

# 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	National Police Directorate, Norway	Linda Evebo	P.O.box 8051 Dep., NO-0030 Oslo, Norway	ext-borders-fund@politiet.no	18-Dec-2014	
Audit authority	Director of Internal Audits at the National Police Directorate	Sigmund Nordhus	P.O.box 8051 Dep., NO-0030 Oslo, Norway	politidirektoratet@politiet.no		

### Management and control system

The National Police Directorate will be **Responsible Authority** for the ISF, carrying out all tasks belonging to this function, including daily management of the Fund through follow-up/monitoring of projects and the national programme (NP), and being the exclusive point of contact for the EC.

The Director of Internal Audits at the National Police Directorate will be **Audit Authority**.

A **Monitoring Committee (MC)** is established at ministerial level, headed by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security. The MC includes the relevant final beneficiaries of the ISF. The MC's main task is to adopt activities which will be co-financed by the ISF and monitor implementation of the NP to ensure that activities implemented are in line with the NP and other strategic international and national decisions in the policy fields of border control and visa policy.

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 1.1 National strategy

Norway (NO) is committed through the Schengen Agreement to contribute to a high level of security within the Schengen area while facilitating legitimate travel. This responsibility includes entry/exit control at border crossings, surveillance of land and sea borders, preventing illegal border crossings and other international crime and supporting a common visa policy. NO's national strategy for borders and visa is in line with the Integrated Border Management (IBM) and the four-tier access control model.

The model evolves from agreements with and the deployment of liaison officers in relevant 3rd countries, border checks carried out by the police, control measures on national territory carried out by the police in interaction with the Coast Guard on the territorial sea, and finally forced returns carried out by the police in cooperation with and pending the decisions of competent migration authorities.

NO's follow-up reports to the Schengen Evaluation 2011/12, describing how announced shortcomings are remedied, were endorsed by the European Council, highlighting the topics intelligence and risk assessment, education and training, organisation and procedure, and staffing. Enhancement of border management and Schengen governance are, and will be, priorities in NO to fulfil requirements resulting from a revision of the Schengen Acquis and further development of technical infrastructure and instruments.

#### **Norway's strategy in the area of borders (+/- 75%)**

Good effective border management is increasingly necessary to prevent cross-border crime and uphold internal security within the territory. NO will contribute to a uniform and high level of control of the external borders by supporting integrated borders management and harmonising border management measures, in order to halt irregular migration and ensure the smooth crossing of the external borders. A new, comprehensive IT system for border control and continuously improved processes for border management are foreseen to constitute NO's IBM.

#### **Main goals and results in the area of common border management:**

- Ensure ongoing development of the common IBM system as regards checks on persons at and surveillance of the external borders
- Establish a complete system for IBM to ensure a sufficient level of control at the borders and facilitate the increasing passenger and migration flows
- More efficient border checks and simplification of procedures for entry/exit of persons
- More secure identification of persons crossing the external border
- Prevent irregular immigration and cross-border crime

#### **Norway's strategy in the area of Schengen visa policy (+/- 25%)**

Ensure effective and efficient application of the Schengen Visa Union Acquis by efficiently and securely issuing Schengen visas whilst working towards minimizing illegal immigration and facilitating legal immigration through enhancing activities organized by the consular and other services of NO in 3rd countries. Further develop the common Schengen visa policy and local

consular cooperation.

**Main goals and results in the area of common Schengen visa policy:**

- Ensure equal understanding of the Schengen Visa Code and a uniform Schengen visa application process at the MS foreign missions
- Training foreign mission employees in document control and verification of identity
- Training foreign mission employees in the common Schengen visa policy and migration issues
- Facilitate for tourism and business travel
- Improve management and monitoring of outsourced services
- Increase availability for visa applicants, including through new VACs
- Strengthen competence through the establishment of regional hubs

## 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.**

#### **2.1 Borders**

Police tasks in NO, incl. border control, remain integrated tasks in the National Police Service, performed in close cooperation with other civilian authorities and supported by military units. However, overall responsibility remains with the National Police Directorate (POD).

NO has a land border of 196 km with the Russian Federation in the far north-east part of the country. The border runs partly on land, but mostly along rivers and lakes. In 2015, about 243,200 regular border crossings were registered at Storskog Border Crossing Point (BCP), which is the only land BCP.

The Norwegian coastline is in its entirety defined as a Schengen external border. The total length of the coastline is 22,000 km and the territorial waters border the Barents Sea, Norwegian Sea, North Sea, and Skagerrak. According to the Norwegian Coastal Administration, about 245,000 ships sailing in Norwegian waters were registered in 2015. NO has 300 coastal sub-BCPs.

