FRONTEX
EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY

Annual Implementation Report 2021

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Paper version:
TT-AR-22-001-EN-C
ISBN 978-92-9467-518-7
ISSN 2600-089X
doi: 10.2819/623305

PDF version:
TT-AR-22-001-EN-N
ISBN 978-92-9467-246-9
ISSN 2600-0903
doi: 10.2819/42378

FPI 21.0139

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Abbreviations

ABN	Annual Bilateral Negotiations	**FRESO**	Forced Return Escort and Support Officer	**MS/SAC**	Member State/s – Schengen Associated Country/ies
AD	Asset-Days				
ALDO	Advanced Level Document Officer	**FTSO**	Frontex Tactical Support Officer	**MVCDO**	Motor Vehicle Crime Detection Officer
BGO	Border Guard Officer	**FWA**	Fixed Wing Aircraft	**NO**	National Official/s
CBCDO	Cross-Border Crime Detection Officer	**FX**	Frontex	**NVG**	Night Vision Goggles
		HBD	Heartbeat detectors	**OperaEvo**	Opera Evolution
CDP	Capability Development Planning	**HELO**	Helicopter	**OPV**	Offshore Patrol Vessel
		HR	Human Resources	**RS**	Return Specialist
CGFO	Coast Guard Function Officer	**IO**	Information Officer	**SC**	Standing Corps
CREW	Crew Member/s	**JORA**	Joint Operating Reporting Application	**SC**	Smart Dec Camera
CO_2	CO_2 Detector			**TC**	Thermal Camera
CPB	Coastal Patrol Boat	**MB**	Management Board / Management Board Decision	**TE**	Technical equipment
CPV	Coastal Patrol Vessel			**TEP**	Technical equipment pool
CTV	Canine Team Vehicle	**MD**	Man-Days	**TVV**	Vehicle equipped for border surveillance
DBR	Debriefing Officer	**MNITE**	Minimum Number of Items of Technical Equipment		
DOGH	Dog Handler			**UAV**	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
EBCG	European Border and Coast Guard	**MO**	Mobile Office		
		MS	Member State/s		

Foreword

Who would have thought in 2021 that things could get much worse? Following the surge of the migration flows since 2015, the situation at the external borders has ever since seen a significant increase in complexity. While crime and terrorism have been staples for some time on top of the migratory pressure, the external borders find themselves more recently also in the middle of recurring pandemic waves and mutating hybrid and geopolitical threats. And while writing this, a full-scale war is going on in Europe, at the doorstep of the Union, casting the world along with our notions of a peaceful globalised society into turmoil.

Could we see it coming? Apocalyptic scenarios are no strangers to our imagination and continue to feature in fiction. What it comes down to is how likely we think these scenarios are. If assuming the whole world shares our European values, the likelihood is low. The cost of the loss of life outweighs the gains from the quest for power and territory - always. But as we have been brutally reminded of in 2022, not all countries around the world share this view. As a result, there is death, destruction and pure tragedy in our neighbouring Ukraine, leaving a mark for years to come.

It is our European values that underpins the solidarity of the European Union with Ukraine. These same values are what form the basis for the European Border and Coast Guard, that was established in 2016. Founded just over ten years before, the Agency had already taken significant steps in its first decade, establishing a European operational footprint, supporting Member States and Schengen Associated Countries at the external borders. The Agency was at that time also mandated to carry out Risk Analysis, follow up on Research, provide Technical Assistance, support Joint Return Operations, and assist the Training of National Border Guards.

A shared responsibility between Member States, Schengen Associated Countries and Frontex – the European Border and Coast Guard Agency – the mandate was further expanded on in 2019, putting European Integrated Border Management at the heart of our community. Planned in an integrated way, it is operationalised through the European Border and Coast Guard Standing Corps, to which both Member States and Frontex contribute, forming the backbone of our common European Border and Coast Guard capabilities.

Back in 2016 the operational activities were entirely dependent on the contributions of equipment and staff from Member States and Schengen Associated Countries. Fast forward to 1 January 2021 and overnight a historic leap was taken – the European Border and Coast Guard Standing Corps was deployed for the first time along the external borders. With short-term deployments and long-term secondments provided for by Member States and Schengen Associated Countries, the Agency deployed its statutory staff as part of the Standing Corps, the first ever law enforcement service to be clad in a dark and azure blue European uniform. This is a visible operational symbol of our shared responsibility - the colleagues in the Standing Corps working alongside their national counter parts – trained, equipped, and deployed at the external borders and in Third Countries.

This report tells the story in facts and figures of what happened from the historic moment of 1 January 2021 all the way to the end of the year. You will find information on the deployments of the Standing Corps and Technical Equipment in, which for the second consecutive year saw the European Border and Coast Guard responding rapidly to emerging challenges, through both redeployments as well as the launch of a Rapid Border Intervention. The dynamic international security environment around the external borders put our new way

of operating to the test. Changes in operational needs were catered to through redeployments before requesting any additional reinforcements.

The report also captures how the steady growth of the Standing Corps towards 2027 as prescribed by the Regulation was managed. New batches of Statutory Staff were trained. Additional long-term secondments were made. Specialist skills were honed. It further covers forward-looking activities in relation to the strategic development of the Agency's capabilities, establishing plans, and drawing on efforts in research, standardisation, fostering interoperability, and the implementation of Pilot Projects, which demonstrates the effectiveness of new equipment and systems.

Behind all these facts and figures are individuals of the European Border and Coast Guard, not only the Standing Corps staff members but also those who supported its establishment and continue to work who have and are supporting its continuous development and deployment. Since 2019, even prior to the 2019 Regulation entering into force, experts in Member States, Schengen Associated Countries, Commission and the Agency have done their utmost to meet seemingly impossible deadlines. Without their hard work, their ingenuity and collaborative spirit, we would not have come as far as we have – a trained, equipped and operationally available Standing Corps that can be and has been deployed in a matter of days to respond to emerging needs.

We should take this opportunity to reflect for a moment on our collective achievements in 2021, take stock and move on, implementing what is planned for 2022, taking small steps forward together, carrying us that extra mile. In these trying times where the international community is at the crossroads of what could either be a turn for the worse or for the better, the European Border and Coast Guard, albeit just one link in the chain of shaping the international security environment, the extra mile that we take together may result in the turn for the better, for us as a community, for Europe and for our neighbours.

Aija Kalnaja
Executive Director ad interim

Dashboard

Standing Corps and Forced Return Monitors

Pools and commitments

State of play 31.12.2021

Category 1		Category 2		Category 3		Category 4		Forced-Return Monitors	
Employments		**Selections**		**Nominations**		**Quota**		**Nominations**	
Required*	700	Required	400	Required	3.600	Required	1.500		
Available for Deployment as of:		**Selected as of:**		**Nominated as of:**				**Nominated as of:**	
31/12/2021	495	31/12/2021	374	31/12/2021	7.752			31/12/2021	75
In Basic Training as of:				Primary	3.444				
31/12/2021	140			Backup	4.308				

* MB Decision 9/2020

Deployments

2021 (01.01.2021 - 31.12.2021) – Man-days

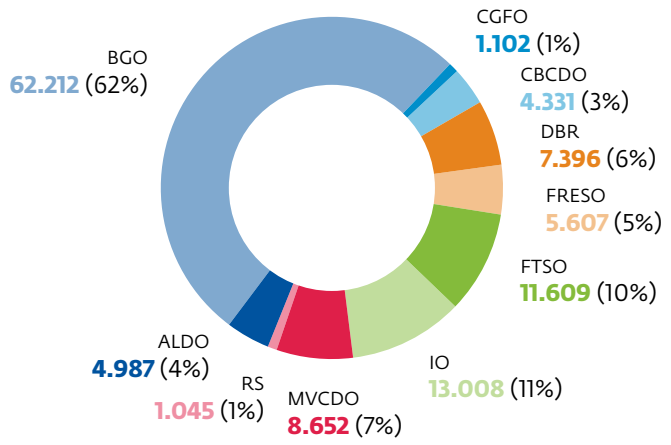
Profile	FRONTEX Needs*	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Total	Coverage
Advanced Level Document Officer	33.437	4.987	16.518	10.706	**32.211**	96%
Border Guard Officer	294.992	62.212	52.644	96.498	**211.354**	72%
Coast Guard Function Officer	2.735	1.102	2.141		**3.243**	100%
Crew Member**	N/A			64.313	**64.313**	N/A
Cross-Border Crime Detection Officer	10.961	4.331	4.418	1.032	**9.781**	89%
Debriefing Officer	44.065	7.396	13.331	12.323	**33.050**	75%
Dog Handler	12.046			5.139	**5.139**	43%
Forced Return Escort and Support Officer	24.603	5.607	8.011		**13.618**	55%
Frontex Tactical Support Officer	35.127	11.609	4.083	11.942	**27.634**	79%
Information Officer	38.436	13.008	5.924	11.071	**30.003**	78%
Motor Vehicle Crime Detection Officer	22.669	8.652	7.295	5.457	**21.404**	94%
Return Specialist	10.580	1.045	5.569	1.219	**7.833**	74%
TOTAL	**529.651**	**119.949**	**119.934**	**219.700**	**459.583**	**87%**

* Data extracted from OperaEvo on 11.02.2022

** Crew Members under Management Board Decision 9/2020 are not accounted for as SC Profile Quota and therefore the needs are not applicable for 2021

State of play

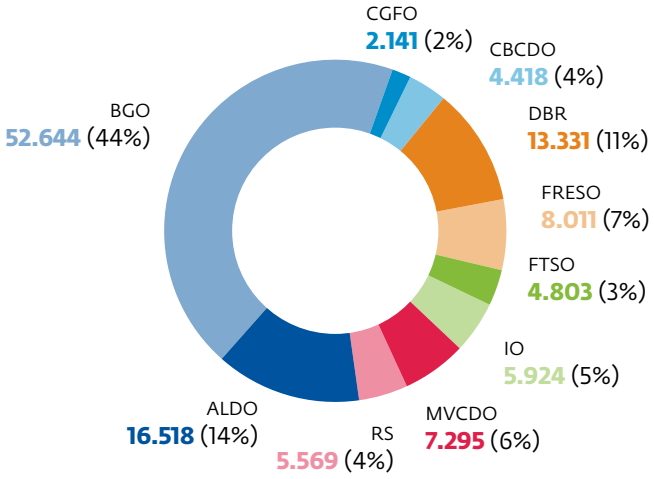
Category 1 Deploiments, in Man-Days



- ALDO - Advanced Level Document Officer
- BGO - Border Guard Officer
- CGFO - Coast Guard Function Officer
- CBCDO - Cross-Border Crime Detection Officer
- DBR - Debriefing Officer
- FRESO - Forced Return Escort and Support Officer
- FTSO - Frontex Tactical Support Officer
- IO - Information Officer
- MVCDO - Motor Vehicle Crime Detection Officer
- RS - Return Specialist

State of play

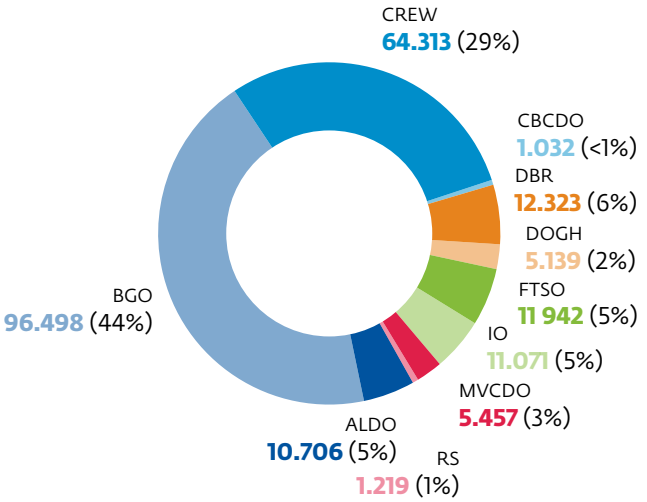
Category 2 Deploiments, in Man-Days



- ALDO - Advanced Level Document Officer
- BGO - Border Guard Officer
- CGFO - Coast Guard Function Officer
- CBCDO - Cross-Border Crime Detection Officer
- DBR - Debriefing Officer
- FRESO - Forced Return Escort and Support Officer
- FTSO - Frontex Tactical Support Officer
- IO - Information Officer
- MVCDO - Motor Vehicle Crime Detection Officer
- RS - Return Specialist

State of play

Category 3 Deploiments, in Man-Days



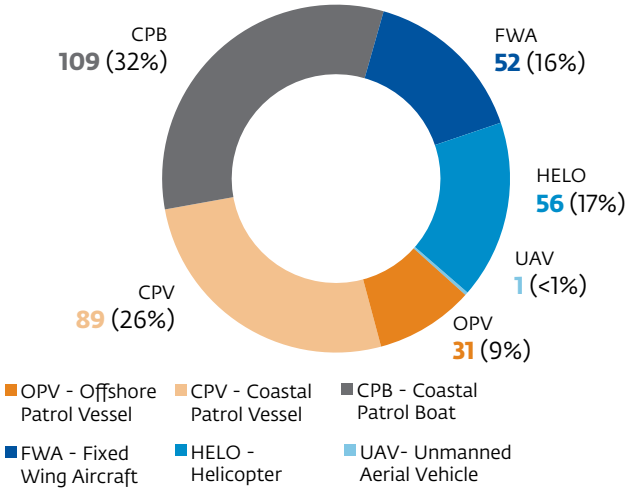
- ALDO - Advanced Level Document Officer
- BGO - Border Guard Officer
- CREW - Crew Member
- CBCDO - Cross-Border Crime Detection Officer
- DBR - Debriefing Officer
- DOGH - Dog Handler
- FTSO - Frontex Tactical Support Officer
- IO - Information Officer
- MVCDO - Motor Vehicle Crime Detection Officer
- RS - Return Specialist

Technical Equipment

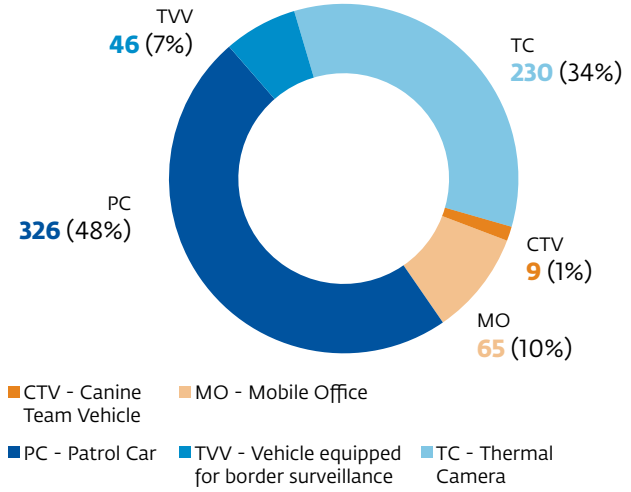
Pools and Commitments

State of play 31.12.2021

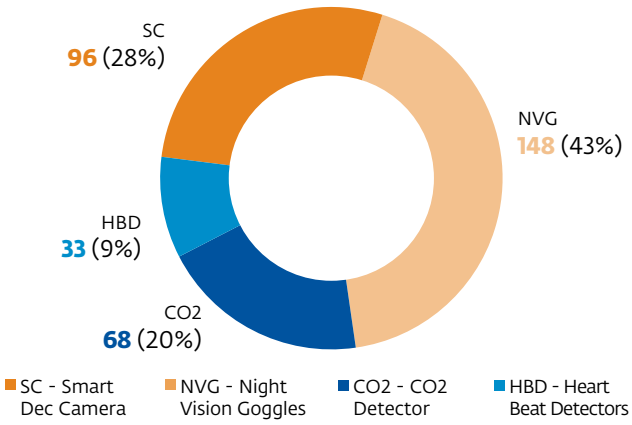
Major TE Pool



Light TE Pool



Portable TE Pool

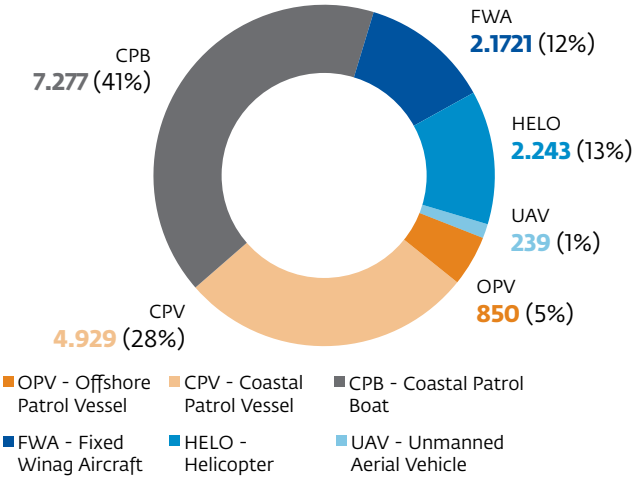


Deployments

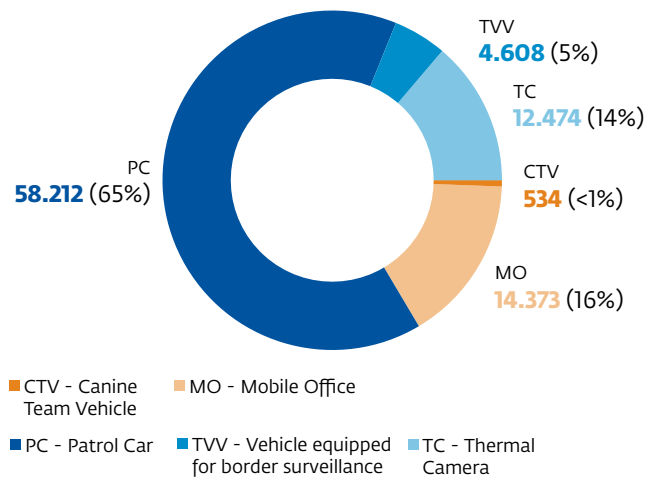
2021 (01.01.2021 - 31.12.2021) – Asset-days

(Data extracted from OperaEvo on 25/01/2022)

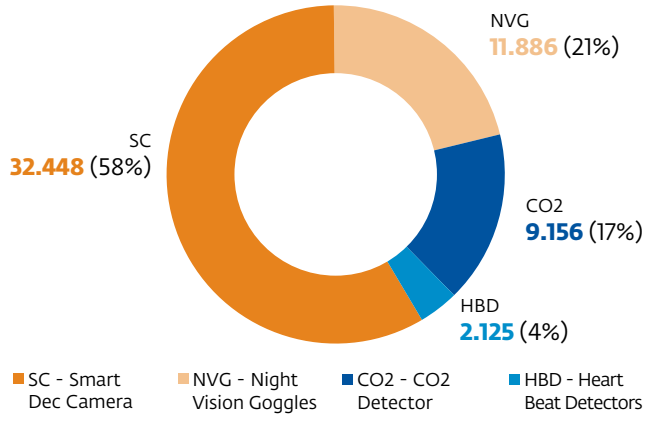
Major TE Deployments, in Asset-Days



Light TE Deployments, in Asset-Days



Portable TE Deployments, in Asset-Days



1. General

1.1. Purpose and Scope

In accordance with Article 65 of the Regulation (EU) 2019/1896* (hereinafter "the Regulation") on Reporting on the Agency's capabilities (Annual Implementation Report), the Regulation stipulates that on the basis of a proposal from the Executive Director, the Management Board shall adopt and submit to the European Parliament, to the Council and to the Commission an annual report on the implementation of Articles 51, 55, 56, 57, 58, 63 and 64 – Annual Implementation Report.

