus. The mobile units include 13 patrol boats, 5 fast patrol vessels along the coast, 4 helicopters which are engaged in operations at sea. However, there is a need to replace existing overaged similar size and deadweight patrol boats that have limited reacting capabilities due to the low acceleration and speed they can reach; helicopters are grounded at regular intervals for maintenance therefore an aircraft is needed.

NCC is operational 24/7 and has 25 people who need continuous training. Available equipment includes operational consoles of the Coastal Radar System, Automatic Identification System of vessels, VMSVHF/UHF Radio Equipment (radio bands), Police Radio, EUROSUR Note. The surveillance equipment of NCC is not sufficient thus new radar consoles and other surveillance equipment (including observation and surveillance platforms), radio telephony, emergency generator need to be purchased,

Checks for stolen and lost travel documents at the cross border points of the Republic are held via the Police System. Access has been given to officers of the AIU for regular passport checks through the Interpol Database.

There is a need for training border guards especially in Schengen Borders Code, best practices, modules from the Frontex Common Core Curriculum, SIS/SIRENE.

Also, there is a need to maintain the screening capacity for mixed flows, thus operational costs for Pournaras Emergency site and part of the Menoya Centre need to be covered when used for this purpose. For the Pournaras site equipment is needed (furnishing, kitchen electrical appliances and laundry rooms, better quality storable accommodation units, etc).

Main measures under EBF

- Purchase of 2 medium size helicopters
- Co-funding part of Menoya Detention Centre

National Resources

Police for border surveillance: 20 million € in 2015 for maintenance costs of existing IT systems, marine and aviation fleet, partial purchase/renewal of software programmes.

POLICE COOPERATION

The **drug trafficking** national strategy 2013-20 consists mainly of 5 intervention areas: prevention, treatment and social reintegration, harm reduction, supply control, international cooperation. The number of cases reported and investigated is increasing, especially in cannabis and cocaine. During 2014 (January-November) 1032 cases were reported, compared to 1001 cases in 2013; 204 kg of cannabis and 28 kg of cocaine were seized in 2014 respectively compared to 99kg of cannabis and 3kg of cocaine during 2013.

The increasing rates and emerging trends in illicit drug activity (eg. new psychoactive substances) demand the upgrade of the identification procedures with relevant equipment, cooperation with Member States, 3rd countries, adoption of a more comprehensive approach involving public-private bodies, cooperation and exchange of information on new concealment methods and new trafficking routes, as well as awareness raising and training.

The **Coordinating Body against Corruption** examines existing measures against corruption and suggests further measures. It has a mandate to develop and/or elaborate a consolidated anti-corruption strategy for public administration and to examine the relevant legislative/other measures. Following the recommendations of the EU Anti-Corruption Report for Cyprus (3/2/2014) Cyprus is currently aiming to implement them; the financing of political parties and the declaration of assets are already being examined through draft laws. Also, Cyprus needs an independent institution on anti-corruption whose establishment is currently being discussed.

Regarding **cybercrime**, the number of victims identified were 1 in 2012, 27 in 2013, and 36 in 2014 while the digital evidence received were 1937 in 2012, 3813 in 2013 and 4002 in 2014.

There are significant weaknesses of the Office for the Comba of Cybercrime (OCC) concerning the flow of information to Europol, its operational capabilities to investigate, combat cybercrime, cooperate with the national Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT), since it lacks the minimum staff, necessary equipment (software tools) for faster analysis of digital evidence, vehicles for quick access to incidents and specialized training and training facilities. Also, cooperation with other Member States/third countries needs to be increased.

Regarding **fight of economic crime** Economic Crime Investigations Office (ECIO) and the Unit of Combating Money laundering (MOKAS) are the responsible bodies.

ECIO has only one certified accountant to deal with the analysis and process of all financial data and to assist the work undertaken by the specialized team set up to investigate Cyprus economic downfall of 2013.

According to the final report of the 5th round of mutual evaluations, there is a need to improve cooperation in the field of financial crime, through closer collaboration between MOKAS and the Police. There is a need to develop common IT systems for the exchange and channeling of information.

According to FAFT recommendations, training of staff should be upgraded. A study is needed to identify the gaps in relevant training schemes.

In March 2014, Directive 2011/36/EU was transposed in the national legislation to combat **human trafficking**. Cyprus has a new National Action Plan 2013–2015 which includes the following: co-ordination, prevention, victims' identification, victims' support and protection, suppression, information, education, international coordination and evaluation. Cyprus faces multiple challenges as it is an entry point for many trafficked persons; it needs to provide victim support, evaluation of THB procedures and increase awareness.

Cyprus Police Academy (CPA) delivers **training programmes** to all members of the Police during their recruitment and throughout their police service. The training programme includes EU policing, legal instruments, combating transnational crime, bilateral cooperation on the fight against cross border crime, anti-corruption. Nevertheless, there is a need to upgrade and provide continuous training for police officers.

Main measures under ISEC-CIPS

- Criminal Record Exchange Network, for the exchange of information on convictions between Member States
- X-FIS Data Cyprus, for the exchange of information of dactyloscopy on criminals

National Resources

Police: 32 million € in 2015 on crime prevention and combating of cross border, serious and organised crime (staff costs, purchase of equipment, training and education of staff)

RISK AND CRISIS

Cyprus is vulnerable to incidents of **crisis and terrorism** due to its geostrategic position and the unstable situation in the Middle East. Thus, the main needs are:

- training of officers
- purchase of specialized/technical equipment for fight against terrorism and for effectively managing risk and crisis

Cyprus is developing a **National Counter Terrorism Strategy** based on the relevant EU Action Plan. The **Counter Terrorism Office (CTO)** develops training programmes on radicalization for first line police officers (community police, AIU, Criminal Investigation Department) to identify radicalization. CTO participates in specialized courses and seminars on **radicalization and recruitment**. Various services attend the RAN meetings. No terrorist attacks and radicalization incidents occurred during the last decades in Cyprus, so no disengagement and de-radicalisation programmes are offered.

In the last 3 years no **CBRNE incidents have been recorded;** however, there is a need for training programmes, regular exercises, adequate equipment to enhance the detection and the handling of CBRNE materials. Currently, Cyprus Fire Service cooperates with the Fire Service of Greece while fire-fighters participate in CBRNE seminars.

Main measures under ISEC-CIPS

- Leonidas-Exercise for Cyprus, national preparatory exercise project to address a terrorist attack
- Unicri-The House, FP7-Coordinating National Research Programme and Policies on security on major events in Europe.

National Resources

Police: 1 million € in 2015 for the management of security-related risks and crises (purchase of equipment, training)

3. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

Specific objective	1 - Support a common visa policy

The general objective of Cyprus is to support the common visa policy, facilitate legitimate travel and tackle illegal immigration while ensuring safety in the Schengen area. This will be achieved through the harmonization of its policies and practices with respect to Schengen requirements in order to meet current demands both at national and EU level. At the same time these actions account for the future obligations of Cyprus in terms of its full compliance with the Schengen Acquis.