There are 27 international airports in NO, but only a few have regular international traffic. As for passenger flow at the external air border, 4,716,798 passengers were registered in 2015

There are approximately 1500 employees working with border control and immigration issues and in districts with small BCPs, these employees also perform border checks together with ordinary police patrols. Every police station with responsibility for external border has access to the national border control system (GK).

Every BCP and sub-BCP in the police districts is equipped with access to databases relevant for border checks, such as checks against Schengen Information System (SIS), Visa Information System (VIS), GK, INDICIA (the crime intelligence system), INTERPOL, EUROPOL, the Central Register of Foreigners (DUF) etc. In addition, it is possible to check Schengen legislation, such as the Schengen Border Code, the Practical Handbook, and relevant Norwegian Acts, electronically.

There are presently four mobile platforms that are used for border and territorial controls. These vehicles are located in Finnmark, Southwest, West and East police districts. The mobile platforms are equipped with all necessary ICT systems for carrying out border controls. The vehicles are also equipped with a fingerprinting solution (Eurodac II), equipment for reading travel documents, and the majority also have document examination equipment. The concept of using mobile platforms for territorial control and border control was developed in accordance with the Schengen evaluation in 2011, and co-financed by the External Borders Fund (EBF), to strengthen territorial control near the border with Russia and the external sea border.

Finnmark Police District has the responsibility of border control at the common land border with Russia. The police are supported by the military Border Guard Battalion (GSV) for surveillance of the land border. Both GSV and the police have reaction capacity. The Police Tactical Response Team has a superior task regarding management and interaction on the ground together with the GSV. Storskog, the only land BCP to NO, has been up-graded with new

equipment, controls have increased, and there is an increase in staff and staff trainings. Land border surveillance capacity and capability have been strengthened through co-funding from the EBF, and reaction time is now 2h with a fully equipped team.

Surveillance of the sea border related to the Schengen acquis is also the responsibility of the police. The police have no surveillance capacities except for access to the surveillance/information systems of the Armed Forces for port calls (COSS) and the Coastal Administration for crew and passenger lists (SafeSeaNet). The Coast Guard monitors the territorial waters and external borders using technical installations and physical surveillance. There is a written agreement between the Norwegian Coast Guard and the police in place regarding border control and surveillance.

NO has during 2015 and 2016 contributed to Frontex operations by deploying one offshore patrol vessel to Italy and one coastal patrol vessel to Greece.

EUROSUR has been implemented, with the National Coordination Centre (NCC) operational since Oct. 2013.

SIS II is fully operational in NO since Apr. 2013.

At Norwegian airports with scheduled non-Schengen flights there is infrastructure designed to ensure separation between Schengen and non-Schengen passengers. Oslo Airport Gardermoen (OSL) is the main airport in NO. The police station at OSL has a total of 175 employees. The Border Control section is responsible for border checks, and there are 113 border guards (police officers and civilians) designated to border checks. There are four ABC-gates at OSL. A basic training course for border guards has been implemented and a National Competence Centre for Border Control has been established at OSL for training of border guards.

The National Police Directorate has issued the action plan "Guidelines for development of border and immigration control" and is in the process of establishing an integrated and long-term action plan on secure and efficient ID control. The action plan covers the spectre of IBM - ID controls at the embassies and consulates, border checks and immigration control on territory, ID control in the first line at the police offices where 3rd country nationals submit their applications and where the EU/EEA-citizens who are staying in NO for more than three months are submitting their registrations. The action plan also covers general administration and ID control for police matters.

The Norwegian National Criminal Investigation Service (Kripos) also issues a yearly risk analysis in accordance with CIRAM where risk factors (threats, vulnerabilities and impacts) related to irregular migration and cross-border crime over the sea, air and land border are systematically assessed.

### **Needs and challenges**

NO's main objective under the ISF will be to upgrade our border control system and equipment, and expand our capabilities within biometrics and portable devices. NO has specific national challenges due to the long coastline and many ports. This means that our border control equipment ideally needs to be flexible and portable. Portable devices could among others be used at any of NO's coastal sub-BCPs as they can easily be moved when needed. At a somewhat later

stage, portable devices will also contribute to effective checks within the territory.

The current needs are:

- Develop and implement a new border control system.
- Develop mobile (portable) technology devices to carry out border checks to be used among others on ships and at the 300 coastal sub-BCPs.
- Develop and purchase other technologies facilitating border control tasks (fingerprint/document readers, cameras etc.).
- Accompany all technology developments by necessary training.
- Keep up training and development of best practices at all levels of all services.
- Advance development of technologies such as facial recognition and fingerprints recognition and other tools.

