



Brussels, 31.5.2018
C(2018) 3247 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 31.5.2018

**on the adoption of the work programme for 2018 and the financing of Union actions
in the framework of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to 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 management¹, and in particular Article 6 and Article 8 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, amending Council Decision 2008/381/EC and repealing Decisions No 573/2007/EC and No 575/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Decision 2007/435/EC², and in particular Article 14(4) and Article 20 thereof,

Having regard to 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 Union³, and in particular Article 84(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure implementation of Union actions, it is necessary to adopt a financing decision and the work programme for 2018. Article 94 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union⁴ establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The work programme for 2018 being a sufficiently detailed framework in the meaning of Article 94(2) and (3) of Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1268/2012, the present Decision constitutes a financing decision for the expenditure provided for in the work programme for Union actions.
- (3) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interests due for late payments on the basis of Article 92 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Article 111(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.
- (4) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme, it is appropriate to define the term 'substantial change' within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1268/2012.

¹ OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 112.

² OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 168.

³ OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1.

⁴ OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1.

- (5) It is appropriate to authorise award of grants without a call for proposals to the bodies identified in the work programme and for the reasons provided therein.
- (6) The United Kingdom and Ireland are subject to the application of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 and they are in consequence taking part in the adoption of this Decision and are bound by it and subject to its application.
- (7) Denmark is not bound by Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 or subject to its application and in consequence Denmark is not taking part in the adoption of this Decision and is not bound by it or subject to its application.
- (8) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the 'Asylum, Migration and Integration and Internal Security Funds' Committee established by Article 59(1) of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The work programme

The annual work programme for 2018 for the implementation of Union actions in the framework of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

This Decision constitutes a financing decision within the meaning of Article 84 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 and Article 94 of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the annual work programme for 2018 for Union actions in the framework of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund is set at EUR 73 600 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of the general budget for the Union for 2018:

Budget line 18 03 01 01: EUR 20 600 000,

Budget line 18 03 01 02: EUR 53 000 000.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interests due for late payments.

Article 3
Flexibility clause

Cumulated changes to the allocations to actions under this work programme not exceeding 20% of the maximum amount set in Article 2 of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial within the meaning of Article 94(4) of Delegated Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 1268/2012, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and objective of the work programme. The increase of the maximum amount set in Article 2 of this Decision shall not exceed 20%.

In implementing this Decision, the authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 4

Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals to the bodies identified in the Annex, in accordance with the conditions specified therein.

Done at Brussels, 31.5.2018

For the Commission

Dimitris AVRAMOPOULOS

Member of the Commission



Brussels, 31.5.2018
C(2018) 3247 final

ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

**on the adoption of the work programme for 2018 and the financing of Union actions
in the framework of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund**

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ANNEX

2018 work programme for support for Union actions in the framework of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund¹

POLICY CONTEXT

On 13 May 2015, the Commission adopted the European Agenda on Migration (EAM)², in response to the migration and refugee crisis. It set out a comprehensive approach addressing (1) irregular migration, (2) border management, (3) asylum policy and (4) legal migration.

On 27 September 2017, the Commission reviewed the achievements under the EAM and identified areas where further efforts are needed.

On 7 December 2017, the Commission presented a political roadmap on the remaining steps to be taken for the full implementation of the comprehensive migration package.

The 2018 annual work programme for Union action (AWP) in the framework of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) includes:

- The ‘immediate action’ envisaged in the EAM (support for the Regional Development and Protection Programmes);
- 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.

In 2018, the EU will continue to work on this comprehensive approach to migration, with an emphasis on returns, protecting external borders, solidarity with Africa, opening legal pathways and modernising the European visa policy. In addition, integrating third country nationals into our societies and fighting against migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings will remain priorities. Finally, the European Solidarity Corps³ that the Commission launched in 2016 will continue offering young people to engage with the society around them and to develop their knowledge and skills at the start of their careers.

¹ Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, amending Council Decision 2008/381/EC and repealing Decisions No 573/2007/EC and No 575/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Decision 2007/435/EC (OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 168).

² *A European Agenda on Migration*, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (COM(2015) 240 final).

³ COM(2017)262 Proposal for a Regulation laying down the legal framework of the European Solidarity Corps

OVERVIEW OF 2018 IMPLEMENTATION

Budget lines	Total (EUR)
18 03 01 01 — Strengthening and developing the Common European Asylum System and enhancing solidarity and responsibility-sharing between Member States	20 600 000
18 03 01 02 — Supporting legal migration to the Union, promoting the effective integration of third-country nationals and enhancing fair and effective return strategies	53 000 000

Implementation arrangements	Total (EUR)	% of 2018 AWP appropriations
Grants (direct management)	40 100 000	54%
Procurement (direct management)	8 585 000	12%
Other actions	24 915 000	34%
TOTAL	73 600 000	100%

Entities established in Member States participating in the AMIF (i.e. all except Denmark) can be beneficiaries of AMIF-supported actions. Entities established in Denmark can participate on a no-cost basis only.

All AWP activities must respect and be implemented in line with the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. All actions concerning children must respect and be implemented in line with the UN Convention on the rights of the child. Any beneficiaries working directly with children should have a well-defined child safeguarding/child protection policy. The increase in the number of migrant children (unaccompanied/separated or within families) should be reflected in the design and implementation of actions set out below.

Consistency, complementarity and synergies with other Union instruments will be ensured. In accordance with Article 3(4) and Article 3(5) of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014⁴, actions in relation with third countries will be carried out in synergy and coherence with other actions outside the Union supported from Union funds, in particular external assistance instruments. Such actions are identified and implemented in full coordination with the European External Action Service (EEAS) and relevant Commission external relations services, including the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) as far as humanitarian assistance is concerned. They will be fully consistent with and, where

⁴ 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 (OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 112).

relevant, complement the Union’s humanitarian policy, and respect the principles set out in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid⁵.

