Programming of the Internal Security Fund

Policy and funding priorities

6 March 2020

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Internal Security Fund

- Objectives of the fund more horizontal – 'information exchange', 'joint operations' and 'capabilities to prevent and combat crime'

- Minimum percentages

- Implementation measures and scope of support (Annexes II and III)

- List of non-eligible actions

- Percentage share on equipment/means of transport and security relevant facilities

- Actions eligible for higher co-financing (Annex IV)

- Schengen evaluation recommendations

- Involvement of agencies

- Operating support

ISF – information exchange

Information Exchange

- Exchange of information: access to accurate and up-to-date information and criminal intelligence in order to prevent, detect and investigate criminal activity successfully

- i.e.: no best practice / exchange of experience + no info exchange only between national actors without aiming at info analysis and transfer

- Information systems: PNR, SIS, Prüm, EIS, SLTD + law enforcement component of interoperability (art 20 and 22 of Interoperability Regulations)

- Exchange more: connect (national) systems to feed into international databases and/or to search those databases

- Exchange better: technical solutions to filter results and improve data quality

Interoperability Regulations

- Art. 20 allows **police authorities** to perform **identity checks** in the **territory of the Member States** by querying the **Central Identity Repository** (CIR)

- CIR includes data from 5 central EU Information systems: Entry-Exit System (EES), Visa Information System (VIS), European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS), Eurodac, ECRIS-TCN System

- Art. 22: **Law enforcement access – two-step approach**. Concerns 4 of the information systems that are part of the CIR (EES, VIS, ETIAS, Eurodac); these systems have their specific rules for law enforcement access – which remain unchanged, but parallel search with hit/ no hit result will be possible

- Only access for law enforcement purposes eligible under ISF! (for example, software and hardware to query the CIR, etc.)

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ISF – cross-border joint operations

Operational Police Cooperation

- Actions focus on "operational" and ""cross-border" :JITs, joint patrols, hot pursuit and EMPACT

- Multi-agency approach: art. 87 TFEU: all the Member States' competent authorities, including police, customs and other specialised law enforcement services in relation to the prevention, detection and investigation of criminal offences