## **2.2 Visa**

During the last few years there has been a sharp increase in applications for Schengen visa at Norwegian foreign missions— from 136 131 in 2010 to 204 107 in 2015. In the latter year, 96,3 % of applications were registered in the electronic application portal before being submitted at a consulate or a Schengen visa Application Centre (VAC). At the same time, as a consequence of VIS implementation, the complexity of the application process has increased. All applications are now submitted at diplomatic consulates and VACs that have equipment to capture biometric data. Before the implementation of VIS, honorary consulates were also authorized to receive visa applications. Complexity is moreover increased by the introduction of new requirements for consulates such as more comprehensive demands for ID control, for which specialized expertise is needed which not every consulate can justify.

In order to ensure a consular presence in as many 3rd countries as possible where the nationals require visa to the Schengen area, NO has entered into more than 150 representation agreements and outsourced collection of applications and biometric data in many locations. The Norwegian MFA has entered into 4 regional framework agreements with an external service provider (ESP). As of today, all contracts are with VFS Global, but this may change during the program period. This has increased availability for applicants since, per Jan. 2017, 61 of NO VACs operated by an ESP are in cities or countries where NO does not have a consular mission.

NO has implemented VIS in a timely manner and in accordance with the common Schengen requirements. National VIS biometric equipment was rolled out throughout the Foreign Service in 2008. The full roll-out of VIS was finalized in Nov. 2015, partly supported by the EBF and the ISF. VIS was rolled out to all Foreign Service missions authorized to issue visas, and personnel from all these missions received training in advance of the roll-out. Measures for improving the quality of fingerprints captured at consulates have been implemented.

The Section for Immigration Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) is responsible for coordinating and facilitating the work of the consulates on immigration cases. The human resources responsible for processing Schengen visa cases are diplomatic (posted) staff and locally employed staff. Locally employed nationals of EU member states are also involved in processing Schengen visa applications.

All posted consular officers go through a mandatory two-week training programme before taking up a post. The MFA organises the training courses in close cooperation with the Norwegian

Directorate of Immigration (UDI) and the Norwegian ID Centre. Furthermore, the MFA provides continuous training for both diplomatic and local staff, both through regular regional seminars, seminars on specific topics, such as ID-control and facilitation, as well as refreshment courses in NO. An important part of this training has been made possible by funding from EBF and will continue with support by ISF.

### **Needs and challenges**

Further development of VIS and increasing consular coverage in Schengen visa issuance, ensuring adequate quality and competence in the handling of visas at the consular missions.

- Further develop electronic case processing tools and ensure training activities to accompany new technology development
- Ensure continued training and monitoring mechanisms to ensure good customer service, correct implementation of the Schengen Acquis and satisfactory ID-control
- Support document experts who provide training or support
- Further develop cooperation with other Schengen States in order to ensure new and continued Schengen representation
- Working towards establishing regional hubs and VACs through use of ESPs. (A regional hub is a foreign service mission that processes Schengen visa and residence cases from a region, with its centralized duties previously carried out at several foreign missions.)

### 3. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

Specific objective	1 - Support a common visa policy
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#### Objectives for the area of a common Schengen visa policy identified within the Norwegian national strategic framework

NO's main aims in the area of visa policy are effective and efficient application of relevant Community legal instruments in the field of Schengen visas and the Schengen visa Union acquis, in particular the European Code on Schengen visas, the VIS Regulation, the Regulation on Local Border Traffic, the Handbook on Schengen visa and any other regulation and guideline to be adopted at the Union level on Schengen visa. Moreover, NO will enhance the correct and timely issuing of Schengen visas and tackle illegal immigration, incl. detection of false or falsified documents by enhancing activities organised by the consular and other services of NO in 3rd countries by increased training and local consular cooperation.

National objective	1 - National capacity
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**The aim under National objective 1: National capacity – visa, is for NO to ensure national capacity to handle an increasing number of visa applications.**

#### Key issues and main actions:

- Effective organization of the visa sections to handle the high increase in the number of Schengen visa applications, focusing on case handling and implementation of the common Schengen visa policy
- Update technical equipment, such as purchasing video conference equipment
- Ensure expertise necessary to determine authenticity of documents at Norwegian foreign missions, e.g. by deploying regional document experts at certain foreign missions
- Ensure adequate identity control of Schengen visa applicants and documents to reveal forged documents and impostors
- Improve procedures for auditing of VACs, to be used both by the MFA and the foreign missions
- Systematic follow-up of the ESP(s) both at a local and central level
- Develop uniform system for follow-up of the ESP(s) at a local level
- Secure new locations for VACs (also in countries where NO is not represented today)
- Training of staff at VACs
- Consider establishment of regional consular hubs to increase competence and improve service to visa applicants
- Further develop outsourcing to improve service and availability in a cost effective way
- Further develop electronic case processing tools and ensure training activities to accompany new technology development

