



Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

Call for proposals document

Integration of Third-Country Nationals

AMIF-2017-AG-INTE

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Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (2014-2020)

2017 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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Integration of Third-Country Nationals

1. INTRODUCTION

The European Union's objective to constitute an area of freedom, security and justice should be achieved, inter alia, through common measures framing a policy on asylum and immigration, based on solidarity between Member States, which is fair towards third countries and their nationals.

In order to contribute to the development of the common Union policy on asylum and immigration and to the strengthening of the area of freedom, security and justice in the light of the application of the principles of solidarity and responsibility-sharing between the Member States and cooperation with third countries, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) was set up. It aims at supporting actions to contribute to the efficient management of migration flows and the implementation, strengthening and development of a common Union approach to asylum and immigration.

In May 2015 the European Commission adopted the European Agenda on Migration (EAM)¹, which brings together the different steps the European Union should take now, and in the coming years, to build up a coherent and comprehensive approach to reap the benefits and address the challenges deriving from migration. Building on the European Agenda on migration and as announced in the communication of 6 April 2016 on the reform of the common European Asylum system and enhancing legal avenues to Europe², the Commission adopted an Action Plan on the integration of third-country nationals on 7 June 2016³. The Plan is a general policy framework for integration and includes actions to support Member States across all the policy areas that are crucial for integration.

Legal basis of AMIF are the following regulations:

- Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund⁴
- Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 laying down general provisions on the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and on the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management⁵.

The AMIF Regulation sets out four specific objectives, respectively to:

- (i) strengthen and develop all aspects of the Common European Asylum System, including its external dimension;

¹ COM(2015) 240 final

² COM(2016) 197 final

³ COM(2016) 377 final

⁴ OJ L 150, 20.05.2014, p. 168

⁵ OJ L 150, 20.05.2014, p. 112

- (ii) support legal migration to the Member States in accordance with their economic and social needs, such as labour market needs, while safeguarding the integrity of the immigration systems of Member States, and to promote the effective integration of third-country nationals;
- (iii) enhance fair and effective return strategies in the Member States which contribute to combating illegal immigration, with an emphasis on sustainability of return and effective readmission in the countries of origin and transit;
- (iv) enhance solidarity and responsibility-sharing between the Member States, in particular towards those most affected by migration and asylum flows, including through practical cooperation.

In conformity with Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 Article 6(2), in order to implement the AMIF, the Commission has adopted, on **26 April 2017**, the 2017 Annual Work Programme for the financing of Union Actions⁶, which includes this Call for Proposals.

Five priorities have been included in this call for proposals, which relate to policy priorities identified in the Action Plan on integration of third-country nationals, in particular priority 1 and 2 of the call (corresponding to policy priority "social inclusion and active participation"), priority 3 of the call (corresponding to the policy of the Action Plan "pre-departure and post-arrival measures"), priority 4 of the call (corresponding to policy priority of the Action Plan "labour market integration and vocational training"). Priority 5 of the call relates to the EU legal and policy framework addressing trafficking in human beings⁷.

2. PRIORITIES OF THIS CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The present Call for Proposals aims at funding projects in the area of integration of third-country nationals.

Each project application submitted under the present Call for Proposals must address **only one** of the following priorities (if you wish to address more than one priority of the call, you need to submit a separate proposal under each Topic in the submission page):

1. Raising awareness on migrants' contribution to EU societies

In the current context characterised by negative perceptions on migration among some segments of the public opinion, the integration of third-country nationals can be facilitated by communication activities promoting a positive narrative on migration and presenting the contribution that third-country nationals can make to societies in different areas. Considering that such communication and awareness raising activities will be all the more effective if promoted by a variety of stakeholders, it is particularly relevant to promote partnerships among local, regional and national authorities as well as civil society organisations with the aim to develop and implement such initiatives.

The objectives of this priority are to:

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/financing/fundings/migration-asylum-borders/asylum-migration-integration-fund/union-actions/docs/awp_union_action_c_2017_2572_f1_annex_v2_p1_885372_en.pdf

⁷ Please refer to Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA (OJ L 101, 15.4.2011, p. 1). and to the 2012-2016 EU Strategy towards eradicating trafficking in human beings COM(2012)286final, 19.6.2012) and other Commission documents available on the website: https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-policy_en?solsort=ds_field_publication_date%20desc. For an overview, please refer to EU anti-trafficking action at a glance: https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/publications/eu-anti-trafficking-action-2012-2016-glance_en

- Support awareness raising projects aiming at highlighting the positive contribution of migrants to our societies;
- Communicating real facts about migration and integration;
- Combating stereotypes against third-country nationals;
- Contribute to giving a voice to third-country nationals in the public debate on migration and integration.

Projects should in particular aim at providing clearer facts on migration and integration as there is a knowledge gap among EU citizens (for instance people tend to overestimate the size of migration). Communication activities should be evidence-based (facts and figures) in order to build a positive narrative on migration and integration and contribute to change perceptions in that respect, even if the use of anecdotal evidence and story-telling can also play a role. Existing information and data on public perceptions on migration should be taken into account, for instance the data made available by the recently created Observatory of Public Attitudes to Migration⁸.

Effective ways of communicating on migration/integration should be proposed through the projects including by adapting key messages to specific audiences which have negative preconceived attitudes towards migration/integration.

