



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

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WORKING DOCUMENT

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party for Schengen Matters
Subject:	Draft Council Implementing Decision setting out recommendations addressing identified common areas for improvement resulting from the 2024 thematic Schengen evaluation 'Bridging national gaps: towards an effective EU return system through common solutions and innovative practices' - Presentation by the Commission

Delegations will find enclosed a presentation on the abovementioned subject made by the Commission at the Schengen Matters WP on 20 February 2025 (cf. CM 1594/25 REV 1, item 5).



Thematic Schengen Evaluation 2024

Bridging national gaps: towards an effective EU return system through common solutions and innovative practices

Recommendations

20 February 2025

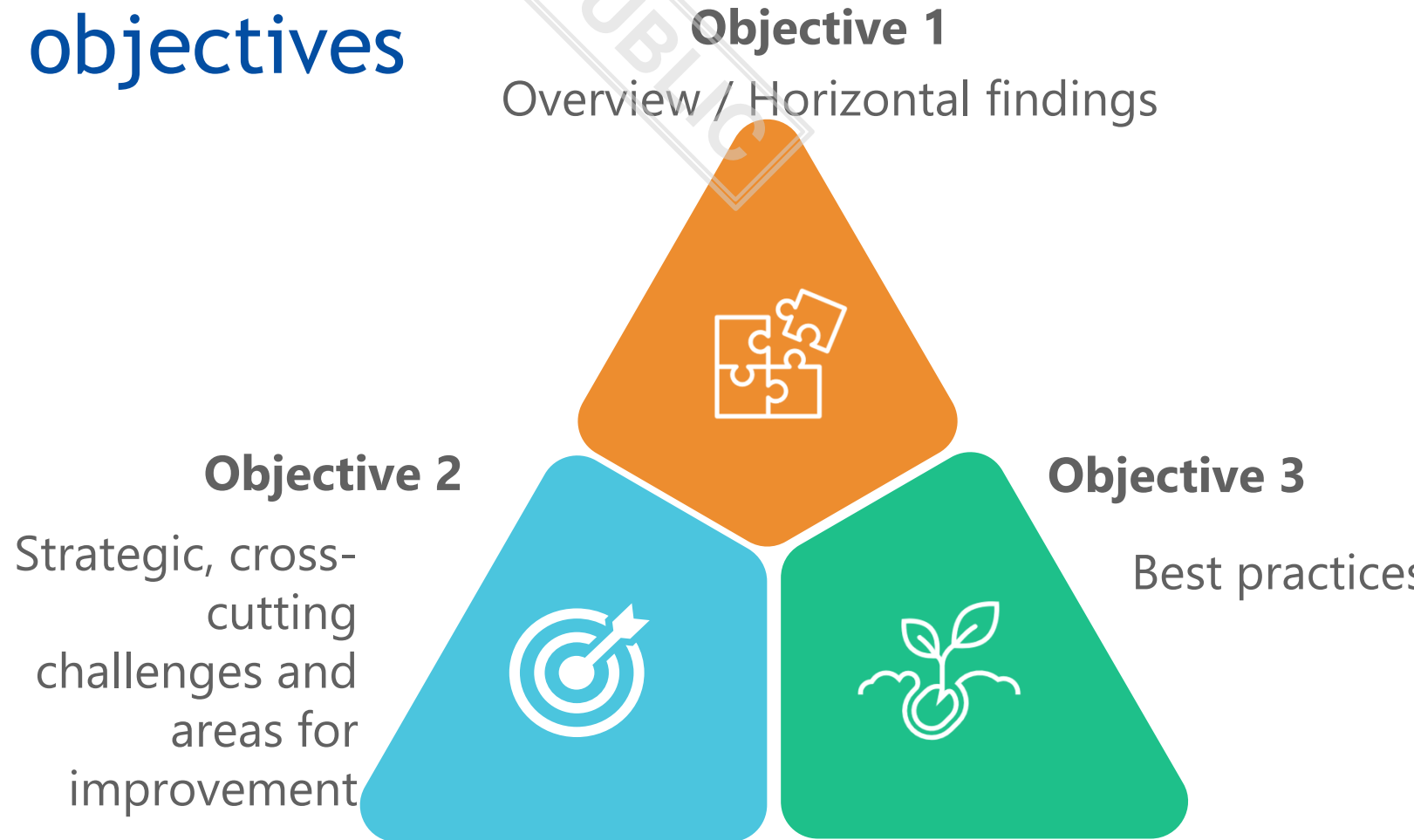
Scope and objectives

Scope

Address common obstacles and challenges

Common EU solutions, coordination, innovative practices

Ensure a well-functioning Schengen area.