In this context Cyprus aims to improve the quality and effectiveness of its consular capabilities as well as sustain a level of effective visa processing. In addition it aims at establishing its consular presence, where necessary, in compliance with the Schengen requirements and best practices in short-stay visa issuing procedures.

The main focus areas are:

1. Implementation of VIS

The main target is the upgrading and updating of the existing national visa system at the Consulates and borders of the Republic with the ultimate goal being its full operation, maintenance and compliance with any requirements that may arise in regards to VIS. This will be achieved through further support of technical equipment, monitoring of the system, trainings as well as maintenance and upgrades, where and when needed.

2. Supporting consular coverage in Schengen visa issuance

The aim is to improve the quality and effectiveness of consular capabilities and procedures regarding the issuance of short-stay visas, by ensuring proper infrastructure and uniform level of security. The proper infrastructure can be achieved either through the maintenance and/or upgrading of the existing premises or the purchase and development of appropriate premises.

Furthermore, cooperation with other Member States and third counties is under consideration since it will increase Cyprus' representation abroad and increase its efficiency in dealing with visa issues, but at the present moment it is not foreseen that new consulates will be established.

By the end of the programming period Cyprus expects to be able to function fully as a Schengen area Member State with all the appropriate structures and systems in place and in full compliance with the Schengen acquis. Funding under ISF will be proportionate to the short-stay visa issuing.

National objective	1 - National capacity

Under the national budget, Cyprus finances operational costs (staff/maintenance costs, rentals, supplies and general services, etc) related to short-stay visa issuing, purchase of telecommunication systems/ IT/ security/ other special equipment.

The following will be EU co-funded:

1.Support of visa sections for short-stay visa issuing:

1. **Building modifications and installation of security equipment at visa sections** in top diplomatic missions in terms of short-stay visa issuing numbers and in Cyprus Consulates hosted in premises owned by the Republic. These mainly include alterations, construction of bulletproof partitions/counters, interview rooms, and security equipment. Also, around 27 visa sections need only to upgrade their security: purchase/install security equipment, security building structures and, around 10 visa sections need to hire security operators/security guards.
2. **Purchase and installation of modern equipment for the detection of false and falsified documents** in around 18 visa sections.
3. **Purchase of new premises to house visa sections.** Premises for visa sections are expected to be purchased in Russia (small flat-type premises in Yekaterinburg, Krasnodar and Samara and one larger type in St Petersburg) which serve a large number of applications for short-stay visas.
4. **Purchase of telecommunication systems:** installation of automatic answering systems at Cyprus visa sections.
5. **Purchase of mobile fingerprint capturing devices, UPS**

2.Further development of national visa system: improvements or replacements of the equipment of the national visa system, upgrade of the network services currently available at the consular posts, upgrades in order to meet VIS changes, support and monitoring by well-trained personnel of the system, adoption of new archiving methods in order to optimize the system's data availability.

Expected results

*   Building modifications in 12 visa sections
*   Upgrade of security in 27 visa sections
*   4 new visa sections purchased
*   Improved communication in 19 visa sections
*   Further development of the national visa system

National objective	2 - Union acquis

Under the national budget, Cyprus finances the participation of officers in relevant seminars/ bodies/committees/working groups organized by national bodies, the EU, and Member States (VIS Advisory Group, the Visa Working Party, Visa Committee, Visa Vision and Friends of VIS).

The following will be EU co-funded:

1. **Training on VIS issues.** This action includes the training of technical staff that will be responsible for the support of the system in regards to any changes and improvements of the system. Furthermore due to the high turnover frequency of the employees assigned to the visa system, the need for training is continuous, and it should cover all VIS aspects. Therefore,staff responsible for issuing short-stay visas at points of issuance, short-stay visa issuing assistants at the headquarters and technical staff will be trained in accordance to each party's duties. Additionally, although the system interface is the same at all visa issuing posts, the hardware, the network, the structure of the premises, the practices adopted and the problems faced vary between the posts. For that reason, the verification of the proper operation and use of the system at the short-stay visa issuing points, will be effectively accomplished through on-site visits by technical staff and/or issuing assistants. In this way real-time view of the procedures followed for the issuance of a short-stay visa at an issuing post will facilitate the identification and management of various technical and/or procedural issues and improve experience and know-how.

Expected result

- 50 people trained on issues related to the national visa system

National objective	3 - Consular cooperation

At the moment the Republic of Cyprus is not planning to set up common visa examination centres or other forms of cooperation with Member States in third countries where it has no representation or adequate representation.

In relation to this national objective Cyprus is not planning to implement any particular action at the moment under ISF.

Specific objective	2 - Borders

The general objective of Cyprus is to ensure a high level of control and protection of external borders as well as facilitating smoother border crossings. Based on the assessments by the borders patrol network of Cyprus Police, there are risks of having to deal with massive incidents at sea due to the conflicts in the neighbouring area while integrated border management needs to be further enhanced. Therefore, the following objectives have been set:

1.Development of EUROSUR

Cyprus will focus on the support of the National Coordination Centre in order to ensure compliance with EUROSUR requirements, ensuring appropriate infrastructure, equipment and training for efficient and improved services.

A key priority is to upgrade the National Situational Picture for EUROSUR, mainly through the collection of related information and data via systems that will be installed at entry/exit points. It is expected that by the end of 2020, Cyprus will have a fully functional National Coordination Centre able to offer at any given time an updated National Situational Picture. For the time being there are no plans to include the air borders in EUROSUR.

2.Use of modern technologies at the border

Cyprus aims to develop and upgrade, the necessary infrastructure and equipment to improve the quality of border controls. This will mainly focus on installation and/or upgrade of modern technologies that support interoperability across the EU, and in particular the:

- purchase and installation of API/IAPI system
- installation of ABC gates

3.Support of SIS II/SIRENE

The main target is to have the systems always available and in full operation while ensuring a full disaster and recovery continuity plan in case of emergencies through: full system redundancy on identified key components, with stand-by arrangement that will guarantee industry standards, continuity of services and a further back-up plan to send queries to the central SIS II when the national site will not be available to process them, adequate training of staff. Also, the system must be able to confront and handle any possible cyber-attacks in terms of physical or data security.

4. Increasing the capacity for border surveillance

Another goal is to increase the operational capability of Cyprus Police at borders by upgrading and modernizing its fleet. The enhancement of the aviation fleet of Cyprus Police will be done through the purchase of one aircraft and the necessary training of pilots on the aircraft. This will help to improve the efficiency of the Cyprus Police Aviation Unit which is directly involved in the surveillance of the coast and territorial limits of the Republic to tackle illegal immigration and cross border crime. Also, specialised platforms for border surveillance will support the integrated coastal surveillance system on border control.

National objective	1 - EUROSUR

Under the national budget, Cyprus finances operational costs: part of staff costs for tasks related to Eurosur, fuel consumption, maintenance on a regular basis of Port and Marine Police naval fleet, trainings for search and rescue/basic safety rules.