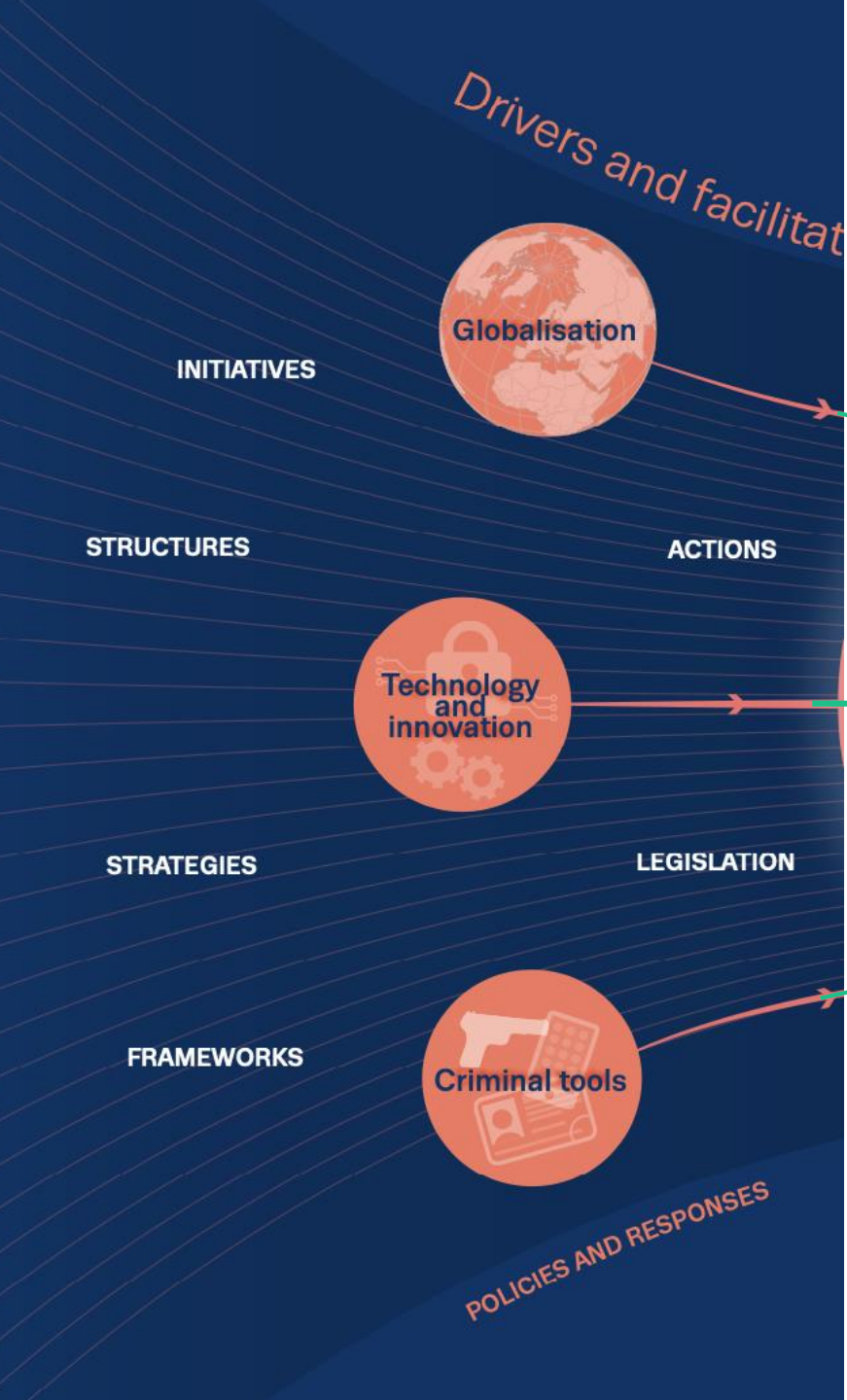- Priority for Schengen Evaluations recommendations: use the fund to tackle them!

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EMPACT

- **E**uropean **M**ultidisciplinary **P**latform **A**gainst **C**riminal **T**hreats (EMPACT webpage on Europol website https://www.europol.europa.eu/empact)

- For every 4 years cycle, priorities, drivers and co-drivers are identified

- **Not everything that concerns a EMPACT priority is EMPACT - > coordination is key!**

- Actions not only EMPACT related operational activities, but also broader projects to reinforce the EMPACT mechanism as such

- Other sources of funding (EUROPOL): beware of overlaps

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Organised Crime

- Increase coordination and cooperation of law enforcement authorities and other competent authorities dealing with organised crime, for example through networks of specialised national units.

- Provide financing for operational support in complex high profile investigations requiring highly specialised criminal expertise, in particular support to Member States' participation in Operational Task Forces (OTF) to identify High Value Targets (HVT) posing the highest risk to the internal security of the EU

- Extend assistance to state-of-the-art forensic expertise, for example deployment of digital forensic tactical advisers; large-scale technically demanding support on the ground; network acquisition/cloud forensics/live forensics, etc.

- Strengthen the operational capacity of the national Asset Recovery Offices, in particular by providing them with direct access to the relevant national databases.

- Improve the operational capacity to manage frozen and confiscated assets.

Firearms

Aims to enhance operational cooperation to fight against firearms trafficking along firearms trafficking routes, notably by

- strengthening the operational cooperation among law enforcement authorities and

- improving knowledge, detection, investigation and prosecution in using dedicated investigative tools

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Trafficking in human beings

Focus on preventing trafficking in human beings by

- Countering the impunity that fosters the crime

- Enhancing national and transnational efforts to step up investigations, prosecution and convictions of all perpetrators

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Counterterrorism 1

Protection of **public spaces**

1) enhanced **public-private cooperation**;

2) enhanced protection against threats posed by **Unmanned Aerial Vehicles**;

3) acquisition and use of **detection equipment**, including mobile, regarding chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives (CBRN-E) threats.