The Annual Implementation Report shall include, in particular:

(a) The number of staff that each Member State and Schengen Associated Countries (MS/SAC) has committed to the standing corps, including through the reserve for rapid reaction, and to the pool of forced-return monitors;

(b) the number of statutory staff that the Agency has committed to the standing corps;

(c) The number of staff actually deployed from the standing corps, by each Member State and by the Agency per profile in the previous year;

(d) The number of items of technical equipment that each MS/SAC and the Agency has committed to the Technical Equipment Pool;

(e) The number of items of technical equipment deployed by each MS/SAC and the Agency in the previous year from the Technical Equipment Pool;

(f) Commitments to and deployments of equipment from the Rapid Reaction Equipment Pool;

(g) The development of the Agency's own human and technical capabilities.

Furthermore, Article 65 (3) foresees that the Annual Implementation Report shall list the Member States that invoked the exceptional situation referred to in Article 57(9) and Article 64(9) in the previous year and include the reasons and information provided by the Member State concerned.

In line with Article 65 (4) and the need of the Executive Director to inform the Management Board on a quarterly basis on the aforementioned elements, the Annual Implementation Report 2021 follows the same structure.

Therefore, the data presented in the Annual Implementation Report 2021, provides information on the commitments, deployments, and cancellations of both the European Border and Coast Guard Standing Corps (SC) and Technical Equipment (TE). To ensure transparency, the report informs on all the contributions by Member States (MS), Schengen Associated Countries** (SAC), and the Agency (FX).

In particular:

- The state of play of the composition of the Standing Corps (Category 1, 2, 3, 4), Forced-Return and Fundamental Rights Monitors Pools, Technical Equipment, and ISF/SA Technical Equipment pool.
- Detailed Overview of the Deployments of SC (Category 1, 2, 3), Technical Equipment, as well as an overview of SC and TE cancellations by MS/SAC and FX respectively.

Lastly, in line with Article 65(3), the Annual Implementation Report shall list the Member States that invoked the exceptional situation referred to in Article 57(9) and Article 64(9) in the previous year and include the reasons and information provided by the Member State concerned.

In 2021, following the border tensions between Lithuania and Belarus, the Rapid Border Intervention (RBI) Lithuania was launched, spanning from mid-July to the end of November 2021. In line with the Regulation, specifically Article 57(8), the deployment was primarily provided through short-term deployments of staff (Category 3), rather than the deployment of Category 4. Thus, no Category 4 Standing Corps was deployed in 2021.

* *Regulation (EU) 2019/1896 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 November 2019 on the European Border and Coast Guard (OJ L 295, 14.11.2019, Section 9 - Art.65). https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32019R1896.*

** *Iceland, Liechtenstein*, Norway, and Switzerland (* Liechtenstein contributes through proportional financial support)*

1.2. Process and Methodology

The data presented in this report is extracted from Opera Evolution (Opera Evo), which is the tool for planning and managing the capabilities, establishing the pools for the upcoming operational cycle, and allocating the capabilities for operational activities. Moreover, it is used to manage the deployments of MS/SAC and FX resources and serve as the basis for financial reconciliation. Since its development, Opera Evo aims to facilitate the work between internal and external actors in the scope of defining, developing, and deploying capabilities. Furthermore, Opera Evo has replaced Opera 2 and ABNet over the past year as among its functionalities, Opera Evo offers an automated tool to extract the data for the Annual Implementation Report 2021 and its preceding Quarterly Reports.

Naturally, the report contains data based on the information inserted in Opera Evo by MS/SAC and the Agency.

Any last-minute updates or possible exceptions, as well as all major corrections and adjustments that have been identified throughout the year and the previous iterations of the quarterly reports, have been included within the final Annual Implementation Report 2021.

Thus, the report covers the calendar year 2021. (01.01.2021 – 31.12.2021). Due to the overlap between deployments of the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 operational cycles during January 2021, this report solely focusses on the planned and implemented operational resources of the Regulation. Capabilities planned and implemented of the Operational Year 2020 (Ending on 26 January 2021) are therefore not covered in this report.

The compiled data has been presented to the Pooled Resources Network, whilst inviting the Member States and Schengen Associated Countries to cross-check the data with Frontex and resolving any differences bilaterally. Following the necessary amendments, the report has been offered to the Management Board for validation, prior to the adoption of the Annual Implementation Report 2021.

1.3. Terminology

For the purpose of this document and without prejudice to further discussions on the processes and terminology used, the following terms are applied:

- **Planning Capabilities and Establishing the Pools Process** refers to the entire process of planning the capabilities to meet the operational needs, establishing the pools of trained and equipped Standing Corps from the MS/SAC and the Agency and making them available for operational activities in the upcoming year.
- **Annual Bilateral Negotiations** (ABN) is a subset of the Capability Planning and Establishment of the Pools Process, referring specifically to the nominations from MS/SAC to the pools of Category 3 and TE from MS/SAC and making them available for operational activities.
- **Commitments** refers to the agreements reached between MS/SAC and the Agency on the capabilities – all categories of the Standing Corps and TE– over the course of ABN 2021.
- **Deployments** implies the actual utilisation of the capabilities in the operational theatre.
- **Internal Security Fund/Specific Actions** (ISF/SA) under the previous Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), offered the opportunity to MS/SAC to purchase equipment which to be put at the disposal of the Agency for its Joint Operations. In line with the Regulation*, MS/SAC shall register all means of transport and operating equipment purchased under the specifications of the ISF/SA in the TE pool thus, increasing the operational capacity of the EBCG Agency.
- **Man-Days** indicates the number of days when that specific Standing Corps is present in the operational area. The travel days to reach the operational area are excluded.
- **Asset-Days** indicates the number of days when that specific asset is present in the operational area. The days taken to reach the operational area are excluded.

* *Article 64(14) of the Regulation (EU) 2019/1896.*

1.4. How to Read the Report

* *Detailed and compiled data can be found in the Annexes 1-19 of this Annual Implementation Report*

All data* has been extracted directly from Opera Evo, following the data points inserted by MS/SAC and Frontex.

The data presented in this report comprises the following types of data:

- Human Resources Data
  - The composition of the Standing Corps (Category 1, 2, 3, 4), Forced-Return and Fundamental Rights Monitors Pools
  - Data on the deployments of the above-mentioned resources, as well as data on the internal deployments of host Member States and additional experts (Contracted Staff, Interpreters, Liaison Officers).
  - Data on the deployments of Fundamental Rights and Forced-Return Monitors.
  - Data providing an overview of SC and TE cancellations by MS/SAC and FX respectively.
- Technical Equipment Data
  - The state of play of the composition of the Technical Equipment pool, as well as the additional overview of ISF/SA registered Technical Equipment.
  - Data on the deployments of the above-mentioned resources, as well as data on the internal deployments of host Member States
  - Data providing an overview of SC and TE cancellations by MS/SAC and FX respectively.

All data is presented both in terms of quantities of HR and TE, as well as in Man-Days or Asset-Days. More specifically, the data on the state of play of HR and TE pools count for the quantity of resources, whilst the data on the deployments varies. In other words, the quantities provided in the report on deployment data refers to the number of individual deployments of resources (HR and TE), since the same capability can be deployed repeatedly. Thus, advising the reader to recall that the number on quantity of deployments does not refer to the total number of resources deployed.

Moreover, this report provides the reader with a structured overview of the cancellations of HR and TE by the Agency and MS/SAC respectively.

Standing Corps Category 1 Officers discussing operational plans during Joint Operation Focal Points 2021 in Lithuania

The reasoning behind the inclusion of such data is twofold. One the one side, resources cancelled by MS/SAC highlight that said capabilities may leave shortages and ultimately hinder the implementation of operational activities. However, the changing hosting capacity of Member States may impact the overall numbers and lead to cancellations from MS/SAC and Frontex. Lastly, cancellations by Frontex may be based on the challenges to accommodate and implement specific capabilities.

Ultimately, this report provides detailed information on the development, planning and deployment of human and technical capabilities and as such, the report does not provide any information on the subsequent assessed impact on the operational efficiency.

1.5. Human Resources and Technical Equipment Pools

1.5.1. Human Resources Pools

1.5.1.1. European Border and Coast Guard Standing Corps

According to Article 54 (1) of the Regulation and the capacity set out in Annex I of the Regulation, the European Border and Coast Guard Standing Corps shall be composed of the following our categories of operational staff:

- **Category 1:** statutory staff deployed as members of the teams in operational areas in accordance with Article 55, as well as staff responsible for the functioning of the ETIAS Central Unit;
- **Category 2:** staff seconded from Member States to the Agency for a long term as part of the standing corps in accordance with Article 56;
- **Category 3:** staff from Member States who are ready to be provided to the Agency for a short-term deployment as part of the standing corps in accordance with Article 57; and
- **Category 4:** the reserve for rapid reaction consisting of staff from the Member States who are ready to be deployed in accordance with Article 58 for the purposes of rapid border interventions in accordance with Article 39.

Furthermore, the Agency shall deploy members of the standing corps as members of the border management teams, migration management support teams and return teams in joint operations, rapid border interventions, return interventions or any other relevant operational activities in the Member States or in third countries. Such activities shall only be carried out with the authorisation of the Member State, or the third country concerned.

In line with Article 54 (4) and based on a proposal from the executive director, considering the Agency's risk analysis, the results of the vulnerability assessment and the multiannual strategic policy cycle for European integrated border management, and building on the numbers and profiles of staff available to the Agency through its statutory staff and ongoing secondments, by 31 March of each year the management board shall adopt a decision on the following:

- Defining the profiles of, and setting out the requirements for, operational staff;
- On the number of staff per specific profile of categories 1, 2 and 3 staff to form teams in the following year, based on the expected operational needs for the following year;
- Specifying further the contributions set out in Annexes II and III by setting the specific numbers and profiles of staff per Member State to be seconded to the Agency in accordance with Article 56 and to be nominated in accordance with Article 57 in the following year;
- Specifying further the contributions set out in Annex IV by setting the specific numbers and profiles of staff per Member State under the reserve for rapid reaction to be provided in the following year in the event of rapid border interventions in accordance with Articles 39 and 58; and
- Setting out an indicative multiannual planning of profiles for the subsequent years to facilitate the long-term planning for the Member States' contributions and the recruitment of statutory staff.

As a result, the following Standing Corps Profiles are concurrently available for deployments in operational activities*:

- Advanced Level Document Officer (ALDO)
- Border Guard Officer (BGO)
- Coast Guard Function Officer (CGFO)
- Crew Member (CREW)
- Cross-Border Crime Detection Officer (CBCDO)
- Debriefing Officer (DBR)
- Dog Handler (DOGH)
- Forced Return Escort and Support Officer (FRESO)
- Frontex Tactical Support Officer (FTSO)
- Information Officer (IO)
- Motor Vehicle Crime Detection Officer (MVCDO)
- Return Specialist (RS)

The numbers per specific profiles for all categories of operational staff to form teams in 2021 within the European Border and Coast Guard Standing Corps as well as the Indicative Multiannual Planning of profiles were adopted in Management Board Decision 9/2020 and details can be found in Annex 1-4.

* *Management Board Decision 01/2020 adopting the profiles to be made available to the European Border and Coast Guard Standing Corps (2020), https://frontex.europa.eu/about-frontex/key-documents/?category=management-board-decisionsandyear=2020. Implementation Report*

1.5.1.2. Forced-Return and Fundamental Rights Monitors

According to Article 51 of the Regulation, the Agency shall, after taking due account of the opinion of the fundamental rights officer, constitute a pool of forced-return monitors from competent bodies of the Member States who carry out forced-return monitoring activities in accordance with Article 8(6) of Directive 2008/115/EC and who have been trained in accordance with Article 62 of the Regulation. More specifically, MS/SAC are responsible to contribute and nominate forced-return monitors to the pool, whilst the Agency also contributes to the pool with fundamental rights monitors as referred to in Article 110 of the Regulation.

Detailed information on the nominations to the pool and overview of deployments in 2021 can be found in Annexes 5 and 12.

1.5.1.3. Additional Experts

Furthermore, to cover the operational needs and tasks outside of the remits of the SC, additional human resources are made available for deployment in operational areas. More specifically, MS/SAC provide Contracted Staff, specifically contracted crew for helicopter deployments, Interpreters, Liaison Officers. Additionally, the Agency itself provides deployed experts in interpretation and cultural mediation through service contracts.

Detailed information on the deployments of additional experts in 2021 can be found in Annex 10.

1.5.1.4. Host Member State Human Resources

During operational activities, the host-countries deploy human resources in their own capacity. As a result, the following profiles are available in Opera Evo to Member States hosting Frontex Joint Operations:

- Host MS Coordinating Staff
- Host MS Crew Members
- Host MS Dog Handler Officer
- Host MS for Forced Return Escort and Support Officer
- Host MS Intelligence Officer
- Host MS Officer for Border Surveillance
- Host MS Officer for Debriefing Activities

Standing Corps Category 1 Graduation Ceremony, 2021 in Avila, Spain

- Host MS Officer for Registration and Fingerprinting
- Host MS Operational Liaison Officer – Technical Equipment
- Host MS Support Officer
- Host MS Team Leader

Details on the Host Member State HR Deployments can be found in Annex 9.

1.5.2. Technical Equipment Pools

1.5.2.1. Technical Equipment Pool

The Technical Equipment Pool* is the central record of equipment made available by MS/SAC for Frontex coordinated joint operations. The TE consists of equipment provided by MS/SAC and Frontex. As such, the following types of TE are available for deployments.

In line with Article 64(10) of the Regulation, the Management Board decides, on a yearly basis, on the rules relating to technical equipment, including the required overall minimum numbers of items per type of technical equipment and the terms for the deployment and reimbursement of costs as well as on the limited number of items of technical equipment for a rapid reaction equipment pool.

Specifically, the Minimum Number of Items of Technical Equipment (MNITE) contains the minimum number of technical equipment items required meet the operational needs. The following pool of Technical Equipment was available in 2021 for operational activities.

- Major Technical Equipment:
  - Coastal Patrol Boats (CPB)
  - Coastal Patrol Vessels (CPV)
  - Fixed Wing Aircraft (FWA)
  - Helicopters (HELO)
  - Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV)
  - Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)
- Light Technical Equipment:
  - Patrol Cars (PC)
  - Vehicle equipped for border surveillance (TVVs)
  - Transportation Vehicles / Canine Team Vehicles
- Portable equipment:
  - Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) Detectors
  - Heartbeat Detectors
  - Thermal Cameras
  - Night Vision Goggles
  - SmartDec Cameras

* *Article 64 of the Regulation (EU) 2019/1896.*

Table 1 MNITE for Planned Operational Activities in 2021 (Period 1 -13) (27/01/2021 – 26/01/2022)*

Type of Equipment	Management Board Decision 10/2020	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	Period 6	Period 7	Period 8	Period 9	Period 10	Period 11	Period 12	Period 13
Offshore Patrol Vessel	**33**	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
Coastal Patrol Vessel	**97**	5	6	7	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	7	5	5
Coastal Patrol Boat	**138**	8	8	12	12	13	13	13	13	12	9	9	8	8
Fixed Wing Aircraft	**60**	3	3	3	5	5	6	7	7	5	4	4	4	4
Helicopter	**65**	4	4	4	6	6	7	6	6	5	5	4	4	4
Vehicle equipped for border surveillance	**192**	12	12	14	16	16	15	17	17	17	15	14	14	13
Patrol car	**1.291**	98	98	98	100	100	100	101	101	101	101	98	97	98

* Management Board Decision 10/2020

Complementing this pool of technical equipment, the Agency contracts services in support of *e.g.*, aerial surveillance and transport in the context of readmissions and returns.

1.5.2.2. Internal Security Fund / Specific Actions

In line with Article 64(14) of the Regulation, Member States are required to register all the means of transport and operating equipment purchased under the specific actions of the Internal Security Fund (ISF/SA) in accordance with Article 7(1) of Regulation (EU) No 515/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council.* That technical equipment shall form part of the minimum number of items of technical equipment for a given year. Moreover, each item of equipment shall be made available for a period of up to four months as planned in the annual bilateral negotiations. Member States may decide to deploy an item of equipment beyond four months.

Details on the concurrent state of play of the pool of ISF/SA Technical Equipment and the deployments of ISF/SA TE in 2021 can be found in Annexes 14 and 17.

1.5.2.3. Rapid Border Intervention TE Pool

Additionally, the Management Board agrees on the number of Technical Equipment needed for Rapid Border Interventions.**

Table 2 Rapid Reaction Equipment Pool for 2021

Type of Equipment	Offshore Patrol Vessel	Coastal Patrol Vessel	Coastal Patrol Boat	Fixed Wing Aircraft	Helicopter	Vehicle equipped for border surveillance	Patrol car
Number of items required per deployment period	2	2	2	2	2	3	19

Following the conclusion reached during ABN (see Chapter 6), the MS/SAC contributions to Rapid Reaction Equipment Pool (RREP) remained insufficient.

1.5.2.4. Host-Member State Technical Equipment

During Frontex Operational Activities, the Host-Member States deploy TE resources in their own capacity. Details on the deployments of Host-Member State TE can be found in Annex 18.

* *Regulation (EU) No 515/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing, as part of the Internal Security Fund, the instrument for financial support for external borders and visa and repealing Decision No 574/2007/EC (OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 143). https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/en/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32014R0515.*

** *Management Board Decision 10/2020 adopting rules relating to technical equipment, including the Minimum Number of items of Technical Equipment as well as the Rapid Reaction Equipment Pool to be deployed during operational activities coordinated by Frontex in 2021 (2020). https://frontex.europa.eu/about-frontex/key-documents/?category=management-board-decisionsandyear=2020.*

Officers patrolling during Flexible Operational Activities 2021 Land in Greece

2. Standing Corps

2.1. Pools and Commitments

2.1.1. Category 1 – Statutory Staff

In accordance with Article 65(2)(b) on reporting on the number of statutory staff that the Agency has committed to the Standing Corps, the data on Category 1 (the Agency's own staff) outlines the total amount of officers available for deployment in 2021. By the end of December 2021, more than 764 candidates had been offered employment contracts. However, a number of those have refused or resigned from their employment contract due to various reasons (mostly personal).

As of 31 December 2021, 495 Category 1 Standing Corps Officers were registered and nominated in Opera Evo, who were also available for participation in Frontex Operational Activities. Moreover, an additional 140 Standing Corps Category 1 Officers will be available for deployment in 2022.

Thus, the total number of registered and nominated SC Category 1 officers in Opera Evo is 635:

- 605 of them have completed their training in 2021;
- Another 30 are currently following the basic training in Avila (Batch 5);
- Following the Open Call for additional 200 Category 1 Standing Corps Officers launched in the third quarter of 2021 and after the candidacies were reviewed, employment contracts for the new Batch 6 of Category 1 Officers were offered for candidates selected. Those officers will be in training from January 2022 onwards.

By the end of December 2021, the coverage was almost 90% of Officers compared to the quota set out by Management Board Decision 9/2020.

More detailed information on the available Standing Corps Category 1 officers during 2021 can be found in Annex 1.

