1. SUMMARY

This request for services is for a contract to provide assistance to the Commission (DG Migration and Home Affairs) in view of the ex-post evaluation reports for the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (EIF) which it has to submit to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

PART I

The evaluation will examine the implementation of actions co-financed by the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (EIF) under the 2011-2013 annual programmes (shared management mode) and the Community Actions under the Annual Work Programmes 2011-2013 (direct or joint management mode).

PART II

The evaluation will also examine the implementation of the EIF Community Actions under the Annual Work Programmes 2007-2010 (direct or joint management mode).

Both parts will assess these actions’ relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, coherence and complementarity, and EU added value.

2. PURPOSE, OBJECTIVE AND JUSTIFICATION FOR EVALUATION

2.1. Legal basis for the evaluation
The legal basis for the evaluation of EIF actions for 2011-2013 is Articles 47 and 48 of Decision No 2007/435/EC\(^1\) according to which the Commission shall submit by 31 December 2015 to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions an ex-post evaluation report.

According to Article 47(2) of Decision No 2007/435/EC, the EIF "shall be evaluated by the Commission in partnership with the Member States to assess the relevance, effectiveness and impact of actions in the light of the general objective referred to in Article 2 in the context of the preparation for the reports set out in Article 48(3)".

Article 47(3) of the Decision stipulates that "The Commission shall also consider the complementarity between the actions implemented under the Fund and those pursued under other relevant Community policies, instruments and initiatives."

According to Article 48(3) of the same Decision, "The Commission shall submit to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions by 31 December 2012 for the period 2007 to 2010 and 31 December 2015 for the period 2011 to 2013 respectively, an ex-post evaluation report".


**2.2. Objectives of the evaluation**

This evaluation has the following objectives:

(i) to examine the implementation of actions co-financed by the EIF during 2011-2013 (annual programmes as well as Community Actions) and,

(ii) to examine the implementation of actions co-financed by the EIF under the 2007-2010 Community Actions, and, for all, assess their relevance\(^3\), effectiveness\(^4\), efficiency\(^5\), sustainability\(^6\), coherence and complementarity\(^7\), and EU added value\(^8\).

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\(^2\) OJ L 150/168, 20.05.2014

\(^3\) Relevance: The extent to which intervention's objectives are pertinent to needs, problems and issues to be addressed.

\(^4\) Effectiveness: The extent to which objectives set are achieved.

\(^5\) Efficiency: The extent to which the desired effects are achieved at reasonable cost.

\(^6\) Sustainability: The extent to which positive effects are likely to last after an intervention has terminated.

\(^7\) Coherence and complementarity: The extent to which the intervention does not contradict other interventions with similar objectives, but on the contrary, they complement each other.
2.3. Ownership and use of the evaluation
The European Commission's Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs is the commissioning body of this evaluation, which will be used by the Directorate-General itself and by other Commission's departments.

Rights concerning the evaluation report and its reproduction and publication will remain the property of the European Commission. No documents based, in whole or in part, upon the work undertaken in the context of this contract may be published without the prior written approval of the European Commission.

The Commission will ensure that the evaluation results are disseminated. As part of the dissemination and on the basis of the evaluation report, the Commission will draft a report on the implementation of the EIF in 2011-2013 and submit it to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. The evaluation results will be also communicated to the relevant authorities of the Member States and to the general public.

The publication of the deliverables will be accompanied by a judgment on the quality, carried out by the DG Migration and Home Affairs on the basis of criteria specified in section 12.

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE FUND

3.1. Legal basis of the EIF
The EIF was established for the period 2007 to 2013 by Council Decision No 2007/435/EC.

Strategic guidelines for the implementation of the EIF were adopted by Commission Decision C(2007) 3926\(^9\).

Rules for the implementation of the EIF were adopted by Commission Decision 2008/457/EC\(^10\).