BUDGET LINE 18 03 01 01: STRENGTHENING AND DEVELOPING THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM AND ENHANCING SOLIDARITY AND RESPONSIBILITY-SHARING BETWEEN THE MEMBER STATES

1.1. Introduction

As regards the objectives of **strengthening and developing all aspects of the Common European Asylum System and enhancing solidarity and responsibility-sharing between the Member States** (covered by budget line 18 03 01 01), the AWP contains the following actions and budget breakdown for 2018:

Grants (implemented under direct management) (1.2):	19 500 000 EUR
Procurement (implemented under direct management) (1.3):	485 000 EUR
Other actions (1.4):	615 000 EUR
TOTAL:	20 600 000 EUR

1.2. Grants

1.2.1. Direct award of action grant for a consortium led by the Italian Ministry of the Interior to support long-term capacity-building and access to international protection and durable solutions for persons in third countries in the framework of a Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) in North Africa

Legal basis

Article 20(2)(f) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 01

Priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results

As set out in the 2005 Communication on Regional Protection Programmes (RPPs), RPPs should support action to enhance third countries’ capacity to provide that asylum-seekers and refugees receive effective protection, assistance and durable solutions (repatriation, local integration and/or resettlement). In line with a more comprehensive approach, which also includes a development dimension, such programmes have been renamed ‘Regional Development and Protection Programmes’ (RDPPs).

⁵ *The European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid*, Joint Statement by the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission 2008/C 25/01 (OJ C 25, 30.1.2008, p. 1).

Council Conclusions on the Global Approach to Mobility and Migration (GAMM) of May 2012 also stressed the importance of helping third countries to become robust providers of effective protection in accordance with international law, and the contribution of RDPPs to offsetting negative impacts and supporting positive impacts in local communities. Improved safety, and the availability of and access to means for self-reliance can avert secondary migratory movements and are an important precursor to durable solutions.

The June 2014 European Council Conclusions, the October 2014 Justice and Home Affairs Council Conclusions and the April 2015 European Council Conclusions called for the setting up of an enlarged RDPP for North Africa. The EAM translated these political guidelines into a key ‘immediate action’. RDPP assistance to third countries builds on the recognised need for a comprehensive approach to better manage migration and address gaps in migrant protection and asylum, including efforts to increase access to durable solutions. The RDPPs will be fully in line with the approach put forward in the Communication *Lives in dignity: from aid-dependency to self-reliance* to change the way forcibly displaced persons are supported to become more self-reliant in the communities where they reside, while protecting those most vulnerable. Finally, the Commission Communication on Migration on the Central Mediterranean route *Managing flows, saving lives*, the subsequent Implementation Plan for the Central Mediterranean *Alleviating the pressure*, the Commission Action plan on measures to support Italy, reduce pressure along the Central Mediterranean route and increase solidarity, and the Commission Recommendation on enhancing legal pathways for people in need of international protection, have put increased focus on actions in North Africa and the countries along the Central Mediterranean migratory route. The North Africa RDPP was supported under the 2015, 2016, and 2017 AMIF AWP for Union Actions. Fifteen projects funded so far with AMIF Union Actions grants to the North Africa RDPP contributed, among others, to the provision of protection and assistance to persons in need of protection and migrants in mixed migration flows, and durable solutions to asylum-seekers and refugees in Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, and Tunisia, in particular on supporting reception and protection capacity and improvement of refugee status determination processes.

Through this AWP, additional support will be provided for developing the RDPP actions in Algeria, Chad, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Tunisia, as appropriate, with some activities potentially being rolled out in other countries depending on changing migratory flows in Africa.

Activities to be funded from the grant awarded without a call for proposals under Article 190 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012⁶ (the Rules of Application)

Funding will target activities that are not directly focused on development, are complementary to activities already financed from the humanitarian aid budget line, and have a direct impact in the EU, such as:

- Establishing, developing and improving an effective refugee status determination (RSD) procedure (including registration), with a legal/policy and institutional framework to help host countries better manage migration and refugee situations;
- Establishing, expanding and improving reception arrangements in host countries;

⁶ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

- Training in protection issues for those dealing with refugees and migrants;
- Whenever not already supported by other initiatives providing news and information services for migrants and refugees in third-countries, information campaigns on access to international protection, the risks relating to irregular migration and possible alternatives;
- Encouraging and supporting resettlement commitments by Member States and other resettlement countries;
- Whenever not already covered by the AMIF-funded Readmission Capacity-Building Facility in targeted countries, and in strict coordination with the latter and other existing programmes to support assisted voluntary return and reintegration, voluntary return and support for returnees from countries of transit to countries of origin in full respect of the principle of non-refoulement;
- Assistance to migrants, asylum seekers and refugees stranded along the migratory route or as they disembark after being rescued at sea; and
- Whenever relevant and not already supported by the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI)-funded development pillar of the RDPP, supporting the integration of migrants and refugees in the host countries in the North Africa region, providing and supporting livelihood, employment and education opportunities, and access to services, including healthcare and diseases prevention services, for migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and host communities.

Where possible, complementary funding from other EU instruments may be provided to support actions relevant to the RDPP, in particular from EU external cooperation instruments. Activities should be complementary to, and plan to build on prior engagements from, other relevant projects including actions supported by the European Commission.

Governance and control structure

A steering committee has been set up for the RDPP, chaired by the Italian Ministry of the Interior and comprising representatives of the Commission, EEAS, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), and Member States and Dublin-associated states participating in the consortium (Italy, Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom (UK)), and, where relevant, the UNHCR and IOM. The Italian Ministry of the Interior provides the secretariat of the committee and technical support/assistance where necessary.

A sub-group has been set up to steer the AMIF-funded action under the RDPP. The sub-group provides overall strategic guidance for implementation, adopts and (where necessary) revises the action priorities and examines and approves each sub-action to be funded by the AMIF, and budget changes.

