External migratory pressure is the ‘new normal’ both for the EU and for partner countries. Responding to the current situation requires a more coordinated, systematic and structured approach, matching the EU’s interests and the interests of our partners. Migration Partnerships will be at the heart of this approach. The EU will seek partnerships with key third countries of origin and transit using a mix of incentives tailored to produce concrete results in stemming the flow of irregular migrants and helping third countries’ development in order to address root causes of irregular migration. This will require the use of all policies and tools at the EU’s disposal. Member State contributions – diplomatic, technical and financial – will be of fundamental importance in delivering results.
In the short term, the Trust Fund for Africa will be strengthened with a further €0.5 billion from the European Development Fund (EDF).

For the longer term, the Commission is proposing a new and ambitious External Investment Plan in order to mobilise investments in developing third countries, building on the experience of the successful Investment Plan for Europe. €3.1 billion will be mobilised to this end, expected to trigger total investments of up to €31 billion and the potential to increase €62 billion if Member States and other partners match the EU contribution.

**Which are the objectives to be achieved?**

**Short term objectives:**
- Save lives in the Mediterranean sea and in countries of origin and transit
- Increase the rate of returns to countries of origin and transit
- Enable migrants and refugees to stay close to home and to avoid taking dangerous journeys

**Long-term objective:**
- Reduce the root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement by addressing political, social and economic factors

**Mobilising financial instruments**

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**Proposed priority partners:**
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Mali
- Nigeria
- Niger
- Senegal
- Ethiopia
The European Agenda on Migration set out a wide variety of steps to put migration at the centre of the EU’s external relations, building on the Global Approach on Migration and Mobility, established dialogues with partners such as the Rabat, Khartoum and Budapest processes as well as Regional Development and Protection Programmes in the Middle East, North Africa and in the Horn of Africa.

The new Partnership will build on:

- **High Level Dialogues on Migration** with key partner countries
- **Focus on migration in the European Neighbourhood Policy** review 2015
- **Western Balkans Leaders’ meeting**, October 2015
- **The Valletta Summit** on migration, November 2015
- **EU - Turkey Statement**, March 2016
- **Fight against trafficking networks and people smugglers through EUNAVFOR MED Operation Sophia**
- **Saving lives at sea with the Frontex operations Joint Operation Triton and Joint Operation/Rapid Intervention Poseidon**

Return, Readmission and Reintegration:

To date, 17 readmission agreements are in force with the following partner countries: Hong Kong, Macao, Sri Lanka, Albania, Russia, Ukraine, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Moldova, Pakistan, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Cap Verde. In addition, a number of readmission agreements are currently under negotiation.

Financial Instruments:

The EU is the world’s largest development and humanitarian aid donor. In addition to existing development cooperation funds, a number of long term instruments have been developed to offer targeted support for migrants, refugees, internally displaced people and host communities. These instruments include the Facility for Refugees in Turkey, the EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, Humanitarian Aid for the Syria crisis, as well as the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa and Humanitarian Aid for Refugees in Africa.