CBRN-E

1) effective implementation and enforcement of the **new Explosives precursors Regulation**, including online mystery shopping; different tools to raise awareness in the supply chain of the obligations of the Regulation and evaluate their effectiveness;

2) measures to enhance the **security of radioactive sources**, including upgrade in physical protection and awareness raising activities.

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Counterterrorism 2

Addressing insider threat: background checks (in particular in aviation, but also in relation to protection of major public events and for personnel with access to CBRN materials).

Critical Infrastructure Protection

- Analysis of **interdependencies**, vulnerabilities and possible cascading effects on critical infrastructure networks, possibly in conjunction with neighbouring Member States

- Measures to improve cooperation and **support to** critical infrastructure **operators**, e.g. establishing mechanisms for **regular dialogue between authorities and operators**, facilitating the exchange of threat and incident information, providing **training to operators' security staff**, disseminating guidance or **best practice on security standards**, establishing **common criteria for risk assessments**, or conducting exercises to test critical infrastructure protection and resilience.

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Counterterrorism 3

Combating terrorist financing

Strengthen capabilities in relation to counter-terrorism financial investigations:

- by **improving financial investigation techniques** and applying them more comprehensively

- developing means to deal with **emerging financial products** and services,

- and intensifying **cross-border joint operations** among and within the Union law enforcement and in cooperation with Europol, and private entities. Particular emphasis might be placed on improving capabilities to conduct financial investigations into cryptocurrencies or other virtual assets.

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Prevention of Radicalisation

- Focus on **prisons and disengagement** (in particular on reintegration of ex offenders and returning foreign terrorist fighters)

- Address **all ideologies** (religious and political)

- Support local dimension

- **Involve civil society where relevant, especially in alternative **narratives** to terrorist propaganda online

- Focus on **vulnerable groups** (children (also returning from war zones), women)

- Foster multi-stakeholder collaboration where possible

Training

- Training activities should be organised in line with the LETS Communication (it defines the role of Member States and the role of CEPOL as regards law enforcement training)

- To ensure EU added value and avoid overlaps, the CEPOL Strategic Training Needs Analysis (EU-STNA) should be used: it highlights training needs and relevant training providers

- Coordinate with your CEPOL National Unit when proposing training activities

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Cybercrime

Cybercrime – cybersecurity – cyberdefence

- JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS Cybersecurity Strategy of the European Union: An Open, Safe and Secure Cyberspace JOIN(2013)1 final

- JOINT COMMUNICATION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL **Resilience, Deterrence and Defence**: Building strong cybersecurity for the EU JOIN(2017)450 final

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Cybersecurity funding

- DG CNECT (Communications Networks, Content and Technology) in charge of cyber security (resilient networks and systems)

- Digital Europe Programme: EUR 9.2 billion

- Connecting Europe Facility: EUR 3.0 billion for the digital sector

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Horizontal needs

- Tool development

- Training

- Prevention measures

- Victim support

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Specific needs (as known now)

- Cyber-crime units

- Non-cash payment fraud: National points of contact

- Child sexual abuse (CSA): Prevention (including detection of child sexual abuse material [CSAM])

- E-evidence: Connection to the e-evidence system

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Fight against migrant smuggling

- Funding should be focussed on:

  - Ensure resources to make use of opportunities offered by EU Agencies and partners participating in the EMPACT policy cycle (SO1);

  - Support cooperation between EU Law Enforcement Agencies and Law Enforcement Agencies of third countries, including through Joint Investigation Teams / Common Operational Partnerships (SO2).

  - Support the increased use of Eurojust support for Joint Investigation Teams (both with EU and non-EU countries) (SO2).

  - Support multidisciplinary responses to migrant smuggling, including through training activities and involvement of private sector to prevent and follow-up cross-border crimes.

Questions & Answers

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Thank you

For questions after the event:

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