



# Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

## Call for proposals document

Integration of Third-Country Nationals

AMIF-2018-AG-INTE

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## Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (2014-2020)

### 2018 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

#### AMIF-2018-AG-INTE

### 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.

The [2018 AMIF annual work programme for Union action](#) (AWP)<sup>1</sup> includes:

- Actions to reduce the incentives for irregular migration (helping third-countries to meet their obligations as regards readmitting their own nationals residing irregularly in the EU, support for reintegration measures, providing information and awareness-raising on the risks of irregular migration, tackling migrant smuggling, support for the deployment of European migration liaison officers); and
- Actions relating to the integration of third-country nationals into Member States' societies.

The legal basis of AMIF are the following:

- Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund<sup>2</sup>
- 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 management<sup>3</sup>.

The AMIF Regulation sets out four specific objectives:

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

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<sup>1</sup>C(2018) 3247 final

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 150, 20/5/2014, p. 168.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 150, 20/5/2014, 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.

## **2. PRIORITIES OF THIS CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

The present Call for Proposals aims at funding projects in five priorities areas.

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).

### **Priority 1: Local and regional networks for the integration of third-country nationals**

In May 2015 the European Commission adopted the European Agenda on Migration (EAM)<sup>4</sup>, 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 Europe<sup>5</sup>, the Commission adopted an Action Plan on the integration of third-country nationals on 7 June 2016<sup>6</sup>. The Action 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.

As stressed by the Action Plan on the integration of third-country nationals, the role of local and regional authorities in the integration process is crucial as most of integration measures are implemented at local level. Confronted with several challenges (inter alia lack of experience and knowledge in the field, lack of human and financial resources, political and societal environment not favourable to migrant integration), while facing direct demands to ensure the social and economic well-being of immigrants, the support of the EU can prove essential to help local governments rise to the challenge of integration and contributing to building inclusive and cohesive societies.

Due to the large influx of asylum seekers in 2015 and 2016, local and regional authorities in Europe are now facing several challenges relating to the different areas of integration such as education, housing, integration in the labour market, participation, health, etc. Many cities and regions are confronted with these challenges for the first time, with none or little prior experience in the field. Experience and knowledge on integration varies a lot between Member States and between local and regional authorities within each Member State.

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<sup>4</sup> [COM\(2015\) 240 final](#)

<sup>5</sup> [COM\(2016\) 197 final](#)

<sup>6</sup> [COM\(2016\) 377 final](#)

In that respect, a [recent study](#) carried out by the OECD on the local integration of migrants and refugees has highlighted the need to share good practices between local authorities<sup>7</sup>. The existing networks involve generally large cities and regions having a long experience on integration. The Commission considers it very valuable to give the possibility to local authorities having less experience in the field, and having been confronted with this issue only recently, to benefit from the knowledge and practices developed by experienced local authorities in that field.

Therefore, in order to promote the exchange of experiences on this topic at EU level, the Commission intends to finance transnational projects setting-up network of regions and cities to work together on integration. These projects, which will be implemented over a relatively long time-scale (up to 3 years), will allow transfer of knowledge, exchange of practices and experiences at local and regional level across Member States.

Partnerships should, in particular, include local and regional authorities having none or little experience on integration and local and regional authorities having experience in that area through the development of integration policies and measures.

The networks funded under this call should aim at exchanging and transferring knowledge and best practices in all relevant areas of integration, and in particular:

- Setting-up of local or regional strategies and policies in the field of integration
- Setting up of "one-stop-shop" structures for integration or local integration centres
- Education and training
- Housing
- Access to basic services, including health services
- Integration in the labour market
- Promoting active participation and social inclusion
- Favours exchanges between migrants and the host society as well as raise awareness on the benefits of integration

Considering the potential EU added value of large networks, projects involving more Member States than the minimum number identified in the eligibility criteria (see section 5.2.) would be particularly welcome.

## **Objectives**

Concretely, the objectives of this priority are to:

- Facilitate the transfer of experience and knowledge on integration between local and regional authorities at EU level through setting up networks of local and regional authorities at EU level
- In the context of the network, develop concrete projects and activities on integration at local or regional level (particularly in the areas indicated above), for which a support by a local or regional authority having experience on similar project might be useful, especially in the setting-up and the development of the first phase
- With the support of the network, promote exchanges, between the host society and migrants on the topic of integration
- Facilitate the dissemination of know-how and best practices beyond the partners of the network.

Although the networks should be mostly made of local and regional authorities where relevant and useful for the implementation of the projects and activities the partnerships

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<sup>7</sup> OECD, Working Together for Local Integration of Migrants and Refugees; 18 April 2018

could also involve NGOs, social and economic partners, employers as well as national authorities.

## **Actions**

- Trainings, workshops, mutual learning activities aiming at transferring and sharing knowledge on integration
- Technical assistance from members of the network for setting up and implementing projects to local and regional authorities in the field of integration
- Transfer of knowledge between members of the network, implementation of projects in the field of integration
- Awareness raising activities and events organised at local level to facilitate integration (e.g. presenting success stories of integration, fighting prejudices).
- Create tools or platforms to facilitate the dissemination of know-how and best practices

## **Outcomes**

The projects financed under this priority should achieve the following outcomes:

- Improve transnational cooperation between local and regional authorities for the integration of third-country nationals;
- Improve the situation and integration of third country nationals in cities/regions involved in the projects and/or demonstrate and evaluate how the national/transnational actions contributed in this regard;
- Share and exchange experiences, information and best practices on integration at local level;
- Develop and implement concrete integration projects and measures at local level following the exchange of information and experience between members of the network

Applicants are also invited to take note of, to avoid duplication with, and to build on projects previously funded by the EU in relation to legal integration. You may find additional information at:

- [European Web Site on Integration](#);
- [Mapping integration efforts: what cities and regions are doing on integration](#)
- [Funded projects under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund](#);
- [Projects funded under the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals](#);
- [Financial Transparency System](#).