#### Actions proposed to be funded under ISF include:

- Follow-up of outsourcing and the ESP(s)
  - Audits, both from central and local level
  - Training of staff at VACs



- Regular meetings with ESP top level management
- Evaluation of outsourcing as a tool to increase capacity
- Procurement of equipment
- Hiring of temporary staff at central level to increase capacity
- Follow-up of regional document experts
  - Regular central level meetings with the document experts
  - Regional and local training
- Establishment of regional consular hubs
  - Fact finding visits and other preparatory work when planning new possible hub locations
  - Renovating/refurbishing of visa sections that will be regional hubs

<b>National objective</b>	2 - Union acquis
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**The aim under National objective 2: Union acquis – visa, is for NO to secure uniform application of the visa code and other relevant parts of the acquis.**

**Key issues and main actions:**

- Provide training to ensure equal understanding of the Schengen Visa Code and a uniform Schengen visa application process at the MS foreign missions and, thereby, preventing Schengen visa shopping
- Make full use of the possibilities in the Union acquis to facilitate for wanted tourism and business visits
- Training to ensure a common understanding and implementation of the Schengen visa policy due to a constantly high rotation of personnel at the Foreign Service missions.
- Best practice visits to selected missions to ensure uniform application of the union acquis
- Training foreign mission employees in document control and verification of identity according to the Schengen Visa Code
- Training foreign mission employees in the common Schengen visa policy and migration issues.
- Full roll-out of VIS has been completed, training in the VIS regulation and other VIS related matters at consulates will continue to ensure that best practice is upheld
- Follow-up recommendations from Schengen evaluation on IBM/external borders of NO in 2017.

**Actions proposed to be funded under ISF include:**

- Training of personnel at foreign missions, both locally and regionally, on
  - Application of the Union acquis
  - Document and ID control
  - Management of the visa section
- Best practice visits to selected foreign missions
- Local, regional and global seminars (VIS, visa code, facilitation, outsourcing etc.)

<b>National objective</b>	<b>3 - Consular cooperation</b>
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**The aim under National objective 3: Consular cooperation, is for NO to actively participate as a constructive partner in the consular cooperation.**

**Key issues and main actions:**

- Consider entering into representation agreements with other MS where this is appropriate
- Participate actively in consular cooperation both at a local and central level
- Prevent misuse of Schengen visas and visa shopping
- Active participation of the regional document experts in the local Schengen cooperation and other networks to increase the competence and capacity for all Schengen MS and ensure satisfactory implementation of the Schengen acquis.
- Cooperation with other MS, especially the Nordic countries, in audits and sharing of best practice for outsourcing
- Cooperation with other MS, especially the Nordic countries, in exploring (and possibly implementing) new joint hub locations

**Actions proposed to be funded under ISF include:**

- Explore the possibility of joint hub locations
- Concluding representation arrangements
  - Regional and bilateral meetings with other MS

<b>Specific objective</b>	<b>2 – Borders</b>
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**Objectives for the area of borders identified within the Norwegian national strategic framework**

NO's main aim in the area of borders is to ensure that the police, in cooperation with other relevant public and private actors, further implement the IBM functions. More specifically, the objectives are to:

- Develop and implement the EU Entry-Exit System (EES)
- Prepare implementation of ETIAS
- Implement APIS
- Remedy shortcomings highlighted by the 2017 Schengen Evaluation on IBM/external borders
- Increase quality and effectiveness in border controls
- Ensure secure identification of persons crossing the external border
- Improve border surveillance capacity and a common operational picture, development and further implementation of the CIRAM and further implementation and training in Common Core Curriculum (CCC)
- Improve border checks and checks on the territory by applying mobile solutions
- Harmonize practices and improve information exchange between authorities responsible in the field of border control, such as including the National Armed Forces, the Norwegian Coastal Administration, customs authorities, maritime authorities, fishery authorities, aviation authorities and port authorities.

<b>National objective</b>	1 - EUROSUR
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EUROSUR has been implemented, with the NCC operational since Oct. 2013. However NO will introduce a national restricted network and further develop cooperation between the police and the Coast Guard related to the functioning of NCC/EUROSUR in order to ensure a more comprehensive near-real-time situational picture in line with the EUROSUR Regulation.

Following the accreditation process of the EUROSUR network, the NCC is solely responsible for inserting all information regarding incidents in the EUROSUR application. The NCC collects relevant information depicted in the operative system of the National Police (PO) and uploads it into EUROSUR. In case of serious incidents, the PDs have the obligation to directly report to the NCC.

NO will further develop EUROSUR and the role and responsibility of the NCC in line with the recommendations following the Schengen Evaluation.