The following will be EU co-funded:

1. Support of NCC. This action will include:

1. Development of permanent building infrastructure for the needs of Port and Marine Police where NCC is stationed. The permanent infrastructure will replace the temporary facilities where the NCC is currently located.
2. Purchase of relevant equipment to support the Centre: mainly special work stations for Radar Operations, Radio telephony equipment, Video Wall, Emergency Generator.
3. Training of the staff working at the NCC.
4. Purchase of medium sized patrol boats for the needs of Port and marine Police for the replacement of the current fleet. These patrols boats follow standard operating procedures and send info to the NCC which feeds into EUROSUR.
5. Purchase of rigid inflatable boats for the coastal stations of the Port and Marine Police. This multiannual action has started under the Annual Programmes 2012 and 2013 of the External Borders Fund and the pre-financing and first instalment have already been paid.

Expected results

- National Coordination Centre in full compliance with the Eurosur requirements
- 30 people trained
- 2 medium sized patrol boats purchased
- 4 rigid inflatable boats purchased

National objective	2 - Information exchange

Under the national budget, Cyprus finances exchange of information through the use of the centralised communication system of Police used at the border crossings.

The following will be EU co-funded:

1. **Purchase of API (Advanced Passenger Information)/IAPI (Interactive Advanced Passenger Information) systems**. This action will include the cost of license use for 7 years. The purchase of API/IAPI system is a measure which must be taken by Cyprus Republic in order to comply with the European Directive 2004/082/EC. It will be used by border guards at the eleven entry/exit points of Cyprus, including the two airports in Larnaca and Paphos and the two major ports in Limassol and Larnaca. The systems will be used for pre-screening of travellers, including checks carried out before the issuing of boarding cards at the passport control, while it will enable the collection of data regarding passengers, including frequent flyers.
2. **Development of a risk analysis system.** A risk analysis platform will be developed by the Aliens and Immigration Unit (AIU) in order to gather, analyze and disseminate relevant information on border control. The development of such a mechanism/ platform derives from the preparations for the Declaration of readiness for Cyprus evaluation to join the Schengen Area. Through the platform information concerning statistical data on irregular migration, threats, modus operandi of smugglers and migrants, awareness concerning false/ falsified documents will be gathered, analyzed and then disseminated to other relevant bodies, including border guards. The project covers the issue of technical equipment, training of personnel to be able to follow the information disseminated, as well as the training of personnel to proceed with the collection and analysis of all relevant information.

Expected results

- Installation of API/IAPI system at 11 entry/exit points in Cyprus
- Enhance border security and facilitate passengers' arrivals at the border crossing points

National objective	3 - Common Union standards

Under the national budget, Cyprus finances a feasibility study in order to assess the installation of Automated Border Control Gates at the border crossings.

1. Installation of Automated Border Control (ABC) Gates. ABC gates will be installed at the border crossing points of Larnaca and Paphos Airports as well as in Limassol and Larnaca ports which receive the greatest number of travellers, especially during the summer period, in order to increase the border control effectiveness and procedures. However, the exact number and locations of the ABC gates will take into account the results of the ongoing feasibility study. The installation of ABC gates in border crossing points at the Republic of Cyprus intends to contribute to the efforts made on a European level in order to promote harmonization of practices, promote similar traveller experience and support the consistency of security levels at the border crossing points where the ABC Gates will be installed. Cyprus will also take into account the Guidelines for ABC Gates as developed by FRONTEX.

Expected results

- Approximately 8 ABC gates will be installed at the four border crossing points (2 in each)
- Increase border control effectiveness

National objective	4 - Union acquis

Under the national budget, Cyprus finances administrative costs, the use of the premises of the Cyprus Police Academy, transportation of participants, cost of lecturers.

The following will be EU co-funded:

1. **Training of border guards in the area of external borders.** Basic training of Police members (Aliens and Immigration Unit, Port and marine Police, Cyprus Police Aviation Unit) working as border guards on the Schengen Acquis and external borders related areas in order to improve border guards' skills in control checks at the borders.The curricula will be aligned to the Common Core Curriculum.
2. **Study visits abroad to other SIS/SIRENE operations** in order to exchange good practices that are being implemented by other units on SIRENE topics.
3. **Training of border guards on SIS/SIRENE related topics:** Border guards (Aliens and Immigration Unit, Port and marine Police, Cyprus Police Aviation Unit, Police Stations with geographical jurisdiction along the coastline) will be trained with the participation of 50 highly trained and qualified multipliers that will train other border

guards. Multipliers are the persons who have been trained adequately and sufficiently in order to train other co-workers at the place of work.

4. **Sea Border Mobility Programme.** The training will be conducted by Cyprus Police with the participation of 20 officers each time from Greece, Spain, Malta and France and will be addressed to Police members that serve at the maritime borders on topics related to Common Core Border Guards Basic Training of the Frontex Agency. For the moment, Frontex has no similar training programme in place, therefore, there is no risk of overlap.

5. **Training in the operation of modern technology at the borders**. This will mainly include training in the operation of API/IAPI systems and ABC gates.

6. **Training on screening and debriefing techniques**. This will include training of border guards for improved intelligence gathering at the borders aimed at enabling stronger interviewing and profiling techniques leading to swifter identification of migrants at the borders.

Expected results

- 500 border guards trained in border management related issues
- 5 study visits for improving SIS/SIRENE operations
- 1500 border guards trained in SIS/SIRENE related topics
- At least 5 trainings under the Sea Border Mobility Programme

National objective	5 - Future challenges

Although the initial assessments of the situation indicate that Cyprus will be called upon to respond to incidents of illegal migration at sea and possible evacuations, until now only minor incidents occurred at the sea borders apart from a rescue operation involving 345 persons taking place at international waters within the Search and Rescue Region of Cyprus. The borders patrol network has estimated that there are risks of having to deal with massive incidents at sea as a result of the conflicts in the neighbourhood and Cyprus needs to be ready to respond to such incidents.

However, in relation to this national objective Cyprus is not planning to implement any particular action at the moment under ISF.

National objective	6 - National capacity

Under the national budget Cyprus finances the maintenance of the existing IT systems (Schengen computerised system, upgrade of the existing applications of Police Central System to achieve compatibility with Schengen National System II); maintenance of the aviation fleet; trainings for engineers, avionics and members of the Special Operations Team; staff with border management related tasks.

The following will be EU co-funded:

1.Development of SIS/SIRENE II. This will include the following:

1. **Back-up system (Disaster and Recovery) for SIS/SIRENE II** aiming to develop a full disaster recovery/continuity plan based on the national architecture to ensure continuity of service.
2. **Purchase of new computerised equipment** including application/inquiries/back up servers in order to cover future needs from the continuous increasing volume of signals in the SIS II system.
3. **Purchase of fingerprint scanners with 10 fingers** that will replace the existing devices with the ability to scan one finger.
4. **Connection of SIS II with the AFIS** (Automated Fingerprint identification system) for the purposes of archiving and fingerprint controls.
5. **Upgrade of the national SIS/SIRENE II** in order to be harmonised with the SIS II central system. The National SIS II system was developed and tested in 2012 with no further upgrades.Therefore, all changes made on the SIS II Central system plus the changes on the Supplementary Information Request at the national Entry System (new categories, change of code tables etc) must be implemented on the national system.