## **Priority 2: Legal migration projects with third countries**

In line with the Partnership Framework approach to promote a coordinated, systematic and structured approach to maximise the synergies and leverages of the Union's internal and external policies, in September 2017 the Commission launched the idea of legal migration pilot projects (Communication on the Delivery of the European Agenda on Migration, COM(2017) 558 final). The main objective of the pilot projects is to promote the role that legal migration can play in the overall management of migratory flows, by encouraging and promoting the development of concrete projects by Member States in the area of legal migration, with a particular focus on labour migration (including opportunities for traineeships).

On 16 April 2018<sup>8</sup> the Commission launched a [call for proposal](#) – managed by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) - in the framework of the Mobility Partnership Facility (MPF), addressed to EU Member States' public bodies.

This call is complementary to the MPF call to the extent that its purpose is to cover the development of projects on legal migration with third-countries developed by non-public bodies and actors.

The provision of legal migration pathways to the EU is part of a more comprehensive strategy to manage orderly migration flows. Host societies, countries of origin and the migrants themselves stand to benefit from increased share of legal migration in overall flows at the expense of irregular migration. Establishing legal pathways with third countries can also help the EU to address labour and skills' shortages across the labour markets of EU Member States. The scope for more legal pathways could be improved by identifying appropriate mechanisms that could facilitate matching demand and offers for jobs. This includes both temporary/circular and long term mobility, depending on EU Member States' labour market needs.

The involvement of a wide variety of stakeholders, in particular economic actors, is key to the successful implementation of this Priority.

### **Objectives**

Concretely, the objectives of this priority are:

- Promotion of specific labour and training-related migration pathways between third-countries and EU Member States, involving employers, other economic and social partners and civil society
- Development of actions to achieve a better match between skills and demands in the EU's labour markets, in close cooperation with all relevant labour market actors, including employers, chambers of commerce and industry, national business organizations, trade unions, education and training institutions, including universities, and networks delivering work-related training, and civil society
- Knowledge- and experience-sharing on successful actions to promote legal migration to the EU, taking into account the needs of migrants, the host societies as well as countries of origin

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<sup>8</sup> ICMPD, Pilot Projects on Legal Migration: Call for Proposals; 16 April 2018

## **Actions**

- Analysis and design of concrete steps on how to set up and/or facilitate mobility between third countries and EU Member States;
- Support measures during the pre-departure phase, including language training, vocational training, skills enhancement and work-place awareness training;
- Support measures during the mobility phase, including further language training in the host Member State, access to cultural mediators, workplace training and mentoring, skills' enhancement and entrepreneurship training.
- Support measures during the re-integration phase, including supporting diaspora in enhancing the developmental impact of labour migrants returning to their country of origin, mentoring in association with the relevant local agencies, recruitment to workplace by matching demand-offer skills upon return, as well as support (e.g. provision of advice, coaching) to the setting up of a business in the country of origin.

## **Outcomes**

The projects financed under this priority should achieve the following outcomes:

- Development of specific labour and training-related migration projects, involving the actual mobility of the third-country nationals concerned to one or more EU Member States, benefitting the migrant worker, the countries of origin and the (EU) destination country or countries.

Applicants are also invited to take note of, to avoid duplication with, and to build on projects previously funded by the EU in relation to third countries. You may find additional information at:

- [Global Approach to Migration and Mobility](#)
- [Mobility Partnership Facility](#)
- [Projects funded under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund](#)
- [Financial Transparency System](#)



### **Priority 3: Integration of third country nationals who are victims of trafficking in human beings**

*Providing better access to and realising the rights of the victims of trafficking in human beings* is a priority under the 2017 Communication<sup>9</sup> on stepping up EU action to address trafficking in human beings.

Data from the EU Member States indicates that around 35 % of victims registered in the EU are non-EU nationals from, amongst others, Nigeria, China, Albania, Vietnam and Morocco<sup>10</sup>. Traffickers are taking advantage of irregular migration routes<sup>11</sup>, and increases have been reported in particular in the number of women and girls trafficked to the EU for the purpose of sexual exploitation from, amongst others: Nigeria, Cameroon, Ghana, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone.<sup>12</sup>

In order to support the integration of third country nationals who are victims of trafficking in human beings, it is important to strengthen relevant stakeholders in implementing the EU Anti-trafficking Directive<sup>13</sup>, with respect to provisions on assistance and support for victims (Art. 11, 13 and 14 of the Directive). At the same time, this contributes to the implementation the 2017 Communication, namely by supporting anti-trafficking objectives and priorities for third country national victims of trafficking through transnational projects. Such projects must ensure that they take into consideration the gender specific nature of this phenomenon as well as the high-risk groups and sectors it affects.