2. Community building at local level for integration including through volunteering activities

Integration happens first and foremost at local level and will only succeed if exchanges between third-country nationals and host-country nationals are fostered and encouraged from the very early stages through different activities such as cultural, sport or other activities. Volunteering can be a particularly effective way to foster the interaction between EU citizens and third country nationals at the local level. Therefore, projects submitted under this priority might include a volunteering component, involving both EU citizens and the third-country nationals. Synergies with the "European Solidarity Corps"⁹ can be created in this regard. The objective is to support local communities making efforts to promote these exchanges and replicate this experience in other communities.

The objectives of this priority are to:

- Support community building activities aiming at the integration of third country nationals at local level;
- Promote exchanges between third-country and host-country nationals at local level;
- Build partnerships and cooperation among all the actors involved in promoting integration at community level.

3. Pre-departure and post-arrival support for the integration of persons in need of international protection who are being resettled from a third country including through volunteering activities

Resettlement of third-country nationals or stateless persons is one of the avenues that can be offered to displaced persons in need of international protection to enable them to arrive to the EU legally and safely and receive protection. Success or failure of resettlement largely depends on durable integration of resettled persons, many of whom have survived trauma or have one or more vulnerabilities as a result of their personal condition or displacement.

While several Member States have been engaged in resettlement for many years, common and coordinated EU efforts have also been developed in the past two years through the

⁸ <http://www.migrationpolicycentre.eu/opam/>

⁹ https://europa.eu/youth/SOLiDARiTy_en.

implementation of Council Conclusions of 20 July 2015 and the implementation of the EU-Turkey Statement of 18 March 2016. The EU financial support for the ongoing EU-resettlement schemes is coming to an end. To ensure that Member States' resettlement efforts continue in the transition period until a permanent Union Resettlement Framework is adopted and operationalised, the Commission on 27 September 2017 called on the Member States to resettle at least 50 000 persons in need of international protection over the next two years (by 31 October 2019). Subject to the conditions of the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) Member States can receive a lump sum of EUR 10 000 per resettled person from priority regions. In parallel, resettlement via private or community sponsorship schemes is increasingly being piloted in Member States.

To enable full, efficient and sustainable integration of resettled persons, integration measures in the pre- and post-arrival phases should be properly linked and co-ordinated, and different stakeholders should work together in order to address and meet the resettled people's needs as well as ensure the engagement of the host communities. Citizens in host communities can play an important role in welcoming and supporting refugees, also through volunteering activities, thus contributing to a faster and fuller integration process.

The objectives of this priority are to support:

- Pre-departure activities aimed at preparing resettled third country nationals for their life in the new country and managing their expectations; as a first step in the integration process, these should serve as a basis for subsequent post-arrival activities.
- Post-arrival activities, especially building on and deepening pre-departure activities, ensuring first reception, and enabling effective integration of resettled people; and
- Capacity-building in the receiving communities, including through the promotion of structured co-operation and partnership among national, regional and local actors, ranging from national administrations to NGOs, associations, refugee organisations, religious institutions, municipalities, volunteer networks, schools, universities, service-providers, potential employers and others.

While all newcomers to a country face similar challenges, the experiences of resettled refugees are particular and are therefore specifically targeted through this priority. A special attention should be paid to the gender dimension, rights of the child, and vulnerabilities of resettled persons. Activities aimed at asylum seekers and refugees not arriving via resettlement, humanitarian admission, or private/community sponsorship schemes **will not** be considered for funding under priority 3 of this Call for Proposals.

4. Promote the swift integration of third-country nationals into the labour market through strengthened cooperation and mobilisation of employers and social and economic partners

Integration in the labour market is a challenge which cannot be tackled by only one actor in isolation. All actors involved must work together to create the conditions for a quick and effective integration of third-country nationals in the labour market. The role of economic and social partners and of public and private employers is key in this area.

In 2017, the Commission launched several initiatives to mobilise economic and social partners and employers to promote labour market integration. On 23 May 2017, at the occasion of the second European Dialogue on Skills and Migration, employers and representatives of economic and social partners discussed the challenges and benefits of the integration of third-country nationals in the labour market and exchanged good practices on how to effectively promote integration¹⁰. On the same day, the initiative

¹⁰ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-1386_en.htm

"Employers together for integration"¹¹ was launched in order to give visibility to the activities put in place by employers to support integration of refugees and other migrants in their workforce and beyond.

In order to continue this process, and considering the different levels of experience and of engagement across the EU on this issue, it is particularly relevant to promote transnational projects and partnerships to foster the integration of third-country nationals in the labour market and to promote employers' and social partners' engagement on this topic.

The objectives are to:

- Promote early and effective integration in the labour market of third-country nationals, by creating effective transnational partnerships with all actors concerned and in particular social and economic partners, employers, public and private employment services and national and local authorities to foster the development of tools, methods, capacity building and experience exchanges;
- Raise awareness about the conditions for early and effective labour market integration of third-country nationals, as well as of its economic and social benefits and mobilise employers and other key actors to become active on this topic.

Project applications that would include at least 3 of the following entities in their applications will be assessed as being particularly relevant:

- Transnational or national associations of employers,
- Transnational, national or regional Chambers of commerce and industry,
- Transnational, national or regional skilled craft Chambers,
- Transnational, national or regional Trade unions organizations
- Vocational education and training providers
- Public or private employment services
- National, regional and local authorities with responsibility for integration into the labour market

Social partners organization (employers or trade union organizations) could be cross-industry or sectoral organizations.