<b>National objective</b>	2 - Information exchange
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**The aim under National objective 2: Information exchange, is for NO to make increased use of biometrics in the process of ID verification during border control activities.**

ABIS is used by the Norwegian Police Service to prevent and combat crime, including human trafficking, people smuggling, illegal immigrants and overstayers in NO.

ABIS improves border guards' and police officers' ability to perform ID checks when determining ID during border controls. ABIS enables searches for and comparisons of both photos and fingerprints in a central database. The system allows the police to increase the use of biometrics combined with others facial recognition tools. ABIS allows other registers and systems used for border control (e.g. the new border and territorial control system (GTK) and mobile devices for control of persons) to store photos in ABIS and use facial recognition to support ID verification.

Referring to the description of ABIS in the 2017 implementation report submitted to the EC within 15 Feb. 2018, the police have co-financed development of ABIS with ISF during 2016-2018. ABIS replaces AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) and the Police Photo Database (POF). The ABIS project was finalised at the beginning of 2018.

For the remaining ISF period, the following are considered to be the key issues and main actions proposed for funding.

**Key issues and main actions:**

- Implement national measures to put in place technology and procedures with a view to ensure a more systematic uploading of fingerprints records and photographs to SIS alerts on persons.
- Implement SIS AFIS search functionality that will among others allow border guards and police officers to search the SIS using fingerprints, which means they will be able to identify people that are recorded in the SIS more reliably, including those using false

identities. Also, criminals using multiple or fraudulent identities can be detected already at the time when a wanted person alert is issued in the SIS.

**Actions proposed to be funded under ISF include:**

- Implement necessary measures to fully respect relevant regulations regarding fingerprints in SIS, including putting in place the required technology and procedures for the competent national authorities with a view to ensure systematic uploading of fingerprints records and photographs to SIS alerts on a person. As a part of this action, potential end-user applications/systems which should be able to search in the SIS AFIS will be identified and a web service enabling end-user applications to search for fingerprints in SIS II will be developed.

<b>National objective</b>	3 - Common Union standards
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NO is implementing an action financed with national funds which is developing and installing 21 e-gates at Oslo airport. So far NO has not implemented any ISF actions introducing Automated Border Control technology.

However, NO has started implementing an ISF action which facilitates mobile and handheld equipment for control of persons. Also, the National Police will use ISF-funding to acquire 5 new vehicles with all necessary equipment for border controls, to further increase control on the sea border.

Although these projects will not enable automatic border control, the mobile equipment will contribute to increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of controls of persons at the external border as well as on the territory. These actions are described in greater detail under National objective 6: National capacity – borders.

<b>National objective</b>	4 - Union acquis
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**The aim under National objective 4: Union acquis – borders, is for NO to follow-up on recommendations from the Schengen evaluation and ensure necessary training for border guards.**

**Key issues and main actions:**

- Follow-up of the 2017 Schengen evaluation on IBM/external borders.
  - The Schengen evaluation of IBM/external borders in NO in 2017, identified deficiencies related to strategic coordination, human resources, training system, inter-agency cooperation, risk analysis, situational awareness and border checks which have to be followed-up and remedied.
- Observation practice at the National Competence Centre for Border Control
  - Effective and efficient application of relevant Community legal instruments in the field of external borders/the Border Union acquis, by increasing knowledge in border regulations and practices among border personnel and further developing the CIRAM.
  - Further implement the CCC of the EU Border Guard Basic Training. A training programme for border control based on the CCC has been established and is

currently being implemented. The National Competence Centre for Border Control has as one of its primary tasks to ensure the harmonisation of training and practices at Norwegian BCPs.

- Continue a programme for secondment of border staff, providing observational practice at the National Competence Centre for Border Control at OSL, incl. follow-up and training.

**Actions proposed to be funded under ISF include:**

- NO will establish an action plan to remedy the listed deficiencies identified in the evaluation report. It will be relevant to consider the different elements in the action plan for co-funding from the ISF.
- Observation practice (secondment) for personnel with border control tasks at the National Competence Centre for Border Control at OSL, established for training police officers and civilian border guards in border control issues such as the Border Union acquis.

<b>National objective</b>	5 - Future challenges
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The IBM includes several EU Directives which NO is obliged to implement in the years to come. There is a need to assess how these Directives and the development of the IBM impact the field of border control as a whole, and also which synergies these developments create in other areas such as intelligence, prevention of cross national crime and criminal cases.

The areas where NO foresees future challenges are described in more detail below:

**Interoperability**

Implementing the forthcoming Directives establishing interoperability between systems, countries and authorities in the area of border control, will contribute to ensuring easy and fast access to relevant and necessary information for border control staff, law enforcement authorities and immigration authorities. It is uncertain how these developments will affect NO, but there will be a need for considerable legislative work, ICT-developments and changes to existing work processes.