The committee and the sub-group monitor progress, inter alia on the basis of interim progress reports. They meet periodically, as laid down in the committee's terms of reference. Full coherence and coordination with other initiatives supporting the RDPP/GAMM will be ensured. In particular, strict coordination and cooperation at all stages will be sought with the development pillar's initiatives of the RDPP, to be financed by the ENI and the EU Trust Fund for Africa.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

This action grant will be awarded directly (without a call for proposals) following an invitation to the RDPP North Africa consortium of Member States' authorities to submit a proposal, in accordance with Article 128 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012⁷ (the Financial Regulation) and Article 190(1)(f) of the Rules of Application. The Italian Ministry of the Interior will act as leader and coordinator of the consortium. The authorities of Norway can participate in this action on a no-cost basis only. Non-governmental organisations established in the Member States participating in AMIF and international organisations may be associated with the consortium and participate in the implementation as co-beneficiaries.

The direct award of the grant is justified by the specific characteristics of the action, requiring technical competence and a high degree of specialisation that only the consortium of public authorities and the associated organisations possess.

Selection criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 202 of the Rules of Application, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following selection criteria:

- Financial capacity — applicants and co-applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period in which the action is carried out and to participate in its funding; and
- Operational capacity — applicants and co-applicants must have the professional resources, competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed action.

These are not verified in respect of public bodies and international organisations.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of relevance; quality; European added value; expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact; and cost-effectiveness.

Indicative timetable and amount

Reference	Date	Amount
AMIF-2018-AG-IBA-RDPP-NA	Q3 2018	EUR 12 000 000

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Maximum rate of co-financing of eligible costs

90%

⁷ 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 and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 (OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1).

1.2.2. Direct award of action grant for a consortium led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands to support long-term capacity building and access to international protection and durable solutions for persons in third countries in the framework of the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) in the Horn of Africa

Article 20(2)(f) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 01

Priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results

As set out in the 2005 Communication on Regional Protection Programmes (RPPs), RPPs should support action to enhance third countries' capacity to provide that asylum-seekers and refugees receive effective protection, assistance and durable solutions (repatriation, local integration and/or resettlement). In line with a more comprehensive approach, which also includes a development dimension, such programmes have been renamed 'Regional Development and Protection Programmes' (RDPPs).

Council Conclusions on the Global Approach to Mobility and Migration (GAMM) of May 2012 also stressed the importance of helping third countries to become robust providers of effective protection in accordance with international law, and the contribution of RDPPs to offsetting negative impacts and supporting positive impacts in local communities. Improved safety, and the availability of and access to means for self-reliance can avert secondary migratory movements and are an important precursor to durable solutions.

The June 2014 European Council Conclusions, the October 2014 Justice and Home Affairs Council Conclusions and the April 2015 European Council Conclusions called for the setting up of an enlarged RDPP in the Horn of Africa. The EAM translated these political guidelines into a key 'immediate action'. RDPP assistance to third countries builds on the recognised need for a comprehensive approach to better manage migration and address gaps in migrant protection and asylum, including efforts to increase access to durable solutions. The RDPPs also take into account the approach put forward in the Communication *Lives in dignity: from aid-dependency to self-reliance* to change the way forcibly displaced persons are supported to become more self-reliant in the communities where they reside, while protecting those most vulnerable. The Horn of Africa RDPP was supported under the 2015, 2016 and 2017 AMIF AWP for Union Actions. Projects funded so far with AMIF Union Actions grants to the Horn of Africa RDPP contributed to the provision of protection, assistance and durable solutions to asylum-seekers and refugees in Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan, in particular on protection of children and victims of sexual and gender-based violence, and on the support of registration capacity building.

Through this AWP, additional support will be provided for developing the RDPP, with a focus on Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and, if possible, Somalia, South Sudan, Eritrea and Uganda and, where possible, other countries depending on changing migratory flows in Africa.

Activities to be funded from the grant awarded without a call for proposals under Article 190 of the Rules of Application

Funding will target activities that are not directly focused on development, are

complementary to activities already financed from the humanitarian aid budget line, and have a direct impact in the EU, including resettlement activities:

- Establishing, developing and improving an effective RSD procedure (including registration), with a legal/policy and institutional framework to help host countries better manage migration and refugee situations;
- Establishing, expanding and improving reception arrangements in host countries;
- Training in protection issues for those dealing with refugees and migrants;
- Whenever not already supported by other initiatives providing news and information services for migrants and refugees in third-countries, information campaigns on access to international protection, the risks relating to irregular migration and possible alternatives;
- Encouraging and supporting resettlement commitments by Member States and other resettlement countries;
- Whenever not already covered by the AMIF-funded Readmission Capacity-Building Facility in targeted countries, and in strict coordination with the latter and other existing instruments to support assisted voluntary return and reintegration, voluntary return and support for returnees from countries of transit to countries of origin in full respect of the principle of non-refoulement;
- Assistance to migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees stranded along the migratory route; and
- Supporting the integration of migrants and refugees host countries of the Horn of Africa region, providing and supporting livelihood, employment and education opportunities, and access to services, including healthcare and diseases prevention services, for migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and host communities.

Where possible, complementary funding from other EU instruments may be provided to support actions relevant to the RDPP, in particular from EU external cooperation instruments. Activities should be complementary to, and plan to build on prior engagements from, other relevant projects including actions supported by the European Commission.

Governance and control structure

A steering committee has been set up for the RDPP, chaired by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and comprising representatives of the Commission, EEAS, Member States and Dublin associated states participating in the consortium (the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Switzerland and the UK), and the UNHCR, the IOM and other partners where relevant. The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides the secretariat of the committee and technical support/assistance where necessary.

A steering group has been set up to steer the AMIF funded action under the RDPP. It provides strategic guidance for implementation, adopts and (where necessary) revises action priorities and examines and approves sub-actions to be funded and budget changes. It also monitors progress.

