



# Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

## Call for proposals

### Transnational actions on asylum, migration and integration

AMIF-2019-AG-CALL

Version 1.0  
29 July 2019



<b>HISTORY OF CHANGES</b>			
<b>Version</b>	<b>Publication Date</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Page</b>
1.0	29.07.2019	▪ Initial version	



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS

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

### 2019 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

#### AMIF-2019-AG-CALL

## Transnational actions on asylum, migration and integration

### 1. INTRODUCTION

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

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

The [2019 AMIF work programme for Union action](#) (AWP)<sup>1</sup> includes:

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

The legal bases of AMIF are the following:

- Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund<sup>2</sup> ("the AMIF Regulation")
- Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 laying down general provisions on the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and on the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management<sup>3</sup> ("the Horizontal Regulation").

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<sup>1</sup>C(2019) 3371 final

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

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 150, 20/5/2014, p. 112.

The AMIF Regulation sets out four specific objectives:

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

## 2. TOPICS OF THIS CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The present Call for proposals aims at funding projects in seven topics:

Topic 1: Fostering the integration of persons in need of protection through private sponsorship schemes

Topic 2: Social orientation of newly arrived third-country nationals through involvement of local communities, including mentoring and volunteering activities

Topic 3: Social and economic integration of migrant women

Topic 4: Awareness raising and information campaigns on the risks of irregular migration in selected third countries and within Europe

Topic 5: Support to victims of trafficking in human beings

Topic 6: Protection of children in migration

Topic 7: Transnational projects by Member States for training of experts in the area of asylum and immigration

Each project application submitted under the present Call for proposals must address **only one** of the following topics (if you wish to address more than one topic of the call, you need to submit a separate proposal under each topic in the submission page).

### **Topic 1: Fostering the integration of persons in need of protection through private sponsorship schemes**

#### **Background**

As part of the EU efforts to provide more legal channels for the growing number of displaced persons in need of international protection, the European Commission<sup>4</sup> invited Member States to explore ways to establish private sponsorship schemes where civil society organisations provide support for the settlement and integration for persons in need of protection. In line with the conclusions of a study recently carried out for the European Commission<sup>5</sup> on private sponsorship, the European Commission proposes to provide funding for fostering the integration of persons in need of protection through private sponsorship schemes.

The concept of private sponsorship is not clearly and easily defined. The above-mentioned study identified a wide range of definitions of private sponsorship and an equally varied array of practices. The number of different sponsorship schemes has proliferated across the EU and they have a wide variety of characteristics in the eligibility criteria of the

<sup>4</sup> COM(2017) 558 final

<sup>5</sup> Study on the feasibility and added value of sponsorship schemes as a possible pathway to safe channels for admission to the EU, including resettlement, available at <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/1dbb0873-d349-11e8-9424-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-77978210>

sponsor and beneficiary, responsibilities of the sponsor, and in the status granted and associated rights. Private sponsorship schemes implemented to date in Europe can be divided into four main categories: humanitarian corridors; ad-hoc schemes for specific religious groups; specific family reunification schemes; and community-based sponsorship. Given the diverse range of admission schemes that have operated in Member States with a sponsorship component, sponsorship is best described as a way of admitting persons for humanitarian reasons, rather than as a separate channel itself. Private sponsorship schemes share one common characteristic: they involve a transfer of responsibility from government agencies to private actors for some elements of the identification, pre-departure, reception, or integration process of beneficiaries. With a strong involvement of local communities and civil society organisations, these schemes allow strengthened capacities at local level to provide adequate support for integration and usually lead to better integration outcomes of the persons concerned.

The use of private sponsorship is expanding within the territory of the European Union, and over the period 2013-2018 the number of persons admitted under private sponsorship in the EU exceeded 30,000, with over three quarters admitted by Germany alone (the other Member States include the United Kingdom, Portugal, Italy, Ireland, France, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Poland, and Belgium).

Topic 1 of this call for proposals focuses on one of the key objectives of private sponsorship schemes: enabling better integration prospects for private sponsorship beneficiaries.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of topic 1 of this call for proposals are to support transnational projects that:

- a) *In Member States that operate private sponsorship schemes*, provide support and enhance capacity building for sponsor organisations, including new sponsor organisations, and their members (individual mentors), which take part in private sponsorship schemes and are entrusted with facilitating the integration of the beneficiaries of such schemes;
- b) *In Member States that do not yet operate private sponsorship schemes*, support the design and implementation of pilot schemes on private sponsorship.