In addition, applicants can include other relevant entities such as non-governmental organisations active in the field of labour market integration.

When proposals aim at reaching out and involving employers, both private and public, a clear and well defined strategy should be included in the proposal (which employers to be involved, kind of activities to be implemented, expected outcomes from the cooperation with them).

Projects will have to represent a clear added value vis-à-vis existing actions and networks which could be active in the same field or target same type of activities.

Activities submitted under this priority should not be already financed under other EU Funds in particular the European Social Fund (ESF)¹².

5. Integration of victims of trafficking in human beings

According to the 2016 Report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings, there is strong evidence that the migration crisis has been exploited by criminal networks involved in trafficking in human beings to target the most vulnerable, in

¹¹ https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/legal-migration/european-dialogue-skills-and-migration/integration-pact_en

¹² For more information on projects under the ESF, please refer to <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/transnationality/partners-search> and <https://ec.europa.eu/esf/transnationality/forums/migrants>

particular women and children. Recent IOM estimates¹³ show a sharp increase by 600% since 2014 in the number of potential victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation arriving to Italy through the Central Mediterranean route. Victims are predominantly Nigerian women and girls. In this context, there is a clear need to support the integration of victims of trafficking who are third-country nationals and who are residing legally in a Member State or, where appropriate, who are in the process of acquiring legal residence in a Member State, including beneficiaries of international protection.

The provision of assistance and support for the third country national victims of trafficking in human beings under this call assists the EU Member States in relation to Articles 11-14 of Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims¹⁴ and addresses the findings of the Commission Report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings (2016)¹⁵.

The objectives are to:

- ensure that victims of trafficking receive appropriate assistance and support as soon as there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person is a victim of trafficking;
- ensure gender-specific and child sensitive assistance and support measures, including taking into account specific needs of the victims
- ensure integration of third country national victims of trafficking in the host society, taking into account the perspective of the victims and in view of finding durable solution.

Proposals must take a victim-centred approach, and be gender-specific as relevant. Projects should target, but not be limited to, trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation as per the results of the Comprehensive Policy Review¹⁶, the statistical data available¹⁷, and in line with the decision of the Commission of designating 2017 as the year of focused action to address violence against women and girls.

The projects under priority 5 must be aiming at achieving one or more of the following outcomes:

- Improve the situation of third country national victims of trafficking in human beings and/or demonstrate and evaluate how the national/transnational actions contributed in this regard
- Set up and improve transnational cooperation networks for assistance and support of victims and their integration
- Share, exchange experiences and information and best practices related to the ground work for integrating victims of trafficking in human beings in cooperation with relevant authorities and civil society and disseminate the results
- Develop practical approaches, tools and guidelines.

Further considerations applicable to all 5 priorities in this Call

¹³ <https://www.iom.int/news/un-migration-agency-issues-report-arrivals-sexually-exploited-migrants-chiefly-nigeria>

¹⁴ OJ L 101, 15.4.2011, p. 1-11

¹⁵ Report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings, COM(2016) 267 final and its accompanying Staff Working Document (2016) 159 final

¹⁶ Study on the Comprehensive Policy Review of Anti-Trafficking Projects funded by the European Commission (2016), available at: https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/publications/comprehensive-policy-review-anti-trafficking-projects_en. The aforementioned Study found that whilst 14 % and 12 % of funded projects are on sexual exploitation and labour exploitation respectively, 14 % of EC funding is on labour exploitation projects and only 7 % is on sexual exploitation projects. Only between 2-3 % of funded projects are on trafficking of women and children, and trafficking of women.

¹⁷ Report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings, COM(2016) 267 final and its accompanying Staff Working Document (2016) 159 final

For all five priorities, the following dimensions should be considered by applicants:

Gender mainstreaming: Projects should seek to promote gender equality. Where relevant, applicants should ensure that gender equality issues are taken into account by paying attention to the situation and particular needs of women and men.

Rights of the child mainstreaming: Projects should seek to promote the respect of the rights of the child. Where relevant, applicants should ensure that rights of the child issues are taken into account by paying attention to the situation and particular needs of children.

Equal employment opportunities: The Commission encourages applicants to promote equal employment opportunities for all their staff and team, and to employ an appropriately diverse mix of people.

Applicants should take these three dimensions into account when planning their project and preparing their application, and demonstrate in their proposal how they will achieve them.

Any action under this Call for Proposals shall respect and shall be implemented in line with the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Applications should pay appropriate attention to the effects of the project on individual rights and freedoms, as well as to possible remedies. In addition, any action under this Call for Proposals should comply with all relevant ethical principles and all applicable international, EU and national law on ethical issues while carrying out the project.

Further considerations applicable only to priority 5:

This Call aims to fund **targeted, practical projects ensuring maximum tangible and demonstrable benefits and impacts on the lives of victims**. The projects should demonstrate a sound methodology and practical implementation measures and outcomes. Activities such as the **mapping of existing materials should be very minor components of project proposals and where they are included** a solid justification is needed. Any training and/or practical tools should have an overarching objective to make the system work better to improve outcomes for the beneficiaries. Proposals should include a clear sustainability plan to ensure that the results of the project are useful in the longer term and after the end of the funding. In this context, applicants are invited to take note of previously funded projects:

http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-projects_en?solrsort=ds_field_publication_date%20desc.