The cost and time frame for implementing the ensuing interoperability in accordance with the forthcoming Directives have not yet been established.

**Implementing ETIAS**

The regulation on establishing ETIAS is under negotiation and the system is expected to be implemented in all MS during the first half of 2021. Implementation of ETIAS will require system development and customization, as well as the creation of a national entity with processing capacity. It is also dependent on the successful and timely implementation of EES. The National Police Directorate has launched a project for preplanning the implementation of both EES and ETIAS, financed with national funds.

## Implementing Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS)

Through the API Directive, NO is required to establish an electronic reporting channel for airlines and a solution for automatic passenger control, the latter of which has not yet been developed and implemented. The purpose is that passenger information should be used to combat terrorist acts. The National Police Directorate has launched a project for implementing the API Directive. The project is in the concept phase, and it is planned to develop a comprehensive solution for automated advanced analysis of passenger data. The cost and time frame for the implementation of APIS have not yet been established.

<b>National objective</b>	6 - National capacity
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**The aim under National objective 6: National capacity – borders, is for NO to ensure the necessary capacity to implement border control and develop border management in accordance with the relevant regulations and national needs.**

### **Key issues and main actions:**

- Development and implementation of the EU Entry-Exit System (EES).
- Develop interoperability between multilateral systems, especially related to the implementation of the EES. Ensure development of national systems for border and immigration control integrating data from VIS, SIS II, Eurodac and the future EES.
- Ensure interoperability between all relevant border management systems.
- Further develop and acquire mobile (portable) technology devices to carry out border checks, among others to be used on ships and at the 300 coastal sub-BCPs.

### **Actions proposed to be funded under ISF include:**

- Development and implementation of the EES. Funding for this priority will be provided as stipulated under Section 7.
- Implementation of APIS
- Acquisition of 5 new border control vehicles to increase control on the sea border and controls on the territory.
- Further development and acquisition of a suitcase solution for border and territorial control designed for major control situations such as planned controls at ports.

## 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	Ensure national capacity to handle an increasing number of visa application	2015	2016	2020
SO1 - Support a common visa policy	NO2 - Union acquis	1	Secure uniform application of the visa code and other relevant parts of the acquis	2015	2016	2020
SO1 - Support a common visa policy	NO3 - Consular cooperation	1	Actively participate in consular cooperation	2015	2016	2020
SO2 - Borders	NO1 - EUROSUR	1	Develop the EUROSUR NCC in line with the Schengen Evaluation recommendations	2019	2019	2020
SO2 - Borders	NO2 - Information exchange	1	Development of an Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS)	2016	2016	2018
SO2 - Borders	NO2 - Information exchange	2	Implementation of SIS AFIS	2018	2018	2019
SO2 - Borders	NO4 - Union acquis	1	Training and observation practice at the National Competence Centre for Border Control	2016	2017	2020
SO2 - Borders	NO6 - National capacity	1	Mobile border control devices - development and implementation	2015	2016	2018
SO2 - Borders	NO6 - National capacity	2	Development and implementation of the Entry/exit system (EES)	2018	2019	2020
SO2 - Borders	NO6 - National capacity	3	(Mobile) equipment for facilitating border control - development and acquisition	2018	2018	2020

## 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	110.00	Achievement of target value will be assessed based on numbers provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
C2.1 - Number of staff trained in common visa policy related aspects with the help of the Fund	Number	0.00	600.00	Achievement of target value will be assessed based on numbers provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
C2.2 - Number of training courses (hours completed)	Number	0.00	750.00	Achievement of target value will be assessed based on numbers provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
C3 - Number of specialised posts in third countries supported by the Fund	Number	0.00	0.00	There will be no projects targeting this indicator.
C4.1 - Number of consulates developed or upgraded with the help of the Fund out of the total number of consulates	Number	0.00	9.00	Achievement of target value will be assessed based on numbers provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
C4.2 - Percentage of consulates developed or upgraded with the help of the Fund out of the total number of consulates	%	0.00	15.00	Achievement of target value will be assessed based on numbers provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



