

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

*The content of each reply is based on the information provided by the country concerned and therefore only applies to the precise question or situation described. The Commission is committed to providing accurate responses to the questions by the country concerned. However, the information provided cannot be considered or interpreted as being contractually binding. The Commission cannot be held liable for any use made from these replies. No aspect of these replies can be considered as a formal position of the Commission.*

#### **❖ ISF/2025/SA/1.1.2 - “Roll-out of the Secure Information Exchange Network Application -SIENA”**

<b>Topic classification</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Reply</b>
<b>Eligibility of IT equipment</b>	<p>„Considering the content of the call in question, it is evident that in order to achieve the objectives of the application, a maximum total budget is planned for a Member State in Annex 1 of the call, which consists of a fixed part and a variable part.</p> <p>In this sense, it remains unclear how much of that total amount would be available for the purchase of IT equipment that would be used to improve the work of the SIENA office, that is, for the integration of SIENA into the Case Management System (CMS SPOC). Namely, an informative offer was obtained during the market research foreseen for the mentioned integration.</p> <p>As a result, the full implementation of the integration project would also require additional co-financing from the national budget. Therefore we ask for the clarification which exact amount from the budget in the call can be used for the procurement of IT equipment?“.</p>	<p>The roll-out of SIENA consists mainly in developing the adequate IT systems and software (code 001 of Table 2 of Annex VI of ISF Regulation). It does not aim at purchasing IT equipment/hardware <i>per se</i>, as stated on page 3 of the call text.</p> <p>If IT equipment/hardware is to be included in the project proposal, the application should justify that the IT equipment/hardware is absolutely necessary to achieve the objectives of the SIENA Specific Action.</p> <p>The ISF Managing Authority should also ensure that this IT equipment/hardware is declared as equipment (code 008) and booked against the overall 35% cap on codes 008, 009 and 010 of the Member State ISF programme, as per Art. 13(7) of the ISF Regulation.</p> <p>Moreover, the amount of technical assistance (6% - as per the Budget form in the application package) must be deducted from the maximum amount allocated to the Member State as indicated in Annex 1 of the call.</p>

❖ ISF/2025/SA/3.4.3- “Uptake of innovative digital technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, by Law Enforcement Authorities (INNO)”

Topic classification	Question	Reply
<b>Eligibility of beneficiary</b>	<p><i>With reference to the Call for proposals for the Specific Action ref. ISF/2026/SA/INNO/3.4.3, I would kindly request clarifications regarding the use of results from the projects listed in the Call under H2020 and HE GRACE, TRACE, RAYUELA, ROXANNE, FORMOBILE, EXFILES, STARLIGHT, VIGILANT, FERMI, GEMS, TENACITY, ARIEN, VANGUARD, EITHOS.</i></p> <p><i>In particular, could you please clarify whether beneficiaries are required to have previously participated in specific projects (e.g as a consortium members or partners) in order to be eligible to submit a proposal that builds upon and implements the results of these projects at an operational level?</i></p>	<p>The call does not require applicants to have been consortium members, partners, or associated partners in projects such as GRACE, TRACE, RAYUELA, ROXANNE, FORMOBILE, EXFILES, STARLIGHT, VIGILANT, FERMI, GEMS, TENACITY, ARIEN, VANGUARD or EITHOS.</p> <p>The reference to these projects in the call serves to identify relevant EU-funded research and innovation results that may be taken up, tested, validated, piloted or deployed at operational level.</p> <p>Any eligible beneficiary may build upon these results, provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the solution has reached a sufficient level of maturity (minimum TRL 8),</li> <li>• the applicant has lawful access to the results (e.g. open results, agreements with right-holders), and</li> <li>• interoperability, data protection and ethical requirements are respected.</li> </ul>
<b>Mandatory uptake of EU-funded security research and innovation</b>	<p><i>Specific Action INNO aims to help Member States test, validate, further pilot and deploy innovative digital technologies, tools and methods, including Artificial Intelligence, developed through EU-funded research. It will complement the research and innovation efforts under <b>Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe</b> by financing the operational phase — ensuring that tested solutions reach law enforcement authorities on the ground and that interoperability, data protection and ethical standards are observed. It also aims to: The objective of this specific action is to provide financial support to Member States to test, validate, further pilot and/or deploy innovative digital technologies, tools and/or methods of Technological Readiness Level not lower than 8 for law enforcement authorities, aimed at preventing, detecting and/or investigating serious and organised crime, <b>building on results of EU-funded security research and innovation projects</b>. In connection with the aforementioned conditions and the specified capitalisation of achievements under Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe, is this capitalisation resulting from achievements under the indicated programmes mandatory? <u>Is it possible to take advantage of the results developed by INTERREG CENTRAL EUROPE?</u></i></p>	<p>This Specific Action is explicitly designed to support the operational uptake, testing, validation, piloting and deployment of innovative digital technologies developed through EU-funded security research and innovation projects. In this context, the call specifically refers to projects funded under Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe, which constitute the primary research and innovation framework for EU-level security research.</p> <p>Accordingly, the capitalisation of results stemming from EU-funded security research and innovation projects under Horizon 2020 and/or Horizon Europe is a core eligibility condition of this Specific Action. The objective of the Specific Action INNO is to ensure the transition from research results to operational use by law enforcement authorities, in line with the applicable interoperability, data protection and ethical requirements.</p> <p>While results developed under other EU programmes, such as INTERREG Central Europe, may potentially complement an application, they cannot, on their own, fulfil the requirement to build on results of EU-funded security research and innovation projects as defined in the call.</p>