Applications should demonstrate that proposals do not duplicate existing work, projects and initiatives. All these aspects will be taken into account when evaluating the quality of proposals.

Applicants are further expected to demonstrate under 'relevance' how their proposals are aligned with the respective EU policies and with the documents published by the European Commission:

http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/publications_en?solrsort=ds_field_publication_date%20desc

Creating appropriate links with country of origins of victims is not excluded. In this context: Entities from non-AMIF-participating countries¹⁸ cannot be beneficiaries and their costs are not eligible under this call for proposals. However, it is possible to submit projects that target or include participants from non-AMIF-participating countries. It would

¹⁸ AMIF participating countries: All EU Member States, with the exception of Denmark.

be acceptable, for instance, in a project targeting the situation in AMIF-participating countries, which in order to do that may, for example, train or organize exchanges with an organisation of a non-AMIF participating country as one of the project activities. A project solely targeting, for example, to build capacity to support victims of trafficking in Nigeria or do capacity development in Niger, would not be acceptable.

Projects funded under this call shall also seek to promote equality between women and men and the rights of the child. Gender and rights of the child mainstreaming means integrating a gender and rights of the child perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of a project, as appropriate.

All proposals **relevant to children** are expected to respect the **child's right to participate** and be aligned with Article 24 of the Charter, relevant EU law and the UN Convention on the rights of the child and describe how they will contribute to the implementation of the 10 principles for integrated child protection systems¹⁹. The child's right to be heard, as set out in UNCRC Article 12 and General Comment No 12, must be an integral part of all project activities.

Child protection/safeguarding policy: If a project will involve direct contact with children, the beneficiaries of funding (including partners) need to provide their child protection/safeguarding policy. Each partner must provide their own child protection policy if they will be working directly with children²⁰. The quality of the applicant's child safeguarding/protection policy will be assessed under the award criterion **quality**.

Any action under this Call for Proposals shall respect and shall be implemented in line with the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union²¹. Applications should pay appropriate attention to the effects of the project on individual rights and freedoms, as well as to possible remedies. In addition, any action under this Call for Proposals should comply with all relevant ethical principles and all applicable international, EU and national law on ethical issues while carrying out the project.

3. TIMETABLE

	Stages	Date and time or indicative period
a)	Opening of submission of applications	09/11/2017
b)	Deadline for submitting applications	01/03/2018 17:00 Brussels time
c)	Info session for potential applicants (webcast)	15 December and 15 February (indicative dates)
d)	Evaluation period	March – June 2018
e)	Information to applicants	July 2018

¹⁹ Ten principles for integrated child protection systems: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/2015_forum_roc_background_en.pdf

²⁰ More information on these areas can be found in "Child safeguarding standards and how to implement them" issued by Keeping Children Safe (Keeping Children Safe standards: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/rights_child/standards_child_protection_kcsc_en.pdf)

²¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/charter/>

f)	Signature of Grant Agreement	October/November 2018
g)	Starting date of the action	November/December 2018
h)	Kick-off meeting in Brussels – project coordinators	Jan/Feb 2019 Brussels

The proposal should include the costs (travel, accommodation, DSA²²) associated to the participation of 1 person from the project coordinator (lead applicant of the proposal) to a kick-off meeting in Brussels, in DG HOME premises.

4. BUDGET AVAILABLE

The total budget earmarked for the co-financing of projects is estimated at EUR 25 million, which is provisionally allocated as follows:

- Priority 1 – EUR 5 000 000
- Priority 2 – EUR 5 000 000
- Priority 3 – EUR 3 430 000
- Priority 4 – EUR 8 000 000
- Priority 5 – EUR 3 570 000

The Commission reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available.

5. ADMISSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applications must be sent no later than the deadline for submitting applications referred to in section 3.

Applications must be submitted using the Electronic Submission System of the Participant Portal originally developed for the Horizon 2020 Research programmes.

Applications must be submitted using the standard Submission Form Part A and Part B. They must include all the mandatory information and be accompanied (if applicable) by the Audit Report²³ Annexes.

Applications must be drafted in one of the EU official languages. English is preferred in order to speed up the evaluation procedure.

Projects cannot be scheduled to last more than 36 months²⁴. For priority 5, projects cannot be scheduled to last more than 24 months. Applications for projects scheduled to run for a longer period will be rejected.

Failure to comply with these requirements will lead to the rejection of the application.

6. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

6.1. Eligible applicants and applications

a) Applicants and co-applicants must be:

- legal persons (applications from natural persons are not eligible);

²² For additional information on eligibility of costs, please refer to the Guide for Applicants.

²³ If the share of a grant requested by an organisation (applicant or co-applicant) exceeds EUR 750 000, this organisation must provide an audit report produced by an approved external auditor certifying its accounts for the last closed financial year.

²⁴ The project duration may be extended during its implementation for duly justified reasons subject to the Commission's approval via an amendment to the Grant Agreement.