2.1.2. Category 2 – Long Term Secondments

Article 56 of the Regulation foresees the contribution of MS/SAC to the standing corps by seconding operational staff to the Agency as members of Category 2. The duration of individual secondments shall be 24 months. Furthermore, in line with Article 54(4) and the specific numbers and profiles of staff decided by the Management Board for the following year, by the 30 of June each year, each MS/SAC shall indicate the candidates for secondment among their operational staff. Additionally, the Agency has been conducting the verification of Category 2 nominees through eligibility checks and interviews, supported by Opera Evolution. This process was formally launched in 2020 and continues to be an ongoing process.

The process at the end of 2021, consisted of the following milestones:

- The verification began with 315 MS/SAC candidates for Standing Corps Category 2 nominated by the 30th of June 2020. The first set of verifications were concluded by 15 September 2020 and yielded 306 candidates that were accepted to the pool of Category 2. The verification process continued and on the 7 of December 2020, secondment offers were sent to MS/SAC for all 351 candidates who had been selected with the start date of 1 January 2021.
- Seven additional rounds of secondment offers were sent to MS/SAC up until December 2021, as the quota of 400 officers for Operational Year 2021, under Management Board Decision 9/2020*, remains unattained. The reasons for those are numerous. For example:
  - In some cases, initial nominations of the quota remain missing, while in others, MS/SAC have been unable to replace candidates who have withdrawn their secondment.

* *Management Board Decision 9/2020 of 3 April 2020 on adopting the European Border and Coast Guard Standing Corps annual planning for 2021 and indicative multiannual planning of profiles. https://frontex.europa.eu/about-frontex/key-documents/?category=management-board-decisionsandyear=2020.*

- The exhaustion of national capability pools has frequently been cited and appears to be the primary driver behind delayed or lack of contributions by MS/SAC. This is particularly evident with the Advanced Level Document Officer (ALDO) profile.
- Resignations and withdrawals due to personal reasons
- Late nominations imply that that individual planning and administrative procedures are required for each secondment that begins later than 1 January of the given year. Frontex identified that this includes the need for ad hoc operational planning, as well as the need to align the secondments with the training calendar, which delay their start and/or secondment.

- The mechanism of Article 4 under Management Board Decision 17/2021*, whereby MS/SAC can request an adjustment to their profile distribution if they are unable to meet the quota for any particular profile, has been activated on several occasions throughout 2021.
- A parallel verification process was launched in June 2021, following the Management Board Decision 17/2021 of an additional 100 SC Category 2 Officers for the years 2022.
- The state of play as of 31 December 2021 for Nominations for Category 2 is as follow:
  - 2021: 374 out of 400 (94% Coverage)
  - 2022: 92 out of 100 (92% Coverage)

* *Management Board Decision 17/2021 of 24 March 2021 on adopting the profiles to be made available to the European Border and Coast Guard standing corps and their annual planning for 2022 and indicative multiannual planning. https://frontex.europa.eu/about-frontex/key-documents/?category=management-board-decisionsandyear=2021.*

Table 3 Overview of the State of Play of Nominations per MS/SAC for Category 2 (Operational Year 2021) as of 31/12/2021

MS/SAC	MS/SAC Quota according to Management Board Decision 9/2020	MS/SAC Selections	MS/SAC Coverage %
Austria	9	9	100%
Belgium	7	8	88%
Bulgaria	11	11	100%
Croatia	17	17	100%
Cyprus	2	2	100%
Czech Republic	5	5	100%
Denmark	8	8	100%
Estonia	5	5	100%
Finland	7	8	88%
France	44	46	96%
Germany	59	61	97%
Greece	13	13	100%
Hungary	17	17	100%
Iceland		1	0%
Italy	29	33	88%
Latvia	8	8	100%
Lithuania	10	10	100%
Luxembourg	2	2	100%
Malta	2	2	100%
Netherlands	13	13	100%
Norway	5	5	100%
Poland	26	27	96%
Portugal	8	8	100%
Romania	18	20	90%
Slovakia	9	9	100%
Slovenia	9	9	100%
Spain	20	30	67%
Sweden	8	9	89%
Switzerland	3	4	75%
TOTAL	**374**	**400**	**94%**

Additional details on the Nomination of Category 2 for 2021/2022 are presented in full detail in Annex 2.

Table 4 Overview of the State of Play of Nominations per MS/SAC for Category 2 (Operational Year 2022) as of 31/12/2021

MS/SAC	MS/SAC Quota according to Management Board Decision 17/2021	MS/SAC Selections	MS/SAC Coverage %
Austria	2	2	100.00%
Belgium	2	2	100.00%
Bulgaria	2	1	50.00%
Croatia	5	4	80.00%
Cyprus	1	1	100.00%
Czech Republic	2	2	100.00%
Denmark	2	2	100.00%
Estonia	1	1	100.00%
Finland	2	2	100.00%
France	10	9	90.00%
Germany	12	10	83.33%
Greece	4	4	100.00%
Hungary	5	5	100.00%
Italy	9	8	88.89%
Latvia	2	2	100.00%
Lithuania	3	3	100.00%
Luxembourg	1	1	100.00%
Netherlands	4	4	100.00%
Norway	2	2	100.00%
Poland	6	6	100.00%
Portugal	2	2	100.00%
Romania	5	4	80.00%
Slovakia	3	3	100.00%
Slovenia	3	3	100.00%
Spain	7	6	85.71%
Sweden	2	2	100.00%
Switzerland	1	1	100.00%
TOTAL	**100**	**92**	**92.00%**

Due to the overlapping nature of the nomination process for 2021 and 2022, the overall coverage of Standing Corps Category 2 by the end of December 2021 was 93%; i.e., 466 operational staff had been selected out of the 500 foreseen in Management Board Decision 17/2021. In other words, the quota of 400 (2021) and 100 (2022) merged. Following this reasoning, the annual targets have been fully met by 15 out of 30 MS/SAC; elsewhere, shortages in the level of contribution remain. The Agency continues to liaise with the MS/SAC who remain short of their contributions to ensure the adherence to the adopted targets, while MS/SAC have assured the Agency that efforts are being taken on the national level to overcome the abovementioned obstacles. Thus, the nomination and verification process remains an ongoing process, even though the Operational Year 2021 finalised on the 27 January 2022.

2.1.3. Category 3 – Short Term Deployments

In addition to the long-term secondments under Article 56, and in line with Article 57 of the Regulation, MS/SAC are required to contribute to the standing corps by nominating border guards and other relevant staff to the preliminary national list of available operational staff for short-term deployments (Category 3) in accordance with the contributions set out in Annex III and in accordance with the specific numbers and profiles of staff decided by the Management Board for the following year as referred to in Article 54(4). Furthermore, Article 57(2) of the Regulation, foresees that each Category 3 SC officer is available for a period of up to four months within a calendar year. However, MS/SAC may decide to deploy an individual staff member beyond four months. Such an extension shall be counted as a separate contribution of that Member State for the same profile or another required profile if the staff member possesses the necessary skills. In reverse, MS/SAC have been deploying multiple officers to cover the four months period. MS/SAC also had the possibility to nominate Category 3 primary nominees and backups. The purpose is to ensure the availability for deployment throughout the operational year considering both foreseen and unforeseen absences. The overall coverage is calculated taking into consideration the total of primary nominations. All nominations for Category 3 are managed as part of the Annual Bilateral Negotiations process.

Management Board Decision 9/2020 indicates that a total of 3500 Category 3 SC Officers should be available for the Operational Year 2021. At the end

of December, the coverage of the nominations was at approximately 96 % for 2021.

Notably, the information on Category 3 also includes MS/SAC's nominations of crew members. In accordance with Article 54(5), Article 64, and Article 57 of the Regulation, the crew members, provided in support of the Technical Equipment contributions, must be taken into account as part of the short-term contributions. According to Management Board Decision 9/2020, Crew Members are not directly calculated as a Category 3 Quota. In other words, the contributions by MS/SAC in terms of Crew Members has been proportionally calculated within the Border Guard Officer Quota. However, following the beginning of Operational Year 2022, Crew Members will be directly accounted for as a profile quota.

More detailed information on profiles and nominations can be found in Annex 3.

Additionally, as part of the ABN process for 2022, at the beginning of August 2021, Member States were requested to nominate their experts for the upcoming Operational Year 2022, considering the breakdown of their quota per profile as stated in the Management Board Decision 17/2021. The coverage of the nominations for 2022 by the end of December 2021 was of approximately 93%.

2.1.4. Category 4 – Reserve for Rapid Reaction

The quota set out by Management Board Decision 9/2020 has been adopted and MS/SAC have agreed to populate the pool as foreseen. (See Annex 4 for full details).

2.2. Deployments

2.2.1. Overview

The deployment data for 2021 presents the number of deployments of Standing Corps and its corresponding Man-Days (MD).

- **Category 1:** 928 Category 1 deployments, covering 119,949 Man-Days (Annex 6).*
- **Category 2:** 1,019 Category 2 deployments, covering 119,934 Man-Days (Annex 7)
- **Category 3:** 5,660 Category 3 deployments, covering 219,779 Man-Days (Annex 8)
- **Category 4:** Even though RBI Lithuania 2021 took place, no Category 4 staff was activated and deployed.

The total Standing Corps deployments per profile in 2021 (Man-days) are quantified below. Moreover, information on the percentage of coverage in comparison to the needs is presented below:

- **Advanced Level Document Officer:** 32,211 (96%)
- **Border Guard Officer:** 211,354 (72%)
- **Coast Guard Function Officer:** 3,243 (100%)
- **Crew Member:** 64,313 (N/A)

* *Category 1 HR deployments also include deployments for training purposes and to Frontex Headquarters.*

Coastal Patrol Vessel during Joint Operation Poseidon 2021 in Greece

- **Cross-Border Crime Detection Officer:** 9,781 (89%)
- **Debriefing Officer:** 33,050 (75%)
- **Dog Handler:** 5,139 (43%)
- **Forced Return Escort and Support Officer:** 13,618 (55%)
- **Frontex Tactical Support Officer:** 27,634 (79%)
- **Information Officer:** 30,003 (78%)
- **Motor Vehicle Crime Detection Officer:** 21,404 (95%)
- **Return Specialist**: 7,833 (74%)

Deployments presented above cover overall operational activities of 2021 per profile and man-days.

More detailed information on the deployment per MS/SAC and profile can be found in Annex 6, Annex 7, and Annex 8.

In 2021, operational needs were directly affected by the launch of new joint operations – JO Serbia Land, and the extension of the operational area – JO FOA Land in Romania. Furthermore, the launch and extension of the Rapid Border Intervention in Lithuania posed challenges, as this RBI was the first of its kind since the establishment of the Standing Corps. Ultimately, several shortages were identified in terms of human resources:

- **Dog Handlers (DOGH)**
  - This resource can only be provided by the MS/SAC through short-term deployments (Category 3). Therefore, providing it for the successful implementation of Frontex operational activities was closely related to their availability and flexibility. In the Operational Year 2021, the epidemic situation and scarcity of this resource at the national level made deploying Dog Handlers very challenging.
- **Border Guard Officer (BGO)**
  - **Category 1:** The processes of weapons acquisition and of issuing authorisations to carry and use those weapons significantly hampered the deployment of the statutory staff in 2021.
  - **Category 2:** The challenges have been identified in Chapter 7.1.2, as the verification challenges ultimately hinder the full deployment of the Category 2 long-term seconded officers.
  - **Category 3:** The coverage of foreseen needs was hugely impacted by seasonality of the pledges inserted by MS.SAC and last-minute cancellations performed by the MS/SAC.
- **Forced Return Escort and Support Officer (FRESO)**
  - Since return activities with third countries have been suspended throughout the Operational Year 2021, MS/SAC preferred not to pledge their resources. However, MS/SAC expressed while upon resumption of activities, MS/SAC would provide the full foreseen quota.
- **Return Specialist (RS)**
  - Specific targeted calls have been periodically launched by the Pre-Return Unit of ECRET to cover the operational needs.
  - In line with the reasons mentioned above, the coverage of needs for Return Activities (FRESO and RS) should be considered at the 100% level.

2.2.2. Cancellations of Human Resource Deployments

Over the course of 2021, several human resources were cancelled. In particular, Annex 12 provides a structured overview of the cancellations of HR by the Agency and/or MS/SAC respectively. Frontex identified several reasons for cancellations throughout the calendar year. As such, resources cancelled by MS/SAC highlight that said capabilities may leave shortages and ultimately hinder the implementation of operational activities. However, the changing hosting capacity of Member States may impact the overall numbers and lead to cancellations from MS/SAC and Frontex. Lastly, cancellations by Frontex may be based on the challenges to accommodate and implement specific capabilities.

In 2021, a total of 978 HR deployments were cancelled, accounting for an envisioned 46,983 Man-Days. More comprehensive details can be found in Annex 12.

2.2.3. Targeted Call - Urgent request for resources to reinforce the ongoing Joint Operations of 2021 invoking Article 57(8)

Due to the sudden increase of migratory pressure complemented by the activation of new operational locations following the request by Host-Member States, Frontex launched several rounds of targeted call for additional resources grounded on provisions of Article 57(8) of the Regulation. Namely, Article 57(8) was used to request Human Resources following the launch and extension of the Rapid Border Intervention in Lithuania, as well as an urgent call to cover needs of Joint Operations in 2021.

Table 5 Overview of Requested HR following the Targeted Call invoking Article 57(8) on 21st of October 2021

Standing Corps Profiles	Requested by FRONTEX in Quantity	Provided by MS/SAC in Quantity
Border Guard Officer (Border Surveillance Task)	106	38
Frontex Tactical Support Officer (Operational Response Support Task)	15	8
Dog Handlers	2	1
Debriefing Officer (Debriefing Expert Task)	3	3

Table 6 Overview of Requested HR following the Targeted Call invoking Article 57(8) during the launch and extension of RBI Lithuania 2021

Standing Corps Profiles	Requested by Frontex in Quantity	Requested by Frontex in Man-Days	Provided by MS/SAC in Man-Days
Border Guard Officer (Border Surveillance Task)	120	7.325	7.774
Frontex Tactical Support Officer	4	246	237

Besides the launched targeted calls, the provided resources by MS/SAC remained relatively low. The targeted calls triggered internal administrative (planning) challenges for the MS/SAC. These difficulties include, but are not limited to:

- The limited available working hours at the national level for the available human resources;
- Deployment preparations for the winter season required additional effort from the MS/SAC;
- Meeting the travel requirements imposed by the epidemiological situation also hampered the deployments both for home and host MS/SAC.

2.3. Additional Human Resources

2.3.1. Host Member State Human Resources

Throughout 2021, Member States have registered 2,573 internal deployments, accounting for 198,661 Man-Days. More details on the deployed profiles can be found in Annex 9.

2.3.2. Forced-Return and Fundamental Rights Monitors

As of 31 December 2021, 75 Forced-Return and 3 Fundamental Rights Monitors have been registered in Opera Evo. All details on the nominations of Forced-Return and Fundamental Rights Monitors can be found in Annex 5.

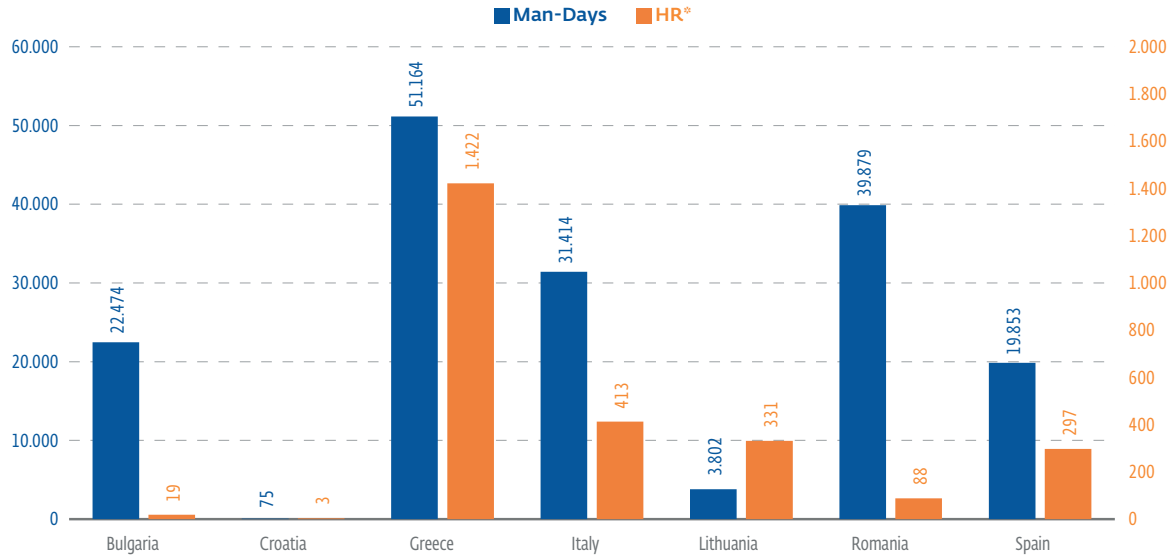
By the end of 2021, a total of 162 Forced-Return and Fundamental Rights Monitors deployments took place in 2021. All details on the deployments can be found in Annex 11

2.3.3. Additional Experts

Alongside, the Standing Corps Deployments and the resources of Host Member States, Frontex and MS/SAC deploy additional experts during operational activities. Namely, a total of 747 deployments of various additional experts took place in 2021, accounting for 31,601 Man-Days.

All details can be found in Annex 10.

Figure 10 Graphical Representation of the Host Member States internal deployments in 2021 by number of Man-Days and HR Deployments



* HR Quantity (one Human Resource can be deployed multiple times and is therefore counted as multiple HR Deployments)

Surveillance Balloon deployed in Greece

3. Technical Equipment

3.1. Pools and Commitments

3.1.1. Member States and Schengen Associated Countries

MS/SAC contribute to the TE pool with their own equipment. The equipment has either procured solely using national funds or in part co-financed by the EU through the Internal Security Fund (ISF) including the Specific Actions (ISF/SA). With the ISF/SA comes the obligation to register in the TE pool and deploy in the Agency's Joint Operations.

In total Member States have registered 800 items of equipment. This includes equipment such as aircrafts, vehicles, maritime vessels, and different types of portable and handheld equipment to be used in support of:

- Land border surveillance
- Sea border surveillance
- Border checks

Annex 13 provides a detailed overview on the overall technical equipment pool available for Frontex operational activities.

Out of these 36 have been co-financed by the ISF/SA.

- 8 Coastal Patrol Vessel (CPV)
- 17 Coastal Patrol Boats (CPB)
- 4 Fixed Wing Aircrafts (FWA)
- 7 Vehicle equipped for border surveillance (TVV)

Annex 14 provides a detailed overview of technical equipment co-financed by the ISF/SA.

From the pools, based on the annual Management Board Decision on the Minimum Number of Items of TE to be made available for operational activities and the subsequent updated operational needs assessment, the ABN process ensures the commitment of equipment from MS/SAC to the operational activities of the upcoming operational year.

3.1.2. Frontex

The Agency contributes the following technical equipment to the Technical Equipment pool:

- Aerial Surveillance Services (through Framework Contracts for manned and unmanned aircrafts)
- Services for transportation by land, sea, and air
- 86 Patrol Cars
- 191 Thermal Cameras
- 118 Night Vision Goggles
- 64 CO_2 Detectors
- 31 Heartbeat Detectors
- 43 Mobile Offices and other deployable facilities

In addition, the Agency provides equipment for Standing Corps, both personal, protective, for use of force and to ensure safety and health.