The steering committee and the steering group meet periodically, as laid down in the committee's terms of reference. Full coherence and coordination with other initiatives supporting the RDPP/GAMM will be ensured. In particular, strict coordination and cooperation at all stages will be sought with the RDPP initiatives to be financed under the

EU Trust Fund for Africa or other development co-operation funding.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

This grant will be awarded directly (without a call for proposals) following an invitation to the RDPP Horn of Africa consortium of Member States' authorities to submit a proposal, in accordance with Article 128 of the Financial Regulation and Article 190(1)(f) of the Rules of Application. The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs will act as leader and coordinator of the consortium. The authorities of Denmark, Norway and Switzerland can participate in this action on a no-cost basis only. Non-governmental organisations established in the Member States participating in AMIF and international organisations may be associated with the consortium and participate in the implementation as co-beneficiaries.

The direct award of the grant is justified by the specific characteristics of the action, requiring technical competence and a high degree of specialisation that only the consortium of public authorities and associated organisations possesses.

Selection criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 202 of the Rules of Application, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following selection criteria:

- Financial capacity — applicants and co-applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period in which the action is carried out and to participate in its funding; and
- Operational capacity — applicants and co-applicants must have the professional resources, competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed action.

These are not verified in respect of public bodies and international organisations.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of relevance; quality; European added value; expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact; and cost-effectiveness.

Indicative timetable and amount

Reference	Date	Amount
AMIF-2018-AG-IBA-RDPP-HA	Q3 2018	EUR 7 500 000

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Maximum rate of co-financing of eligible costs

90%

1.3. Procurement

The indicative overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2018 is EUR 485 000.

Legal basis

Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 01

Subject matter and indicative number of the envisaged contracts

- Ad-hoc queries for legal studies (1 specific contract under existing Framework contract);
- Information and communication activities on European issues in the migration and integration policy areas covered by the Fund (2 specific contracts under existing Framework contract);
- Expert meetings, conferences and seminars, technical workshops, IT consultancy and development, studies, evaluations and impact assessments in the area of EU asylum policy (up to 6 direct contracts or specific contracts under existing Framework contracts).

Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedures

Q1-Q4 2018

Implementation

Actions will be implemented by DG HOME.

1.4. Other actions

1.4.1 Improvements in Asylum and Managed Migration statistics

Legal basis

Article 20(2)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 01

Amount

EUR 375 000

Description and objective of implementing measure

Eurostat will be carrying out developments in Asylum and Managed Migration statistics relevant to DG HOME policies.

Planned activities include:

- Improvement, in terms of frequency and/or detail, of statistics on returns;
- Continuing support to the mainstreaming of Asylum statistics jointly with the European Asylum Support Office (EASO);
- Design of the methodology and implementation of the collection of the new statistics on Seasonal Workers, Intra-Corporate Transferees, and, in a later stage, Students and Researchers under the scope of Residence permit data collection;
- Development of residence permits statistics on permits issued to persons joining beneficiaries of (international) protection;
- Development of residence permit statistics on permits newly issued to long-term residents (*flow* statistics);
- Development of residence permits statistics on intra-EU movements of third-country nationals depending on sufficient resources being available;
- Review of the methodology of data collection on enforcement statistics (EIL);
- Quarterly publication of the recognition rates for the purpose of the Relocation programme;
- Other activities on improving statistics relevant for EU asylum and migration policies.

Implementation

The action will be implemented via a cross sub-delegation of budget from DG HOME to Eurostat on the basis of a memorandum of understanding between them in the area of statistics.

1.4.2 Corporate communication on the priorities of the Union

Legal basis

Article 20(2)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 01

Amount

EUR 240 000

Description and objective of implementing measure

This action concerns the contribution to the European Commission's corporate communication activities on the priorities of the Union⁸. These activities may include productions of content such as photos, audio-visual, graphic and written material; provision of other corporate technical services such as online services, including the institutional web presence and social media activity; dissemination of information through integrated communication actions including on multi-media platforms; acquisition of media space, including TV and radio air time, outdoor and indoor advertising, web adverts and other online promotion techniques and print media space; organisation of and participation in events, including exhibitions, forums, dialogues and other activities aimed at citizens; studies and evaluations, where relevant.

The action will be implemented by DG COMM through both by the Representations and Headquarters with approximately three direct and specific contracts implementing mainly DG COMM framework contracts. The procurement is foreseen to be launched in the first and second semester of 2018 (according to needs).

Implementation

The action will be implemented via a co-delegation of budget from DG HOME to DG COMM.

⁸ For a detailed description of the Communication's objectives please refer to C(2016)6838 - § 1.2 and 1.3

BUDGET LINE 18 03 01 02: SUPPORTING LEGAL MIGRATION TO THE UNION, PROMOTING THE EFFECTIVE INTEGRATION OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS AND ENHANCING FAIR AND EFFECTIVE RETURN STRATEGIES

2.1. Introduction

As regards the objectives of **supporting legal migration to the Member States, promoting the effective integration of third-country nationals and enhancing fair and effective return strategies** (covered by budget line 18 03 01 02), the AWP contains the following actions and budget breakdown for 2018:

Grants (implemented under direct management) (2.2):	20 600 000 EUR
Procurement (implemented under direct management) (2.3):	8 100 000 EUR
Other actions (2.4):	24 300 000 EUR
TOTAL:	53 000 000 EUR

2.2. Grants

2.2.1. Call for proposals for transnational actions for the integration of third-country nationals in the EU Member States, and for supporting legal migration

Legal basis

Article 20(2)(a) and 20(2)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 02

Priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results

A successful integration of third-country nationals in EU societies is key to the success of EU migration policies. In this context, it is crucial to support efforts of Member States to integrate third-country nationals and promote exchanges of experiences and practices in this field through funding of transnational actions.