- established in a Member State participating in AMIF²⁵ (this does not apply to international organisations²⁶);
 - public bodies (including local authorities, public employment services, youth services and education institutions) or entities working on a non-profit basis;
 - international organisations may be established outside of the Member States of the European Union participating in AMIF.
- b) Applications related to priorities 1, 2, 3 and 4 may be submitted by international organisations, which may be also co-applicants in these cases. International organisations cannot submit applications related to priority 5 or be co-applicants for these applications;
- c) Union agencies can be neither Applicants or Co-applicants;
- d) For-profit organisations established in a Member State participating in AMIF can participate as co-applicants in applications related to priorities 1, 2 and 4, but cannot act as lead applicants / coordinators. Their participation must be strictly on a non-profit basis. For-profit organisations cannot submit applications related to priorities 3 and 5 or be co-applicants for these applications;
- e) Applications related to priorities 1, 2, 3 and 4 must involve a partnership of at least three distinct organisations from at least two different Member States participating in the AMIF. Applications related to priority 5 must involve a partnership of at least two distinct organisations from at least two different Member States participating in the AMIF; and
- f) For applications related to priorities 1, 2, 3 and 4, the grant amount requested must be between EUR 450 000 and EUR 1 000 000. For applications related to priority 5, the grant amount requested must be between EUR 200 000 and EUR 500 000.

Affiliated entities, i.e. legal entities having a legal or capital link with Applicants, shall take part in the action as individual Co-applicants in order to declare eligible costs.

For British applicants: Please be aware that eligibility criteria must be complied with for the **entire** duration of the grant. If the United Kingdom withdraws from the EU during the grant period without concluding an agreement with the EU ensuring in particular that British applicants continue to be eligible, you will cease to receive EU funding (while continuing, where possible, to participate) or be required to leave the project on the basis of Article 34.3.1(b) (change of the legal situation of the beneficiary) of the grant agreement.

To prove these eligibility requirements, Applicants and Co-applicants will have to provide the relevant information and upload necessary documents showing their legal status in the Beneficiary Register. The information needs to be provided before the submission deadline indicated in Section 3.

6.2. Eligible activities

The following types of activities are eligible under this Call for Proposals:

Priority 1 - Raising awareness on migrants' contribution to EU societies

Projects applications submitted under the present call for proposals under **priority 1** can include the following activities (this list is non-exhaustive):

²⁵ All EU Member States, with the exception of Denmark, are participating in AMIF. Legal entities established in Denmark cannot participate in this call.

²⁶ The term "international organisations" is used in this Call for Proposals as defined in the Rules of Application of the EU Financial Regulation (Article 43):

- (a) international public-sector organisations set up by intergovernmental agreements, and specialised agencies set up by such organisations;
- (b) the International Committee of the Red Cross;
- (c) the International Federation of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;
- (d) other non-profit organisations assimilated to international organisations by a Commission decision.

- a) projects in schools, sport clubs or youth clubs – targeting youth in particular;
- b) creation of audio-visual campaigns, also to be distributed to the public at large through the use of social media, which can include testimonies from third-country nationals and EU citizens on their personal experiences related to migration and integration;
- c) training for media professionals on how to find and communicate real facts about migration and the contribution of migrants to society;
- d) public communication campaigns by local or regional authorities.

Priority 2 - Community building at local level for integration including through volunteering activities

Projects applications submitted under the present call for proposals under **priority 2** can include the following activities (this list is non-exhaustive):

- a) cultural exchanges, in particular to promote culture and values of the receiving society, European values and the culture of the country of origin, including in the context of the 2018 European Year for Cultural Heritage;
- b) volunteering based activities in support of integration activities, involving EU citizens and third-country nationals at the community/neighbourhood level;
- c) sport, cultural and other educational activities;
- d) activities aiming at empowering migrants to participate in general community life.

Priority 3 – Pre-departure and post-arrival support for the integration of persons in need of international protection who are being resettled from a third country including through volunteering activities

Projects applications submitted under the present call for proposals under **priority 3** can include the following activities (this list is non-exhaustive):

a) Pre-departure activities could include:

- identifying the specific needs of people to be resettled;
- providing general information on the receiving society, managing expectations and countering myths;
- language training;
- step-by-step guidance through the resettlement, reception and integration process;
- providing information on the receiving society's legal framework, systems and social and cultural norms, rights and responsibilities;
- workshops on living in a multicultural and multi-religious environment;
- guidance on access to services, money management, etc.;
- first assessment and recognition of skills and qualifications – information on access to the labour market in the host country;

b) Post-arrival activities could include:

- language training;
- continuing the socio-cultural orientation provided in pre-departure activities;
- continuing the orientation on the receiving society's legal framework, rights, responsibilities and institutions;
- skills training;
- referral to appropriate services, including psychological counselling;
- concrete initiatives fostering the active participation of resettled persons in the receiving society;
- facilitating contacts and exchanges with the host community;

- facilitating contacts with diaspora and refugee organisations
- training officials, volunteers and service-providers on working with resettled people (e.g. sensitising them to vulnerability and experience of trauma);

c) Activities to prepare host communities for the arrival of resettled people could include:

- identifying the specific needs of resettled people upon arrival;
- preparing the relevant administrative bodies (schools, etc.);
- securing appropriate housing;
- socio-cultural orientation (e.g. information about countries of origin);
- countering myths;
- workshops on living in a multicultural and multi-religious environment;
- direct exchanges between the resettled people and host communities, e.g. through social-cultural activities, the arts, volunteering opportunities, etc;
- creating volunteering opportunities for resettled persons to help them enter in contact with the local community.