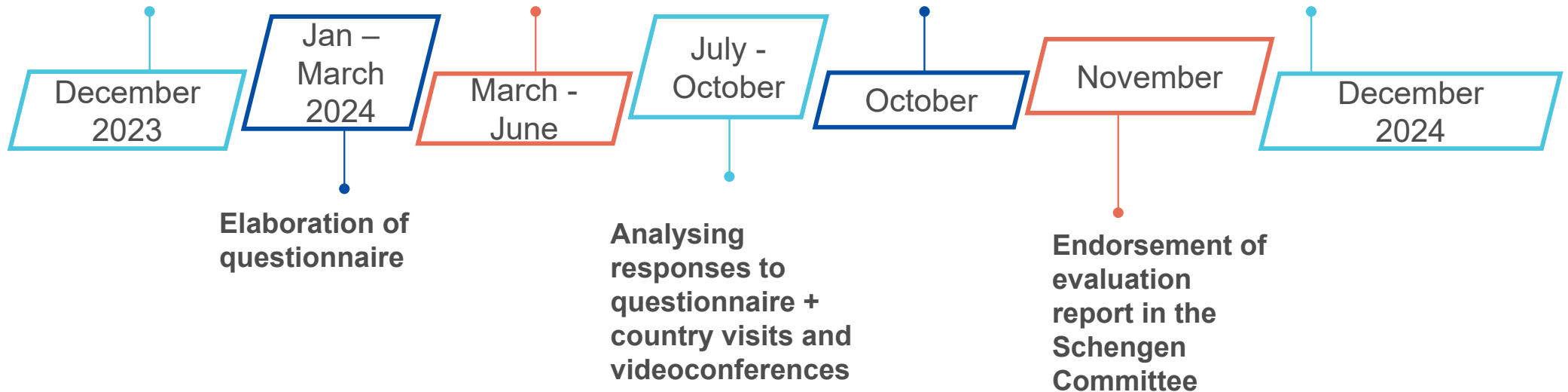


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How did we get to this stage?

How did we get to the recommendations?

Establishment of evaluation team
(15 MS/SAC experts + 2 COM + Frontex + FRA)



Recommendations related to the common areas for improvement

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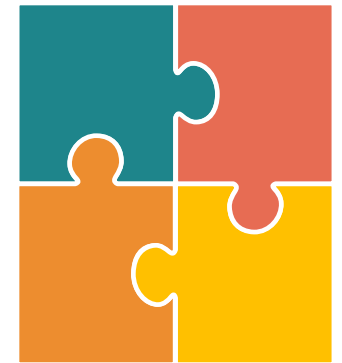
Common areas for improvement



Best practices to aid implementation



Schengen-wide recommendations for remedial measures



Action Plan



Structure of recommendations aligned with the thematic Schengen evaluation report



- 1. Well functioning Schengen system requires effective returns**
- 2. Ensuring effectiveness at key stages of the Return Process between national authorities**
- 3. Maximising national efficiency through stronger European Cooperation**

Follow-up

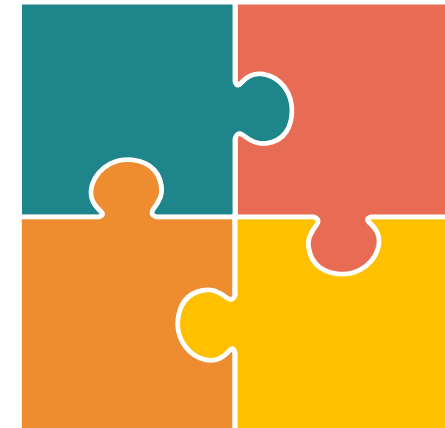
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- **Action Plans to be submitted by Member States and Schengen Associated countries**
- **The evaluation team will assess the adequacy of Action Plans before regular reporting on implementation follows**
- **Synergies sought to simplify and rationalise reporting obligations**



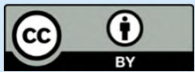
Rationalisation of Action plans and reporting to seek synergies and ease administrative burden

- In Action Plans, MS/SAC encouraged to make reference to other Action Plans where they may have already set out their actions for remedial measures.
- Not all MS/SAC have to follow-up with reporting on remedial actions to all recommendations following adequacy review
- In case of identical or comparable recommendations for particular MS/SAC from periodic or thematic evaluation
→ reporting synergies and rationalisation



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Thank you!



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Slide 6, photos source: www.unsplash.com