Concluding the ABN 2021 Process, Frontex has identified several shortages in Technical Equipment. Namely, main gaps remain for Fixed-Wing Aircrafts, Helicopters, Coastal Patrol Vessels, and Offshore Patrol Vessels. These shortages affect the operational implementation and as a result and to facilitate planning at national level, MS/SAC have requested the possibility to allocate their technical equipment across the operational year and not only for the first half of the deployment periods.

In the same vein, Frontex urged MS/SAC, who have purchased and registered technical equipment purchased under the ISF-SA, to make the TE available for Frontex joint operations and deploy them as prescribed in Article 64(14) of the Regulation. Furthermore, the Agency continues to use its own pool of equipment and services to cover some of the operational needs.

Overall, however, shortages remained throughout 2021.

3.1.3. Cancellations of Technical Equipment Deployments

Over the course of 2021, several technical equipment resources were cancelled due to aforementioned reasons.

In particular, Annex 19 provides a structured overview of the cancellations of HR by the Agency and/or MS/SAC respectively.

3.2. Deployments

3.2.1. Deployments

The deployment data presents the number of deployments* of Quantities (Q) and the corresponding Asset-Days (AD).

Detailed information presenting a breakdown per MS/SAC deployments can be found in Annex 16.

3.2.2. Host Member State Technical Equipment Deployments

Throughout 2021, Member States have registered 271 internal deployments, accounting for 15,4634 Asset-Days. More details on the deployed technical equipment can be found in Annex 18.

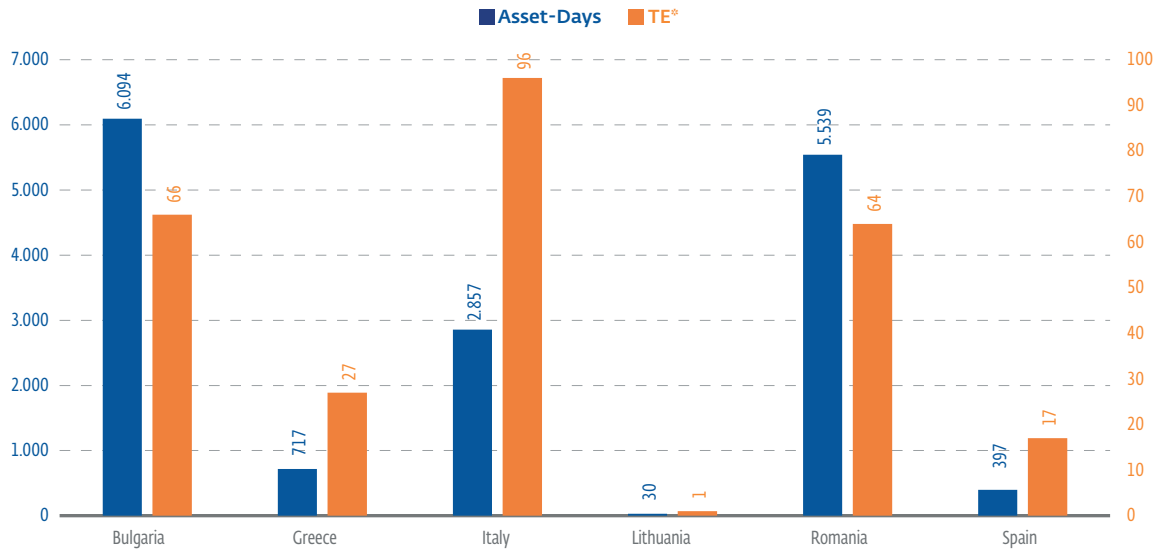
3.2.3. Targeted Call - Urgent requests for resources to reinforce the ongoing Joint Operations of 2021

Throughout 2021, Frontex launched several targeted calls. Most prominently, alongside the request for human resources, the Agency requested the technical support from MS/SAC during the launch and extension of RBI Lithuania and for additional reinforcements of new operational activities. Namely, 4 Helicopters (HELO) and 4 Vehicles Equipped for Border Surveillance (TVV) were requested for RBI Lithuania. For the needs identified by Lithuania for 1 Vehicle Equipped for Border Surveillance, the Agency requested those resources from two MS/SAC that had registered this type of equipment in the Rapid Reaction Equipment Pool – Romania and Hungary.

Moreover, the identified needs for 30 Patrol Cars were covered by the Agency, whilst MS/SAC deployed additional Patrol Cars. Due to voluntary contributions in terms of Helicopter Deployments for RBI Lithuania, the aimed number of resources was successfully reached and even exceeded.

* *One Technical Equipment resource can be deployed multiple times and may therefore be accounted for as multiple TE Deployments.*

Figure 11 Overview of Host Member State Technical Equipment Deployments



* TE Deployments (one Technical Equipment can be deployed multiple times and is therefore counted as multiple TE Deployments)

Moreover, the deployment of a Danish aircraft in record time to Joint Operation Opal Coast is the most notable achievement in 2021. The main purpose of the Danish aircraft deployment was an immediate reaction and response to the new Joint Operation Opal Coast at the French and Belgian border with the United Kingdom, demonstrating strong spirit of solidarity and proactivity within the European Border and Coast Guard. The deployment of the Danish aircraft was implemented from 1 December till 29 December 2021 (Rotation Period 12) in France.

In the context of the increased migratory pressure at the Danube River, Frontex also launched an urgent call to all MS/SAC for a Class II Coastal Patrol Boats (CPB) on 25 November 2021. The intention was to increase the intervention capabilities at the external land border between Romania and Serbia at the Danube River for its entire section. Only one MS/SAC, Estonia, expressed its availability to contribute with one CPB through redeployment from the ongoing Joint Operation Poseidon (Greece). However, due to the ongoing operational activities, it was agreed that the deployment will start on 26 January 2022 in the framework of Joint Operation Terra 2022.

Air Surveillance during Joint Operation Indalo 2021

4. Rapid Border Intervention Lithuania 2021

4.1. Context

Following the request by Lithuania for operational support on 10 July 2021, in line with Article 37 of the Regulation, the Frontex Executive Director decided to launch a Rapid Border Intervention on 11 July 2021. The Regulation foresees that "at the request of a Member State faced with a situation of specific and disproportionate challenges, especially the arrival at points of the external borders of large numbers of third-country nationals trying to enter the territory of that Member State without authorisation, the Agency may deploy a rapid border intervention for a limited period of time on the territory of that host Member State".*

The aim of RBI Lithuania was to enhance the security of the EU external border, whilst providing additional technical and operational assistance in tackling the challenges related to the unfolding tensions at the Lithuanian-Belarusian land border. The operation was implemented from 15 July 2021 until 30 November 2021. Moreover, the RBI Lithuania 2021 was initially planned to be implemented for two months but following the Decision of the Executive Director of Frontex, it was extended for an additional two months.

Following the conclusion in November 2021, the operation noted the participation and contributions of 19 MS/SAC (23 different national authorities) by deploying human resources and/or technical equipment. More specifically, in line with Article 39(4) and Article 57(8) of the Regulation, Frontex assured the provision of needed resources for the RBI through targeted calls from the Category 3 pool, rather than activating the reserve for rapid reaction (Category 4) in accordance with Article 58. In short, Category 4 was not deployed during RBI Lithuania 2021.

4.2. Human Resources

As highlighted above, the needed resources for the launch of RBI Lithuania, as well as the extension, have been assured through targeted calls, in line with the Article 57(8) provisions of the Regulation. Two calls for contributions were launched on 14 July and 28 September respectively.

Due to the positive response received from the MS/SAC, for the first time in Frontex history, a rapid border intervention only used the resources under Article 57(8) of the Regulation, without the need to call upon the reserve pool for rapid reaction (Category 4).

Most of the targeted MS/SAC provided or even extended their respective deployments, following the extension of the RBI. This solidarity and flexibility, based on the Agency's request, avoided complicated travel restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic and ultimately also increased operational efficiency. Most important, however, the level of response of the MS/SAC to the targeted calls made by the Agency exceeded the expectations as the identified needs were covered. Voluntary contributions from Germany, Poland, Netherlands, and Switzerland contributed to this milestone. Details on the requested profiles, alongside the information on deployments of said resources can be found in Chapter 7.2.2.

Additionally, Table 5 depicts the overall contributions, in terms of quantity of HR, during RBI Lithuania 2021. Notably, a total of 384 Standing Corps deployments, provided by the MS/SAC and Frontex, were registered in the frame of RBI Lithuania 2021 (15/07/2021 – 30/11/2021).

* *Article 37(2) of the Regulation (EU) 2019/1896.*

Table 7 Overview of Standing Corps Deployments during RBI Lithuania 2021

HR**	Category 1		Category 2		Category 3		Total	
MS/SAC	HR*	Man-Days	HR*	Man-Days	HR*	Man-Days	HR*	Man-Days
FRONTEX	11	938					11	938
Bulgaria			1	139	7	499	8	638
Croatia			1	33	36	1.173	37	1.206
Estonia					8	234	8	234
Finland					26	901	26	901
France			2	76	19	657	22	749
Germany			2	78	103	2.119	112	2.303
Greece					3	87	3	87
Hungary			2	108	6	604	8	712
Italy					8	438	8	438
Latvia			1	139	37	754	40	955
Malta					2	113	2	113
Netherlands			2	174	14	924	16	1.098
Poland			7	328	36	1.311	44	1.661
Romania			1	54	13	1.315	14	1.369
Slovakia					10	614	10	614
Slovenia					8	552	8	552
Spain			1	33	1	33	2	66
Sweden			1	139	1	139	2	278
Switzerland					3	86	3	86
Total	**11**	**938**	**21**	**1.301**	**341**	**12.553**	**384**	**14.998**

* HR Quantity (one Human Resource can be deployed multiple times and is therefore counted as multiple HR Deployments)

** Including Crew Members.

Furthermore, Frontex provided interpretation services for supporting debriefing and screening interviews. Thus, for RBI Lithuania 2021, 28 interpreters deployed for 478 Man-Days, whilst MS/SAC provided 10 National Officials (206 Man-Days).

Table 8 Other HR Deployments during RBI Lithuania 2021

Profile	HR	Man-Days
Interpreters	28	499
National Officials	10	206

4.3. Technical Equipment

Concerning the contributions of Technical Equipment during RBI Lithuania 2021, MS/SAC provided 6 Helicopter deployments, 4 Vehicle Equipped for Border Surveillance deployments, and 29 Patrol Car deployments. The Agency itself contributed with the deployments of 28 Patrol Cars, 31 Transportation Vehicles and 2 Mobile Offices. In terms of portable TE, Estonia deployed 50 *Smartdec* cameras to support the ongoing border surveillance. Overall, MS/SAC and Frontex deployed 100 Technical Equipment for a total of 7,614 Asset-Days.

Table 9 Overview of Technical Equipment Deployments during RBI Lithuania 2021

TE**	Helicopter		Vehicle Equipped for Border Surveillance		Patrol Car		Transportation Vehicle		Mobile Office		Total	
MS/SAC	TE*	Asset-Days	TE*	Asset-Days	TE*	Asset-Days	TE*	Asset-Days	TE*	Asset-Days	TE*	Asset-Days
FRONTEX					28	2.249	31	3.441	2	70	61	5.760
Estonia					2	112					2	112
Germany	2	104									2	104
Finland					5	169					5	169
France	1	16									1	16
Hungary			2	125							2	125
Latvia	2	119			1	57					3	103
Netherlands					6	375					6	375
Poland	1	22			5	197					6	219
Romania			2	125	6	363					8	488
Slovakia					1	57					1	57
Switzerland					3	86					3	86
Total	**6**	**261**	**4**	**250**	**57**	**3.665**	**31**	**3.441**	**2**	**70**	**100**	**7.687**

* TE Deployments (one Technical Equipment can be deployed multiple times and is therefore counted as multiple TE Deployments)

** excluding portable TE

Frontex Patrol Cars deployed in Piraeus, Greece

5. Development of the Agency's own Capabilities

5.1. The Speed of Change

From Real to Virtual

Before the pandemic, halfway through 2019, everyone was gaining momentum across the whole of the EBCG, preparing for the implementation of the new Regulation that was to enter into force in December of that year. In the Agency, all staff members were by default present in the premises attending physical meetings. But in just a few months' time things changed dramatically. As the pandemic swept across the world, making its way into Europe, many MS/SAC went into a state of lockdown and for the Agency it implied that most staff members started working from home. The vivid sounds of conversations in the corridors were substituted by silence. The visual experience of seeing emotions expressed through body language was no longer possible. Only the faces could be seen on the computer screens. The tasks and deadlines, however, remained. The Agency adapted to this new way of working, exploring the world of digital technology to convey the human presence in the virtual environment, to help working according to the plans and milestones given by the Regulation.

Increased Versatility and Responsiveness

More than two and a half years later, although still in a pandemic limbo, things have moved on and the EU have already experienced the first year of deployment of the Standing Corps. A feat in itself, the data presented in this report reflects the gradual roll out of the Category 1 and Category 2 of the Standing Corps as of 1 January 2021, complemented by the short-term deployments of Category 3. But there is more to it than just numbers of deployments made over the year. That is merely the starting point of the journey towards 2027. The accumulated experiences over time, gained from being deployed at the external borders, in the pre-frontier area and in Third Countries along with specialised training provided, will allow staff of the Standing Corps to master more and more skills needed for border management and return tasks, resulting in a versatile workforce, able to operate with an adequate degree of operational autonomy, supporting MS/SAC, responding timely to the changes in operational needs.

Open to All Walks of Life

The success of the Standing Corps relies on diversity in terms of cultural and social background, ethnicity, gender, age, and experience. It creates a heterogenic force that mirrors society and enables us to better respond to the wide spectrum of challenges faced in the activities of border management and return. The intention was from the very beginning to enable people from all backgrounds to be able to apply to become statutory staff members of the Agency's contribution to the Standing Corps, Category 1. For the first batches this was not possible due to the significant time constraints, leaving only six months available for training. The solution at the time, was to encourage people with previous background in uniformed services to apply. For the second round of recruits, which was carried out in the Autumn of 2021, the six-month Basic Training Programme has been extended into the originally envisaged one-year programme, implemented in 2022. In addition to the classroom type training, it now includes an experiential phase that will give the trainees exposure to the operational conditions at the land, air, and sea borders. This allows people with no previous experience in law enforcement to acquire the necessary skills to be able to perform basic tasks with confidence after graduation.

In 2021, the Agency also seized the opportunity to take stock of how well the profiles of the Standing Corps function. The previous revision, which was adopted in early January 2021 formed the basis of the formation of the Standing Corps. It consolidated what had been used for the European Border and Coast Guard Teams and the Return Pools. The aim of this first exercise was to acknowledge the complementarity of generalist type skills associated with border surveillance and border checks

and those of more specialist nature, need for tackling the wide spectrum of cross-border crime, gathering intelligence, ensuring situational awareness, implementing coast guard tasks (within the mandate of the EBCG) and covering the full scope of return activities. With satisfaction levels high among all stakeholders, the revision process focused on finetuning the existing definitions and identifying needs for future developments, especially regarding profiles where there are persistent shortages.

Steady on the Learning Curve

Back in autumn 2019, the Standing Corps uniform was just a blank piece of paper. It did not take long, though, until designs started emerging and requirements were being benchmarked. Knowing of the lead times for delivering a comprehensive uniform system, an interim solution was sought to ensure that Category 1 staff would be clothed during training. In the meantime, the full scope of the uniform concept was developed, with the help of external expertise, and adopted by the Agency's Management Board. Anyone that has worked in a uniformed service knows that both the garments and equipment - personal and protective – form a very complex system. It needs to convey its purpose of values and authority, and at the same time be functional, be affordable and be liked by those who wear the uniform. Translating the concept with this in mind into technical specifications requires a lot of work to ensure that we get it right. It was therefore a proud moment when the big framework contract was secured in late spring of 2021, with the first deliverables arriving some months later, during the autumn. This would enable Category 1 staff to be able to operate in most operational areas, but not all, yet.

This is one of the biggest challenges for the Agency –to be able to, in a very short period of time, acquire, manage and deploy capabilities that can operate in all types of European weather conditions and geographical particularities. Here, we, as an Agency, are still on the learning curve on how to optimize composition of our own fleet of equipment, systems, and services. But it takes two to tango and the market is on a similar learning curve, adapting to our European particularities, adapting to our lessons learned. Although MS/SAC are the benchmark, the requirement for us to be able to operate along all parts of the external borders makes the Agency different and this is where we need to foster a tailored technological and industrial base that can cater to our needs.

Sharing the Responsibility

The Agency's growing portfolio of own equipment, systems, and services allows the Agency to share the responsibility of covering operational needs together with MS/SAC. The Agency has successfully managed to deliver on what was set out in the strategy for acquisition that was adopted back in September 2017. The ambition was to be able to manage the peaks of the operational needs by 2023 and we are on a very good path to achieve this. In 2021 the Agency signed the third edition of a framework contract for aerial surveillance. As an inter-institutional procurement, like its predecessor, it also allows other EU agencies that have signed-up to also make use of this contract. The evolution of this concept allows the Agency to deploy on average between three to six surveillance aircrafts simultaneously across all operational areas. In addition, we have in place contractual capacity to provide remotely piloted airborne surveillance in the Mediterranean regions. Also, in 2021 we strengthened our land border patrols and surveillance capabilities as well as our capability to perform migration management support tasks. We continued to provide portable and handheld devices for detection of hidden objects and document inspection, while ensuring the availability of transport capacity to support MS/SAC in return operations.

2021 also saw the MS/SAC, Agency, and European Commission successfully working closely together, ensuring that equipment that has been acquired by MS/SAC, with co-financing from the Internal

Security Fund Specific Actions (ISF/SA), is registered in the Technical Equipment Pool and when requested by the Agency, deployed in operational activities. As required by the Regulation, the exact timing for the deployment will be agreed on during the Annual Bilateral Negotiations (ABN) process. The backbone of the Technical Equipment Pool will thus be comprised of the Agency's equipment and equipment of MS/SAC that has or will be co-financed by the ISF/SA and its follow-up, the specific actions of the Border Management and Visa Instrument (BMVI) of the Integrated Border Management Fund (IBMF) that has been established as part of the EU Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021 to 2027.

Finnish Dog Handlers deployed in Evros, Greece

Planning and Innovating

Looking forward, in line with the Regulation, the Agency began its long term strategy for acquiring and managing its own equipment. While still in draft form, with the expectation of being adopted by Management Board late 2022, it builds on what already was established in the strategy adopted in 2017, stating that the Agency by 2027 should be able to cover the baseline requirements and the peak requirements by 2023. The draft further states that by 2027, the Agency shall have its own fully operational Rapid Intervention Capability and be able respond to new and emerging challenges. 2023 is the key milestone following which the strategic decisions need to be taken as to what the Level of Ambition shall be in terms in terms the Agency's operational autonomy, the availability of its capabilities and the overall role of the Agency complementing MS/SAC. The transition to effects-based capability driven planning would steer the Agency in deciding on the balance between ownership, co-ownership, leasing, and service provision. To prepare for this the Agency will ensure that the Standing Corps will have Full Operational Capability by 2023.