#### **Objectives**

Concretely, the objectives of this priority are to:

- Improving the integration of third country national victims of trafficking in the host society, taking into account the individual needs of the victims and in view of finding durable solutions and preventing re-trafficking
- Facilitating the safe and sustainable, voluntary return of third country national victims of trafficking, with a view to finding durable solutions and preventing their re-trafficking
- Ensure durable solutions for third country national child victims of trafficking and prevent re-trafficking

#### **Actions**

- Measures aiming at improving the early and proactive identification of third country national victims of trafficking in human beings, including enabling them to understand and have access to their rights

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<sup>9</sup> Communication Reporting on the follow-up to the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of trafficking in human beings and identifying further concrete actions, COM(2017) 728 final.

<sup>10</sup> Report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings (2016) as required under Article 20 of the [Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims](#), OJ L 101, 15.4.2011, p. 1-11. Further, in 2010-2012 the top-5 countries were Nigeria, Brazil, China, Vietnam and Russia [SWD\(2016\) 159 final](#).

<sup>11</sup> Trafficking in human beings is not per se migration related, and conceptual clarity must be ensured as per the differences between trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants, at the same time Europol reported that in the context of the migration challenges migrant smuggling suspects have also links with trafficking in human beings in 25% of the cases:  
[https://www.europol.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/two\\_years\\_of\\_emsc\\_report.pdf](https://www.europol.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/two_years_of_emsc_report.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> 2018 Frontex Risk Analysis Report:  
[https://frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/Risk\\_Analysis/Risk\\_Analysis/Risk\\_Analysis\\_for\\_2018.pdf](https://frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/Risk_Analysis/Risk_Analysis/Risk_Analysis_for_2018.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> Directive 2011/3/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA, OJ L 101, 15.04.2011, p. 1

<sup>13</sup> Directive 2011/3/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA, OJ L 101, 15.04.2011, p. 1

- Measures aiming at assisting and supporting third country national victims of trafficking and preventing the risk of re-trafficking, catering for the individual needs of the victims
- Assistance and support measures taking into account the gender, age and consequences of the form of exploitation victims have been subjected to (amongst others: pregnancy, psychological trauma, physical injuries), including with respect to health and psychological support, aiming at enabling and facilitating the integration of victims in society
- Measures directed for the benefit of third country national victims of trafficking, including, amongst others: education, language training, vocational training, apprenticeship programmes; job placement services, skills enhancement, workplace training and mentoring, and entrepreneurship training
- Setting up and improvement of transnational cooperation among relevant actors for assisting and supporting third country national victims, aiming at their integration, including in the context of safe and assisted voluntary return when relevant, and implement durable solutions for child victims
- Sharing and exchanging experiences, information, knowledge and best practices on integration of third country national victims of trafficking in human beings, for their voluntary and safe return, and for durable solutions for child victims, aiming at achieving concrete impact and benefits on the lives of the victims, in cooperation with relevant authorities and civil society and other actors and disseminate the results

## Outcomes

The projects financed under this priority should achieve the following outcomes:

- Improve the situation, integration, of third country national victims of trafficking in human beings in cities/regions/rural areas involved in the projects and/or demonstrate and evaluate how the national/transnational actions contributed in this regard
- Improve transnational cooperation between local and regional authorities and civil society for the integration, as well as voluntary and safe return of third-country national victims of trafficking and durable solutions for child victims;
- Develop practical approaches, tools and guidelines, building on results of past projects when relevant and appropriate.

Project proposals must clearly focus on third country nationals who are victims of trafficking in human beings, and demonstrate how a comprehensive, victim-centred approach will be adopted, concretely presenting the foreseen gender-specific and child-sensitive elements of the implementation at all stages. Project proposals must demonstrate their links with the policy priorities set forth in the 2017 Communication, and take into account the outcomes of the relevant published Studies under the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of trafficking in human beings 2012-2016<sup>14</sup> as well as the 2016 Commission Progress report on trafficking in human beings<sup>15</sup>. This includes, but is not limited to, focusing on trafficking for sexual exploitation and especially women and children who are disproportionately affected.

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<sup>14</sup> In particular project proposals should take into account: Study on Comprehensive Policy Review of anti-trafficking projects funded by the European Commission (2016, available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/study\\_on\\_comprehensive\\_policy\\_review.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/study_on_comprehensive_policy_review.pdf)), Study on High risk groups for trafficking in human beings (2015, available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-policy/study-high-risk-groups-trafficking-human-beings\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-policy/study-high-risk-groups-trafficking-human-beings_en)) and Study on gender dimension of trafficking in human beings (2016, available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-policy/study-gender-dimension-trafficking-human-beings\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-policy/study-gender-dimension-trafficking-human-beings_en))

<sup>15</sup> Report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings, COM (2016) 267 final ('First Progress report') and Commission Staff Working Document accompanying the First Progress report (SWD (2016) 159 final)

Proposals should be justified taking into account the [Communication](#) *Reporting on the follow-up to the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of trafficking in human beings and identifying further concrete actions*<sup>16</sup> and other documents available on the EU Anti-trafficking [website](#)<sup>17</sup>. Creating appropriate links with victims' countries of origin is not excluded.

Applicants are also invited to take note of, to avoid duplication with, and to build on previous projects:

- [Comprehensive policy review](#) of EU funded anti-trafficking projects<sup>18</sup>
- Past and on-going projects' descriptions can be found on the EU anti-trafficking website<sup>19</sup>.

In this context, applicants must explain how proposals take note of, and build on, results of existing projects and, where relevant, ensure synergies and complementarities with other programmes implemented in countries of origin and transit in a view to avoiding duplication.