<b>Specific objective</b>	<b>2 - Borders</b>			
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Measurement unit</b>	<b>Baseline value</b>	<b>Target value</b>	<b>Source of data</b>
C1.1 - Number of staff trained in borders management related aspects with the help of the Fund	Number	0.00	1,700.00	Achievement of target value will be measured via project data from final beneficiaries.
C1.2 - Number of training courses in borders management related aspects with the help of the Fund	Number	0.00	30.00	Achievement of target value will be measured via project data from final beneficiaries.
C2 - Number of border control (checks and surveillance) infrastructure and means developed or upgraded with the help of the Fund	Number	0.00	400.00	Achievement of target value will be measured via project data from final beneficiaries.
C3.1 - Number of border crossings of the external borders through ABC gates supported from the Fund	Number	0.00	0.00	There will be no projects targeting this indicator.
C3.2 - Total number of border crossings	Number	17,040,262.00	56,000,000.00	Statistics from POD. Includes all border crossings of external borders into Norway: air, sea and land. Baseline is based on statistics from 2014 - 2016.
C4 - Number of national border surveillance infrastructure established/further developed in the framework of EUROSUR	Number	1.00	1.00	Data provided from the NCIS
C5 - Number of incidents reported by the Member State to the European Situational Picture	Number	0.00	3,234.00	Data provided from the NCIS

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

### 6.1 Partnership involvement in the preparation of the programme

Actions are proposed to the national programme based on consultations within the relevant national authorities, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, the MFA and POD. The MFA and POD are the main beneficiaries of the ISF, and each authority promotes actions within their policy field – Schengen visa and borders respectively. Consequently, the actions presented in the national programme are the result of a national selection procedure based on professional expertise and powers emanating from the participating partners. The selection process focuses on value for money and prevention of conflict of interest.

The following criteria will be taken into account when selecting projects:

- Activities are in accordance with aim and scope of ISF and can be linked to ISF operational objectives and measurable indicators
- Activities have added value in a Schengen perspective, for IBM, the multi-tire control chain and in terms of crime prevention
- Activities are in accordance with the priority model established for the ISF
- Costs are eligible according to rules of eligibility (type of costs, time of incurrence)
- Activities add value in terms of cost effectiveness and sound financial management
- Activities are in accordance with political and other national priorities
- Activities have secured national co-financing
- Project management has sufficient administrative capacity, can demonstrate a plan for risk assessment and a plan for evaluation

Tendering and contracting procedures are the shared responsibility of the RA and the final beneficiaries. The procurement process will be in line with EU and national rules and regulations. The Norwegian Agency for Public Management and eGovernment (Difi) has prepared Government Standard Terms and Conditions for Procurement, imposed on all agencies in the public sector. In cases where the partners carry out procurement, the RA monitors compliance.

### 6.2 Monitoring committee

NO has set up a **Monitoring Committee (MC)** to support implementation of the ISF national programme

The MC will be headed by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security and include representatives from the main ISF stakeholders/final beneficiaries:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
- National Police Directorate (POD)

The main task of the MC will be to monitor, assess and follow-up implementation of the national programme to ensure that all actions/activities are in line with national policies and strategies in the field of border control and Schengen visa policy.

The MC will monitor programme and project progress related to time, cost and quality in accordance with the framework conditions provided in the national programme and other

steering documentation, among others in order to prepare for the successful realisation of benefits

The Responsible Authority will facilitate successful monitoring and control by presenting annual and final implementation reports, annual accounts, ISF evaluation results etc. to the MC.

### 6.3 Common monitoring and evaluation framework

The ISF Team (Responsible Authority) will be responsible for overall management, monitoring and evaluation of activities receiving ISF co-financing. Monitoring of projects is performed in the initial phase but also by implementing continuous monitoring procedures throughout the project period, among others in line with relevant EU regulations.

However, while the ISF Team holds the overall responsibility, evaluation efforts under the ISF may be outsourced to external contractors whenever this is required, e.g. in the context of the mid-term evaluation or the final evaluation of the ISF.

The primary monitoring activity which will be performed within the project period is control of status reports which are submitted to the ISF Team by the final beneficiaries. Moreover, financial and operational, risk-based on the spot checks will be performed. On project level, a final report which is written at project completion, reviews the project implementation process, incl. the project manager's evaluation of management, achievements and effectiveness. The ISF Team keeps close contact with the final beneficiaries through a continuous dialogue about project activities and management efforts, in order to ensure successful project implementation.

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

The Section for Portfolio Management within POD, the ISF Team, has been appointed RA and holds overall responsibility for managing the ISF. The RA will award grants for projects on the basis of a restricted call for proposals open only to selected organisations, because of the specific technical or administrative competence of the bodies invited to submit proposals and directly due to the *de facto* monopoly situation in the field of borders and Schengen visa in NO.

The public authorities responsible for the policy field of border management and Schengen visas will be partners to the ISF and, thus, involved in consultations on matters of relevance to the ISF as well as in implementing the Fund in NO. An organizational structure has been established for the purpose of involving the other public authorities, ensuring the principle of Partnership and the establishment of a MC. Through the monitoring and control functions of the MC, the Partnership will be involved in the implementation of the ISF throughout the ISF period 2014-2020. The MC will hold at least 2 meetings per year, and will receive updates from the RA on the implementation of the NP on a more regular basis through the years.