2.Purchase of an aircraft for border surveillance. The aircraft will be used by Cyprus Police solely for the purposes of the Fund, i.e. the surveillance of shores and territorial waters, the patrolling within the Nicosia Flight Information Region (FIR) for preventing and combating irregular migration and the participation in Frontex operations for cross-border checks. The aircraft will ensure flight endurance for approximately 5 hours in order to cover most part of Nicosia Cyprus FIR with a single flight. Training of pilots is also included.

3. **Supply and installation of fixed observation platforms (OBSP)** a**nd mobile surveillance platforms for the implementation of an integrated Coastal Surveillance System.** This system will target irregular entry and support situational awareness of maritime borders.

Expected results

- Speed up border check procedures for third country nationals entering the EU
- 80 finerprint scanners purchased to enhance security
- 1 aircraft to enhance border surveillance
- 3 mobile surveillance platforms
- 3 fixed observation platforms

Specific objective	3 - Operating support

Cyprus hereby confirms its compliance with the Union acquis on borders and visa.

Cyprus hereby confirms its compliance with Union Standards and guidelines for good governance on borders and visa, in particular the Schengen catalogue for external border control, the Practical Handbook for borders guards and the Handbook on visa.

National objective	1 - Operating support for VISA

Under the national budget, Cyprus fully finances the rent of 92,5% of its consulates, all operational costs including salaries, insurance fees as well as maintenance/repair costs (excluding VIS). The following will be EU co-funded:

1. **Maintenance of VIS at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visa sections and border crossing points.** This action aims to support the maintenance of VIS in order to ensure its proper and efficient performance at all times in order to facilitate short stay visa issuing procedures, including biometric fingerprint data between the Ministry, Visa Sections and the central European system in Strasburg once Cyprus joins Schengen area. The maintenance will include 39 visa sections and 11 border crossing points together with the Ministry.
2. **Coverage of the salary, travel and seminar costs of the current staff at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs working for VIS.**
3. **Purchase of visa stickers**
4. **Rent of Consulates.** Rent will be covered for 4 consulates (Yekaterinburg, Krasnodar, Samara, St. Petersburg) until these will be purchased.
5. **Maintenance of visa section buildings:** This action includes the maintenance of the premises of the diplomatic missions (approximately 10 in total) that have already been modified in order to comply with Schengen acquis' requirements as well as the maintenance of the premises planned to be modified (approximately 12 in total) in the framework of the action of ISF.
6. **Maintenance of security systems** which will be bought in the frame of action 2 mentioned in 3.1.1. (27 total).
7. **Maintenance of telecommunication systems in consulates** which will be bought in the frame of action 4 mentioned in 3.1.1. It is expected to cover 19 consulates and the services related to short-stay visas.
8. **Coverage of the salary of additional staff.** It includes the recruitment of seasonal staff during the pick tourist period at 6 visa sections (Moscow, St. Petersburg, Tehran, Cairo, Beirut, Kiev).

The results of the financing of the above services and tasks will be the effective operation of the visa sections and the provision of good quality services. In other words the operating support for visa sections will contribute to the effectiveness and efficiency of the procedure for issuing short stay visas. Funding under ISF will be proportionate to the short-stay visa issuing.

National objective	2 - Operating support for borders

1. Maintenance of SIS/SIRENE II performed on an annual basis to ensure the correct function of the system. The maintenance will include hardware equipment, system software, application software and network equipment. The system's maintenance will enable the update of national SIS/SIRENE II software, according to requests and needs, in order to be compatible with the latest versions of the central system C-SIS II.

2. Regular trainings for the national SIS/SIRENE II users on an annual basis performed by members of Research and Development Department as well as trainings for other governmental Departments and Services (Money Laundering Unit, Customs and Excise Department and Road and Transport Department) and Ministries of Justice and Public Order, Interior and External Affairs) on the use of SIS/SIRENE II.

The above actions will ensure continuity of the SIS/SIRENE II system and operational functioning 24 hours a day, 7 days a week achieving the uninterrupted exchange of data between national authorities.

3. Maintenance of Pournaras Emergency site and Menoyia Centre for screening purposes (main activities: screening and debriefing). This action will cover the operational and maintenance costs, and other possible screening costs, for the part of the Menoyia Centre that is used for screening purposes and for Pournaras Emergency site, again when it is used for screening of mixed flows. It should be noted that the rest of the Menoyia centre will be co-funded by AMIF. The same applies for the Pournaras site in the instances that the site will be used for purposes of the AMIF Regulation (eg. additional places for returnees, non-removables).

Specific objective	5 - Preventing and combating crime

According to the strategic mission 2012-15 of Cyprus Police, the main objectives are:

- Enhance coordination and cooperation between Cyprus Police and other law enforcement authorities,
- Promote exchange of information with other Member States and Europol,
- Develop training schemes for the acquisition of skills, and
- Implement the latest technological developments regarding technical upgrades.

The main focus areas are:

Anti-corruption: establish the strategy set in the mandate of the Coordinating Body against Corruption to attain a low level of corruption in the public sector, support capacity against corruption and improve information sharing among relevant bodies via the development of specific tools/training.

Financial investigations in all serious and organised crimes: increase the number of financial investigations and criminal networks dismantled, improve investigating tools/equipment and increase capacity through the recruitment and training of additional investigators.

Drug trafficking: enhance operations via special trainings, develop public-private cooperation, enhance information exchange on a European level and upgrade IT systems/informational tools for the improvement of data analysis to increase the number of drug seizures, prosecution of related offences and convictions.

Cybersecurity: enhance capacity for combating cybercrime via trainings to increase expertise/investigational skills, cooperation with Europol, CERTs, law enforcement practitioners and the private sector, and the purchase of tools/systems for the exchange of information.

LETS: improve cross border cooperation of Law Enforcement units through special training on the basic knowledge on EU policing and increase cooperation with other Member States in order to establish a uniform understanding and performance amongst law enforcement authorities. Training will be further enhanced through the upgrade of the training facilities of the Police Academy. CEPOL will be involved in all specialised trainings.

EU policy cycle: Cyprus supports the EU policy cycle and cooperation with other Member States, mainly in the areas of drug trafficking, fight against fraud and cybercrime. CY participates in 7 EMPACT Programmes: Trafficking in Human Beings, Organized Property Crime, Illegal Immigration, Cybercrime, Synthetic Drugs, Cocaine, MTIC (Department of Tax and VAT) and Excise Fraud (Customs Department).

Human trafficking: improve procedures and support provided to victims via research, assessments/evaluations and enhance public awareness through public informational campaigns.

Exchange of information: set up of the national Passenger Information Unit for the collection, process, analysis and exchange of information of the PNR as well as support exchange of information tools and actions with other Member States in order to prevent and combat serious organised crime.

National objective	1 - C - prevention and combating

Under the national budget Cyprus finances: maintenance of Police buildings/vehicles, awareness activities on crime prevention and drug trafficking, purchase of specialised equipment for combating crime including related staff costs.