Priority 4 – Promote the swift integration of third-country nationals into the labour market through strengthened cooperation and mobilisation of employers and social and economic partners

Projects applications submitted under the present call for proposals under **priority 4** should be designed to include in particular one or more of the following activities (non-exhaustive list):

a. Developing measures or design schemes aiming to facilitate the labour market integration of third-country nationals and in particular refugees through, for example:

- the promotion of the use of the EU Skills Profile Tool for Third Country Nationals²⁷;
- the provision of skills assessment/validation to inform the delivery of tailored learning offers, along the lines of the Upskilling Pathways Council Recommendation²⁸;
- the organisation of mentoring programmes that support third-country nationals to integrate into the workplace and/or support their skills development;
- the provision of pre-recruitment and on-the-job training, including apprenticeships, accelerated training, etc.;
- the provision of information and advice to third-country nationals on rights and duties concerning their access to the labour market and at the workplace, in accordance with national law and practices;
- support to employers in hiring third-country nationals, e.g. through providing training, information on legal framework, support matching etc.;
- the provision of support to trainers in adapting training to refugees' and other migrants needs, for example in the context of vocational training while taking into account employers' skills needs;
- the provision of post-placement support to third-country nationals after they start employment, and to their employers, to ensure sustainability of employment;
- the promotion of diversity and non-discrimination at the workplace.

b. Exchanging methods and practices on the different above-mentioned actions and promoting capacity building related to labour market integration of third-country nationals among employers, employers' organisations, chambers of commerce and industries, trade unions and migrants' associations.

²⁷ <http://ec.europa.eu/migrantskills>

²⁸ <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1224>

c. Promoting the "Employers together for integration"²⁹ initiative and mobilising employers to actively promote integration in their workforce and beyond.

Priority 5 – Integration of victims of trafficking in human beings

Projects applications submitted under the present call for proposals under **priority 5** should be designed to address at least one of the following activities:

- a. Actions on assistance and support measures should address the needs of third country nationals, especially women and children, including unaccompanied children, who are victims of trafficking and have specific needs (pregnancy, psychological trauma, physical injuries and age). It is crucial that the measures incorporate a gender-specific approach and are taken in view of finding durable solutions and take into account individual assessment of the specific situation of the victims. Actions should address: support during procedures before national authorities; legal and medical assistance (including psychological support); accommodation and other relevant assistance and support measures.
- b. Actions related to the integration of third country nationals who are victims of trafficking should, in particular, address the perspective of the victims, with a view to assisting their integration in the host society. This should include, but not be limited to, possibilities for education, vocational training and apprenticeship programmes; job placement services; income generating activities; and specialized family or dependant support. A gender-specific approach to such actions is considered important.

For **priority 5**, the following types of activities will **not** be funded (please refer to section 2 - "Further considerations applicable to priority 5"):

- a) duplication of previously funded projects³⁰
- b) projects requiring operating grants for setting up or second phases of networks. The present call is not a Call for operating grants.
- b) direct provision of assistance packages to victims in kind or in cash, legal actions before national or international courts regardless of their grounds or objectives;
- c) individual sponsorships/scholarships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences, congresses, training courses etc.;
- d) activities supporting individual political parties and/or their representatives in any way.

7. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Applicants will be excluded from participating in the Call for Proposals procedure and from the grant award if they are in any of the situations referred to in articles 131(4) of the EU Financial Regulation³¹, i.e. one of the following situations:

²⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/legal-migration/european-dialogue-skills-and-migration/integration-pact_en

³⁰ Please see website containing awarded projects addressing trafficking in human beings: http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-projects_en?solsort=ds_field_publication_date%20desc

³¹ Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ 2012 L298, p. 1).

7.1. Exclusion from participation in the Call for Proposals

- (a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- (b) they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment of a competent authority of a Member State which has the force of res judicata;
- (c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify including by decisions of the EIB and international organisations;
- (d) they are not in compliance with their obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of Belgium or those of the country where the action is to be implemented;
- (e) they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering or any other illegal activity, where such an illegal activity is detrimental to the Union's financial interests;
- (f) they are currently subject to an administrative penalty for: being guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the Commission as a condition of participation in a procurement or grant award procedure or for failing to supply this information; or having been declared to be in serious breach of its obligations under grant agreements or contracts financed by the Union's budget.

7.2. Exclusion from award

Applicants will not be granted financial assistance if, in the course of the grant award procedure, they:

- (a) are subject to a conflict of interest in connection with the action;
- (b) are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the Commission as a condition of participation in the grant award procedure or fail to supply this information;
- (c) find themselves in one of the situations of exclusion, referred to in section 7.1.

Administrative and financial penalties may be imposed on Applicants and Co-applicants who are guilty of misrepresentation.

8. SELECTION CRITERIA

8.1. Financial capacity

Applicants and Co-applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period during which the action is being carried out and to participate in its funding. Organisations participating in several projects shall have sufficient financial capacity to implement multiple projects.

Financial capacity check will be performed by the Research Executive Agency (REA). It will be assessed in line with the requirements of the Financial Regulation (EC) No 966/2012.

The documents that will be requested when assessing the financial capacity include (1) the profit and loss account and (2) the balance sheet for the last financial year for which the

accounts were closed. For newly created entities the business plan may replace the above documents.

The financial documents must be uploaded in the Beneficiary Register when uploading the application package.

In case of low financial capacity, the Commission may decide the following:

- request further documents;
- request budget modifications / reallocations of costs;
- introduce interim payments based on interim reports;
- modify pre-financing percentage.

In case of insufficient financial capacity, the Commission may decide the following:

- request a change of Co-applicant;
- reject the application.