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<sup>16</sup> COM(2017) 728 fina

<sup>17</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/>. An overview is further available in the publication EU Anti-trafficking Action 2012-2016 at a glance: [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eu\\_anti-trafficking\\_action\\_2012-2016\\_at\\_a\\_glance.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eu_anti-trafficking_action_2012-2016_at_a_glance.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> Study on comprehensive policy review of anti-trafficking projects funded by the European Commission

<sup>19</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-projects\\_en?solsort=ds\\_field\\_publication\\_date%20desc](http://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-projects_en?solsort=ds_field_publication_date%20desc)

#### **Priority 4: Care for migrant minors, including unaccompanied minors**

According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>20</sup> a child should grow up in a family environment, and children who are temporarily deprived of their family environment, including migrant children, are entitled to special protection and assistance.

In line with the requirements of Article 24(2) of the Reception Conditions Directive,<sup>21</sup> unaccompanied children seeking to obtain international protection in the EU must be provided suitable and safe reception conditions, which include placement with a foster family, accommodation centres with special provision for children, or other suitable accommodation, such as supervised independent living arrangements for older children. The UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children constitute relevant standards in this respect.<sup>22</sup>

The [Communication on the protection of children in migration](#)<sup>23</sup> identified gaps in the protection offered to migrant children along the entire migratory route, and set out detailed actions to address the gaps identified. The Communication recommended to the Member States to (1) ensure that a range of alternative care options for unaccompanied children are provided; and (2) ensure and monitor the availability and accessibility of a viable range of alternatives to the administrative detention of children in migration. It has also emphasised that there is a wealth of knowledge and good practices in the Member States on the protection of children in migration, including as regards alternative care systems and methods and alternatives to detention, which needs to be shared at local and national level.<sup>24</sup>

**Alternative care systems**<sup>25</sup>, including family-based care, foster care, and supervised independent living arrangements, have expanded in recent years in the EU. Such non-institutionalised systems have proven to be successful, cost-effective, less harmful and more beneficial for the development of the children than institutionalised care. However, family-based care systems are still under-utilised for the migrant children: very often child protection and migration legislation are not aligned, and there is a fragmentation of the relevant procedures among multiple public, private and voluntary bodies. Only a limited number of unaccompanied migrant children have been given access to family-based/foster care, due to an insufficient spread of the knowledge about how to access such systems and of the good practices that exist at local level in different jurisdictions.

**Alternatives to the detention** of migrant children are foreseen in the legislation of several Member States,<sup>26</sup> yet in practice, the alternatives are either not used or used in a limited way. Furthermore, as flagged in the Communication, in some instances migrant children are detained only due to a shortage of places in suitable and safe accommodation.

In this context, the exchange of good practices and the provision of training on how to access alternative care systems and to support their operation (including by training the families providing the care), and respectively, on the effective use of alternatives to detention, will be highly beneficial.

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<sup>20</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>.

<sup>21</sup> [Directive 2013/33/EU, OJ L 180 of 29.6.2013](#).

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4c3acd162.html>.

<sup>23</sup> [COM\(2017\) 211 final](#).

<sup>25</sup> [For a definition of alternative care systems, see Art. 29\(c\) of the 2010 UN Guidelines for the alternative care of children, General Assembly A/RES/64/142.](#)

<sup>26</sup> [The use of detention and alternatives to detention in the context of immigration policies - Synthesis Report for the EMN Focussed Study 2014 - https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/networks/european\\_migration\\_network/reports/docs/emn-studies/emn\\_study\\_detention\\_alternatives\\_to\\_detention\\_synthesis\\_report\\_en.pdf.](#)

## Objectives

Concretely, the objectives of this priority are to:

- Finance projects focusing on the exchange of good practices and/or provision of the necessary training so as to support the implementation/expansion/improvement of alternative care systems (such as family-based care, or foster care, or supervised independent housing arrangements) or of effective alternatives to detention. (Projects with an exclusively national/regional/local focus should seek AMIF funding *via* the National Programmes, taking account of projects already co-funded in this area.<sup>27</sup>)

## Actions

- Exchange of good practices and/or training and/or logistic support for the implementation/expansion/improvement of alternative care systems for migrant children, such as foster care, family-based care and/or supervised independent living where appropriate.
- Exchange of good practices and/or training and/or logistic support for the implementation/expansion/improvement of effective alternatives to detention, such as regular reporting to the authorities (by the appointed representative/family-based care/foster carers), the deposit of a financial guarantee, or an obligation to stay at an assigned place.

Actions that are not eligible for financing under this call are those involving:

- Institutionalised care systems
- Capacity building for institutional care systems
- Operating costs for family-based/foster care systems/supervised independent living/alternatives to detention (such as the cost of staff, buildings, real estate)
- Research on foster/family-based/independent living systems or alternatives to detention (there is already ample research available on these subjects – see bibliography below).