Priority 1: Local and regional integration networks

As mentioned in the Action plan⁹ 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. Through the Priority 1 of this call for proposals, the Commission intends to finance large transnational projects consisting in the set-up of network of regions and cities to work on integration. This is also motivated by the fact that

⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/proposal-implementation-package/docs/20160607/communication_action_plan_integration_third-country_nationals_en.pdf

experience in this field differs very much between Member States and between local and regional authorities. 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.

Priority 2: Legal migration projects with third countries

In the field of legal migration, the role of specific legal migration channels in EU relations with third countries need to become a more significant component in the overall cooperation on managing migration flows. Putting in place specific legal migration projects can offer additional safe and lawful alternatives to persons wishing to migrate for work or training and can contribute to addressing labour shortage gaps in certain sectors of the labour market of Member States. In order to ensure that these schemes are well designed and successful, these specific labour migration projects should be put in place involving economic actors. In that view, the Commission proposes to finance under priority 2 specific legal migration projects which should involve such as 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.

Priority 3: Support to victims of trafficking in human beings

The European Agenda on Migration (EAM) and the Union Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM) addresses trafficking in human beings (THB) as an outstanding issue. The 2016 Report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings (First progress report)¹⁰, indicated that traffickers are exploiting the migration challenges to target the most vulnerable, women and children¹¹. The Europol situation report on THB (2016) and the EU Serious and Organised Crime Threats Assessment (2017) further highlighted the links between THB and the migration crisis.

Directive 2011/36/EU (THB Directive) is human rights based, victim centred, gender specific and child sensitive. As gathered by findings of the First progress report and the Comprehensive policy review of anti-trafficking projects, on the Commission's Study on High Risk Groups and on the Study on the Gender Dimension of THB, initiatives in a number of areas should take into consideration the gender and age of the victims of THB.

As highlighted in the 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), identification remains a challenge in mixed and mass migration flows, and victims of THB often go undetected. Victims must be considered primarily as rights holders, and they must be able to understand and exercise/have access to their rights. In this respect there is a need to continue supporting Member States in improving early and proactive identification of third-country national victims of THB for all forms of exploitation.

In relation to gender and age specific assistance and support, there is a need to assist Member States in meeting their obligations with respect to Articles 11-14 and 16 of the THB Directive. This includes integration and reintegration of victims, safe and sustainable return,

¹⁰ http://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/trafficking-in-human-beings/docs/commission_report_on_the_progress_made_in_the_fight_against_trafficking_in_human_beings_2016_en.pdf

¹¹ As an example, recent IOM estimates 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.

and durable solutions for child victims. Initiatives should aim at catering for the individual needs of the victim as well as preventing the risk of re-trafficking. Considerations on avoiding duplication of funding and if possible ensuring synergies and complementarities with other programmes working in countries of origin and transit of victims of trafficking are encouraged.

Priority 4: Care for migrant minors, including unaccompanied minors

In the Communication on the Protection of Children in Migration of 12 April 2017 (COM(2017) 211 final) the Commission underlined that EU funding must contribute to the protection of children in migration and support integrated child protection systems. The increased proportion of children in the overall migrant inflow requires that their protection needs be prioritised in accordance with the scale of the phenomenon in national programmes of Member States under AMIF and the Internal Security Fund (ISF). To this end, projects supporting the lines of action outlined in this Communication in order to reinforce the protection of migrant children should be prioritized.

The same Communication specifically underlines the need to prioritise alternatives to the detention of migrant children in EU funding, in particular AMIF funding. Thus, "[w]here there are grounds for detention, everything possible must be done to ensure that a viable range of alternatives to the administrative detention of children in migration is available and accessible, including through support provided by the EU funds." This implies that projects aimed at creating/expanding/improving alternatives to detention should be prioritized.

Priority 5: Engagement of diaspora communities on awareness raising

The EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling 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 is important to develop a counter-narrative in the media to counter misleading narratives of smugglers, including through social media and with the involvement of diaspora communities in the EU.

The objective of the information and awareness raising campaigns would be to sensitise the target audience and to provide prospective migrants, vulnerable communities, diaspora members and local media with objective information about the perils and difficulties of voyages and about the legal, social and economic realities of life in Europe, as well as the available safe 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.

Activities to be funded under the call for proposals

Priority 1: Local and regional integration networks

Activities of projects to be funded include the creation and/or operation of networks of local and regional authorities working on integration of third-country nationals (e.g. promoting exchanges of practices, capacity building for local/regional administrations, mentoring, twinning, etc.), including on the integration of relocated and resettled third-country nationals.

Priority 2: Legal migration projects with third countries

Activities of projects to be funded include the promotion of specific labour and training-

related migration pathways between third-countries and EU Member States, involving employers and other economic and social partners. Projects should aim at testing and implementing specific labour and training-related migration schemes benefiting the migrant worker, the countries of origin and the (EU) destination country.

Priority 3: Support to victims of trafficking in human beings

Activities of projects to be funded should address the specific challenges and the specific needs of victims of trafficking, in particular:

- Early identification;
- Assistance and support;
- Safe and sustainable return and reintegration;
- Durable solutions for child victims and;
- Measures to preventing the risk of their re-trafficking.

Priority 4: Care for unaccompanied refugee and migrant minors

Activities of projects to be funded include care services to support unaccompanied refugee and migrant minors in Europe. The focus should be on 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; and coordination, and support to all stakeholders involved.

Priority 5: Engagement of diaspora communities on awareness raising

Activities of projects to be funded include the analysis of engagement opportunities with diaspora communities in EU Member States to disseminate objective information on irregular migration towards the EU. Projects should include fact-finding studies and pilot activities on assessing the level of engagement possible with various diaspora communities in the EU, the communication channels that can be most effective in raising awareness amongst (prospective) irregular migrants in countries of origin or transit of the perils and difficulties of voyages when undertaken irregularly, informing about the availability of safe legal pathways to Europe, while also effectively disseminating information in countries of transit and destination on the opportunities of voluntary return programmes and reintegration packages.