3.2. Objectives and priorities of the EIF

Article 2 of Decision No 2007/435/EC defines the general objectives of the EIF as follows:

- To support the efforts made by the Member States in enabling third-country nationals of different economic, social, cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds to

\(^{8}\) EU added value: The extent to which EU funded interventions bring additional value compared to what could have been achieved with Member State resources.


fulfil the conditions of residence and to facilitate their integration into the European societies. The Fund shall primarily focus on actions relating to the integration of newly arrived third-country nationals;

- To contribute to the development and implementation of national integration strategies for third-country nationals in all aspects of society in particular taking into account the principle that integration is a two-way dynamic process of mutual accommodation by all immigrants and residents of Member States.

Specific objectives of the EIF, corresponding to the general objectives, were defined by Article 3 of Decision No 2007/435/EC:

- Facilitation of the development and implementation of admission procedures relevant to and supportive of the integration process of third-country nationals;
- Development and implementation of the integration process of newly-arrived third-country nationals in Member States;
- Increasing of the capacity of Member States to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate policies and measures for the integration of third-country nationals;
- Exchange of information, best practices and cooperation in and between Member States in developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating policies and measures for the integration of third-country nationals.

In addition to the general and specific objectives of the EIF, Decision C(2007) 3926 defined the following four priorities for the EIF:

- Implementation of actions designed to put the 'Common Basic Principles for immigrant integration policy in the European Union' into practice;
- Development of indicators and evaluation methodologies to assess progress, adjust policies and measures and to facilitate co-ordination of comparative learning;
- Policy capacity building, co-ordination and intercultural competence building in the Member States across the different levels and departments of government;
- Exchange of experience, good practice and information on integration between the Member States.

3.3. Implementation modalities

The EIF has been implemented via actions under annual programmes of the Member States (shared management mode) and Community actions (direct and joint management mode).

**EIF annual programmes of the Member States**

The EIF annual programmes (referred to in Article 19 of Decision No 2007/435/EC) were drafted on the basis of the EIF 2007-2013 multi-annual programmes of 26 Member States\(^\text{11}\) and implemented by the authorities of these under the shared management mode.

\(^{11}\) Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom.
In accordance with Article 4 of Decision No 2007/435/EC, the actions under the EIF annual programmes should have supported, among others, the development and implementation by Member States of admission procedures; preparation of third-country nationals for their integration into host society by supporting pre-travel measures; introducing newly arrived third-country nationals to the host society and enabling them to acquire basic knowledge about the host society's language, history, institutions, socio economic features, cultural life and the fundamental norms and values; programmes or activities encouraging the admission and supporting the integration process of highly qualified and qualified third-country nationals; the access of third-country nationals to public and private goods and services; capacity building and training of staff within public and private service providers, including educational institutions.

The EIF allocations for the annual programmes of the Member States were determined on the basis of a methodology defined in Article 12 of Decision No 2007/435/EC.

**EIF Community actions**

The EIF Community actions were implemented under the direct or joint management mode, either via projects supported by grants awarded by the Commission or via contracts for services concluded following the calls for tenders published by the Commission.

Article 5 of Decision No 2007/435/EC lays down the Community actions eligible under the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals, which, among others, include:

- Further Community cooperation in implementing Community law and good practices in the field of immigration and implementing good practices in the field of integration;
- Support the setting-up of transnational cooperation networks and pilot projects based on transnational partnerships designed to stimulate innovation, facilitate exchanges of experience and good practice and improve the quality of integration policies;
- Support transnational awareness-raising campaigns;
- Support studies, dissemination and exchange of information on best practices and all other aspects of immigration and integration policies, including for the use of state of the art technology;
- Support pilot projects and studies exploring the possibility of new forms of Community cooperation in the field of immigration and integration and Community law in the field of immigration;
- Support the development and application by Member States of common statistical tools, methods and indicators for measuring policy developments in the fields of immigration and integration.

4. **Scope**

4.1. **Actions and period of time to be covered**

The evaluation will have two distinct parts: PART I and PART II.