Financial Capacity assessment **will not be carried out** if:

- the Applicant or Co-applicant is a public body or an international organisation;
- the EU contribution requested by the Applicant or Co-applicant is \leq EUR 60 000.

If the share of a grant requested by an organisation (Applicant or Co-applicant) exceeds EUR 750 000, this organisation must also provide an audit report produced by an approved external auditor certifying its accounts for the last closed financial year. This provision shall not apply to public bodies or to international organisations.

8.2. Operational capacity

Applicants and Co-applicants must have the professional competencies as well as appropriate qualifications necessary to complete the proposed action. This capacity shall be assessed based on the experience of the Applicants and each Co-applicant or, as an alternative, on the relevant experience of their directly involved employees.

As evidence, the following information must be provided in the Submission Form Part B of the proposal:

- general profiles (qualifications and experiences) of the staff primary responsible for managing and implementing the proposed action to be described under point 5.1.3,
- a description of the partnership in the context of the proposed action to be provided under point 5.1.1.

The operational capacity assessment is not applicable to public bodies and international organisations.

9. AWARD CRITERIA

Eligible applications and their proposed action will be assessed on the basis of the following award criteria:

Award Criteria	Maximum Points	Threshold
1. Relevance	30	21
2. Quality of the project	20	-
3. Cost effectiveness	20	-
4. European added value	20	-
5. Expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact	10	-
TOTAL	100	65

- Relevance: applications will be assessed on the extent to which they match the priorities and expected outcomes (if applicable) as identified in this Call for Proposals (section 2 above) and in the relevant EU strategic documents and/or action plans (section 1 above), and on whether the expected impact will be significant on the selected priority(ies) (30 points).

Applications receiving less than 21 points for the "relevance" criterion will not be evaluated further, i.e. will not be evaluated under the remaining three award criteria.

- Quality: applications will be assessed with regards to the appropriateness of their design and planned implementation, taking into account the envisaged activities, methodology, organisation of work and strategy for project management, evaluation and dissemination (20 points);
- Cost-effectiveness: applications will be assessed with regards to whether the costs of the proposed action are adequate to the activities and proportionate to the expected results (20 points);
- European added value: the project activities, outcomes and impact should have a broad EU relevance; applications will be assessed on whether a suitable number of countries is involved in the project activities and on whether the expected impact will concern a significant number of countries (20 points);
- Expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact. (10 points).

Applications that pass the threshold of minimum 65 points will be considered for funding within the limits of the available budget.

10. LEGAL COMMITMENTS

The award of each grant is subject to the conclusion of a Grant Agreement in writing.

The coordinators of projects proposed for funding will be invited to engage in a grant agreement preparation process, which will be carried out via an online IT system (SYGMA). If successful, it will conclude with the signature of a Grant Agreement, drawn up in euro and detailing the conditions and level of funding.

The Grant Agreement must be signed electronically first by the coordinator on behalf of the consortium and then by the European Commission. All co-beneficiaries must accede to the Grant Agreement by signing electronically the accession form to the grant.

Please note, that if international organisations are involved in the application, no other specific clauses applicable to international organisations than the ones already included in the Model Grant Agreement will be added.

Please note that the award of a grant does not establish any entitlement for subsequent years.

11. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

11.1. General Principles

a) Non-cumulative award

An action may only receive one grant from the EU budget.

In no circumstances shall the same costs be financed twice by the Union budget. To ensure this, applicants shall indicate the sources and amounts of Union funding received or applied for the same action or part of the action or for its functioning during the same financial year as well as any other funding received or applied for the same action (Submission Form Part B, section 6).

b) Non-retroactivity

No grant may be awarded retrospectively for actions already completed. A grant may be awarded for an action which has already begun only where the Applicant can demonstrate the need to start the action before the Grant Agreement is signed. In any case, costs eligible for financing may not have been incurred prior to the date of submission of the grant application.

c) Co-financing

Co-financing means that the resources which are necessary to carry out the action may not be entirely provided by the EU grant.

Co-financing of the action may take the form of:

- the Beneficiary's own resources,
- income generated by the action,
- financial contributions from third parties.

d) Balanced budget

The Budget Estimate of the action is to be included in the Application Form. It must have revenue and expenditure in balance and must be drawn up in euro.

Beneficiaries with general accounts in a currency other than the euro shall convert costs incurred in another currency into euro at the average of the daily exchange rates published in the C series of Official Journal of the European Union, determined over the corresponding reporting period.³² Where no daily euro exchange rate is published in the Official Journal of the European Union for the currency in question, conversion shall be made at the average of the monthly accounting rates established by the Commission and published on its [website](#), determined over the corresponding reporting period.

Beneficiaries with general accounts in euro shall convert costs incurred in another currency into euro according to their usual accounting practices.

Where the implementation of the action requires the award of procurement contracts (implementation contracts), the Beneficiary must award the contract to the bid offering best value for money or the lowest price (as appropriate), avoiding conflicts of interests and retaining the documentation for the event of an audit. Detailed information on subcontracting is provided in the Guide for Applicants.

e) Financial support to third parties

The applications may not envisage provision of financial support to third parties.

f) Non-profit rule

EU grants may not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit within the framework of the action. Profit shall be defined as a surplus of the receipts over the eligible costs incurred by the Beneficiary, when the request is made for payment of the balance. In this respect, where a profit is made, the Commission shall be entitled to recover the percentage of the profit corresponding to the Union contribution to the eligible costs actually incurred by the Beneficiary to carry out the action.