## Outcomes

The projects financed under this priority should achieve the following outcomes:

- Creation/consolidation/expansion and improvement of foster/family-based/independent living alternative care systems that are better adapted to the needs of children and more apt to promote their sound development. Increased/improved use of family-based care/foster care/supervised independent housing for unaccompanied children.
- Creation/consolidation/expansion and improvement of effective and viable alternatives to the detention of migrant children, especially when detention is aimed to prevent absconding.
- Training and preparation of staff/foster carers/family-based carers for performing all tasks related to promoting the well-being of the children (suitable accommodation, access to basic services and support, pro-integration activities). Preparing the carers for being able to identify and cater for the individual needs of each child and to table a tailored response to meet them.
- Exchange of good practices and 'know how' across the Member States, as well as dissemination of the knowledge already accumulated on family-based

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<sup>27</sup> See projects in this area previously funded at [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/rights\\_child/compilation\\_previously\\_funded\\_projects\\_rights\\_of\\_the\\_child\\_and\\_violence\\_against\\_children.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/rights_child/compilation_previously_funded_projects_rights_of_the_child_and_violence_against_children.pdf), in particular the NIDOS Alfaca I and II projects, which mapped the different models used in Europe.

alternative care systems and alternatives to detention across the national borders and at regional and local levels.

- Improved access to of alternative care systems and to effective alternatives to detention for the migrant children, measurable through indicators such as:
  - Number of migrant children who will benefit from the projects (Possibly disaggregated by age groups 0-14 and 15-17), and duration (for how long).
  - Number of training days that carers benefit from.
  - Number of places in alternative care (foster care, family-based care, (semi)-independent living etc.) covered (specifying if new places were created) by the project.
  - Number of places in alternatives to detention (specifying if new places were created) covered by the project.
  - Description of the services provided to unaccompanied minors (e.g. access to mental health, health and education/vocational training/labour market support) that were improved as a result of the project.

Applicants are also invited to take note of, to avoid duplication with, and to build on previously funded projects:

- The 10th European Forum on the rights of the child: the protection of children in migration, held on 29-30 November 2016
- The 11<sup>th</sup> [European Forum on the rights of the child](#): Children deprived of their liberty and alternatives to detention, held on 6-8 November 2017<sup>28</sup>. Under the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme, the EU has funded a number of transnational projects aiming at building child protection capacity in the area of alternative care<sup>29</sup> which are also a useful reference for potential applicants for this call.
- [The Daphne Toolkit](#)
- [DG Justice Grants](#)

All application under this call should be elaborated in close partnership with and/or be led by appropriate key players (e.g. child protection agencies; ministries/authorities for children or social affairs; social protection; children's ombudspersons; social services responsible for: housing, labour market integration, higher education and vocational training; health and mental health; counselling and psychosocial support; caregivers' associations, civil society organisations; the judiciary; academia).

At least one public authority from the country/countries where the alternative care or alternatives to detention are implemented must be involved either directly as applicant or co-applicant or indirectly (for example, only as beneficiary of the exchanges of good practices or training). The indirect involvement of the public authority shall be demonstrated at the moment of the signature of the contract through a letter from the public authority confirming its support of the application.

### **Child protection/safeguarding policy**

Where a project involves direct contact with children, the beneficiaries of funding (including partners not directly in contact with children) need to demonstrate in the application that they have set in place an internal child safeguarding policy. An internal

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<sup>28</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/item-detail.cfm?item\\_id=128349](http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/item-detail.cfm?item_id=128349).

<sup>29</sup> See Section 4 [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/rights\\_child/compilation\\_previously\\_funded\\_projects\\_rights\\_of\\_the\\_child\\_and\\_violence\\_against\\_children.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/rights_child/compilation_previously_funded_projects_rights_of_the_child_and_violence_against_children.pdf)

child protection policy should include internal standards and rules that cover four broad areas: (1) policy, (2) people, (3) procedures, and (4) accountability.<sup>30</sup>

The continuation or follow-up of successful initiatives, including the scaling up of existing initiatives and/or testing them in a different context, may be funded if it is aligned with the priority. However, the duplication of an initiative will not be funded.

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<sup>30</sup> More information on these areas can be found in "*Child safeguarding standards and how to implement them*" issued by Keeping Children Safe: [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/rights\\_child/standards\\_child\\_protection\\_kcsc\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/rights_child/standards_child_protection_kcsc_en.pdf).

## Priority 5: Engagement of diaspora communities on awareness raising

The EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling (COM(2015)285)<sup>31</sup> states that raising awareness of the risks of smuggling and of irregular migration is crucial for preventing prospective migrants and asylum seekers, including people in more vulnerable situations such as children, from embarking on hazardous journeys towards the EU. The Action Plan foresees the launch of information and awareness raising campaigns in key countries of origin or transit for migrants. It points to the importance of counter-narrative in the media to oppose misleading information provided by migrant smugglers, including through social media and with the involvement of diaspora communities in the EU.

The objective of the information and awareness raising campaigns and communication activities is to sensitise the target audience and to provide prospective migrants, vulnerable communities, diaspora members and local media with objective information about the perils of migrant smuggling and the legal, social and economic realities of life in Europe, as well as the available legal pathways to Europe. Ultimately, these campaigns seek to enable asylum seekers and migrants to make informed decisions about their movements and plans for the future<sup>32</sup>.

A recent study published by the European Commission<sup>33</sup> showed the important role the Diaspora in conveying messages and information about Europe and migration. Before departure, television influences the aspirations of potential migrants in the country of origin, while word of mouth communication with peers at home and in the diaspora in the EU assists in building plans and encourages moves. Migration plans are often, and perhaps understandably, modelled after the successful journeys of peers already in Europe, and the diaspora continues to be a trusted source of information on the journey. Many migrants seek out new contacts with compatriots based in Europe, predominantly via social media channels.