**PART I**

The following actions will be covered:

- Actions supported under the 2011, 2012 and 2013 annual programmes of 26 participating Member States.
The European Integration Fund Community Actions supported under the 2011, 2012 and 2013 annual work programmes, i.e.
- 9 projects selected through the call of proposal were funded under the 2011 annual work programme;
- 22 projects selected through the call of proposal 2012 and 2013, 2 contribution agreements signed with OECD and 2 projects related to the Cyprus and Italian Presidency were funded under the 2012 and 2013 annual work programmes.

PART II
A separate analysis will be carried out for the EIF Community Actions supported under the 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 annual work programmes. This work, the analysis and the conclusions shall be reported under a separate section of the final evaluation report and shall not be taken into account for conclusions for the PART I.

The following actions will be covered:

- The EIF Community Actions supported under the 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 annual work programmes, i.e.
  - 10 projects selected through the call of proposal were funded under the 2007 annual work programme;
  - 9 projects selected through the call of proposal were funded under the 2008 annual work programme;
  - 9 projects selected through the call of proposal and 1 project related to the Spanish Presidency were funded under the 2009 annual work programme;
  - 10 projects selected through the call of proposal and 1 project related to the Hungarian Presidency were funded under the 2010 annual work programme (all implemented after 1 January 2011).

The period covered by the evaluation will be:
- 1 January 2011 – 30 June 2015 for the national programmes of the Member States;

For analytical reasons, data from the year 2010 will be used as the baseline for analysis under PART I.

4.2. Other instruments to be considered

The evaluation will also have to consider (in particular in the context of the evaluation of the complementarity and coherence):
- National policies of the Member States in the field of integration of third-country nationals;
• Actions supported under the national 2007-2010 EIF programmes of the Member States;
• Actions supported by any other EU financial instrument with a possible impact on the integration of third-country nationals (with particular attention to actions supported under the European Social Fund);

4.3. Geographical coverage

The evaluation will cover all EU Member States except Denmark and Croatia (26 Member States).

5. CONTEXT OF THE EVALUATION

In accordance with Article 48(2) of Decision No 2007/435/EC, the Member States shall submit to the Commission evaluation reports on actions supported under their EIF 2011-2013 annual programmes. As the eligibility period for the EIF 2013 annual programmes expired on 30 June 2015, it was agreed that the Commission will accept evaluation reports submitted by the Member States until 30 November 2015.

PART I covering the period 2011-2013 (Annual Programmes and Community Actions) will be used as basis for the preparation of the ex-post evaluation report for the period 2011 to 2013.

PART II covering implementation of the 2007-2010 Community Actions will contribute to the preparation of the ex-post evaluation report for the period 2007 to 2010. The Community Actions under the Annual Work Programmes 2007-2010 are included due to the fact that those were not covered during the ex-post evaluation for 2007-201012.

6. EVALUATION QUESTIONS

Replying to the evaluation questions is the core of the evaluation work and the replies will constitute the main part of the final report.

The answer to each evaluation question must be exclusively based on evidence and rigorous analysis. Different types of evaluation methods (quantitative and qualitative) and data sources must be combined to formulate the answers. The answers shall define key terms of the question, identify indicators and judgment criteria used for answering the question and fully disclose the reasoning followed in the analysis.

The evaluation questions are grouped under the six following evaluation themes – effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, relevance, coherence (including complementarity), and EU added value:

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12 http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/evaluation/search/download.do?jsessionid=wrwr_Ma7qU7JTSwK1oKDe5zk4fcLDjxXlpArYPBfLbzeiAWy2Atp!-639955766?documentId=10702316
Theme 1 Effectiveness

1. To what extent did the EIF 2011-2013 (or 2007-2010) actions contribute to the achievement of the objectives defined in the Articles 2 and 3 of Decision No 2007/435/EC and to the priorities defined by the Strategic guidelines (C(2007)3926 of 21/08/2007)?