Proposals should indicate whether they relate to objective a) **or** b) mentioned above.

### **Actions:**

- Technical assistance, trainings, workshops, mutual learning activities aiming at transferring and sharing knowledge on successful refugee integration through private sponsorship schemes between experienced and new sponsor organisations;
- Create tools or platforms to facilitate the implementation of private sponsorship and the dissemination of know-how and best practices among sponsor organisations;
- Providing technical, legal and operational support for designing and implementing a private sponsorship pilot project in a Member State that does not yet operate private sponsorship schemes, aiming at successful integration outcomes for the beneficiaries. Such support may include actions related to the development of an agreement with the Member State's authorities in charge, the selection of the beneficiaries and of the sponsor, the preparation of the departure of third-country nationals to that Member State, their transfer and their integration measures at arrival and afterwards, as well as monitoring and evaluation of the private sponsorship scheme.

## Outcomes

- Achieving more efficient private sponsorship schemes with better integration situation for their beneficiaries through capacity building and peer learning across borders;
- Scaling up existing private sponsorship schemes through capacity building and peer learning across borders – and potentially new sponsor organisations;
- Involving more Member States in private sponsorship through promoting pilot schemes in close cooperation between the Member States and sponsor organisations;
- Successful integration situation through well trained and informed sponsor organisations and individual mentors, aware of the roles and responsibilities entailed in private sponsorship;
- Improved transnational cooperation on private sponsorship schemes between experienced and new sponsor organisations;
- Improved private sponsorship schemes following the exchange of information and experience between organisations participating to the project;
- Improved knowledge on the impact of private sponsorship on the integration of third-country nationals (especially in comparison with the situation of third-country nationals not benefitting from private sponsorship schemes);
- Best practices on private sponsorship schemes shared and peer learning facilitated;
- New private sponsorship pilot schemes created in Member States that have so far not been engaged in private sponsorship.

## Further considerations applicable to this topic

Future projects should take into account the work to be undertaken by EASO building on their [first pilot project](#) on private sponsorship programmes which started in December 2017.

In case proposals address objective (b) above (i.e. supporting the design and implementation of new pilot schemes on private sponsorship), their focus should not be only on pre-departure measures. Proposals submitted under this objective by a NGO or international organisation as lead applicant/coordinator should involve directly (as member of the consortium) or indirectly Member State's authorities concerned.

Given the potential overlap with topic 2 in relation to integration measures through involvement of local communities (see below), potential applicants should take into account the specificities of topic 1, which focuses only on integration of persons in need of protection through (existing or to be developed) private sponsorship schemes, while topic 2 relates to third-country nationals in general.

The Commission would welcome large or small projects in terms of budget and number of partners. The Commission considers also valuable that organisations representing migrants are involved in the project.

Moreover, the Commission considers positively that applicants build on the experience of private sponsorship already in place in other countries, for example through mutual learning activities, including from some organisations based in non-EU countries, such as Switzerland and Canada, given the relevant experience in terms of resettlement and private sponsorship.

Applicants are also invited to take note of, to avoid duplication with, and to build on projects previously funded by the EU in relation to integration and to take into account the [study on the feasibility and added-value of sponsorship schemes as a possible pathway to safe channels for admission to the EU, including resettlement](#)<sup>6</sup>.

Applicants may find additional information at:

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<sup>6</sup> See previous footnote.

- [European Resettlement Network;](#)
- [European Web Site on Integration;](#)
- [Funded projects under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund;](#)
- [Projects funded under the European Fund for the integration of third-country nationals;](#)
- [Financial Transparency System.](#)

## **Topic 2: Social orientation of newly arrived third-country nationals through involvement of local communities, including mentoring and volunteering activities**

### **Background**

Upon arrival and in the very early stages of the integration process, migrants often encounter difficulties in their social orientation, i.e. in adapting to a new local, social and administrative environment, building a social network, as well as in dealing with authorities, public and private services or handling paperwork. These difficulties can slow down the integration process and affect its outcome. The involvement of the local community can facilitate overcoming these difficulties through, for example, mentoring programmes and/or volunteering activities to provide support to third-country nationals in areas such as knowledge of the new local environment, "ways, customs and habits" of the new society, basic language skills, dealing with administrative procedures in the field of health, housing, education, etc. The activities will aim at facilitating the early integration steps of newly arrived migrants and also foster exchanges between migrants and the receiving society, thus contributing to mutual understanding, knowledge and building of a more cohesive community. These activities will involve the local community (individuals and/or families) and may also support them.