The following will be EU co-funded:

1.Strengthen operational capabilities. It mainly includes:

- **Specialised infrastructure** to enhance the quality of processes mainly related to cybercrime: specialised training room with equipment for network investigation/forensics/other issues, anti-static floor for DEFL for the reduction of static to minimise risks of damage to equipment and safety hazards and meet international standards (ISO).
- **Specialised equipment** to enhance the operational capabilities to combat financial crime, drug trafficking, cybercrime: identification of the chemical structure of new synthetic drugs, forensic tools for the examination of digital evidence (including licences), software for data collection/analysis (eg. identification of victims, missing persons), vacuum metal deposition device to track fingertips, integrated ballistic information system, spectrophotometer for forensic analysis.

- **Vehicles** technologically equipped to perform preliminary on-the-spot investigations, vans equipped with a mobile unit of forensic digital data analysis and teleconferencing, long-based vehicles equipped for coordinating drug trafficking operations, mobile units for awareness campaigns.
- **Additional staff** (mainly ECIO, OCC/DEFL) to increase effectiveness of the investigations by reducing the examination time, improving crime solving rate and the quality of cases brought to court

2.Participation in the EU policy cycle 2014-2017: participation in EMPACT and JITS in the priority areas of drugs, fight against fraud and cybercrime, as set by the EU, in order to increase cooperation between Cyprus and Member States and contribute to the enhancement of efforts made to combat common issues.

3.Enhance public awareness on cross border crime: projects related to cross border crime (drug trafficking, cybercrime) i.e. presentations, leaflets, educational material, presentations/lectures, dissemination through mass/social media.

4.Improve investigation procedures and cooperation among relevant bodies: research, manuals of good practices, cooperation methods among law enforcement authorities/other relevant public and private bodies. The action aims to detect gaps and needs (eg. in financial crime investigation procedures) in order to improve procedures and enhance the know-how and cooperation among relevant bodies.

Expected results

- Increase the number of cases investigated
- Enhance investigations timely response
- 17 vehicles purchased
- Participation in 3 EMPACT and JITS

National objective	2 - C - exchange of information

Under the national budget, Cyprus finances maintenance and upgrade of existing IT systems (CRENET -exchange of criminal records between Member States-Prum Interface and DNA Software Development) including related staff costs.

The following will be EU co-funded:

1.Enhance capability of exchange of information. This action will include the purchase of software systems and programmes mainly related to:

- **Anti-corruption.** These will mainly relate to data analysis and exchange of information between the relevant responsible authorities. The transmission of data between the anti-corruption bodies will lead to the coordination of all actions that need to be taken for the combat of corruption**.**
- **Financial investigations.** This will include the purchase and installation of a software system that will contribute to information analysis and tracking financial assets from

criminal actions. Police personnel will be specially trained to be able to operate the programme/system.

- **Fingerprint exchange:** This will include the purchase of software for EURODAC which will be used for law enforcement access.
- **Drug trafficking.** This will include the purchase of software in order to improve the quality and methods of data analysis and exchange of information between relevant responsible authorities.
- **Cybercrime and cybersecurity.** This will include common systems for the transmission of information from the Commissioner of Electronic Communications and Postal Regulations (the national CERt) to Cyprus Police and vice versa. The common systems will replace the manual exchange of information.
- **Serious and organized crime.** This will include the purchase of programmes and systems that will improve cross-cutting information analysis on all types of crime. This will include maintenance costs as well.

2.Exchange of information with other Member States and /or third countries. This action will include visits to Law Enforcement Units of other Member States to exchange experiences and good practices in areas related to organised crime such as fight against cybercrime.

3. Setting up of new and development of existing Passenger Information Units (PIU) at national level to develop and implement a Passenger Name Record IT system, as referred to in paragraph 1 (e) of Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No 513/2014.

4. Develop the necessary IT solutions to increase the exchange of information with other EU Member States and the interoperability with the IT systems and databases developed by the EU or other EU Member States.

Expected results

- Enhance exchange of information in at least 5 areas of organized crime
- 5 visits in other Member States and/or third countries
- Support the national PNR
- Set up 1 SPOC Operations Centre

National objective	3 - C - training

Under the national budget, Cyprus finances trainings offered to all members of Cyprus Police for internet investigations, smuggling of people, money laundering, structure and operation of European and international agencies (Frontex, Europol, Interpol, Cepol, FRA etc), the protection of personal data, including related staff costs.

The following will be EU co-funded:

1.Training schemes to enhance operational skills on:

1. **Anticorruption:** in particular corruption and money laundering. This will mainly target basic skills acquisition in regards to procedures and tools on corruption.
2. **Financial investigations:** this will include an assessment research which will help to upgrade and modify the courses provided by the CPA. It will also include training for financial crime investigators and analysts on new methods and techniques as well as visits to EU Expert centres on financial investigations and methods of solving financial crime cases in order to exchange good practices and learn modern methods of investigation.
3. **Fight against drug trafficking:** for DLEU, State General Laboratory, Customs, Pharmaceutical Services, Cyprus Anti-Drugs Council on psychotropic substances and synthetic drugs; for DLEU on the methods of preventing drug import through the airports; users of Europol network in information exchange; other public services to enhance knowledge on drug trafficking (eg.to Postal Services (public and private) on the means of concealment, trafficking routs and modus operandi)
4. **Cybercrime and cyber security:** for judges and prosecutors to enhance their knowledge on the methods of digital evidence analysis; training for officers of all districts for immediate response skills (evidence collection, image pre-search, basic knowledge to respond to cybercrime incidents); special training for the Department of Information Technology Services/other public officials who are responsible for investigation and prosecution.

2.Implementation of the EU Law Enforcement Training Scheme

1. **Training programme offered by the Cyprus Police Academy:** it includes a comprehensive module that will address the basic principles of effective cooperation, fundamental human rights, the role and functioning of European Agencies (Europol, Frontex, Eurojust) and the use of tools for the management of exchange of information on a European level (Swedish Initiative, SIS). The aim is to offer basic knowledge and skills in order to create a common culture between Law Enforcement Authorities across the Union.

Expected results

- enhance the operational efficiency of Cyprus to prevent and combat serious cross border crime
- 3 visits in EU expert centres
- 400 police officers trained

National objective	4 - C - victim support

Under the national budget, Cyprus finances compensation, financial allowance, shelters, health care, education and skill trainings to victims as well as trainings to competent officials and awareness campaigns regarding trafficking.

The following will be EU co-funded:

1. **Provision of legal advice to victims** either prior or during criminal procedures as well as in the case of seeking redress of infringment of human rights

2. **Services of an external evaluator** who will be responsible to monitor and evaluate the trafficking trends at a national level, collect statistical data, assess implemented actions for victims of trafficking and provide suggestions to the appropriate public bodies.
3. **Research-assessment** in order to evaluate possible legislative gaps, victim/traffickers profiling, impact assessment of specific actions.
4. **Public awareness campaigns** in relation to human trafficking: it will mainly include leaflets which will be distributed to public services and other organizations that deal with victims of trafficking and will include EU Directives/Regulations and policies implemented on a European level. The leaflets will also be distributed to victims of trafficking (or possible victims) so as to become familiar with their rights and obligations.