However, the study has also shown that migrants in the diaspora are unreliable interlocutors. The fast pace of change in transit and destination country policies and contexts, means that the journey and asylum application of one migrant can become unrecognisable just weeks later. Most pertinently, the difficulties irregular migrants face in the host countries are not known by migrants in transit. This seems to indicate that although a great majority of migrants are regularly in contact with the diaspora, they either receive inaccurate information or misinterpret it.

Against this background, the general objective of this action is to engage and empower diaspora communities in EU Member States in raising awareness on the risks of irregular migration and migrant smuggling, and on alternative legal pathways to Europe.

Applications that put forward activities targeting one of the following diasporas will be eligible for this call: Senegal, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria. Each application shall target a single diaspora community, which should be clearly indicated in the application form.

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<sup>31</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eu\\_action\\_plan\\_against\\_migrant\\_smuggling\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eu_action_plan_against_migrant_smuggling_en.pdf).

<sup>32</sup> Some EU projects engaging African diasporas are the projects "DiafrikInvest" (<https://www.diafrikinvest.com/en/project-presentation>), "Made West Africa" (<http://www.madenetwork.org/md-west-africa>) and ADEPT (<https://www.devex.com/organizations/africa-europe-diaspora-development-platform-adept-62751>).

<sup>33</sup> European Commission (2018). *How West African migrants engage with migration information en-route to Europe*. Available at: <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/85a216f9-42bb-11e8-b5fe-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-69531693>



## Objectives

Concretely, the objectives of this priority are to:

- Engage with and empower the voice of diaspora communities in the EU in providing information and raising awareness to counter migrant smugglers' narratives on irregular migration and to inform about the opportunities of voluntary return and reintegration programmes
- Pilot diaspora-based communication campaigns and activities providing for accurate factual, trusted and balanced information on the risks of irregular migration and migrant smuggling, both during the journey (perils of the voyage when undertaken irregularly) and after arrival (hardships of living irregularly in the EU and return), as well as on alternative legal pathways to Europe
- Strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation between actors such as local governments/councils, civil society organizations, private companies, and where relevant, third countries, on the best ways to engage with diaspora communities as bearers of information to their compatriots planning to come to Europe irregularly

## Actions

The following actions and measures may be financed:

- Preparatory, fact-funding research to:
  - map existing practices, methods and approaches in engaging with diaspora on the topic of prevention of irregular migration and migrant smuggling
  - identify the target audience(s), its/their characteristic, motivations, information needs and gaps, and access to media and information sources
  - identify communication channels that can be most effectively used by diaspora communities in raising awareness amongst (prospective) irregular migrants in countries of origin or transit
- Creation, production, implementation and dissemination of awareness-raising and information campaigns and activities engaging the diaspora communities in the EU, including by partnering with credible diaspora-based social media channels
- Monitoring and evaluation of the project to assess its results and to draft recommendations for future engagement with diaspora communities

The involvement of diaspora organisation is key to the successful implementation of this Priority. Applications, which focus only on capacity building for diaspora communities in the EU and in third countries, will not be considered for funding under this call.

## Outcomes

The projects financed under this priority should achieve the following outcomes:

- Empower the voice of diasporas and strengthen their role as bearers of reliable information for their communities in third countries.
- Increase awareness among prospective migrants in origin and transit countries of the risks of irregular migration and migrant smuggling, on alternative legal pathways to Europe as well as about opportunities of voluntary return and reintegration programs
- Strengthen cooperation and share best practices among local authorities and other actors such as civil society organizations, private companies or third countries on the best ways to engage with diasporas in countering the smugglers narratives.

- Identification of most effective approaches to the engagement with diaspora communities in the EU, as well as lessons learnt and gaps for follow-up interventions

***Important: Further considerations applicable to all 5 priorities in this Call***

This Call aims to fund targeted, practical projects ensuring maximum tangible and demonstrable benefits and impacts. The projects should demonstrate a sound methodology and practical implementation measures and outcomes. Activities such as background research and the mapping of existing materials should be very minor components of applications and where they are included a solid justification is needed, unless clearly indicated otherwise.

Any training and/or practical tools should have as an overarching objective to make the system work better to improve outcomes for the beneficiaries. Applications 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 in that area.

Applications should demonstrate (in particular under the relevance award criterion – see section 8) that proposals do not duplicate existing work, projects and initiatives. All these aspects will be taken into account when evaluating the relevance of the applications. Applicants are further expected to demonstrate under 'relevance' how their application are aligned with the priorities and reference documents described in this Call and the respective EU policies.

The following dimensions should be considered and clearly detailed by applicants in the respective application:

- *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 applications 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.

### 3. TIMETABLE

	Stages	Date and time or indicative period
a)	Publication of the call	24/07/2018
b)	Deadline for submitting applications	31/01/2019 17:00 Brussels time
c)	Info sessions for potential applicants (webcast)	End September / early December
d)	Evaluation period	February – May 2019
e)	Information to applicants	June 2019
f)	Signature of Grant Agreement	October/November 2019
g)	Starting date of the action	December 2018 / January 2019
h)	Kick-off meeting in Brussels – project coordinators	January/February 2020 Brussels

There will be 2 webcast Info sessions to allow applicants to submit questions related to the methodology and preparation of the applications (not on specific eligibility of applicants or applications). The links to the webcasts will be posted in the call page closer to the dates mentioned above.

There will be one kick-off meeting after the signature of the grants<sup>34</sup>.