### **Objectives**

- Develop activities involving local communities, including mentoring and/or volunteering, to facilitate the social orientation and active participation of migrants;
- Support the social orientation of both migrant women and men, including through provision of information about all the aspects of daily life;
- Strengthen the sense of belonging to the new society and foster an active role in the community at local, regional, national and/or EU level;
- Promote meaningful interactions between the local population and newly arrived migrants;
- Facilitate the transfer of experience, knowledge and practices between the partners of the project to develop more effective actions;
- Facilitate the dissemination of experience, knowledge and practices beyond the partners of the project to develop more effective actions, including by evaluating the impact of the actions developed.

### **Actions**

- Activities to support the social orientation of newly arrived, through the involvement of local communities including mentoring and/or volunteering activities, designed on an equal basis, for the benefit of all involved. Migrants, especially when already settled in the local community, can also be involved in the activities.
- Activities to strengthen the sense of belonging to the new society and foster an active role in the community at local, regional, national and/or EU level;
- Activities to promote meaningful interactions between migrants and the receiving society;
- Trainings, workshops, mutual learning activities aiming at transferring and sharing knowledge on supporting the social orientation of both women and men newly arrived, strengthening their sense of belonging and promoting exchanges and interactions between the receiving society and migrants facilitating the integration of newcomers as well as developing and sharing the knowledge on how to pursue these objectives in an effective manner, e.g. by evaluating the impact of the actions developed.
- The projects and activities need to cover a significant range of relevant areas of daily life for the participants, such as:



- everyday problem solving;
  - access to basic services, including health services and housing;
  - education and training for children (early care and childhood education, schools, school or pupils' clubs or events, non-formal education institutions such as youth clubs, sports clubs, or cultural groups for children) and adults (classes, cultural groups);
  - participation to local community, to social, cultural or sports activities (e.g. taking part, coaching or going to watch), including environmental activities (e.g. national organisations, local conservation groups, preservation societies, local recycling practices).
  - building a social network and making friends.
- The projects and activities need to take into account the specific situation of groups of special concern, such as children, parents with children, women, the elderly, illiterate or semi-literate persons, refugees, people arriving in the context of family migration, or victims of violence who need specific information tailored to their needs.

### **Outcomes**

- Improve the social orientation of both women and men newly arrived involved in the projects and/or show and evaluate how the support provided through the project contributed to this objective;
- Strengthen the sense of belonging to the new society and support their active role in the community at local, regional, national and/or EU level and/or show and evaluate how the national/transnational actions contributed in this regard;
- Promote exchanges and interactions between the receiving society and newly arrived migrants facilitating the integration of newcomers;
- Improve transnational cooperation to facilitate the transfer of experience, knowledge and practices (good and bad) related to the social orientation of third-country nationals within the partners of the project, and achieve more effective practices and initiatives;
- Facilitate the dissemination of experience, knowledge and practices beyond the partners of the project;
- Improve knowledge on how to support the social orientation of both women and men newly arrived;
- Improve knowledge on whether and how the facilitation of interactions between the native population and migrants is associated with more positive attitudes towards migrants and improved social integration

### **Further considerations applicable to this topic**

Applicants should consider and clearly detail in their application how the different domains and relevant actors are to be involved. To attain the objectives of this call, it is necessary to:

- cover all relevant aspects of daily life across areas such as transport, administrative issues, education, training, counselling, leisure, social networks, well-being and mental health, and
- collaborate with all relevant actors (through a "multi-stakeholder approach"), i.e. by developing activities with and engaging various actors, for example: local authorities and communities, private and public stakeholders, educational institutions, non-formal education actors, migrant organisations (including self-led organisations), experienced migrants already living in the host country, social workers, health professionals and above all: migrant women and men and natives who will participate to the project activities.

Furthermore, applicants should also give specific attention to people in a potentially vulnerable situation, including victims of gender-based violence, or who belong to a religious or ethnic minority who could face discrimination or disproportionate obstacles.