This includes all necessary enabling capabilities at the operational level, including for the overall capabilities for the operational management as well as the management of capabilities by 2023 while continuing to cater to the gradually growing operational footprint as described in the beginning of the Strategy. Feasibility studies in support of concept development are key to the preparations. Looking at the immediate requirements, enabling the Standing Corps to be deployable has and is the priority. Notably, the first edition of the Agency's Technical Standards for maritime, aerial and land border surveillance equipment adopted by the Management Board in autumn of 2021. These standards are complemented by the establishment of a Technical Guide for Border Checks on Entry Exit System (EES) related equipment. The technical standards will constitute a building block of European level capabilities, in support and as a result of capability development planning. Strengthen-

ing interoperability and compatibility of equipment will increase the overall operational effectiveness, allowing them to operate seamlessly together at the external borders, in the pre-frontier area and in Third Countries. It will further facilitate the process of managing requirements in the equipment acquisition and through-life management, providing a transparent interface with the market. At the strategic level, the standardisation will foster strengthened Strategic Autonomy and sustainability of the European Border and Coast Guard. Standardisation thus is integral to European Integrated Border Management and as such should thus be viewed as a capability in itself.

The role of Pilot Projects, informing strategic decision-making on capability development by demonstrating the potential of technologies, systems, equipment and capabilities, was further cemented in 2021. The Agency carried out a Pilot Project in Greece, together with the Hellenic Coast Guard and other National Authorities, on tethered surveillance systems, a cost-effective partner t to other conventional airborne systems. They can easily be deployed and provide long endurance surveillance around the clock. With a modular design, the payload can be configured to the specificities of land and sea borders respectively.

The Agency also carried out a Pilot Project on the Entry Exit System (EES) hosted by Spain and Bulgaria. The EES will be used to register travellers from non-EU countries – both short-stay visa holders and visa exempt travellers, each time they cross an EU external border. It will register the traveller's name, travel document, biometric data (fingerprints and facial image) and the date and place of entry or exit, in full respect of fundamental rights and data protection. The Pilot Project simulated the future EES environment by collecting and cross-checking the required data in full compliance with fundamental rights and personal data protection measures. During the trial, four travellers could be processed at the same time under the supervision of one border guard, proving the efficiency of the system while maintaining direct control of law enforcement officers. As part of the trial, practical demonstrations of the systems took place at Bulgaria's border with Turkey and Spain's border with the United Kingdom in Gibraltar and included self-service kiosks, seamless corridors and mobile devices used for registration and verification of travellers.

Looking forward further benefits from how we can benefit from strategic opportunities in science and technology are being explored. Through the agreement between the European Commission and the Agency that was signed in 2020, the Agency now actively provides expertise in border security in support of EU-funded programmes. The Agency provides advice on the upstream programming and supports the downstream evaluation of proposals and results. This puts the Agency in a unique position to both influence the steer of research into new technologies with a view of the long term, while being able to get a good understanding of where research in border security is today.

Underpinning for the long-term viability of the EBCG is a process for how to systematically plan investments, balancing the short-, medium- and long term, addressing both strategic risks and game-changing opportunities. Following the adoption by the Management Board of the Methodology and Procedure for Establishing National Capability Development Plans* in January 2021, MS/SAC, European Commission, and the Agency have worked closely together in harmonizing the approach to the structure and level of detail in the content. The aim is to have both the first editions of the National Capability Development Plans ready in 2022, which together with the Agency's multiannual plans will form the basis for an Overview, the findings of which will be presented to the Management Board towards the end of 2022. This Overview will allow the Management Board to set strategic capability development priorities for the EBCG in the Capability Roadmap, which is expected to be finalised by end of 2023. With this in place the machinery for translating political steer for European Integrated Border Management into

* *Management Board Decision 02/2021 adopting the methodology and the procedure for establishing the national capability development plans. https://prd.frontex.europa.eu/document/management-board-decision-02-2021-adopting-the-methodology-and-the-procedure-for-establishing-the-national-capability-development-plans/.*

strategies, plans and actions as foreseen in the Regulation will be fully operational. That will be yet another gamechanger for the EBCG.

Reality Check

Although drafting strategies and plans are essential to a coherent allocation of investments, the act of continuous planning is the key to success. The international security environment around the external borders is dynamic. 2021 saw the launch of a Rapid Border Intervention in Lithuania. Towards the end of the year, in record time a new Joint Operation was set up by the Channel at the external border with the United Kingdom. These are two examples of how the operational footprint is evolving in response to the changes at the borders. This reality saw us in 2021 confronted with both conventional challenges associated with migration, organised crime, and terrorism, alongside novel hybrid and cyber threats, while the world was in the middle of a pandemic. And on top of all that, we are in 2022 faced with what seems to be the biggest threat to peace in our neighbourhood.

Resilience is essential to be able to adapt to the changing reality. It needs to be embedded in our planning processes, enabling us to respond to change by rethink our objectives, reset priorities, and redirect resources to where they are best used. It further includes the capability to reconfigure our operational response and redeploy quickly while seeking reinforcements on short notice. Also, it implies reducing unnecessary external dependencies in our supply chains, mitigating risks of single sourcing outside Europe, and maximizing availability of technologies, components, systems, and equipment while mitigating adverse effects as a result of supply chain export restrictions or ownership of intellectual property.

It is a considerable achievement that Opera Evolution is now fully operational, providing a comprehensive tool to manage the planning, allocation, deployment, and financial reconciliation of capabilities in operational activities. Significantly, the work on Sustainability, kicked-off by the Green Deal study that was implemented last year, is taking off, with the aim of setting a baseline for environmental and energy footprint of operations. It draws on innovation to reduce our energy consumption and increase energy efficiency, the autonomy and endurance of operations will increase, our non-European supply chain dependencies will be reduced, costs will be cut, and environmental impact of pollutants will be minimized. As a provider of capabilities for operational activities, we are a service provider and customer satisfaction is very important. Therefore, towards 2023 we will continue our efforts to establish a Quality Management System, that will enable us to deliver what the customer needs at the right time, right place and with the right quality at the speed of change.

Dinesh Rempling
Head of the Capability Programming Office

5.2. Feature Stories

5.2.1. EBCG 2.0 – How it All Began

All who have the slightest awareness of the 2019 Regulation would surely agree that it falls nothing short of a revolution in the way EBCG is mandated to manage the external borders. It connects policy and strategy with operational activities to implement European IBM by deploying the Standing Corps that has the necessary capabilities to address the challenges at the external borders today, and is supported by process to be prepared for meeting the challenges of tomorrow. Not long after the 2016 Regulation – the EBCG 1.0 – work on the follow-up began. Led by the acting Head of Unit for Border Management and Schengen at the Directorate-General for Home Affairs in the European Commission, and a team of three, comprising Patrick Chatard-Moulin and two colleagues, the ambition was set, both in terms of scope as well as timeline. Chatard-Moulin remembers this journey vividly.

"One year after joining DG HOME to work on the review of the European Border Surveillance system that my Head of Unit initiated 5 years before, I was caught into the EBCG2.0 adventure.

With my colleagues from DG HOME we were asked to draft and negotiate at technical level with the Council and the European Parliament this new piece of Regulation to help face the growing challenges at the external borders of the Union.

After a thrilling negotiation, we managed to push the limits of Integrated Border Management to a next level with the 10 000 Border and Coast Guards but also an integrated planning system including for capability development, a secure information exchange and situational awareness (EUROSUR 2.0) between all European Border and Coast Guard in the EU and Frontex. Border and Coast Guards in Europe are now close to the highest military standards.

We also ensured that Fundamental Rights would be preserved with the Fundamental Right Monitors. The Parliament was very cautious about it, so that Frontex would always abide to the highest standards of border guarding.

But drafting and negotiating a new Regulation, even in a record time which was our main challenge, is always easy compared to implementation. This was mainly the job left for the Frontex colleagues. almost mission impossible at the time.

I must say I am amazed with the results they have achieved so far and the level of professionalism and dedication that all Frontex colleagues have demonstrated: they clearly are about to make it in the end.

I wish you all good luck and thank you again for the fantastic years I spent with you.

Patrick"

5.2.2. Managing Operational Capabilities – An Opera in its Third Edition

Having joined the Agency in 2007 as a Logistics Officer, Giacomo Brangi had been working among other things on the Centralised Records of Technical Equipment, also known as CRATE. As given by the Regulation in force at the time it was described by the Agency's first Executive Director, the late Lieutenant General Ilkka Laitinen as "*like an e-shop, you can watch it on your screen and decide what you need, then order it and pay for it*", given that the Agency back then had none of its own equipment and was entirely relying on the contributions from MS/SAC.

Recalls Brangi: "*In the early days we used to store these records in an Excel sheet, and I realized early on that this was not sustainable. I therefore approached my boss in 2010 with a proposal to invest in a software system, which would be accessible both by the Agency and MS/SAC. We needed an Operational Resource Management System, abbreviated ORMS. My boss went silent for a moment and then looked at the paper that I had placed in front of him describing the concept, placed his finger on the first five letters of the heading and said, let's call it Opera*".

Opera gradually evolved into Opera 2.0 in 2014 and in 2015 Opera 3.0 was being prepared with a view of meeting the needs of the upcoming new Regulation, which subsequently entered into force in 2016. Nicu Corlatan took the reigns as Project Manager of what was to be dubbed Opera Evolution or OperaEvo for short. "*We started off before the Regulation entered into force performing business analysis with the support of an external contractor. Once this analysis had been concluded and we got the green light to launch the project from the Executive Management, we made sure all relevant internal and external stakeholders were involved, employing PRINCE2 methodology to manage the project.*" Little did the project team know in 2017, but a new Regulation was brewing, one that would imply yet another step change for the European Border and Coast Guard. A strategic decision was made to continue the project, knowing that the OperaEvo would have to be able to support operational planning by early 2020 and implementation of the operational activities as of 1 January 2021, both in the framework of the 2019 Regulation.

Now that OperaEvo fully is fully operational, our ICT-professional Lukasz Sokolowski, the former Opera Evo Contract Manager and current Head of Engineering and Acquisition, reflects on the product that today is at the core of the management of operational capabilities: "*It is a very complex system that is designed to manage the planning, allocation, deployment and financial reconciliation of thousands individual Standing Corps members hand in hand with ten times more items of equipment. Probably only in the automotive industry can you find something as complex as this*".

On when we can expect the next generation of Opera, the current Product Manager, Ionut Mihalcea, explains: "*The beauty of OperaEvo lies in its modular design. Existing modules can be upgraded and further developed as and when needed, while new capabilities can be added by connecting additional modules to the OperaEvo platform*".

5.2.3. Operationalising the Standing Corps

Recruited and Trained in a European Way

2021 was the second year of building the European Border and Coast Guard Standing Corps and a second year for the Agency to recruit its new staff. This year however, Frontex opened its doors to a wider audience, not necessarily with a prior law-enforcement experience.

Training designed for trainees new to law-enforcement needs to be more extensive and comprehensive, for graduates to become fully operational and capable to work shoulder to shoulder with their more experienced colleagues. The Extended Basic Training Programme (EBTP), planned for one year, was designed with that goal in mind. Iwona Frankowska, Project Manager for the development of the basic training programmes explains that "*as a new element EBTP now includes a preparatory module, focusing on values, , fundamental rights, discipline*

and physical training.. Additionally, a dedicated module has been designed specifically for return matters, providing necessary basic skills for performing as a member of the ground support team."

She explains further that "*the module dedicated to tactical and force measures, and firearms training is delivered in parallel with other modules throughout entire EBTP to enable continuous practice. The physical training is integrated in a similar way. There are specific sessions devoted to maintaining physical fitness incorporated into all modules of the EBTP."*

Marcin Czępiński from Polish Border Guard lent his expertise, starting back in 2019, to support the development of the physical aptitude test during recruitment and the whole physical training part of the basic training programme. "*Physical training improves the overall physical fitness, strengthens the heart capacity, improves flexibility of muscles and joints, and strengthens muscles and bones. All these benefits of taking up physical activity by trainees bring them closer to a much better and more efficient performance of operational tasks, which may for example include pursuit by foot and patrolling in difficult terrain."* Czępiński continues – *"during physical activity, the body produces many enzymes that affect its better functioning and support it in the fight against various diseases."*

On the overall concept of the Extended Basic Training Programme (EBTP), Seppo Turkia, a former Finish Border Guard and expert in training design says that "*the EBTP has a new, unique concept responding to the needs of the target group, however still the core professional competences are harmonised across the EU BCG basic training*".

"*The important part of the EBTP content development has been its harmonisation with the basic training for those border and coast guards undergoing national training by adhering to the Common Core Curriculum and active involvement of the MS/SAC experts in sharing best practices."* - explains Turkia and underlines the importance of engaging Frontex business units in providing valuable input from the perspective of Frontex-led operations.

Like in the case of other activities conducted by the Agency in 2021, the challenge when developing the training programme was to prepare for the unexpected brought by the Covid-19 pandemic. Necessary contingency plans were put in place to ensure the availability of trainers, adaptability of materials for the use on-line.

Versatility – The Key to Success of the Standing Corps

By March every year the Management Board of the Agency adopts a decision defining the profiles of the Standing Corps. "*In essence, the profiles are job descriptions outlining the tasks to be performed and the skills needed to perform them*", says long-timer Eric Murer, who was one the main architects of the current profiles. He continues – "*the Border Guard Officer profile covers the tasks that are needed to implement border checks and to perform surveillance along the borders. The graduates of the Basic Training all have the skills to cover the tasks under this profile.*" On top this general profile we have profiles for handling dogs, coast guard functions and for tasks related to countering different types of cross-border crime and document fraud. Other profiles cover information and intelligence gathering, and supporting return operations, both specialists and escorts. Last, but not least, there are enabling profiles for both tactical support on operational coordination, logistics, safety and health, as well as crews to operate different types of equipment.

Remembers Aleksandrs Volkovs, a former coast guard officer and regional commander, who together with experienced policeman Murer was responsible for annually mobilising both personnel and equipment from MS/SAC under the previous Regulations for almost eight years, using large spreadsheets to manually keep track of commitments made during negotiations with MS/SAC: "*Profiles are not new as such and have existed in different forms since the early days of the Agency. Back then we were entirely dependent on MS/SAC and we would mobilise staff to perform specific tasks. The profiles were therefore less coherent as a whole and in some cases very narrow.*" With establishment of

the Standing Corps the change was inevitable and instead a comprehensive approach was adopted mimicking the corresponding job descriptions of border and coast guards in MS/SAC.

"The comprehensive approach has certainly helped in the selection of long-term secondments from MS/SAC. This has fostered interoperability with MS/SAC," explains Jorma Palli who has since 2019 been working closely with a team of professionals including fellow Capability Officers Agata Olbrycht and Alexandros Lefteratos on managing this entirely new process.

Capability Manager Stylianos Kourkoulis, who had coordinating roles in all long range Frontex Maritime Operations, emphasises the potential of the Standing Corps and in particular the Agency's staff and the long-term secondments from MS/SAC. "*We need Category 1 and 2 to be able to perform multiple tasks under several profiles to demonstrate the true effectiveness of the Standing Corps. Category 1 and 2 are the backbone and will throughout their time with the Agency get additional training so that they can cover more and more tasks, becoming more and more versatile as individuals being members of teams.*"

With time it is likely that the current definition of profiles will evolve. The current profile definitions will most likely be consolidated further while new tasks and profiles will emerge as the situation evolves at the external borders. The profiles are a living thing, designed to adapt to an even more versatile Standing Corps.

Standing Corps Category 1 Officer in Training to identify falsified documents

5.2.4. Uniforms – From Design to Deployment

From Research to Design

How often does one get to design a uniform from scratch? It is one of those one-in-a-lifetime that landed on the doorstep with the 2019 Regulation. With the overarching priority of visibly stepping up into the realm of European law enforcement services with attributing authority to those who wear it without appearing intimidating, the uniform also had to symbolically convey the European community and our common values. Therefore, the Agency conducted consultations with academia and border guard services of EU partner authorities, followed by extensive research on uniform concepts existing all over Europe. The Agency also conducted a survey on personal experiences gained by those who wear uniforms every day. Law enforcement representatives were asked about most liked and/or disliked uniform items in regard to fitting, quality, functionality, uniqueness, and comfort.

All that led to the creation of the design – intentionally far from appearing military or paramilitary, acknowledging personal individuality, equality, diversity, and non-discrimination as the fundamental ingredients of the European idea and the core intrinsic European values. Martin Holzer, Senior Capability Officer seconded by Germany, says that *"dark blue was chosen as the basic uniform colour conveying the message of credibility and trustworthiness enriched with an azure-blue chest-band as an identifier for the EU flag and colour, symbolically conveying the European dimension and its underlying values."*

An experienced designer and product developer from the textile industry, Andrea Rechtsteiner**,** was involved in helping the Agency with creating and drafting the technical specifications for the uniform items. For Rechtsteiner the process of creation was different from what she is used to. There was no existing uniform to use as the starting point. However, there were very specific requirements for the function and properties of the product She was thus free to make the first drafts without specific details in design and material within this framework, drawing on the benchmarks of what national services are using.

What appealed to her about this project was, that it was an entire collection, from socks to hats. From underwear to outerwear. Sports outfits, as well as rainwear and the formal uniform. There were almost 40 items in total, including a backpack and shoes.

"My drawings have a certain style. They don't look like fashion drawings; they look like comics. – I think that caused amusement" says Andrea and adds: *"We have considered the good, but also the critical aspects of the uniforms of the national border guards and police without obviously copying them. When creating the design, I always had in mind the short supply and fitting time after the tender and contracting the suppliers, so as many clothing parts as possible should be made from the main fabric and I deliberately asked for unisex fits in order to halve the number of articles."*

The idea was to develop a sporty, modern yet elegant unisex uniform with a good fit for both men and women. The clothing should have a long service lifecycle in accordance with the upcoming EU circular economy guidelines.

Andrea says that the first statement of the EBCG uniform is obvious: A high recognition value. She provides an explanation: *"The EBCG uniform ensures an impressive appearance. Everyone can immediately recognize who belongs to the Standing Corps. The uniform looks professional and serious and reveals each individual officer as a competent official. Each officer is a flagship for the Corps and represents the common European values at first glance. The motivating effect is at least as important as the external impact. The team, which is newly formed and has never worked together before, benefits from the visual unity and quickly develops an own identity. A motley group becomes a real team that recognizes each other and shares the same values."*

From Design to Deployment

The biggest challenge was to have all officers equipped with all needed items in time for their deployment. Frontex uniform is not an off-the-shelf product and needs to be produced from scratch, which is already a quite time-consuming activity. Moreover, all the items that make up the uniform must be delivered to the locations where officers are trained and distributed to the officers to be fully equipped, at least for the start of their formal duties. After an introduction of the interim temporary solution in 2020, a tender procedure for a framework contract to supply the actual service uniforms in for the long-term was launched. Running the show during the acquisition phase, Ruta Moreau and Mihail Gan explain that the contract guarantees a supply of more than 50 different uniform items for four years (2021-2025). Each item comes in a multitude of various sizes, so all Standing Corps officers, regardless of their height and built, can find the garments to fit him or her the best. Furthermore, the supply contracts have to be flexible enough to respond to Frontex needs each time the situation changes: new batches of officers are recruited, different compositions of the uniform sets are required depending on the different tasks and profiles. This flexibility was achieved by selecting the most appropriate contract type to support the needs. A framework contract was finally signed in May 2021 for the provision of service uniform garments and, in August 2021, for the service uniform shoes and accessories.

In 2021 the Agency started preparing for the first comprehensive evaluation of the uniform project, which will be launched six months after delivering the full-functional uniforms contracted that year. This evaluation will be mainly based on User Experiences Questionnaires (UEQ) and is part of the quality management cycle. Nevertheless, individual positive feedback was already delivered by some officers. In addition, the uniform has been recognised by one of the EU partner authorities that requested a complete set of uniform to learn from the Agency's experience and to further orientate alongside Frontex' applied standards in terms of quality, functionality, and design.