Expected results

- Legal advisors deployed to offer assistance to victims
- 1 external evaluator
- At least 3 types of research assessments
- 2 awareness raising campaigns
- Enhance awareness on tracing and identifying trafficking victims

National objective	5 - C - threat and risk assessment

In relation to this national objective Cyprus is not planning to implement any particular action at the moment under ISF.

Cyprus will not undertake any other action at national level in relation to this objective.

Specific objective	6 - Risks and crisis

The Council of Ministers has approved the national strategy on countering terrorism, a policy paper that sets out priorities towards the fight against terrorism based on a multiagency approach. The National Strategy is based on four pillars: protection, pursue and response:

1.Pillar **'Protection'** aims to reduce vulnerability of possible targets as well as enhance protection of borders and transport with the following targets:

- Protection of critical infrastructure, including telecommunications and Its systems
- Improvement of cooperation (exchange of information, assignment of contact points) between national competent authorities
- restricting access to means/equipment/infrastructure that may be used in a terrorist attack
- protection against a CBRN attack

2.Pillar **'Pursue'** aims to gather information, investigate cases and prosecute offenders with the following targets:

- increase capabilities of law enforcement authorities
- impede communication between terrorists
- improve coordination and cooperation among national authorities including cross border cooperation
- training of antiterrorist squad

3.Pillar **'Response'** aims to offer immediate response to possible incidents and mitigate consequences with the following targets:

- preparation of staff for emergency response
- appropriate equipment/ infrastructure /means
- coordination mechanism of relevant authorities
- training of competent authorities, including participation in common exercises.

Based on the above national targets and budget availability the main focus area is the enhancement of the administrative and operational capacity of Cyprus to protect critical infrastructure and secure early response in crisis situations through the purchase of specialised equipment and development of specific training schemes.CEPOL will be involved in all specialised trainings.

National objective	1 - R - prevention and combating

Under the national budget Cyprus finances only minor equipment for anti-terrorism operations, including staff costs for related tasks.

The following will be EU co-funded:

1. **Enhance operational capacity for the fight against terrorism.** This action will mainly include the purchase of equipment for detecting equipment of suspicious cargo in relation to explosives, chemicals, drugs etc for use by the Customs Authority. Once an information is received for suspicious cargo, this equipment will be used in order to determine whether there are any suspicious substances.

Expected results

- Enhance prevention and combating of CBRNE and terrorism incidents

National objective	2 - R - exchange of information

In relation to this national objective Cyprus is not planning to implement any particular action at the moment under ISF.

Cyprus will not undertake any other action at national level in relation to this objective.

National objective	3 - R - training

Under the national budget, Cyprus finances trainings for the members of the anti-terrorist Unit (courses on Trauma First Response, handling of violent radicalization and recruitment of terrorists) and participation in conferences in relation to risk and crisis management.

The following will be EU co-funded:

1. Training schemes to enhance operational skills in relation to:

1. **Fight against terrorism.** This will focus on good practices and methods in regards to the investigation of terrorism cases and it will include training in another Member State for staff of the Counter-Terrorism Office.
2. **Effective and early response of anti-terrorist Units to crisis incidents that may occur not only in Cyprus but in other EU Member States (Council Decision 2008/617/JHA).** This scheme will include trainings for officers of the immediate response squad on: dynamic intervention –close quarter battle (CQB), silent entry, negotiation skills, Tactical Advisors-Crisis management skills, close protection tactic skills, international meetings/training programmes/research programmes in relation to terrorism, training in another Member State for the management of CBRN terrorist threats, including good practices and methods, training in Cyprus for the management of CBRN terrorist threat (negotiation skills).

Expected results

- 5 members of the Counter Terrorism Office trained
- 50 police members of the Immediate Response Squad trained on issues related to crisis incidents

National objective	4 - R - victim support

In relation to this national objective Cyprus is not planning to implement any particular action at the moment under ISF.

Cyprus will not undertake any other action at national level in relation to this objective.

National objective	5 - R - infrastructure

Under the national budget, Cyprus finances only minor equipment for operations including staff costs for related tasks.

The following will be EU co-funded:

1. **Enhancement of capacity for managing effectively security related risks and crises, including CBRNE incidents.** This action will mainly include the purchase of:

i. Specialized vehicles:

- **crisis negotiation vehicle** that will be used in a hostage crisis or a terrorist incident and will be engineered to accommodate specialized communications equipment (e.g. satellite transmission, data and video exchange) and six hostage negotiators.
- **crisis response team vehicle** that will be used to transport staff and specialized equipment (e.g. tactical equipment, breaching tools, rams, ladders, ballistic equipment);
- **special vehicle specifically adapted to the needs of antiterrorism operations** with installation of technological equipment (communication equipment, tactical gear equipment, supplies for responders). This vehicle will be used to as a mobile command station (police command vehicle) in large-scale crises incidents or incidents that may require extended time demand, hostage situations, active shooter calls, mass casualty incidents and task force operations.
- **upgrade of remotely operated vehicles (ROVs).** This will be achieved through the purchase of thermal cameras, special tracks and general equipment compatible to that ROVs with additional or backup tools in order to become more efficient and effective in environments that are likely to involve any CBRNE factor.

ii. Specialized equipment: This will mainly include the purchase of equipment including personalized equipment for risk and crisis as well as CBRNE incidents: thermal cameras, radioactivity detectors, disinfection machines, complete breathing devices, portable communication devices for explosive environment, special fireproof uniforms, ballistic helmets with bulletproof glass, ballistic shields, personal Intercom systems, and others that will be used for operational purposes.

Expected results

- 3 specialised vehicles purchased
- 2 remotely operated vehicles upgraded

National objective	6 - R - early warning and crisis

In relation to this national objective Cyprus is not planning to implement any particular action at the moment under ISF.

Cyprus will not undertake any other action at national level in relation to this objective.

National objective	7 - R - threat and risk assessment

In relation to this national objective Cyprus is not planning to implement any particular action at the moment under ISF.

Cyprus will not undertake any other action at national level in relation to this objective.

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	Further development of VIS	2017	2017	2021
SO1 - Support a common visa policy	NO1 - National capacity	2	Support of visa sections for short-stay visa issuing	2014	2015	2021
SO1 - Support a common visa policy	NO2 - Union acquis	1	Training on VIS issues	2014	2014	2019
SO2 - Borders	NO1 - EUROSUR	1	Development of permanent infrastructure for NCC	2014	2016	2020
SO2 - Borders	NO1 - EUROSUR	2	Purchase of equipment to support the NCC	2014	2015	2018
SO2 - Borders	NO1 - EUROSUR	3	Purchase of medium-sized patrol boats	2016	2017	2020
SO2 - Borders	NO2 - Information exchange	1	Purchase of API/IAPI systems	2017	2017	2022
SO2 - Borders	NO2 - Information exchange	2	Development of a risk analysis system	2016	2018	2020
SO2 - Borders	NO2 - Information exchange	3	Setting up of new and development of existing Passenger Information Units (PIU)	2017	2017	2018
SO2 - Borders	NO3 - Common Union standards	1	Installation of ABC Gates	2018	2019	2022
SO2 - Borders	NO4 - Union acquis	1	Training of border guards in the area of external borders	2014	2014	2020
SO2 - Borders	NO4 - Union acquis	2	Training of border guards on SIS/SIRENE operations	2014	2014	2020
SO2 - Borders	NO4 - Union acquis	3	Sea Border Mobility Programme	2014	2014	2020
SO2 - Borders	NO6 - National capacity	1	Back up (Disaster and Recovery) system for SIS/SIRENE II	2015	2016	2017
SO2 - Borders	NO6 - National capacity	2	Purchase of an aircraft for the Cyprus Police Aviation Unit	2016	2017	2020
SO2 - Borders	NO6 - National capacity	3	Further development of entry/exit and RTP system	2017	2019	2022
SO3 - Operating support	NO1 - Operating support for VISA	1	Maintenance of VIS at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visa sections, border crossing points	2014	2014	2021
SO3 - Operating support	NO1 - Operating support for VISA	2	Purchase of visa stickers	2014	2014	2018
SO3 - Operating support	NO1 - Operating support	3	Maintenance of security	2016	2016	2021

