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**COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT**  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE EVALUATION**  
**of the**  
**TEMPORARY SCHENGEN FACILITY CROATIA**  
{SWD(2020) 86 final}

## *Background to the evaluation*

The **main objective of this evaluation** is to examine all outcomes, outputs, results and impacts resulting from the implementation of actions and measures under the Schengen Facility in Croatia, in the period between 01 July 2013 and 21 January 2017. As a temporary financing instrument, the **Schengen Facility** ensured EUR 120 million to finance actions at the new external borders of the Union for the implementation of the Schengen acquis and external border control.

## *Main findings*

The Schengen Facility had a significant positive impact on strengthening the control at the external borders by providing the necessary equipment, information systems, and trainings to prepare Croatia for joining the Schengen area and it has been **designed and contributed to the broad European Union priorities** on border and internal security.

The objectives of the Schengen Facility **were relevant both to the needs of the EU and Croatia to a large extent**. There was a strong link between the needs identified in national strategic documents and the objectives of the Indicative Programme 2013-2014. Relevance was ensured by the active participation of beneficiaries in the drafting of the Indicative Programme, in line with existing national strategies. The objectives setting of the Schengen Facility showed flexibility in light of newly identified needs.

**The implementation of the Schengen Facility can overall be considered as effective** and the majority of the objectives have been fully or largely achieved. Both internal (limited administrative capacity and insufficient guidance in the beginning of the implementation of the Schengen Facility) and external factors (complex procurement procedures and time required to acquire permits) have influenced the implementation of the Schengen Facility.

**On efficiency, the results of the Schengen Facility were achieved at a reasonable cost** due to the conducting of competitive procurement procedures. Considering the achieved savings and future cost reductions (e.g. surveillance systems at the green border reduced the need for border patrols) the outcomes of the Schengen Facility for Croatia represent **good value for money**.

**Concerning coherence, the implementation of the Schengen Facility has been to a large extent complementary to the overall border control measures in Croatia**. The Schengen Facility has been complementary with national actions (investments in police infrastructure, but also access roads and other communal infrastructure near the border crossing points), as well as to measures financed by other EU instruments. The measures/actions implemented under the Schengen Facility were internally coherent (i.e. without overlapping and very often with significant synergies).

The overall effects achieved under the Schengen Facility **are likely to be sustainable in the long-run**. At the same time, **problems have been identified due to decreasing national funding** resulting in inability to maintain and upgrade the acquired equipment and the need for continuation of training (in particular on how to use Border Crossing Point equipment).

The actions funded by the Schengen Facility had **a significant positive impact on strengthening the control at the external borders** by providing the necessary equipment, information systems and skills to prepare Croatia for joining the Schengen area. There is a very small likelihood that outcomes (in terms of both scope and speed) similar to the Schengen Facility achievements would have occurred without the EU support.

Based on the examinations of implemented measures, the evaluation provided elements which could be taken into consideration for any future EU funded interventions with similar features.