### 4. BUDGET AVAILABLE

The total budget earmarked for the co-financing of projects is estimated at EUR 16.2 million, which is provisionally allocated as follows:

- Priority 1 – EUR 6 000 000
- Priority 2 – EUR 6 000 000
- Priority 3 – EUR 2 500 000
- Priority 4 – EUR 1 200 000
- Priority 5 – EUR 500 000

The Commission reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available and/or to re-allocate the amounts between topics.

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<sup>34</sup> The proposal should include the costs (travel, accommodation, DSA ) 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.

## 5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### 5.1. General eligibility provisions

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 Report 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 months<sup>35</sup> for priorities 1 and 2. For the remaining priorities projects cannot be scheduled to last more than 24 months. Applications for projects scheduled to run for a longer period will be rejected.

Maximum duration of project	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 5
Months	36	36	24	24	24

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

### 5.2. Eligible applicants and applications

In order to be eligible for a grant, the Applicant and the Co-applicants must respect the following rules.

*In order to be eligible for a grant, applicants and co-applicants must be:*

- a) legal persons (applications from natural persons are not eligible);
- b) established in a Member State participating in AMIF<sup>36</sup> (this does not apply to international organisations<sup>37</sup>);
- c) public bodies (including local authorities, public employment services, youth services and education institutions) or entities working on a non-profit basis;
- d) international organisations may be established outside of the Member States of the European Union participating in AMIF.

Applications related to priorities 1, 2 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 3 or be co-applicant for those applications.

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<sup>35</sup> 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.

<sup>36</sup> All EU Member States, with the exception of Denmark, are participating in AMIF. Legal entities established in Denmark cannot participate in this call.

<sup>37</sup> 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.

<b>International Organisations can participate as</b>	<b>Priority 1</b>	<b>Priority 2</b>	<b>Priority 3</b>	<b>Priority 4</b>	<b>Priority 5</b>
Lead applicants / coordinators	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Co-applicants	yes	yes	no	yes	no

e) For-profit organisations established in a Member State participating in AMIF can participate as co-applicants in applications in the cases indicated in the table below. Their participation must be strictly on a non-profit basis.

<b>Participation of for-profit organisations</b>	<b>Priority 1</b>	<b>Priority 2</b>	<b>Priority 3</b>	<b>Priority 4</b>	<b>Priority 5</b>
As Lead applicants / coordinators	no	no	no	no	no
As co-applicants	yes	yes	no	yes*	no

\* In priority 4, for-profit organisations can only submit applications in partnership with public entities or private non-profit organisations

f) Union agencies can be neither Applicants nor Co-applicants;

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.

*In order to be eligible for a grant, applications must be:*

a) transnational, i.e. applications related to priorities 1 and 2 must involve a partnership of at least three different entities from at least two different Member States participating in the AMIF instrument. Applications related to priorities 3, 4 and 5 must involve a partnership of at least two different entities from at least two different Member States participating in the AMIF instrument. For priority 5, at least one of the two entities must be a diaspora organisation.

<b>Minimum number of</b>	<b>Priority 1</b>	<b>Priority 2</b>	<b>Priority 3</b>	<b>Priority 4</b>	<b>Priority 5</b>
Entities	3	3	2	2	2
Member States	2	2	2	2	2

b) have a grant amount of:

For applications related to priority 1, the grant amount requested must be between EUR 1.000.000 and EUR 2.000.000.

For applications related to priority 2, the grant amount requested must be between EUR 750.000 and EUR 2.000.000.

For applications related to priority 3, the grant amount requested must be between EUR 250.000 and EUR 400.000.

For applications related to priority 4, the grant amount requested must be between EUR 250.000 and EUR 600 000.

For applications related to priority 5, the grant amount requested must be between EUR 250.000 and EUR 500 000.

<b>Grant amount</b>	<b>Priority 1</b>	<b>Priority 2</b>	<b>Priority 3</b>	<b>Priority 4</b>	<b>Priority 5</b>
Minimum (EUR)	1 000 000	750 000	250 000	250 000	250 000
Maximum (EUR)	2 000 000	2 000 000	400 000	600 000	500 000

In this context, entities from non-AMIF-participating countries<sup>38</sup> 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 be acceptable, for instance, in a project targeting the situation in AMIF-participating countries, to train or organize exchanges with an organisation of a non-AMIF participating country as one of the project activities. It would not be acceptable, on the other hand, a project solely focusing on activities in a non-AMIF country.

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.

### **5.3. Eligible activities**

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

#### **Priority 1 - Local and regional networks for integration of third-country nationals**

- Organization of mutual learning activities, trainings, workshops, meeting to pass on knowledge and experience between local authorities
- Implementation of concrete integration measures following exchanges between local authorities in the following field (non exhaustive):
  - Setting-up of local strategies and policies in the field of integration
  - Setting up of one-stop-shop structures for integration or local integration centres
  - Education and training
  - Housing
  - Health
  - Integration in the labour market
  - Exchange with host society
  - Communication and raising awareness activities at local level to facilitate integration
  - Public communication campaigns by local or regional authorities.