5.2.5. Weapons – Making Responsible Choices

The implementation of the Regulation foresees creating a Standing Corps who are professionally qualified to fulfil border guard or return-related tasks, and who are equipped with the necessary tools to perform their duties, including firearms.

Giedrius Baksa, certified weapons expert seconded to the Agency from Lithuania, who was involved in the project from the beginning, explains that before procurement was launched, the Agency wanted to map practices related to firearms, ammunitions and their storage and transportation already existing in EU MS/SAC, and collect know-how. Frontex consulted specifications with the experts nominated by the MS/SAC. As this is a long-term investment, it was important to consider potential legal limitations across EU and provisions of the future EU regulation related to European Chemical Agency initiative to prohibit lead ammunition. The last one, according to Giedrius Baksa turned out to be a difficult task given that the lead-free ammunition market is still quite new.

Even once the procurement was launched, the Covid-19 pandemic heavily affected the process. Global disruptions of supply chains caused delays in delivery, forcing the Agency to look for other solutions to provide the Standing Corps officers with the firearms needed during their deployments.

As a possible solution to temporarily overcome this challenge, Frontex turned to Member States that host operations, for their potential support in providing firearms and ammunition for the Standing Corps category 1 officers to be deployed on their territory. While in some Member States no legal provisions enabling such solutions exist, Finland, Lithuania and Greece responded positively to the need.

Thanks to the agreements signed with Lithuania and Finland, starting from December 2021 the first Standing Corps category 1 officers where successfully deployed with firearms provided by the hosting authorities. Meanwhile, while waiting the delivery of procured equipment, Frontex continues to seek support from hosting Member States able to adopt the same temporary solution.

In 2021 Frontex signed Framework Contracts for provision of weapons and ammunition with the delivery expected by the end of the second quarter of 2022 at the latest. of 2022.

5.2.6. Building a European Equipment Capability

It seems quite distant now, back when the Agency's equipment contribution to the operational activities consisted of mobile offices, laptops, phones, armbands and vests. Although there has been a gradual expansion over the years, things really took off when the Agency began providing aerial surveillance services in 2015 followed by the adoption the strategy for acquisition in 2017 in parallel of which the Agency ventured into leasing Patrol Cars, chartering flights for return operations and providing interpretation and cultural mediation services. Snowballing, however, came with the 2019 Regulation came into force and the need to ensure that the Standing Corps would be adequately equipped to be deployable by 2021, while continuing to provide the existing portfolio of equipment and services.

"*Expectations are higher than ever, with the Standing Corps and the large budget for equipment*" explains Lukasz Skolowski, who has been heading the Engineering and Acquisition Unit since 2021. He continues - "*we are expected to expand our portfolio to shoulder a greater responsibility contributing to the equipment pool and at the same time we are expected to build up the necessary orgranisation, processes, tools and know-how to be able to manage a fleet of equipment and services over time. Although it is not rocket science, it takes time and resources. In national services this has been done over several decades and here we are trying to do it within one.*" But somehow it works. The Standing Corps is deployed with the necessary personal and protective equipment. And the Agency continues to expand its contribution

Offshore Patrol Vessel deployed in Multipurpose Maritime Operation Black Sea 2021

in support of surveillance, border checks, countering cross-border crime and return operations. "*Although we find ourselves stretched for resources, we somehow pull it off*" pointing to the dedication of the staff that are juggling new equipment acquisition projects, managing contracts, and making sure that the logistics is in place to ensure that the equipment deployed is operational.

2021 marked the start of aerial surveillance using Medium Altitude Long Endurance Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) and re-starting the long-range and mid-range Fixed Wing Aircrafts (FSA) flights under new contracts. The RPAS is the first-ever service at Frontex, which uses a large-scale drone. The FSA contracts are of the most significant scale ever and bring additional security measures. Moreover, Frontex had tripled aerial surveillance capacity in 2021 with the ability to operate in more than 6 different geographical locations with enhanced information security. Thanks to the delivery of 150 leased cars to Standing Corps, the Frontex fleet grew from 36 to 186 leased vehicles during the summer break of 2021. All of these cars were immediately deployed to the field quadrupling the mobility and patrolling abilities of the Standing Corps officers and reducing the need for Host Countries to provide them with transport.

"*Not only did these new contracts and services increase Frontex's own technical capabilities in terms of features and capacity*" – says Sokolowski - "*they are bringing new lessons for how EBCG employs the capabilities and what new requirements are emerging.*"

5.2.7. Eyes in the Sky

On average Frontex has between six and eight surveillance aircraft up in the air simultaneously throughout the year. This is quite remarkable given that the Frontex does not have any aircraft, any crews or any airbases of its own. "*Our latest Framework Contract entered into force on 27 July 2021 and has the capacity to accommodate approximately 17 000 flying hours to a value of 84,5 MEUR*", says Project Manager Jozsef Zeher, who manages the surveillance contracts. He continues – "*within the Framework Contract we have manned fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft for different types of surveillance missions performed over land, coastline and sea. For each deployment we sign a Specific Contract. Within each Specific Contract there is a degree of flexibility to allow for redeployments to other operational areas. Typically, we sign these Specific Contracts for longer periods, often a year, to secure uninterrupted availability*".

Rewind seven years and the market for surveillance services did not exist. "*We started from scratch*", remembers Senior Training Officer Gregorio Ameyugo who was in lead of the piloting phase back in 2015 while working in the area of Research and Innovation. "*We were trying to solve the problem of lack of surveillance capabilities in the operations that Frontex was coordinating. With Member States unable to provide for the growing needs, we had to look how the Agency could fill these gaps without having the ability to own our own aircraft, let alone have the budget and necessary skills to acquire, manage and operate them*". Thinking out of the box, the team pushed the boundaries and tested the waters for an all-inclusive service concept. A new market was born. Actors on the business executive aviation segment saw the opportunity and made the transition, adapting the payload on their respective aircraft to meet the requirements for border surveillance.

The establishment of the first framework contract took Frontex into a new era. "*In retrospect I believe that Frontex' own surveillance capability has propelled our efforts to expand the Agency's contributions to the Technical Equipment Pool*", reflects Ivan Inchovsky, Head of Projects and Acquisition Sector, who has been at the heart of developing the Agency's portfolio since 2008 in various roles. Together with Project Support Officer Ruta Moreau, they achieved yet another milestone by turning the second Framework Contract into an inter-institutional procurement, the first ever for Frontex.

"*We have ever since had the European Fisheries Control Agency on board allowing both Agencies to benefit from this contractual capacity*", says Zeher, who explains further that Frontex' surveillance capa-

bilities continue to evolve. The Agency has in recent years gone on to establish a similar type of contract, albeit smaller scale, for Medium Altitude Long Endurance RPAS, which also started life as pilot project some years ago and has proved to be a valuable complement to conventional manned aircraft. In parallel the Agency has for some years been piloting the use tethered balloons, also known as aerostats, equipped with surveillance systems.

5.2.8. Found in Translation Interpretation

Anna Zaręba spent a good part of 2017 and 2018developing the concept for establishing the Agency's capability to provide qualified Interpreters and Cultural Mediators to support the operational activities. As Project Manager she had been assigned the task to define the requirements for a procurement of services that would allow the Agency to cover what up until then had in majority been provided by Member States. Knowing that Member States would no-longer be able to provide these competences and the Agency not having them in-house, it was decided to proactively seek to contract replacements from the market.

However, what seemed a straight-forward exercise, gradually turned into something far more complex than could have been imagined, where the business model would need to be able to cater to a number of different variables. Anna Zaręba explains: *"interpretation and cultural mediation services are needed to support interviews of new arrivals for the purpose of screening and debriefing, registration activities as well as for the purpose of pre-return and return activities. Therefore, the services need to come with the ability to deploy in all operational areas at the external borders and in Third Countries. At the same time the services to shall be able to provide coverage of several non-European languages, including dialects – mainly requested in pairs, for example Dari and Farsi, Pashtu and Urdu or Arabic and Kurdish, etc. – with adequate numbers of resources per language profile. While preparing the procurement some years ago, this kind of service, especially in terms of 24/7 availability and high flexibility to meet the changing operational demand, was not readily available on the market."*

A two-years Framework Contract for a value of up to 25 MEUR was secured and has since early 2020 supplied operations with these niche skills, navigating through the pandemic by also delivering remote services. *"Overall, we provide on average of 70 Interpreters and Cultural Mediators per month. Furthermore, the provisions in the contract enable us to also tackle interviews where sensitive information may emerge. We can therefore manage them specifically with those with valid security clearance"*, says Service Manager Anna Cuccia.

The quality of the services is monitored systematically. Capability Officer Katarzyna Koryzma has been lending a hand in managing the invoices together Olga Horvath, Project Support Officer. Koryzma explains that assessment of performance is done after each interview and in case of underperformance, this affects the payments.

Having reached the end of the first Framework Contract, a follow-up is planned to become operational in Q3 2022 with a value double to its predecessor. Steady on the learning-curve, the new Framework Contract will come with reduced administrative burden and more flexibility in terms of how the Interpreters and Cultural Mediators can be deployed and redeployed while being able to deliver an even wider scope of language coverage and operational needs.

5.2.9. Piloting the Way to the Future

Research and Innovation activities help shape the European Border Coast Guard of the future and Pilot Projects play a key role in demonstrating the effectiveness of new equipment, systems and technologies.

The Agency has been pioneering different kinds of surveillance equipment for many years. This includes using large balloons tethered to the ground and equipped with surveillance systems, also known as aerostats. Zdravko Kolev, seasoned

engineer and acting Head of the Technology and Innovation Sector, explains that the latest milestone in this area was the demonstration of two aerostat systems for surveillance of the sea in 2021, which confirmed their high performance, reliability and cost-efficiency as yet another tool in the surveillance toolbox providing a secure real time maritime situational picture to operational users.

Kolev continues explaining that the purpose of the Entry Exit Land Border Pilot Projects (EES) – in Spain and Bulgaria – were, in essence a comprehensive, operational simulations of the EES processes applying novel technological solutions to facilitate a seamless border crossing. They involved the voluntary collection of passengers' personal data to test the technology solutions for both travellers entering the EU and at a later stage in the project, those exiting. This provided an unprecedented opportunity to test the validity of concepts related to the planning of flows, processes, and technologies to facilitate EES operations. During the pilot operation, more than 15,000 travellers used the tested system. The lessons learned allowed Frontex to develop a proof of concept, which may facilitate EES implementation.

5.2.10. Going Green for More Effective Operations at a Lower Cost

"*There is no alternative to sustainable development*" say the persons behind the Green Deal research study conducted by the Agency in 2021, which will be published in 2022.

In addition to real regulatory obligations to offset impacts on the environment, the pressure the Agency will face is to abide to general standards such as the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, and to the sector-specific ones. In the future, the European Commission and the Member States will focus more on increased regulatory oversight and Frontex must ensure its compliance.

Frontex Multipurpose Maritime Operation exercise in the Black Sea 2021

Despite valid concerns that integrating sustainability might negatively impact operational performance, the Green Deal research study suggests that rather than taking a minimum compliance approach, the challenge is to transform the regulatory framework into an opportunity to innovate. A closer look at the case studies from the border management and law enforcement community, presented in the study, reveals that voluntary self-regulation, agreements between stakeholders and overall support to engage in innovative trajectories bring best results.

Senior Capability Officer Urszula Kubka-Grenda, one part of the duo that driving this initiative, explains that the concept for Sustainability and Resilience (SURE) developed by the Agency during 2021 is established in the same spirit. It advocates that drawing on the principles of sustainability, European Border and Coast Guard capabilities can be developed in such a way that they increase the overall effectiveness of operations while contributing to the EU's priorities on sustainable development. Reducing energy consumption and increasing energy efficiency cuts costs and increases operational endurance, mobility, and autonomy. It further increases strategic autonomy by reducing the EU external dependencies on e.g. fossil fuels, increasing the overall resilience to adapt to changes to the dynamic situation at the external borders.

Adopting sustainability principles throughout the whole EBCG and reporting on the progress requires a technical analysis of an organisation's carbon footprint as well establishing a baseline of environmental impact, in particular carbon dioxide emissions. Consequently, in December 2021 the Agency launched a project of mapping and assessing current environmental impact of delivering capabilities for implementation of operational activities. The external expert contracted for the task will help the Agency set targets, develop a capacity to design and implement measures aiming at decreasing environmental footprint of Frontex and to support similar initiatives for the whole EBCG community. The report will provide recommendations and specific activities aiming to improve sustainability aspect of the EBCG capabilities and addressing identified priorities and targets set will be planned for end of 2022 and beyond.

Sustainability is a huge undertaking that requires all hands-on deck, engaging stakeholders both internally and externally For the latter, Frontex is engaging with MS/SAC on issues related to energy efficiency, environment and overall sustainability through the SURE Network, which was established under the Capability Development Network in 2021. In addition to raising awareness of the European Border and Coast Guard community, the group is focused on collecting and sharing existing best practices as well as developing new and supporting initiatives relevant to capability development.

Malgorzata Slawinska, the other Capability Officer in driving duo, says that in the short-term, at the operational and tactical levels the Agency is focused on implementing activities which can quickly bring positive impact, while raising awareness of the staff. Such was the idea behind the pilot eco-driving training for the 25 Standing Corps Category 1 officers deployed in Latvia and Lithuania. The idea was to train the officers with the use of Frontex cars to bring the training close to their working conditions.

Among the expected long-term benefits of improved driving skills of the Standing Corps officers, the eco-driving technique shall bring reduced fuel costs, lower maintenance costs and costs for repairing cars, which translates into improved environmental performance of the Agency's operations. First and foremost, the training also aims at increasing the safety of the drivers.

If the pilot proves to be successful, more training activities will be carried out in 2022 and, hopefully, beyond.

Conclusions

The Operational Year 2021 marks the first year of fully implementing the Regulation. Due to the overlap between deployments of the 2021 and 2022 operational cycles during January 2021, this report solely focussed on the planned and implemented operational resources of the Regulation. Capabilities deployed up until 26.01.2021 were planned and implemented the Operational Year 2020 and due to the changes introduced by the ECBG Regulation 2019/1896 could not be covered in this report.

However, 2021 symbolises the milestones that the Agency and MS/SAC have achieved, in terms of developing, planning, and deploying human and technical capabilities. The extraordinary circumstances brought by the outbreak of COVID-19 and newly risen operational needs impacted the operational activities throughout. Nonetheless, 2021 can be marked as a year of success.

The European Border and Coast Guard community witnessed the implementation of the Standing Corps, in terms of statutory staff (Category 1), long-term secondments (Category 2), short-term deployments (Category 3). Whilst the ABN process of 2021 was concerned with the allocation of the short-term deployments and technical equipment, it can only be highlighted and praised for the full commitments, joint flexibility and professionalism of the MS/SAC and Agency as a whole. Due to the lessons learnt from the growing understanding of the Regulation, in the future, flexibility is required from all ECBG stakeholders as the varying needs from operational activities continue to affect the overall process. Only a few improvements for the future can be stressed on. Namely, in terms of technical equipment, a registration of Internal Security Fund—Specific Actions (ISF-SA) purchased equipment remains low, ultimately affecting the availability of TE that can be deployed during operational activities.

Despite the challenging circumstances, participation by MS/SAC in Frontex operational activities in 2021 was substantial:

- **Standing Corps:**
  - **Category 1:** 928 Category 1 deployments, covering 119,949 Man-Days (563 Full Time Equivalent (FTE))*
  - **Category 2:** 1,019 Category 2 deployments, covering 119,934 Man-Days (564 FTE)
  - **Category 3:** 5,660 Category 3 deployments, covering 219,779 Man-Days (1,033 FTE)
  - **Category 4:** Even though RBI Lithuania 2021 took place, no Category 4 staff was activated and deployed.
- **Forced-Return Monitors and Fundamental Rights Monitors**:
  - Forced-Return Monitors: 76 Nominations, covering 151 Deployments
  - Fundamental Rights Monitors: 3 Nominations, covering 12 Deployments
- **Additional Experts:**
  - Various additional experts have been deployed by MS/SAC and the Agency, totalling to 747 deployments, covering 31,601 Man-Days (149 FTE)
- **Technical Equipment**:
  - 1,359 TE resource deployments were registered by MS/SAC and Frontex, covering 163,945 Asset-Days
  - 48 out of 1,580 deployments were by ISF/SA Technical Equipment, covering 2,222 Asset-Days
- **Host Member State Resources**:
  - Host Member States registered 2,573 Human Resource deployments, covering 168,661 Man-Days (792 FTE)
  - Host Member States deployed Technical Equipment on 271 occasions, covering 15,634 Asset-Days

* *A full-time equivalent* is a unit to measure employed human resources in a way that makes them comparable although they may work a different number of hours per week. The unit is obtained by comparing an employee's average number of hours worked to the average number of hours of a full-time worker. A full-time person is therefore counted as one FTE, while a part-time worker gets a score in proportion to the hours he or she works. For example, a part-time worker employed for 20 hours a week where full-time work consists of 40 hours, is counted as 0.5 FTE. In the context of Frontex deployments, 1 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) = 213 deployment days (taking into account weekends, public holidays and an average of 29 days of annual leave).

In addition, MS/SAC and Frontex expressed their solidarity with Lithuania, as they jointly contributed to the requested Rapid Border Intervention in July 2021. A total of 384 Standing Corps deployments, covering 14,998 Man-Days, and 100 Technical Equipment deployments have been recorded, covering 7,614 Man-Days. Frontex assured the provision of needed resources for the RBI through targeted calls from the Category 3 pool, rather than activating the reserve for rapid reaction (Category 4) in accordance with Article 58 of the Regulation. Furthermore, due to voluntary contributions in terms of HR and TE for RBI Lithuania, the aimed number of resources was successfully reached and even exceeded.

In parallel, throughout 2021 the Agency continued to work towards implementing the training of Category 1, the verification and selection process of Category 2, and the nominations and allocation of Category 3. The state of play, at the end of 2021 looked as follows:

- Category 1: 495 Category 1 Standing Corps Officers were registered and nominated in Opera Evo, who were also available for participation in Frontex Operational Activities. Moreover, an additional 140 Standing Corps Category 1 Officers will be available for deployment in 2022. Another 30 are currently following the basic training in Avila (Batch 5).
- Category 2: The nomination and verification process for 2021-2022 remains an ongoing process, whilst the parallel process for 2022-2023 was launched, adding an additional 100 Category 2 Officers to the pool. However, both quotas remain unattained.
  - 2021/2022: 374 out of 400 (94% Coverage)
  - 2022/2023: 92 out of 100 (92% Coverage)
- Category 3: MS/SAC also had the possibility to nominate Category 3 primary nominees and backups. The purpose is to ensure the availability for deployment throughout the operational year considering both foreseen and unforeseen absences. The overall coverage is calculated taking into consideration the total of primary nominations. The coverage of profiles, in line with the Quota set at the respective MB Decision, does not imply that the MS/SAC resources are allocated and requested for Operational Activities. Thus, the coverage is solely calculated based on the Nominations registered in Opera Evo and the Management Board Decision without any implications on the operational needs.
  - Management Board Decision 9/2020 indicates that a total of 3500 Category 3 SC Officers should be available for the Operational Year 2021. At the end of December, the coverage of the nominations was at approximately 96 % for 2021.