Specific objective	NO/SA	Main action	Name of action	Start of planning phase	Start of implementation phase	Start of closing phase
	for VISA		systems in consulates			
SO3 - Operating support	NO2 - Operating support for borders	1	Maintenance of SIS/SIRENE II	2015	2015	2021
SO3 - Operating support	NO2 - Operating support for borders	2	Regular trainings for the national SIS/SIRENE II users	2015	2015	2021
SO3 - Operating support	NO2 - Operating support for borders	3	Maintenance of Pournaras Emergency site and Menoyia Centre for screening purposes	2014	2017	2021
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	NO1 - C - prevention and combating	1	Purchase of specialised equipment to strengthen operational capabilities	2014	2014	2020
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	NO1 - C - prevention and combating	2	Purchase of specialised infrastructure to strengthen operational capabilities	2014	2014	2020
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	NO1 - C - prevention and combating	3	Enhance public awareness on cross border crime	2014	2014	2020
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	NO2 - C - exchange of information	1	Enhance capability of exchange of information	2014	2014	2020
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	NO2 - C - exchange of information	2	Exchange of information with Member States and/or third countries	2014	2014	2020
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	NO3 - C - training	1	Implementation of EU LETS	2015	2016	2020
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	NO3 - C - training	2	Training schemes to enhance operational skills	2015	2015	2020
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	NO4 - C - victim support	1	Public awareness campaigns in relation to human trafficking	2016	2017	2020
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	NO4 - C - victim support	2	Provision of legal advice to victims	2016	2017	2020
SO5 - Preventing and combating crime	NO4 - C - victim support	3	Services of an external evaluator	2015	2017	2022
SO6 - Risks and crisis	NO1 - R - prevention and combating	1	Enhance operational capacity for the fight against terrorism	2014	2018	2018
SO6 - Risks and crisis	NO3 - R - training	1	Training schemes to enhance operational skills in relation to fight against terrorism	2015	2018	2020
SO6 - Risks and crisis	NO3 - R - training	2	Training schemes to enhance operational skills in relation to early response	2015	2015	2020
SO6 - Risks and crisis	NO5 - R - infrastructure	1	Specialised vehicles to enhance operational capacity for managing effectively security related risk	2014	2014	2019

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	NO5 - R - infrastructure	2	Specialised equipment to Eenhance operational capacity for managing effectively security related ri	2014	2014	2019

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	50.00	Projects
C2.2 - Number of training courses (hours completed)		Number	0.00	700.00	Projects
C3 - Number of specialised posts in third countries supported by the Fund		Number	0.00	0.00	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	40.00	Projects
C4.2 - Percentage of consulates developed or upgraded with the help of the Fund out of the total number of consulates		%	0.00	81.00	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	800.00	Projects

Specific objective	2 - Borders				
Indicator		**Measurement unit**	**Baseline value**	**Target value**	**Source of data**
C1.2 - Number of training courses in borders management related aspects with the help of the Fund		Number	0.00	1,550.00	Projects
C2 - Number of border control (checks and surveillance) infrastructure and means developed or upgraded with the help of the Fund		Number	0.00	20.00	Projects
C3.1 - Number of border crossings of the external borders through ABC gates supported from the Fund		Number	0.00	2,800,000.00	Projects
C3.2 - Total number of border crossings		Number	0.00	49,000,000.00	Projects
C4 - Number of national border surveillance infrastructure established/further developed in the framework of EUROSUR		Number	0.00	7.00	Projects
C5 - Number of incidents reported by the Member State to the European Situational Picture		Number	0.00	35.00	National Coordination Centre

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	3.00	Projects
C2.1 - Number of law enforcement officials trained on cross-		Number	0.00	400.00	Projects

Specific objective	5 - Preventing and combating crime				
Indicator		**Measurement unit**	**Baseline value**	**Target value**	**Source of data**
border-related topics with the help of the Fund					
C2.2 - Duration of the training (carried out) on cross-border related topics with the help of the fund		Person days	0.00	4,800.00	Projects
C3.1 - Number of projects in the area of crime prevention		Number	0.00	27.00	Projects
C3.2 - Financial value of projects in the area of crime prevention		EUR	0.00	3,730,000.00	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	25.00	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

Specific objective	6 - Risks and crisis				
Indicator		**Measurement unit**	**Baseline value**	**Target value**	**Source of data**
C3 - Number of expert meetings, workshops, seminars, conferences, publications, websites and (online) consultations organised with the help of the Fund		Number	0.00	5.00	Projects

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

6.1 Partnership involvement in the preparation of the programme

In May-June 2013 the latest versions of the legislative texts were sent to the relevant public authorities.

In June-July 2013 individual meetings were held with each public authority responsible for the policy areas of the ISF to discuss needs and suggestions in order to ensure complementarity and cooperation. The RA presented an overview of ISF together with the changes/similarities with Solidarity Funds. A discussion followed with an exchange of views and suggestions for the new programme.

Written suggestions from all public authorities were received by the end of August 2013. These suggestions included a brief description of the suggested actions, estimated budget and expected results.

All relevant public authorities were involved in the preparation for the Policy Dialogue. Each public authority sent its written input on the Key Policy Issue Paper (August 2013). The two principal public authorities, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cyprus Police participated in the actual Dialogue on October 4th 2013.

Based on the results of the Policy Dialogue the draft of the National Programme was prepared accordingly. During its preparation there was an ongoing communication with the relevant public authorities in regards to policy, strategies and proposed actions.

6.2 Monitoring committee

A Monitoring Committee will be responsible for the monitoring of the implementation of the National Programme. The Committee will meet at least once a year in order to examine the progress of the programme. Due to the nature of the Fund, the bodies participating will be public, unless deemed otherwise:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Cyprus Police
- Ministry of Justice and Public Order
- Ministry of Defence
- Aliens and Immigration Unit of the Police
- DG for European Programmes, Coordination and Development (representative from Structural Funds)
- Horizon 2020 Representative
- Other possible relevant organisations

Its purpose will be to monitor the progress of the Programme regarding the specific objectives, indicators, financial implementation, deadlines, needs for possible amendments, possible unforeseen circumstances and any other issues that may influence the successful implementation. Clear documentation on the above issues will be provided by the RA/AA prior to the meeting, in order to give a general overview of the progress. It will provide

comments/suggestions to the RA who will take them into account in the implementation of the Programme.