Member States' national and/or local public authorities should be included in proposals as applicants or co-applicants, as the aim of the projects would be to engage public authorities at local level. This would allow a sharing of experiences between local governments located in different Member States on the various opportunities to engage with diaspora communities to prevent irregular migration and promote legal pathways. Projects should for example seek to engage with local government/councils, civil society organisations, private companies and where relevant third countries on the best ways to engage with trusted diaspora communities as bearers of information to their compatriots planning to come to Europe irregularly. In the course of these projects, valuable engagement on integration of third country nationals in the EU cannot be jeopardised. Projects should be complementary to, and plan to build on prior engagements from, other projects engaging diaspora communities in the EU, including actions supported by the European Commission.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

The following eligibility, selection and award criteria will be applied to the Priorities above:.

a) Applicants and co-applicants must be:

- Legal persons;
- Established in a Member State participating in AMIF. In duly justified cases, where their participation is necessary to achieve the objectives of the programme, entities established in third countries can participate but only as co-applicants. The eligible third countries, if any, will be specified in the call for proposals text. International organisations may be established outside of the Member States participating in AMIF;
- Public bodies (including local authorities, public employment services, youth services and education institutions), or non-profit-making private entities or, if explicitly mentioned in the call for proposals text, for-profit private entities working on a non-profit basis, or international organisations.
- Union agencies cannot submit proposals or be co-applicants;

b) Proposals related to priorities 1 and 2 must involve a partnership of at least three distinct organisations from at least two different Member States participating in AMIF. Proposals related to priorities 3, 4 and 5 must involve a partnership of at least two distinct organisations from at least two different Member States participating in AMIF.

c) Proposals seeking EU co-funding of less than the following will be rejected: EUR 1 500 000 for Priority 1; EUR 750 000 for Priority 2; EUR 250 000 for Priority 3, 4 and 5.

Selection criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 202 of the Rules of Application, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following selection criteria:

- Financial capacity — applicants and co-applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period in which the action is carried out and to participate in its funding;
- Operational capacity — applicants and co-applicants must have the professional resources, competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed action.

These criteria are not verified in respect of public bodies and international organisations.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of relevance; quality; European added value; expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact; and cost-effectiveness.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

Indicative timetable and amount

Reference	Date	Amount
AMIF-2018-AG-INTE	Q3 2018	EUR 16 200 000

Maximum rate of co-financing of eligible costs

90%

2.2.2. Direct award for continuation of Forced Return Monitoring project (FReM III)

Legal basis

Article 20(2)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 02

Priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The FReM II project was funded under the AMIF AWP for Union Actions 2015, and is implemented by the International Centre of Migration Policy and Development (ICMPD). The project supports the European Border and Coast Guard (EBCG) Regulation, in particular its Article 29 (pool of forced-return monitors) and Article 36 (training of staff involved in return-related tasks). FReM II built on the results of the previous FReM project (under the European Return Fund).

While voluntary return is the preferred option for returning illegally staying third country nationals, Member States authorities will not always be able to avoid the use of forced return. In such case, it is of paramount importance that the appropriate dignified procedures fully respecting the fundamental rights of the third country nationals are guaranteed. The monitoring system foreseen in Article 8(6) of the Return Directive is a key element in that respect.

The Forced Return Monitoring (FReM) and FReM II projects contributed to create the necessary foundation for the establishment of a Pool of Forced-Return Monitors within the structures of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and equipped with the necessary training and reporting framework. Both FReM projects also contributed to strengthening the national forced-return monitoring systems in place at Member States level.

The FReM III project will further contribute to a functioning EU Return System in line with the EU Return Directive (2008/115/EC), protecting the fundamental rights of returnees through independent and transparent forced-return monitoring based on a common European approach and harmonised procedures.

Activities to be funded from the grant awarded without a call for proposals under Article 190 of the Rules of Application

Activities to be funded under this project include the continuation of ongoing activities and their extension and/or enhancement, in particular to cover all relevant Member States (e.g. full training of all members of the pool of forced return monitors managed by EBCG Agency to which Member States have to contribute; further exchanges of experiences and good practices, etc.). Activities could also be related to relevant capacity building in third countries.

When FReM II started, a number of Member States were participating in the project on a voluntary basis. With the entry into force of Regulation 2016/1624 on the European Border and Coast Guard all Member States are expected to contribute to the established pool of forced-return monitors (article 29). All those monitors need to be trained in accordance with Article 36.

The EBCG Agency will continue to rely on the FReM projects in implementing the training concept for monitors in the near future. The EBCG Agency will only gradually start to take over the activities from FReM structures, as it is building the necessary capacities. In the meantime all the pool members must continue to be trained.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

The action will be awarded directly (without following a call for proposals) following an invitation to ICMPD to submit proposals, in accordance with Article 128 of the Financial Regulation and Article 190(1)(f) of the Rules of Application.

A direct award is justified by the specific characteristics of the action, requiring technical competence and a high degree of specialisation in the area of EU return acquis as provided by the ICMPD which has developed a very specific expertise in the field of forced-return monitoring.

Selection criteria

Financial and operational capacity are not verified in respect of public bodies and International Organisations.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals for an action shall be evaluated on the basis of the relevance, quality, cost-effectiveness and European added value of the proposed action.

Indicative timetable and amount

Reference	Date	Amount
AMIF-2018-AG-IBA-FREM	Q2 2018	EUR 1 800 000

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Maximum rate of co-financing of eligible costs

90%

2.2.3. Direct award of an action grant to a consortium of leading EU public media led by France Médias Monde for the multilingual online information portal for prospective migrants

Legal basis

Article 20(2)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 02

Priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results

In its conclusions of 9 November 2015, the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council called for a common information strategy addressing asylum seekers, migrants, smugglers and traffickers and aimed at:

- Discouraging migrants from embarking on perilous journeys and using the services of people-smugglers;
- Explaining EU rules on the management of external borders and international protection, including resettlement, relocation and return;
- Countering the narratives used by traffickers and smugglers;
- Informing people about criminal prosecutions against traffickers and smugglers; and
- Informing people about return operations.