All in all, 2021 witnessed several challenges that have required flexibility from MS/SAC and the Agency. However, the achievements showcase the efforts that all stakeholders make to ensure the successful implementation of operational activities across Europe.

Border Surveillance activities in the Rapid Border Intervention in Lithuania 2021

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Annex 1

Table 1 **Category 1** – Nominations and MB 9/2020 established quota - State of Play as of 31.12.2021

Profile		Nominated/ MB Decision*
Advanced Level Document Officer	Nominated	27
	MB Decision*	53
Border Guard Officer	Nominated	261
	MB Decision*	266
Coast Guard Function Officer	Nominated	5
	MB Decision*	9
Cross-Border Crime Detection Officer	Nominated	18
	MB Decision*	18
Debriefing Officer	Nominated	33
	MB Decision*	24
Forced Return Escort and Support Officer	Nominated	30
	MB Decision*	169
Frontex Tactical Support Officer	Nominated	26
	MB Decision*	27
Information Officer	Nominated	48
	MB Decision*	52
Motor Vehicle Crime Detection Officer	Nominated	42
	MB Decision*	46
Return Specialist	Nominated	5
	MB Decision*	36
TOTAL	**Nominated**	**495**
	MB Decision*	**700**

* MB 9/2020

Table 2 **Category 1** – Breakdown per Nationality – State of Play as of 31.12.2021

Nationality	TOTAL
Belgian	6
Bulgarian	23
Croatian	9
Cypriot	2
Czech	4
Dutch	2
Estonian	5
Finnish	5
French	7
German	3
Greek	105
Hungarian	9
Irish	2
Italian	20
Latvian	10
Lithuanian	15
Maltese	1
Polish	42
Portuguese	48
Romanian	118
Slovak	4
Slovenian	3
Spanish	51
Swedish	1
TOTAL	**495**

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Table 3 **Category 2** – General Overview (Selections/MB Decision*) – State of Play as of 31.12.2021

	Advanced Level Document Officer		Border Guard Officer		Coast Guard Function Officer		Cross-Border Crime Detection Officer		Debriefing Officer		Forced Return Escort and Support Officer		Frontex Tactical Support Officer		Information Officer		Motor Vehicle Crime Detection Officer		Return Specialist		TOTAL		MS/SAC Coverage %
MS/SAC	Selected	MB Decision*	Selected	MB Decision*	Selected	MB Decision*	Selected	MB Decision*	Selected	MB Decision*	Selected	MB Decision*	Selected	MB Decision*	Selected	MB Decision*	Selected	MB Decision*	Selected	MB Decision*	Selected	Quota	
Austria	3	3	2	2							1	1					2	2	1	1	9	9	100%
Belgium	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	2	1	1			1	1			1	1	7	8	88%
Bulgaria			6	6					2	2					2	2	1	1			11	11	100%
Croatia	2	2	6	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2			1	1	2	2	1	1	17	17	100%
Cyprus			2	2																	2	2	100%
Czech Republic	2	2							1	1			1	1	1	1					5	5	100%
Denmark			5	5					1	1	1	1							1	1	8	8	100%
Estonia			4	4															1	1	5	5	100%
Finland		1	4	4	1	1			1	1			1	1							7	8	88%
France	4	4	25	27	2	2	4	4	9	9											44	46	96%
Germany	8	9	37	37			2	2	6	6			5	5			1	2			59	61	97%
Greece	2	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	13	13	100%
Hungary	2	2	7	7			2	2	2	2	2	2			1	1	1	1			17	17	100%
Iceland						1																1	0%
Italy	5	8	5	5	2	2	3	4	3	3	3	3			5	5	2	2	1	1	29	33	88%
Latvia	1	1	3	3			1	1	1	1	2	2									8	8	100%
Lithuania	3	3	4	4					1	1	1	1			1	1					10	10	100%
Luxembourg			2	2																	2	2	100%
Malta	1	1	1	1																	2	2	100%
Netherlands	3	3	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2			3	3	13	13	100%
Norway			2	2							1	1			1	1			1	1	5	5	100%
Poland	4	4	11	11					2	3	4	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	26	27	96%
Portugal	1	1	3	3					1	1							2	2	1	1	8	8	100%
Romania	2	3	9	9			1	1	2	3					2	2	2	2			18	20	90%
Slovakia	1	1	4	4							3	3							1	1	9	9	100%
Slovenia			3	3					1	1	1	1					3	3	1	1	9	9	100%
Spain	4	5	6	8				1	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	4		2	20	30	67%
Sweden			4	4		1	1	1	1	1	1	1							1	1	8	9	89%
Switzerland	1	2	2	2																	3	4	75%
TOTAL	**50**	**58**	**162**	**166**	**7**	**9**	**18**	**20**	**40**	**44**	**27**	**28**	**13**	**13**	**21**	**21**	**20**	**23**	**16**	**18**	**374**	**400**	**94%**

* MB Decision 9/2020

Annex 3

Table 4 **Category 3** – General Overview (Nominations/MB Decision*) - State of Play as of 31.12.2021

MS/SAC	Advanced Level Document Officer		Border Guard Officer		Coast Guard Function Officer		Crew Member		Cross-Border Crime Detection Officer		Debriefing Officer		Dog Handler		Forced Return Escort and Support Officer		Frontex Tactical Support Officer		Information Officer		Motor Vehicle Crime Detection Officer		Return Specialist		TOTAL				MS/SAC Coverage** %
	Nominated	MB Decision*	Nominated	MB Decision*	Nominated	MB Decision*	Nominated	MB Decision*	Nominated	MB Decision*	Nominated	MB Decision*	Nominated	MB Decision*	Nominated	MB Decision*	Nominated	MB Decision*	Nominated	MB Decision*	Nominated	MB Decision*	Nominated	MB Decision*	Nominated	MB Decision*	Primary	Backup	
Austria	47	12	172	51							4	3			16	4	22	5		1	12	6			273	82	81	192	99%
Belgium	19	7	43	24					3	3	60	20			6	8	3	2	16	5	6	2	2	1	158	72	70	88	97%
Bulgaria	2	2	75	65	1	1	36		1	1	7	6			10	10	2	3	4	6	1	2			139	96	92	47	96%
Croatia	18	15	180	85	1	1	59		4	2	15	14			17	17	10	5	9	7	11	9	1	1	325	156	156	169	100%
Cyprus	1	1	11	11							2	2			2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1			19	19	19		100%
Czech Republic	18	4	268	30							46	5	7	2	11	2	8	2	4	2	4	1			366	48	48	318	100%
Denmark	4	2	58	50			210		1	1	13	6	5	2	1	4	4	4					1	1	297	70	67	230	96%
Estonia	10	1	104	24			38		1	1	17	3	11	4	4	4	8	1	11	2	2	2	2	1	208	43	43	165	100%
Finland	7	7	93	42	2	1	29		1	1	17	8	8	2	9	1	8	2	4	4	1	4			179	72	69	110	96%
France	38	38	497	268		1	150		10	10	69	67			2		14	10	4	3	8	10	1	1	793	408	405	388	99%
Germany	89	50	786	372	3	3	163		15	6	88	45	13	6	17	15	86	20	7	3	38	20			1,305	540	540	765	100%
Greece	11	12	34	40	1	1	67		4	6	9	14	1	2	13	13	6	8	7	10	6	6	6	8	165	120	98	67	82%
Hungary	20	11	142	91					1	2	11	6	1	1	13	20	9	5	11	6	20	10	11	4	239	156	148	91	95%
Iceland			1	3			27					1				1									28	5	1	27	20%
Italy	21	42	132	144	3	5	88		5	5	24	24	2	2	16	32	23	15	40	18	10	12	2	1	366	300	247	119	82%
Latvia	10	2	85	49			123		2	1	20	7	18	4	3	3	9	2	13	3	5	1			288	72	72	216	100%
Lithuania	19	11	108	48	1	1	38		2	1	17	8	8	3	17	10	5	3	7	4	8	5			230	94	94	136	100%
Luxembourg			21	13							8	3						1		1	1	1			30	19	17	13	89%
Malta		1	48	10			18							1		2	3		16		2				87	14	10	77	71%
Netherlands	16	9	108	66			35			2	16	8			7	13	6	4	13	8			24	10	225	120	112	113	93%
Norway	11	5	60	25							28	7	5	2	10	5	6	2	2	2			1		123	48	48	75	100%
Poland	22	20	198	118			21		6	7	32	25	2	2	20	29	22	20	13	12	10	7			346	240	230	116	96%
Portugal	9	6	85	37	1	2	213		3	3	7	6	26	2	6	6	8	3	17	3	6	4			381	72	71	310	99%
Romania	22	9	179	130	1		109		3	2	18	7	7	3	19	19	26	3	17	3	7	4			408	180	180	228	100%
Slovakia		1	123	52			7		4	3	1	1		1	38	25	1		1	1					175	84	82	93	98%
Slovenia	7	8	65	50							4	7	4	3	4	4	5	3			6	8	2	1	97	84	78	19	93%
Spain	29	30	123	130	1	1	43		4	4	25	27	7	8	24	24	20	8	17	13	16	19	2	2	311	266	252	59	95%
Sweden	3	3	46	50		1	50		4	4	6	5	6	4	10	10	5	2	3	1			2	2	135	82	77	58	94%
Switzerland	21	14	25	15							2	3	2	1	3	3			3	2					56	38	37	19	97%
TOTAL	**474**	**323**	**3.870**	**2.093**	**15**	**18**	**1.524**		**74**	**65**	**566**	**338**	**133**	**55**	**298**	**286**	**320**	**134**	**240**	**121**	**181**	**134**	**57**	**33**	**7.752**	**3.600**	**3.444**	**4.308**	**96%**

* MB Decision 9/2020

** The coverage of profiles, in line with the Quota set at the respective MB Decision, does not imply that the MS/SAC resources are allocated and requested for Operational Activities. Thus, the coverage is solely calculated based on the Nominations registered in Opera Evo and the MB Decision without any implications on the operational needs.

Annex 4

Table 5 **Category 4** – MS/SAC quota as established by MB Decision 9/2020

MS/SAC	Advanced Level Document Officer	Border Guard Officer	Debriefing Officer	Dog Handler	Frontex Tactical Support Officer	Information Officer	Motor Vehicle Crime Detection Officer	TOTAL
Austria	5	22	1	2	1	1	2	34
Belgium	2	15	13					30
Bulgaria	3	28	7		1	1		40
Croatia	10	49	3	1	2			65
Cyprus	2	4	2					8
Czech Republic	2	15	2	1				20
Denmark		28	1					29
Estonia		13		2	2	1		18
Finland	3	20	3	2	2			30
France	5	159	6					170
Germany	4	209	6		6			225
Greece	3	30	7	2	5	2	1	50
Hungary	3	53	5		3		1	65
Iceland			1		1			2
Italy	15	81	19	4		6		125
Latvia	1	22	3	2	2			30
Lithuania	5	32		2				39
Luxembourg		8						8
Malta		4	2					6
Netherlands	6	39	4		1			50
Norway	1	15	2	1	1			20
Poland	2	79	6		10	3		100
Portugal	2	14	3	6	2	3		30
Romania	5	58	5	3	3	1		75
Slovakia	2	30		1	1	1		35
Slovenia	4	22	4	3	2			35
Spain	6	75	18	3	5	2	2	111
Sweden		29	2		3			34
Switzerland	6	6	4					16
TOTAL	**97**	**1.159**	**129**	**35**	**53**	**21**	**6**	**1.500**

Annex 5

Table 6 MS/SAC and Fontex contribution to the forced-return & Fundamental rights monitors pool - State of Play as of 31.12.2021

MS/SAC Frontex	Forced-Return Monitors	Fundamental Rights Monitors	TOTAL
FRONTEX	2	3	5
Austria	6		6
Belgium	3		3
Bulgaria	1		1
Croatia	3		3
Czech Republic	3		3
Denmark	3		3
Finland	4		4
Germany	4		4
Greece	11		11
Hungary	2		2
Iceland	1		1
Italy	2		2
Latvia	2		2
Lithuania	2		2
Luxembourg	3		3
Malta	1		1
Netherlands	8		8
Poland	1		1
Portugal	2		2
Romania	1		1
Slovakia	2		2
Sweden	7		7
Switzerland	1		1
TOTAL	**75**	**3**	**78**

Annex 6

Table 7 **Category 1** – Deployments in 2021 (01.01.2021-31.12.2021)

(Data extracted from OperaEvo on 25/01/2022)

Profile		HR*/Man-Days
Advanced Level Document Officer	HR*	51
	Man-days	4.987
Border Guard Officer	HR*	436
	Man-days	62.212
Coast Guard Function Officer	HR*	23
	Man-days	1.102
Cross-Border Crime Detection Officer	HR*	49
	Man-days	4.331
Debriefing Officer	HR*	52
	Man-days	7.396
Forced Return Escort and Support Officer	HR*	47
	Man-days	5.607
Frontex Tactical Support Officer	HR*	84
	Man-days	11.609
Information Officer	HR*	115
	Man-days	13.008
Motor Vehicle Crime Detection Officer	HR*	53
	Man-days	8.652
Return Specialist	HR*	18
	Man-days	1.045
TOTAL	**HR***	**928**
	Man-days	**119.949**

* HR Deployments (one Human Resource can be deployed multiple times and is therefore counted as multiple HR Deployments)

Annex 7

Table 8 MS/SAC Category 2 deployments in 2021 (01.01.2021-31.12.2021)

(Data extracted from OperaEvo on 25/01/2022)

	Advanced Level Document Officer		Border Guard Officer		Coast Guard Function Officer		Cross-Border Crime Detection Officer		Debriefing Officer		Forced Return Escort and Support Officer		Frontex Tactical Support Officer		Information Officer		Motor Vehicle Crime Detection Officer		Return Specialist		TOTAL	
MS/SAC	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days
Austria	8	941	6	713							3	352					4	718	3	352	24	3.076
Belgium	2	359	4	356			4	283	5	441	2	353			3	360			5	253	25	2.405
Bulgaria			16	2.097					5	532					9	693	2	345			32	3.667
Croatia	6	636	17	1.933	6	346	2	130	2	281	5	373			2	360	3	669	4	332	47	5.060
Cyprus			4	677																	4	677
Czech Republic	8	714							3	357			4	357	2	207					17	1.635
Denmark			11	1.441					3	353	2	353							4	351	20	2.498
Estonia			12	1.317															4	351	16	1.668
Finland			8	1.297	3	357			1	338			3	224							15	2.216
France	14	1.424	70	8.078	7	703	11	651	23	3.195											125	14.051
Germany	25	2.848	104	12.374			12	701	10	1.706			14	1.776			6	658			171	20.063
Greece	2	678	6	1.017	1	284	5	339	1	284	1	339	1	305	1	298	1	339	4	339	23	4.222
Hungary	9	715	21	2.446			5	560	6	713	7	703			3	360	3	358			54	5.855
Iceland																						
Italy	13	1.722	14	1.783	4	422	3	194	6	1.077	6	821			6	898	7	717	3	347	62	7.981
Latvia	3	358	10	1.052			2	359	2	320	6	704									23	2.793
Lithuania	7	1.075	13	1.432					2	359	3	258			3	360					28	3.484
Luxembourg			3	358																	3	358
Malta	2	352	3	358																	5	710
Netherlands	10	1.073	5	356			5	349	1	333	2	353	2	351	9	565			9	1.028	43	4.408
Norway			3	380							2	353			3	360			3	352	11	1.445
Poland	9	1.384	40	3.757					8	752	13	1.205	5	707	3	360	2	346	2	339	82	8.850
Portugal	2	301	8	1.010					1	331							2	643	1	332	14	2.617
Romania	8	889	27	3.094			6	350	5	972					7	670	5	708			58	6.683
Slovakia	2	352	10	1.434							8	812							3	352	23	2.950
Slovenia			9	1.074					3	348	4	351					6	1.077	4	351	26	3.201
Spain	6	592	13	1.297			3	197	2	284	4	328	2	363	5	433	5	717	2	157	42	4.368
Sweden			10	1.292	2	29	3	305	2	355	2	353							3	333	22	2.667
Switzerland	2	105	2	221																	4	326
TOTAL	**138**	**16.518**	**449**	**52.644**	**23**	**2.141**	**61**	**4.418**	**91**	**13.331**	**70**	**8.011**	**31**	**4.083**	**56**	**5.924**	**46**	**7.295**	**54**	**5.569**	**1.019**	**119.934**

* HR Deployments (one Human Resource can be deployed multiple times and is therefore counted as multiple HR Deployments)

Annex 8

Table 9 MS/SAC Category 3 deployments in 2021 (01.01.2021-31.12.2021)

(Data extracted from OperaEvo on 25/01/2022)

MS/SAC	Advanced Level Document Officer		Border Guard Officer		Coast Guard Function Officer		Crew Member		Cross-Border Crime Detection Officer		Debriefing Officer		Dog Handler		Forced Return Escort and Support Officer		Frontex Tactical Support Officer		Information Officer		Motor Vehicle Crime Detection Officer		Return Specialist		TOTAL	
	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days
Austria	16	676	129	4.624							6	179					20	907			6	447			177	6.833
Belgium	4	116	24	728							27	952					2	58	5	150	3	87			65	2.091
Bulgaria			34	1.759			36	1.548			3	168									1	30			74	3.505
Croatia	3	85	101	2.972			71	1.977	3	90							5	168	3	75	4	112	1	114	191	5.593
Cyprus			3	119																					3	119
Czech Republic	12	430	86	5.336							12	587	4	223			4	233	4	230	2	112			124	7.151
Denmark	3	86	43	1.833			185	5.874			11	587	4	160			5	410							251	8.950
Estonia	2	60	60	1.640			32	792			7	241	9	252			5	231	7	224	3	84			125	3.524
Finland	5	228	67	2.200			24	1.112			4	118	8	251			4	135	3	227	1	28			116	4.299
France	12	382	93	2.897			118	1.828			19	479					6	308	1	58	3	334			252	6.286
Germany	69	2.323	426	17.542			280	6.905	14	497	68	2.657	12	518			57	1.924	4	260	37	1.433			967	34.059
Greece			20	1.229	1	24	67	1.112			2	229	1	31			5	572	6	687	1	57			103	3.941
Hungary	21	703	189	8.777					1	56	6	172	1	84			11	374	8	294	22	637	2	129	261	11.226
Iceland							77	1.024																	77	1.024
Italy	17	877	54	2.239			572	10.398	1	107	19	1.085					25	1.295	45	3.407	2	114			735	19.522
Latvia	6	181	60	2.557			278	8.853			12	395	15	838			3	203	14	374	3	86			391	13.487
Lithuania	6	171	49	2.732	1	55	40	1.404			5	242	3	167			4	175	5	303	2	111			115	5.360
Luxembourg			4	227							5	467									1	84			10	778
Malta			33	1.414			18	504									3	141	17	758	1	86			72	2.903
Netherlands	15	702	81	4.046			42	974			12	382					7	405	12	682			7	659	176	7.850
Norway	3	57	21	667							12	419	4	112			4	204	2	105					46	1.564
Poland	14	1.106	131	8.529			21	390			15	842	2	142			17	1.356	5	368	4	336			209	13.069
Portugal	7	333	84	4.848			282	11.364			5	225	26	1.163			9	622	16	1.130	5	495			434	20.178
Romania	8	732	93	7.889			126	5.947	2	170	12	963	5	485			7	542	8	589	6	560			267	17.877
Slovakia			52	1.820			5	97									1	32							58	1.949
Slovenia	4	230	36	2.054							2	118	2	84			3	201			4	224	1	112	52	3.023
Spain	6	286	31	3.301			49	708			7	387	5	280			15	928	14	918					127	6.808
Sweden	2	224	20	1.616			82	1.502	1	112	3	308	6	294			5	492	2	112			2	205	123	4.865
Switzerland	21	718	28	903							3	121	2	55			1	28	4	120					59	1.945
TOTAL	**256**	**10.706**	**2.052**	**96.498**	**2**	**79**	**2.405**	**64.313**	**22**	**1.032**	**277**	**12.323**	**109**	**5.139**	**0**	**0**	**228**	**11.944**	**185**	**11.071**	**111**	**5.457**	**13**	**1.219**	**5.660**	**219.779**