#### **Priority 2 - Legal migration projects with third countries**

- Organization of knowledge- and experience-sharing activities, trainings, workshops, meeting to pass on knowledge and experience between the different actors involved, incl. employers, chambers of commerce and industry, national business organizations, trade unions, education and training institutions, including universities, and networks delivering work-related training, and civil society

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<sup>38</sup> AMIF participating countries: All EU Member States, with the exception of Denmark

- Preparation and implementation of concrete labour and skills matching activities
- Preparation and implementation of concrete labour- and skills-related mobilities from third countries to the EU
- Preparation and implementation of reintegration of third country nationals into their countries of origin

### **Priority 3 – Integration of third country nationals who are victims of trafficking in human beings**

Project applications submitted under the present call for proposals under Priority 3 should aim to achieve at least one of the following activities, especially, but not limited to, focussing on disproportionately affected groups such as women and children:

- Assisting and supporting third country national victims of trafficking in human beings, including improving early and proactive identification, and enabling victims to understand and have access to their rights, and preventing the risk of re-trafficking, catering for the individual needs of the victims
- Assist and support victims of trafficking in human beings, taking into account the gender, age and consequences of the form of exploitation victims have been subjected to, including with respect to health and psychological support, aiming at enabling and facilitating the integration of victims in society
- Education, language training, vocational training, skills enhancement, apprenticeship programmes; job placement services; workplace training and mentoring, entrepreneurship training for third country national victims of trafficking in human beings
- Setting up and improving transnational cooperation of relevant actors for assisting and supporting third country national victims of trafficking, aiming at their integration, including in the context of safe and assisted voluntary return when relevant, and implementing durable solutions for child victims
- Sharing and exchanging experiences, information, knowledge and best practices on integration of third country national victims of trafficking in human beings, for their voluntary and safe return and for durable solutions for child victims, aiming at achieving concrete impact and benefits on the lives of the victims, in cooperation with relevant authorities and civil society and other actors and disseminate the results

### **Priority 4 – Care for unaccompanied refugee and migrant minors**

- Care services to support unaccompanied refugee and migrant minors in Europe
- Increasing the quality of foster care and accommodation in independent housing, as alternative to accommodation in reception centres;
- Supporting intervention aimed at Unaccompanied Minors' (UAM) integration;
- Coordination, and support to all stakeholders involved.

### **Priority 5 – Engagement of diaspora communities on awareness raising**

- Conducting preparatory, fact-finding research
- Piloting different forms of engagement with diaspora communities in the EU
- Designing, implementing and disseminating of the diaspora based information and awareness raising campaigns and communication activities
- Monitoring and evaluating the results of the project
- Strengthening cooperation and sharing of best practices among national and/or local public authorities in different Member States and civil society organisations, private companies and where relevant third countries on the best ways to engage diasporas in countering smugglers narratives.

For all priorities, the following types of activities will **not** be funded:

- duplication of previously funded projects (see Section 2 for references related to each priority)
- projects requiring operating grants for setting up or second phases of networks. The present call is not a Call for operating grants
- individual sponsorships/scholarships for participation in seminars, conferences, congresses, workshops, trainings, etc.
- activities supporting individual political parties and/or their representatives in any way

Projects applicants could involve volunteers from the European Solidarity Corps in their projects. In this case, project beneficiaries should make sure they include insurance for volunteers of the European Solidarity Corps (ESC)<sup>39</sup> in their project proposal. For more information, please check the [ESC web page](#) and related information such as the ESC legal and factsheets in the Europa Web Site<sup>40</sup>.

## **6. 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 Regulation<sup>41</sup>, i.e. one of the following situations:

### **6.1. 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;

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<sup>39</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/youth/>.

<sup>40</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/european-solidarity-corps-legal-texts-and-factsheets\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/european-solidarity-corps-legal-texts-and-factsheets_en).

<sup>41</sup> 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).



- (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.

## **6.2. 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 6.1.

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

## **7. SELECTION CRITERIA**

### **7.1. 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 accounts and (2) the balance sheets. 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.**

## 7.2. 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.

## 8. AWARD CRITERIA

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

<b>Award Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum Points</b>	<b>Threshold</b>
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	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>65</b>

### **Evaluation Step 1:**

- Relevance: applications will be assessed on the extent to which they match the priorities and expected outcomes as identified in this Call for Proposals and in the relevant EU strategic documents and/or action plans, 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 go to Evaluation Step 2.

### **Evaluation Step 2:**

- 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 : the expected results are appropriate for the achievement of the objectives in the action; the dissemination strategy is clear, targeted and appropriate; the stream of benefits is likely to continue after the period of external support has ended; the project's results ensure a long-term impact on the target groups and/or general public (10 points).

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

## **9. 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.

## **10. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

### **10.1. 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.<sup>42</sup> 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.

## **10.2. 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 10.1.c).

## **10.3. 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.

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<sup>42</sup> For further guidance on exchange rate please consult the Guide for Applicants.

## **11. PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS**

### **11.1. How to apply**

Applications 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 process<sup>43</sup>.

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

### **11.2. Related documents**

The following documents are available via the Electronic Submission System:

- Application form (Submission Form Part A and Part B)
- Required annex –Audit Report<sup>44</sup> if applicable
- Model Grant Agreement
- Guide for applicants

### **11.3. 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.

### **11.4. 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.

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

### **11.5. Contacts**

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

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<sup>43</sup> Article 96 of the Financial Regulation

<sup>44</sup> 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. Not applicable for public bodies and international organisations.

Non-IT related questions shall be sent to the following email address: [HOME-AMIF-UNION-ACTIONS@ec.europa.eu](mailto: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.

## **12. PUBLICITY**

### **12.1. 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.

### **12.2. 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.

## **13. 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.

#### **14. 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.