a) To what extent did the EIF 2011-2013 (or 2007-2010) actions contribute to the integration of newly arrived third-country nationals?

b) To what extent did the EIF 2011-2013 (or 2007-2010) actions contribute to facilitation of the development and implementation of admission procedures relevant to and supportive of the integration process of third-country nationals?

c) To what extent did the EIF 2011-2013 (or 2007-2010) actions contribute to development and implementation of the integration process of newly-arrived third-country nationals in Member States?

d) To what extent did the EIF 2011-2013 (or 2007-2010) actions contribute to increasing of the capacity of Member States to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate policies and measures for the integration of third-country nationals?

e) To what extent did the EIF 2011-2013 (or 2007-2010) actions contribute to exchange of information, best practices and cooperation in and between Member States in developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating policies and measures for the integration of third-country nationals?

f) To what extent did the EIF 2011-2013 (or 2007-2010) actions contribute to implementation of actions designed to put the 'Common Basic Principles for immigrant integration policy in the European Union' into practice?

g) To what extent did the EIF 2011-2013 (or 2007-2010) actions contribute to development of indicators and evaluation methodologies to assess progress, adjust policies and measures and to facilitate co-ordination of comparative learning?

h) To what extent did the EIF 2011-2013 (or 2007-2010) actions contribute to policy capacity building, co-ordination and intercultural competence building in the Member States across the different levels and departments of government?

i) To what extent did the EIF 2011-2013 (or 2007-2010) actions contribute to the exchange of experience, good practice and information on integration between the Member States?

Theme 2 Efficiency

13 The evaluation questions are mostly tailored for the main scope of this evaluation (PART I), and shall be adapted to PART II where necessary.
14 Some questions are based on the objectives of the legal basis, others are based on the priorities in the Strategic guidelines. For this reason the questions may partially overlap.
2. To what extent were the effects of the EIF 2011-2013 (or 2007-2010) actions achieved at a reasonable cost in terms of financial and human resources deployed?

Theme 3 Sustainability

3. To what extent have the positive effects of the EIF 2011-2013 (or 2007-2010) actions lasted after the interventions were terminated?

Theme 4 Relevance

4. To what extent the European Integration Fund objectives corresponded to needs related to the integration of third-country nationals into the European societies?
5. To what extent did the objectives of the actions under the European Integration Fund correspond to the needs in the field of integration of third-country nationals?

Theme 5 Coherence and complementarity

6. To what extent were the EIF 2011-2013 (or 2007-2010) actions coherent with and complementary to other actions related to integration of third-country nationals, financed by national resources of the Member States and other EU financial instruments?

Theme 6 EU added value

7. What is the additional value resulting from the European Integration Fund 2011-2013 (or 2007-2010) actions compared to what the Member States would be able to carry out through investments necessary for the implementation of the EU policies in the field of integration of third-country nationals without the support of the European Integration Fund 2011-2013 (or 2007-2010) actions?
7. **Risks**

The programming of the EIF annual programmes was not based on a set of mandatory common output, result and impact indicators. The annual programmes included targets for indicators which were defined on a national basis. In some cases, the indicators were primarily defined for the output level which makes it more difficult to evaluate the results and impacts as some data was not collected and/or is difficult to be obtained *post factum*. In order to facilitate the evaluation, the Commission requested the Member States to report against a set of common indicators established *ex-post* and included in a template for the national EIF 2011-2013 *ex-post* evaluation reports. However, there is a considerable risk that some Member States will not provide all requested data in case it is not available.

The contractor is expected to propose evaluation methods which would satisfactorily address these gaps and risks. In particular, the contractor is expected to propose a methodology which would allow, despite the mentioned gaps, to analyse and to conclude on the results and impacts, as well as to satisfactorily respond to the 16 evaluation questions.

Moreover, there are considerable time constraints and very tight deadlines that will need to be respected in the most absolute terms.