In case of amendments of the National Programme all members of the Committee will be notified and asked to provide their written suggestions.

6.3 Common monitoring and evaluation framework

The RA will be responsible for the **monitoring** of the projects. Two members of the RA will be designated for monitoring of the administrative and financial aspect respectively. They will assist final beneficiaries, perform on-the-spot checks and suggest corrective measures, if needed. Project specific indicators will help to link performance to results. These will be established based on similar past projects, statistics and other related information.

The collection of data related will be made at project level. Interim reports will need to be provided. If needed, the RA will proceed with corrective measures in order to ensure the best possible outcome. The data will be verified by the RA on a sampling basis and will be uploaded in the electronic data exchange system.

Evaluation will be outsourced to a private sector actor, with relevant expertise and independent from the RA and AA.

The evaluation method will be clearly outlined before the beginning of each evaluation. There will be a possibility to further consult experts on the methodology that will be followed. The RA will be responsible to provide the relevant access to the evaluators to relevant data. The evaluator will have access to relevant data, final beneficiaries, RA personnel.

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

Throughout the implementation of the national programme the partnership principle will be ensured.

The Monitoring Committee includes the following partners: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cyprus Police, Ministry of Justice and Public Order, Ministry of Defence (search and rescue), Aliens and Immigration Unit of the Police, DG for European Programmes, Coordination and Development (representative from Structural Funds), Horizon 2020 representative, other possible relevant organisations. The Committee will be consulted, will monitor the implementation of the programme and provide suggestions. During the meetings of the Committee, beneficiaries may also be invited to present their projects and their results. Prior to the meetings, the RA will send emails to potential beneficiaries listed in its data base, requesting suggestions for further actions which will be discussed by the Committee.

Also, regarding European Regional Development Fund and Horizon 2020 apart from the participation in the Monitoring Committee, there will be meetings between the relevant authorities as well as ongoing communication in order to ensure complementarity and possible synergies.

As part of the evaluation of the national programme, the independent evaluator may contact partners from the relevant committees or who serve as final beneficiaries of the projects, when necessary. The results of the evaluation and the evaluation report will be notified to the partners of the Monitoring Committee as part of the monitoring process.

6.5 Information and publicity

Cyprus will ensure that a website or a website portal is provided with information on and access to the national programme and will inform potential beneficiaries about funding opportunities under the national programme.

Cyprus will ensure transparency on the implementation of the national programme and maintain a list of actions supported by the national programme which will be accessible through the website or the website portal.

As a rule, information shall be made public, except where it is restricted due to its confidential nature, particularly concerning security, public order, criminal investigations and the protection of personal data. Further information and publicity actions may also be carried out during the course of the programme, if considered appropriate.

6.6 Coordination and complementarity with other instruments

There is a constant effort to ensure that there is synergy and complementarity with other EU Funds which has begun during the multiannual period 2007-2013 and will be continuing throughout 2014-2020.

This effort has now been enhanced with the creation of a Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development which is responsible for the coordination of the implementation of European Funds and programmes. The DG will continue its role as the National Authority for the implementation of the Cohesion Policy as well as the Managing Authority for the Operational Programmes co-financed by the EU Structural Funds, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. It will also establish an information centre for the public and businesses for all the horizontal EU Programmes. This will enable to coordinate more effectively with other funds and have a constant overview regarding implementation and possible changes or further developments regarding European funding.

Especially in regards to Internal Security a special focus is given to synergies and complementarity with the European Regional Development Fund, with a particular focus on cross-border cooperation, as well as Horizon 2020 and its section which deals with the protection of security of Europe and its citizens. In order to better ensure there is no overlap between actions implemented under each Fund and to more effectively use the available resources, the relevant competent authorities will be conducting meetings for the examination of subjects of common interest. They will also be participating in the Monitoring Committees of the respective programmes of each of the Funds and Programmes.

6.7 Beneficiaries

6.7.1 List of main types of beneficiaries of the programme:

1. State/federal authorities;
2. local public bodies;
3. non-governmental organisations;
4. international public organisations;
5. private and public law companies

6.7.2 Direct award (if applicable)

Due to the nature of the particular Fund, the majority of the actions envisaged will be implemented by public authorities and therefore, direct award will be used in the following cases:

The **Ministry of Foreign Affairs** is responsible for actions related to visas.

Cyprus Police is the main body responsible for borders, police cooperation and crisis management.

The **Ministry of Defence** is responsible for the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre of Cyprus Navy and together with the **Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works** will implement actions related to search and rescue operations, including trainings.

Ministry of Interior and **Cyprus Police** are cooperating in the fight against human trafficking.

The **Coordinating body against Corruption** is under the Cyprus Legal Service and is responsible for measures against corruption.

7. THE FINANCING PLAN OF THE PROGRAMME

Table 1: Financing plan ISF-Borders

Specific objective / national objective	Total
SO1.NO1 National capacity	9,626,800.00
SO1.NO2 Union acquis	27,000.00
SO1.NO3 Consular cooperation	0.00
TOTAL SO1 Support a common visa policy	**9,653,800.00**
SO2.NO1 EUROSUR	5,436,000.00
SO2.NO2 Information exchange	1,440,000.00
SO2.NO3 Common Union standards	900,000.00
SO2.NO4 Union acquis	300,000.00
SO2.NO5 Future challenges	0.00
SO2.NO6 National capacity	8,960,028.85
TOTAL SO2 Borders	**17,036,028.85**
SO3.NO1 Operating support for VISA	4,091,850.00
SO3.NO2 Operating support for borders	1,500,000.00
TOTAL SO3 Operating support	**5,591,850.00**
Technical assistance borders	2,225,351.15
TOTAL	**34,507,030.00**

Table 2: Financial Plan ISF-Police

Specific objective / national objective	Total
SO5.NO1 C - prevention and combating	4,154,394.15
SO5.NO2 C - exchange of information	2,428,078.00
SO5.NO3 C - training	670,000.00
SO5.NO4 C - victim support	30,000.00
SO5.NO5 C - threat and risk assessment	0.00
TOTAL SO5 Preventing and combating crime	**7,282,472.15**
SO6.NO1 R - prevention and combating	300,000.00
SO6.NO2 R - exchange of information	
SO6.NO3 R - training	420,000.00
SO6.NO4 R - victim support	
SO6.NO5 R - infrastructure	637,000.00
SO6.NO6 R - early warning and crisis	
SO6.NO7 R - threat and risk assessment	
TOTAL SO6 Risks and crisis	**1,357,000.00**
Technical assistance police	605,862.85
TOTAL	**9,245,335.00**

Table 3: Total annual EU commitments (in €)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
ISF-Borders	0.00	8,057,393.00	7,534,610.00	5,581,512.00	4,934,505.00	5,017,322.00	3,381,688.00	34,507,030.00
ISF-Police	0.00	1,830,445.00	1,559,325.00	2,446,320.00	1,136,415.00	1,136,415.00	1,136,415.00	9,245,335.00

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

Documents

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