* HR Deployments (one Human Resource can be deployed multiple times and is therefore counted as multiple HR Deployments)

Annex 9

Table 10 Host Member States Internal HR Deployments in 2021 (01.01.2021-31.12.2021)

Data extracted from OperaEvo on 25/01/2022)

	Host MS Coordinating Staff		Host MS Crew Members		Host MS Dog Handler Officer		Host MS Intelligence Officer		Host MS Officer for Border Surveillance		Host MS Officer for Debriefing Activities		Host MS Officer for Registration and Fingerprinting		Host MS Operational Liaison Officer – Technical Equipment		Host MS Support Officer		Host MS Team Leader		TOTAL	
MS/SAC	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days
Bulgaria	2	945	12	13.918					4	7.600					1	11					19	22.474
Croatia															3	75					3	75
Greece	325	11.980	543	9.697									93	6.445	379	16.602			82	6.440	1.422	51.164
Italy	84	6.262	49	14.715			1	676					53	1.545	32	2.350	1	19	193	5.847	413	31.414
Lithuania			4	120					327	3.682											331	3.802
Romania	4	1.134	24	37.505					60	1.240											88	39.879
Spain	46	6.193	55	1.632	17	1.053	11	798			37	2.634			32	866	19	1.338	80	5.339	297	19.853
TOTAL	**461**	**26.514**	**687**	**77.587**	**17**	**1.053**	**12**	**1.474**	**391**	**12.522**	**37**	**2.634**	**146**	**7.990**	**447**	**19.904**	**20**	**1.357**	**355**	**17.626**	**2.573**	**168.661**

* HR Deployments (one Human Resource can be deployed multiple times and is therefore counted as multiple HR Deployments)

Annex 10

Table 11 Additional Expert Deployments in 2021 (01.01.2021-31.12.2021)

(Data extracted from OperaEvo on 25/01/2022)

MS/SAC Frontex	Contracted Staff **		Interpreters		Liaison Officers		Observers		TOTAL	
	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days
FRONTEX			389	21.374			4	112	393	21.486
Bulgaria					11	496			11	496
Croatia					9	247			9	247
Denmark			35	2.640	14	450			49	3.090
Estonia					7	145			7	145
Finland					6	110			6	110
France					10	146			10	146
Germany					18	447			18	447
Greece					3	59			3	59
Iceland					9	170			9	170
Italy					71	1.178			71	1.178
Latvia					22	646			22	646
Lithuania			1	56	8	363			9	419
Luxembourg	76	798							76	798
Malta					2	56			2	56
Netherlands					3	89			3	89
Poland					1	21			1	21
Portugal					21	898			21	898
Romania					11	739			11	739
Slovakia					1	23			1	23
Spain					4	131			4	131
Sweden					11	207			11	207
TOTAL	**76**	**798**	**425**	**24.070**	**242**	**6.621**	**4**	**112**	**747**	**31.601**

* HR Deployments (One Human Resource can be deployed multiple times and is therefore counted as multiple HR Deployments)

** Contracted Staff consists of Contracted Crew Members for Helicopter Deployments

Annex 11

Table 12 Forced-Return and Fundamental Rights Monitor Deployments in 2021 (01.01.2021-31.12.2021)

(Data extracted from OperaEvo on 25/01/2022)

MS/SAC Frontex	Forced-Return Monitors		Fundamental Rights Monitors		TOTAL	
	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days
FRONTEX	3	7	12	17	15	24
Austria	27	41			27	41
Belgium	3	7			3	7
Czech Republic	2	3			2	3
Germania	20	26			20	26
Iceland	5	6			5	6
Italy	6	8			6	8
Luxembourg	34	57			34	57
Netherlands	37	59			37	59
Poland	1	2			1	2
Portugal	1	2			1	2
Romania	9	14			9	14
Sweden	2	2			2	2
TOTAL	**150**	**234**	**12**	**17**	**162**	**251**

* HR Deployments (One Human Resource can be deployed multiple times and is therefore counted as multiple HR Deployments)

Annex 12

Table 13 Human Resource Cancellations in 2021 (01.01.2021-31.12.2021) - Category 2

MS/SAC	Cancelled by MS/SAC		Cancelled by FX	
	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days
Austria				
Belgium			1	47
Bulgaria			1	27
Croatia			2	282
Cyprus				
Czech Republic			3	426
Denmark			2	295
Estonia			3	252
Finland			4	504
France			5	332
Germany			3	366
Greece			1	143
Hungary				
Iceland			3	307
Italy			4	391
Latvia			2	166
Lithuania			1	29
Luxembourg				
Malta				
Netherlands			1	141
Norway			2	409
Poland			1	55
Portugal			1	71
Romania			1	196
Slovakia			1	12
Slovenia				
Spain	1	28	4	548
Sweden			2	101
Switzerland			1	102
TOTAL	**1**	**28**	**49**	**5.324**

Table 14 Human Resource Cancellations in 2021 (01.01.2021-31.12.2021) - Category 3

MS/SAC	Cancelled by MS/SAC		Cancelled by FX	
	HR*	Man-days	HR*	Man-days
Austria	8	265	14	376
Belgium	19	548	10	323
Bulgaria			21	2.434
Croatia	1	75	19	625
Cyprus			4	176
Czech Republic	14	503	6	84
Denmark			22	1.366
Estonia	20	542	33	1.000
Finland	14	457	7	196
France	19	1.122	60	2.784
Germany	87	2.125	67	2.585
Greece	4	207	7	571
Hungary	68	1.884	8	288
Iceland	1	10	1	71
Italy	19	697	34	1.807
Latvia	18	876	18	794
Lithuania	76	4.026	12	677
Luxembourg	1	168	7	627
Malta	3	114	2	112
Netherlands	2	56	18	858
Norway	14	550	18	755
Poland	30	1.626	18	904
Portugal	7	313	19	947
Romania	1	56	9	619
Slovakia	1	29	10	302
Slovenia	3	142	9	462
Spain	16	2.000	8	395
Sweden			7	705
Switzerland	3	84	11	313
TOTAL	**449**	**18.475**	**479**	**23.156**

* HR Deployments (One Human Resource can be deployed multiple times and is therefore counted as multiple HR Deployments)

Annex 13

Table 15 State of play of the TEP as of 31.12.2021

MS/SAC Frontex	Offshore Patrol Vessel	Coastal Patrol Vessel	Coastal Patrol Boat	Fixed Wing Aircraft	Helicopter	Unmanned aerial vehicle	Canine Team Vehicle	Mobile Office/ Laboratory	Patrol Car	Vehicle equipped for border surveillance	Thermal Camera	Night Vision Goggles	CO_2 Detector	Heart beat detectors	SmatDec Camera	TOTAL
FRONTEX				10		1		53	86		191	118	64	31		554
Austria					1				4	2						7
Bulgaria		5	7						4	1						17
Croatia	1		6						4	1						12
Cyprus		1			1											2
Czech Republic									12	4						16
Denmark			1	3					1	1						6
Estonia			2	1			1		4		3		4		96	111
Finland			2	1					7							10
France	3	1		2	2											8
Germany	1		2		4				74	1	2			1		85
Greece	5	4	8	2	4											23
Hungary									59	5	2	2				68
Iceland	1			1												2
Italy	10	59	43	15	26											153
Latvia	1		5	2	2				3	6						19
Lithuania			1		2					1		1				5
Luxembourg					1											1
Malta		1	3	2						1	2					9
Netherlands	1		1	2				12	9							25
Poland	1			3	3				7	5	16	25				60
Portugal	3	5	14	2	1		3		6	3	2					39
Romania	1	9	13		1		4		28	11						67
Slovakia				1					2							3
Slovenia					4				7	1	1	1				14
Spain	2	4		4	3				7	3	8	1		1		33
Sweden	1		1	1	1		1									5
Switzerland									2		3					5
TOTAL	**31**	**89**	**109**	**52**	**56**	**1**	**9**	**65**	**326**	**46**	**230**	**148**	**68**	**33**	**96**	**1.359**

Annex 14

Table 16 MS/SAC ISF/SA technical equipment registered in OperaEvo - State of Play as of 31.12.2021*

MS/SAC	Offshore Patrol Vessel	Coastal Patrol Vessel	Coastal Patrol Boat	Fixed Wing Aircraft	Helicopter	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle	Canine Team Vehicle	Mobile Office	Patrol Car	Vehicle equipped for border surveillance	Thermal Camera	Night Vision Goggles	CO_2 Detector	Heart beat detectors	TOTAL
Austria										1					1
Bulgaria										1					1
Estonia			1												1
Finland			1												1
France		1		1											2
Greece		3													3
Italy		3	7	1											11
Latvia			3							1					4
Lithuania										1					1
Malta				1											1
Romania			5							1					6
Spain		1		1						2					4
TOTAL		**8**	**17**	**4**						**7**					**36**

* This information is based on the MS/SAC declaration of assets purchased under ISF/SA and registered in Opera Evo

Annex 15

Table 17 MS/SAC intention to deploy TE with the corresponding crew as established in MB Decision 9/2020

MS/SAC	Offshore Patrol Vessel details	Coastal Patrol Vessel details	Coastal Patrol Boat details	Fixed Wing Aircraft details	Helicopter details	Indicative number to be taken into account
Bulgaria		2 Units: 2 months each 18CM 1NO				19
Denmark			1 Unit: 12 months 17CM 1NO	1 Unit: 2 months 8CM 1NO		58,5
Estonia			1 Unit: 4 months 4CM 1NO	1 Unit: 1-month 12CM 1NO		8,25
Finland			1 Unit: 4 months 6CM 1NO	1 Unit: 1-month 4CM 1NO		8,25
France	1 Unit: 2 months 85CM	1 Unit: 1-month 22CM	1 Unit: 1-month 11CM	2 Units: 1 month each 20CM each + 1 Unit: 2 months with 5CM		63,25
Italy		9 Units: 8 for 1-month 3CM each; 1 for 1-month 22CM	5 Units: 1 month each; 5 CM each	1 Unit: 1-month 11CM	2 Units: 1 month each; 3CM each	22
Latvia	1 Unit: 12 months 11CM		1 Unit: 12 months 6CM	1 Unit: 6 months 5CM	1 Unit: 1-month 5CM	59,75
Lithuania			1 Unit: 4 months 6CM		1 Unit: 3 months 10CM 1NO	14,25
Luxembourg					1 Unit: 12 months 5CM 1NO	18
Malta			1 Unit: 2 months 9CM			4,5
Netherlands		1 Unit: 1-month 3CM		1 Unit: 1-month 5CM		2
Romania	1 Unit: 4 months 26CM	1 Unit: 4 months 27 CM			1 Unit: 4 months 33CM	86
Slovakia				1 Unit: 1-month 5CM		1,25
Sweden	1 Unit: 4 months 22CM 1NO		1 Unit: 4 months 6CM 1NO	1 Unit: 1-month 4CM 1 NO	1 Unit: 2 months 4CM 1 NO	33,75

* According to bilateral discussions the indicative numbers of crew members in most of the cases have been calculated and offered by MS/SAC under BGO profile.

Annex 16

Table 18 State of play of MS/SAC TE deployments in 2021 (01.01.2021-31.12.2021)**

(Data extracted from OperaEvo on 25/01/2022)

MS/SAC Frontex	Offshore Patrol Vessel		Coastal Patrol Vessel		Coastal Patrol Boat		Fixed Wing Aircraft		Helicopter		Unmanned Aerial Vehicle		Canine Team Vehicle		Mobile Office/ Laboratory		Patrol Car		Vehicle equipped for border surveillance		Thermal Camera		Night Vision Goggles		CO_2 Detector		Heart beat detectors		SmartDec Camera		TOTAL	
	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days
FRONTEX							13	686			1	239			56	14.373	131	25.209			70	10.786	101	11.886	24	7.804	9	2.125			405	73.108
Austria																	7	956	5	672											12	1.628
Bulgaria			7	649	7	1.323											55	4.210	1	112											70	6.294
Croatia					2	254											36	1.009													38	1.263
Czech Republic																	17	1.287	9	669											26	1.956
Denmark					1	364	3	85									2	80	1	199											7	728
Estonia					2	114	1	28					1	28			24	863							4	1.352			96	32.448	128	34.833
Finland					1	112											15	556													16	668
France	2	50	1	28			2	56	1	15							17	626													23	775
Germany					8	328			2	102			3	140			103	5.909	1	112											117	6.591
Greece	7	274	7	162	9	229	2	39	6	112																					31	816
Hungary																	80	3.634	5	401											85	4.035
Iceland							3	167																							3	167
Italy			72	2.233	23	684	17	592	40	1.285																					152	4.794
Latvia	1	233			3	336	3	213	3	119			2	112			19	951	3	199											34	2.163
Lithuania					1	112			2	113							22	1.218	1	112											26	1.555
Luxembourg									3	228																					3	228
Malta					1	56											10	448	1	56											12	560
Netherlands					1	56	2	32									24	1.402													27	1.490
Poland							1	26	1	21			2	142			37	2.996	3	428	3	336									47	3.949
Portugal			2	60	9	752	1	84									4	223	3	674											19	1.793
Romania	4	235	10	1.671	13	2.457											190	4.231	9	862											226	9.456
Slovakia							1	29									18	551													19	580
Slovenia																	9	504													9	504
Spain			5	126			7	135	7	192							6	1.176	1	112	4	1.352									30	3.093
Sweden	1	58			1	100			1	56			1	112																	4	326
Switzerland																	10	473													10	473
TOTAL	**15**	**850**	**104**	**4.929**	**82**	**7.277**	**56**	**2.172**	**66**	**2.243**	**1**	**239**	**9**	**534**	**56**	**14.373**	**836**	**58.512**	**43**	**4.608**	**77**	**12.474**	**101**	**11.886**	**28**	**9.156**	**9**	**2.125**	**96**	**32.448**	**1.579**	**163.826**

* TE Deployments (One Technical Equipment can be deployed multiple times and is therefore counted as multiple TE Deployments)
** TE Deployments include ISF/SA Deployments & HMS Deployments

Annex 17

Table 19 State of play of MS/SAC ISF/SA technical equipment deployed in 2021 (01.10.2021-31.12.2021)**

(Data extracted from OperaEvo on 25/01/2022)

	Coastal Patrol Vessel		Coastal Patrol Boat		Fixed Wing Aircraft		Vehicle equipped for border surveillance		TOTAL	
MS/SAC	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days
Austria							2	337	2	337
Bulgaria							1	112	1	112
Estonia										
Finland										
France	1	28			2	56			3	84
Greece	7	162							7	162
Italy	3	78	18	507	3	127			24	712
Latvia			3	336			1	60	4	396
Lithuania							1	112	1	112
Malta										
Romania							1	112	1	112
Spain	1	28			3	55	1	112	5	195
TOTAL	**12**	**296**	**21**	**843**	**8**	**238**	**7**	**845**	**48**	**2.222**

* TE Deployments (One Technical Equipment can be deployed multiple times and is therefore counted as multiple TE Deployments)
** This information is based on the MS/SAC declaration of assets purchased under ISF/SA and registered in Opera Evo

Annex 18

Table 20 Host-Member States Internal Technical Equipment Deployments in 2021 (01.01.2021-31.12.2021)

(Data extracted from OperaEvo on 25/01/2022)

	Offshore Patrol Vessel		Coastal Patrol Vessel		Coastal Patrol Boat		Fixed Wing Aircraft		Helicopter		Unmanned Aerial Vehicle		Canine Team Vehicle		Mobile Office/ Laboratory		Patrol Car		Vehicle equipped for border surveillance		Thermal Camera		Night Vision Goggles		CO_2 Detector		Heart beat detectors		SmartDec Camera		TOTAL	
MS/SAC	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days	TE*	Asset-days
Bulgaria			4	561	7	1.323											55	4.210											67	6.094
Greece	7	274	5	99	9	229	2	39	4	76																					27	717
Italy			64	1.989	6	204	14	464	12	200																					96	2.857
Lithuania									1	30																					1	30
Romania	2	121	9	1.559	13	2.457											40	1.402													64	5.539
Spain			5	126			6	107	6	164																					17	397
TOTAL	**9**	**395**	**87**	**4.334**	**35**	**4.213**	**22**	**610**	**23**	**470**							**95**	**5.612**													**271**	**15.634**

* TE Deployments (One Technical Equipment can be deployed multiple times and is therefore counted as multiple TE Deployments)

Annex 19

Table 21 TE Cancellations in 2021 (01.01.2021-31.12.2021)

(Data extracted from OperaEvo on 25/01/2022)

	Major Technical Equipment*				Light Technical Equipment**				TOTAL			
	Cancelled by MS/SAC		Cancelled by FX		Cancelled by MS/SAC		Cancelled by FX		Cancelled by MS/SAC		Cancelled by FX	
MS/SAC	TE	Asset-days	TE	Asset-days	TE	Asset-days	TE	Asset-days	TE	Asset-days	TE	Asset-days
Austria												
Belgium												
Bulgaria							4	119			4	119
Croatia												
Cyprus												
Czech Republic					5	140	3	42	5	140	3	42
Estonia					7	196	3	84	7	196	3	84
Finland	1	28			4	111			5	139		
France			1	27	2	112	1	30	2	112	2	57
Germany					8	251	1	56	8	251	1	56
Greece			1	84							1	84
Hungary					25	700			25	700		
Iceland	1	12							1	12		
Italy	1	29	3	141	2	112			3	141	3	141
Latvia	3	146			2	58	2	112	5	204	2	112
Lithuania	1	28			21	1.176	1	56	22	1.204	1	56
Luxembourg												
Malta												
Netherlands							1	56			1	56
Norway												
Poland	1	28			5	251	1	8	6	279	1	8
Portugal					1	86	1	30	1	86	1	30
Romania			1	189			1	112			2	301
Slovakia							1	29			1	29
Slovenia					1	56			1	56		
Spain	2	56			2	448			4	504		
Sweden												
Switzerland					1	27			1	27		
TOTAL	**10**	**327**	**6**	**441**	**86**	**3.724**	**20**	**734**	**96**	**4.051**	**26**	**1.175**

* Major Technical Equipment consists of Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV), Coastal Patrol Vessel (CPV), Coastal Patrol Boat (CPB), Fixed Wing Aircraft (FWA) & Helicopter (HELO)

** Light Technical Equipment consists of Patrol Car (PC) / Canine Team Vehicle & Vehicle equipped for border surveillance (TVV)

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Paper version:
TT-AR-22-001-EN-C
ISBN 978-92-9467-518-7
ISSN 2600-089X
doi:10.2819/623305

PDF version:
TT-AR-22-001-EN-N
ISBN 978-92-9467-246-9
ISSN 2600-0903
doi:10.2819/42378

FPI 20.0139