In response to the Council conclusions, the Commission set up a task force on a migrants' information strategy (MIS), bringing together all relevant institutional actors, which has drawn up a MIS based on three phases: assessment, content-production and dissemination.

On 10 March 2016, the JHA Council asked the Commission to continue to develop and ensure implementation of the MIS, *inter alia* through cooperation with EU public media operating internationally, in particular those already providing news and information services in the national languages of migrants' countries of origin and transit, especially in North Africa and the Middle East.

The objective of this action is to make reliable, fact-based information available to (potential) migrants and asylum seekers, and to send clear messages to discourage smugglers and traffickers, via media outlets already present in migrants' and asylum seekers' countries of origin and transit, with a particular emphasis on online and social media channels.

In view of the above and in the framework of the European Agenda for Migration and the EU Action Plan Against Migrant Smuggling, a proposal for the setting up of a multilingual online information portal, "InfoMigrants.net" by a high profile media consortium was accepted for a grant. The portal aims to reach prospective migrants worldwide and inform them of the dangers and the legal realities. The portal was formally launched in May 2017.

Activities to be funded from the grant awarded without a call for proposals under Article 190 of the Rules of Application

The grant will fund the continuation and expansion of the operation of the multilingual online media portal (information hub) for prospective migrants. The portal provides, on a single platform, news and information services for prospective migrants and refugees in third-countries to:

- Discourage them from embarking on perilous journeys and engaging with smugglers;
- Explain EU rules on the management of external borders and international protection;
- Counter the narratives currently being used by migrant smugglers;
- Explain that migrants not in need of protection will be swiftly returned; and
- Address the increasing number of children in migration (unaccompanied and separated as well as within families), including in terms of addressing children in a context and age-appropriate manner, as well as families which send their children on perilous journeys.

A multi-lingual news and information platform of the hub has been developed with actions funded under AMIF AWP 2016 and 2017.

This action will constitute the support for the continuation and expansion of this platform, curating and making available all relevant information via networks of journalists around the world, other media organisations, NGOs, institutional sources, etc., producing dedicated, tailor-made journalistic content and operating a network of ‘migration observers’ who have already made the trip or are based at transit points. Feedback and experiences will be exchanged through an interactive service via correspondents, observers and bloggers already active in key third countries of origin and transit.

In addition, this action could support the introduction of other languages, targeting of other audience groups and/or expansion to other platforms.

The target audience include mainly people in the Middle East, the Maghreb, sub-Saharan Africa, the Western Balkans, Afghanistan and Pakistan who currently depend mainly on erroneous information passed on by migrant smugglers and/or human traffickers.

The service will be free, available worldwide and accessible on basic phones, smartphones, digital tablets and computers.

Where possible and appropriate, the action will draw on lessons learnt from other information and awareness raising campaigns, including those funded by the AMIF AWP for Union Actions.

Governance structure

A Steering Committee composed of a representative of each participating media partner (*France Médias Monde, Deutsche Welle, Radio Montecarlo Arabic and Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata*) and a Commission representative will be responsible for the governance of the project. It will meet on a regular basis to identify the priority themes to be covered and to ensure that the reliable factual information to be provided is in line with the above description of services.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

The action grant will be awarded directly (without a call for proposals) following an invitation to the consortium of leading EU public media led by *France Médias Monde* to submit a proposal, in accordance with Article 128 of the Financial Regulation and Article 190(1)(f) of the Rules of Application.

The direct award of this grant is justified by the specific characteristics of the action, requiring technical competence and a high degree of specialisation that only the above-mentioned consortium possesses. This consortium is the only provider with the necessary expertise, the European perspective and the already existing presence in the target countries that would allow for this project to be a success. Specifically, the consortium brings together leading EU media with a wide international audience, broadcasting in over 30 languages and attracting over 230 million listeners and viewers each week via TV, radio, internet and mobile devices. They are reliable and trusted sources of information with a strong presence in the target countries (in particular in North Africa, the Middle East, the Western Balkans, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq). Together, they have almost 40 million Facebook ‘friends’, 12 million Twitter followers and over 55 million website hits a month. Only this consortium can guarantee widespread international publicity in such a range of languages and with such a broad network of correspondents, stringers, observers and bloggers in the target countries.

Selection criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 202 of the Rules of Application, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following selection criteria:

- Financial capacity — applicants and co-applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period in which the action is carried out and to participate in its funding; and
- Operational capacity — applicants and co-applicants must have the professional resources, competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed action.

Financial and operational capacity are not verified in respect of public bodies and international organisations.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of relevance; quality; European added value; expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact; and cost-effectiveness.

Indicative timetable and amount

Reference	Date	Amount
AMIF-2018-AG-IBA-MINS	Q4 2018	EUR 2 600 000

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Maximum rate of co-financing of eligible costs

90%

2.3. Procurement

The indicative overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts under budget line 18 03 01 02 in 2018 is EUR 8 100 000.

Legal basis

Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 02

Subject matter and indicative numbers of the envisaged contracts

- Fitness check follow-up of the legal migration *acquis* (1 specific contract under existing Framework contract);
- Legal compliance/infringements (1 specific contract under existing Framework contract);
- European dialogue on skills and migration (1 specific contract under existing Framework contract);
- Support for the European Integration Network (EIN) (1 specific contract under existing Framework contract);
- Support for the EU Immigration Portal (EUIP) (1 specific contract under existing Framework contract);
- Support for the European Migration Forum (1 specific contract under existing Framework contract);
- Support for the European website on integration (EWSI) (1 direct service contract);
- Impact Assessment Study on the attraction of innovative entrepreneurs (1 specific contract under existing Framework contract);
- European network of migration law practitioners (2 specific contracts under existing Framework contracts);
- SEO and PPC activity to promote current EU Blue Card Directive (1 specific contract under existing Framework contract);
- Study to support the exchange of knowledge on avoiding criminalisation of humanitarian assistance in the framework of irregular migration (1 specific contract under existing Framework contract);¹²

¹² See Communication on the Delivery of the European Agenda on Migration COM(2017) 558 final and the Commission Staff Working Document on the evaluation of the EU legal framework against facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and residence: the Facilitators Package, SWD(2017) 117 final.