11.2. Maximum amount requested

The EU grant is limited to a co-funding rate of 90% of the total eligible costs of the action.

Consequently, part of the total eligible expenses must be financed from sources other than the EU grant (see section 11.1.c).

³² For further guidance on exchange rate please consult the Guide for Applicants.

11.3. Payment arrangements

A pre-financing payment corresponding to maximum 80% of the EU grant amount will be transferred to the Coordinator after the signature of the Grant Agreement by both parties and in accordance with its terms.

The Commission will establish the amount of the final payment to be made to the Coordinator on the basis of the calculation of the final grant amount. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, the Beneficiaries will be required to reimburse the amount paid in excess by the Commission through a recovery order.

12. PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

12.1. How to apply

Proposals must be submitted by the deadline indicated in section 3 via the Electronic Submission System. The list of available calls can be found at the [calls for proposals page](#).

Before submitting a proposal both the Applicant and Co-applicants must be registered via the [Beneficiary Register](#) and obtain the 9-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC) (one for each applicant).

In submitting a proposal, the Applicant accepts the procedures and conditions as described in this Call for Proposals and in the documents to which it refers.

No modification of the application is allowed once the deadline for submission has elapsed. However, if there is a need to clarify certain aspects or for the correction of clerical mistakes, the Commission may contact the Applicant for this purpose during the evaluation process³³.

Applicants will be informed in writing about the results of the evaluation process.

12.2. Related documents

The following documents are available via the Electronic Submission System:

- Application form (Submission Form Part A and Part B)
- Required annex –Audit Report³⁴ if applicable
- Model Grant Agreement
- Guide for applicants

12.3. Applications for several projects

The Applicant may submit more than one application under this call for proposals.

The Applicant may be awarded more than one grant under this call for proposals.

An organisation may participate as Applicant or Co-applicant in several applications.

12.4. Several applications for the same project

Only one application will be accepted and evaluated for any given project. In case there are several applications for the same project, the Applicant will be asked to clarify which application shall be evaluated.

³³ Article 96 of the Financial Regulation

³⁴ If the share of a grant requested by an organisation (applicant or co-applicant) exceeds EUR 750 000, this organisation must also provide an audit report produced by an approved external auditor certifying its accounts for the last closed financial year.

An action may receive only one grant from the EU budget.

12.5. Contacts

For questions on the online submission tools, please contact the [IT helpdesk](#) set-up for this purpose via the Participant Portal website.

Non-IT related questions shall be sent to the following email address: HOME-AMIF-UNION-ACTIONS@ec.europa.eu. In order to ensure an efficient handling of any enquiry please indicate clearly the reference of this Call for Proposals.

Questions will be answered as soon as possible. Questions received later than 7 calendar days before the deadline for submitting applications will not be answered. In the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the Commission cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of applicants or actions or on the outcome of the Call for Proposals before the official announcement of results.

Applicants are advised to consult the Call's website regularly. The Commission will publish at this website any additional information relevant to the Call, such as responses to frequently asked questions (if appropriate) and the results of the selection procedure.

There will be 2 webcast Info sessions to allow applicants to submit questions related to the methodology and preparation of the proposals (not on specific eligibility of applicants or applications). The exact dates will be announced in the call website, in principle there will be one session mid-December and another in the last week of January.

13. PUBLICITY

13.1. By the Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries must clearly acknowledge the European Union's contribution in all publications or in conjunction with activities for which the grant is used. Please refer to the Grant Agreement for more details.

13.2. By the Commission

All information relating to grants awarded in the course of a financial year shall be published on an internet site of the European Union institutions no later than the 30 June of the year following the financial year in which the grants were awarded. The Commission will publish the following information:

- name and address of the beneficiary,
- subject of the grant,
- amount awarded.

Upon a reasoned and duly substantiated request by the Beneficiary, the publication shall be waived if such disclosure risks threatening the rights and freedoms of individuals concerned as protected by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union or harm the commercial interests of the beneficiaries.

14. DATA PROTECTION

The reply to any call for proposals involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CVs of individuals participating in the co-financed action). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any personal data requested in order to evaluate the application in accordance with the specifications of the Call for

Proposal will be processed solely for that purpose by the Commission or third parties acting on behalf and under the responsibility of the Commission. Data subjects may be informed regarding further details of the processing operations, their rights and how they may be enforced by referring to the privacy statement published in the [Legal Notice page](#) of the Participant Portal.

Applicants are invited to check the relevant privacy statement at regular intervals so as to be duly informed on possible updates that may occur by the deadline for submission of their proposals or afterwards. Beneficiaries assume the legal obligation to inform their staff on the relevant processing operations that are to be performed by the Research Executive Agency; in order to do so, they have to provide them with the privacy statements published by the Agency in the Participant Portal before transmitting their data to the Agency. Personal data may be registered in the Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES) of the European Commission provided for in Articles 105a and 108 of the EU Financial Regulation according to the applicable provisions.

15. MEANS OF REDRESS

If, at any stage of the administrative treatment of grant applications, the persons or entities concerned consider that they have been affected by an instance of maladministration, they may, irrespective of any other means of redress, make a complaint to the European Ombudsman in accordance with Article 228(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and as provided by the Parliament Decision of 9 March 1994 on the regulations and general conditions governing the performance of the Ombudsman's duties published in Official Journal L 113 of 4 May 1994.