Main partners involved in implementing the ISF: The Ministry of Justice and Public Security, the MFA and POD. These are also members of the MC. Furthermore, the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration will be consulted on issues concerning borders and Schengen visa within their field of expertise and responsibility.

## 6.5 Information and publicity

NO will ensure that a website or a website portal is established to provide both final beneficiaries and the public in general with information on and access to the national programme, inform potential beneficiaries about funding opportunities under the national programme, and publicise to Union citizens the role and achievements of the Specific Regulations through information and communication actions regarding the results and impacts of the national programme.

NO will ensure transparency in implementation of the national programme and maintain a list of actions supported by the programme which will be accessible through the website or the website portal.

Further information and publicity actions may also be carried out during the course of the programme period.

## 6.6 Coordination and complementarity with other instruments

Norway is not an EU-member and participates in ISF-borders and Visa as an associated member state, therefore few of the other Union funding instruments are available for the projects implemented under NO ISF national program.

The ISF Team (Responsible Authority) is, however, responsible for ensuring coherence and complementarity between co-financing from the ISF and from other sources of funding at the national and international level, such as Frontex. The ISF Team is situated in the same organisation, the National Police Directorate, which organises Norway's participation in Frontex.

The ISF Team is responsible for verifying that the ISF projects are consistent with measures financed by Frontex and that no actions supported under the ISF national program are subject to funding from other sources covered by the Union budget.

The national ISF projects shall complement those projects implemented by the EU's Union actions.

The ISF Team will apply procedures necessary to monitor the compliance with these obligations. This includes regular working groups with relevant stakeholders, participation in the AMIF/ISF-committee, and ad-hoc meetings.

## 6.7 Beneficiaries

### 6.7.1 List of main types of beneficiaries of the programme:

The main types of beneficiaries of the programme are:

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (state authority)
- The police (state authority)

### 6.7.2 Direct award (if applicable)

Not applicable. Please cf. point 6.4 Partnership involvement.

## 7. THE FINANCING PLAN OF THE PROGRAMME

**Table 1: Financing plan ISF-Borders**

<b>Specific objective / national objective</b>	<b>Total</b>
SO1.NO1 National capacity	1,295,241.00
SO1.NO2 Union acquis	1,295,241.00
SO1.NO3 Consular cooperation	1,295,241.00
<b>TOTAL SO1 Support a common visa policy</b>	<b>3,885,723.00</b>
SO2.NO1 EUROSUR	715,891.00
SO2.NO2 Information exchange	1,000,000.00
SO2.NO3 Common Union standards	0.00
SO2.NO4 Union acquis	500,000.00
SO2.NO5 Future challenges	0.00
SO2.NO6 National capacity	16,475,583.00
<b>TOTAL SO2 Borders</b>	<b>18,691,474.00</b>
<b>TOTAL SO3 Operating support</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Technical assistance borders	1,215,891.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23,793,088.00</b>

The amount under SO2 / NO6 includes an envelope of EUR 6 412 600 to be spent in accordance with Article 64(1) and (2) of Regulation (EU) No 2017/2226. This specific allocation can support 100% of those costs (including costs of operating the system) and is provided exclusively for this purpose. It cannot be used to cover other needs/costs, including those referred to in subparagraphs a) to g) of article 64(2) and article 64 (3). This specific allocation shall not be taken into consideration in the calculation that determines the percentage of funding that may be used to finance operating support, according to Article 10 (1) of Regulation (EU) No 515/2014.

**Table 3: Total annual EU commitments (in €)**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
ISF-Borders	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,333,387.00	9,088,050.33	5,463,951.67	3,907,699.00	23,793,088.00
ISF-Police	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

It is not foreseen that NO's ISF Borders programme will finance developments related to EUROSUR within the ISF period. Any potential further development of EUROSUR will be provided for by national funds.

**Documents**

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

**Latest validation results**

Severity	Code	Message
Info		Programme version has been validated.
Warning	2.15	New EC decision is required for versions > 1. New EC decision is required when fields belonging to the EC decision are modified/added/removed. These fields are all fields except those used in the Authorities section and the Management and Control System field. For the Financial Plan, amounts within a Specific Objective can be modified without the need for a new EC Decision, as long as the total per Specific Objective stays the same.
Warning	2.24.2	SO2.NO1 (Eurosur) (715,891.00) should be minimum 10 % of Total Borders Allocation (NOSO1 + NOSO2 + NOSO3 + TA) (2,379,308.80).