- Data collection, studies and conferences on the links between the trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling (1 specific contract under existing Framework contract);
- Study on the practical implementation of the Return Directive (2008/115/EC) (1 specific contract under existing Framework contract);
- Information, awareness raising and communication activities in the EU migration area and on the risks of irregular migration (up to 15 specific contracts);
- Expert meetings, conferences, seminars and other events, technical workshops, IT consultancy and development, studies, evaluations and impact assessments in the area of EU migration policy (up to 20 direct contracts or specific contracts under existing Framework contracts).

Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedures

Q1-Q4 2018

Implementation

Actions will be implemented by DG HOME.

2.4. Other actions

2.4.1 Contribution to the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing the root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa

Legal basis

Article 20(2)(f) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 02

Amount

EUR 23 000 000

Description and objective of the implementing measure

On 20 October 2015, a Commission Decision on the establishment of a European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa was adopted.

According to the Decision, the overall objective and purpose of this Trust Fund shall be to address the crises in the regions of the Sahel and the Lake Chad, the Horn of Africa, and the North of Africa. It will support all aspects of stability and contribute to better migration management as well as addressing the root causes of destabilisation, forced displacement and irregular migration, in particular by promoting resilience, economic and equal opportunities

and security and development.

The EU Trust Fund for Africa was formally constituted at the Valletta Summit on Migration held on 11-12 November 2015. The EU Trust Fund for Africa provides funding to fulfil the objectives and implement the Valletta Action Plan and complement financial instruments available for cooperation with African partners by the EU, its Member States and associated countries.

The Trust Fund enables the EU, its Member States and contributing donors to respond to the different dimensions of crisis situations by providing support jointly, flexibly and quickly. In doing so, it will complement other strands of action such as political dialogue and development cooperation programmes, as well as humanitarian assistance, stabilisation and crisis response assistance and CFSP/CSDP actions where appropriate. It also complements the activities of EU Member States and of other development partners.

The Trust Fund finances activities in the following countries in Africa, crossed by the major migration routes:

- For the Sahel region and Lake Chad area: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal;
- For the Horn of Africa: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda;
- For North Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia;
- African neighbours of these eligible countries may also, on a case-by-case basis, benefit from projects with a regional dimension in order to deal with regional migration flows.

The AMIF contribution to the EU Trust Fund for Africa will enable the Trust Fund to finance activities which fall outside of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) definition of the official development assistance (ODA).

Activities funded by the EU Trust Fund for Africa fall within the scope of Article 20(2)(f) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014.

Implementation

The action will be implemented by a co-delegation of budget to DG DEVCO.

2.4.2. Support for the deployment of European Migration Liaison Officers

Legal basis

Article 20(2)(f) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 02

Amount

EUR 300 000

Description and objective of the implementing measure

The European Council of 23 April 2015 gave a commitment to deploying European migration liaison officers (EMLOs) in key third countries of origin and transit. This was further confirmed in the EAM and the EU action plan against migrant smuggling.

The main purpose of designating and deploying EMLOs is to step up coordination in order to maximise the impact of EU action on migration in third countries and encourage key countries of origin/transit to engage on the whole range of migration issues. EMLOs will:

- Help implement the comprehensive approach presented in the EAM, *inter alia* by:
 - Helping to prevent and counter irregular migration;
 - Encouraging better organisation of legal migration and mobility; and
 - Mainstreaming migration issues in development cooperation;
- Contribute to the operation of bilateral and regional frameworks for cooperation on migration; and
- Gather, exchange, analyse and report on migration-related developments (as highlighted in the action plan against migrant smuggling).

The priority countries for the deployment of EMLOs are Egypt (regional mandate covering East Africa), Morocco, Lebanon (covering also Syria), Niger, Nigeria, Senegal (regional mandate covering also the neighbouring countries), Pakistan (regional mandate covering also Afghanistan), Serbia (regional mandate covering all the Western Balkans countries), Ethiopia (regional mandate covering the whole Horn of Africa), Tunisia (covering also Libya), Sudan (regional mandate covering the parts of Horn of Africa, in particular Eritrea, which cannot be covered from Ethiopia), Turkey, Jordan, Bangladesh and Mali. Other countries can be added to reflect political priorities.

The EMLOs will be national experts seconded to work in the EU Delegations. Member States will pay their salaries and allowances and the Commission will cover (civilian) mission, telecommunication, security costs and any other relevant costs or activities under this action.

Implementation

The action will be implemented by a co-delegation of budget to DG DEVCO (and a subsequent transfer to the EEAS).

2.4.3. Contribution to European Solidarity Corps (ESC)

Legal basis

Article 20(2)(f) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 02

Amount

EUR 1 000 000

Description and objective of the implementing measure

In his State of the Union speech of September 2016, the President of the European Commission announced the setting up of a European Solidarity Corps with the aim to give young people across the EU the opportunity to volunteer where help is needed and to respond to crisis situations.

One of the areas of activities for the Solidarity Corps is the reception and integration of third-country nationals, as indicated in the Communication on the Solidarity Corps of December 2016¹³. It is therefore appropriate to support the Solidarity Corps also with resources from AMIF, given the synergies between the two instruments. This will allow organisations active in the field of reception and integration to involve Solidarity Corps members in their activities.

Implementation of this action will follow the management modes and eligibility rules applicable to AMIF Union Actions.

Implementation

These funds will be implemented through cross-subdelegation of budget to DG EAC.

¹³ COM(2016)942