The Commission would welcome large or small projects in terms of budget and number of partners

### Topic 3: Social and economic integration of migrant women

#### Background

Women can be crucial facilitators in the integration process. When they have children, they are often multipliers in the areas of education and employment and play an important role as agents for the transfer of values. The positive impact of migrant women' employment on the social outcomes of their children is well documented.<sup>7</sup>

Still, data and research show that migrant women face multiple disadvantages in comparison with migrant men and native-born women; in particular they have lower activity and employment rates, a higher risk of poverty or social exclusion and are more likely to be in lower skilled/valued occupations.<sup>8</sup> This is true even though migrant women have on average a similar, or slightly better, level of education than migrant men. More adverse integration outcomes in turn can undermine their personal as well as economic independence, increase the risk of vulnerability and social isolation, as well as the risk of suffering mental health issues and low self-esteem. Women perceived as Muslim or of African descent face particular difficulties, in particular due to discrimination in access to the labour market.<sup>9</sup>

Therefore, it is essential to support migrant women and girls to participate in all spheres of society and to promote gender equality. An effective social integration of women in the receiving society, in particular the capacity to interact and feel at ease with the new social environment, can contribute to improved social cohesion and facilitate their integration in the labour market.

Research carried out by the OECD and evaluations of previous AMIF projects supporting migrant women allow drawing some elements that contribute to the success of projects. Availability of childcare, even if informal, during the activities enhances the participation of migrant women. Confidence building, especially for new arrivals, is key and can be provided in a variety of ways, including mentoring schemes or engaging with participants and their families. Experienced migrant women already well established in a community can play a role, for example as mentors, facilitators, or role models. Activities should support integration into the labour market of migrant women be developed to fit local labour market needs and explore less traditional job opportunities. They should also be organised in places easily accessible by migrant women, in particular by public transport. Linking work experience with training and language learning (for example half day each) is beneficial, as well as migrant women participation in activities lasting at least 6 months.

#### Objectives

- Support the economic and social integration of migrant women; more specifically:
  - support the capacity of migrant women to interact and feel at ease in their social environment and their participation to social and political life at local level and/ or
  - support migrant women moving into work and facilitate their sustainable labour market integration.

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<sup>7</sup> OECD (2018), [Catching Up? Country Studies on Intergenerational Mobility and Children of Immigrants](#).

<sup>8</sup> A number of factors may explain gender differences in outcomes: education level and skills, reason for migration (in particular family versus other categories), proficiency in host-country language, access to integration programmes, access to social support (employment services, childcare) and gender stereotypes. Those who come to the EU for family reasons do not always benefit from integration programmes, skills assessment, re-training and other activation measures available for other immigrants and therefore face large obstacles to overcome their social isolation and integrate in the labour market.

<sup>9</sup> See Section 6 of the [Commission's Staff Working Document of 15 March 2019 on countering racism, xenophobia in the EU](#). In addition, see also ENAR (2016), '[Forgotten women: the impact of Islamophobia on Muslim women](#)' and "[Muslim by default or religious discrimination? Results from a cross-national field experiment on hiring discrimination](#)"

- In addition, the projects should:
  - raise awareness among migrant women of their rights, including access to education and work, participation in social, economic and cultural life, protection against gender based violence and access to justice;
  - raise awareness among public officials and professionals of specific needs and situation of migrant women in access to services;
  - facilitate the transfer of experience, knowledge and practices within the partners of the project to develop effective actions;
  - facilitate the dissemination of experience, knowledge and practices beyond the partners of the project, in particular at local and regional level, to develop more effective action targeting migrant women, including those from vulnerable groups;
  - improve knowledge on how to better support the social and economic integration of migrant women.

### **Actions**

- Activities for migrant women co-designed with them to best meet their needs, and designed in a flexible way to facilitate continued participation;<sup>10</sup>
- Practical trainings, workshops, mutual learning activities, mentoring schemes, peer group activities aiming at improving social and economic integration of migrant women and transferring and sharing knowledge on successful approaches to support the integration of women;
- Outreach and empowering of particularly vulnerable groups of migrant women, for example women with low educational attainment, with limited or no work experience and paying specific attention to how several forms of discrimination can reinforce each other and affect migrant women.

Such activities could include, for example:

- Specific language and orientation courses, in particular actions mixing language classes with other activities to consolidate language acquisition and improve other skills, competences or work experiences, such as vocational training or volunteering activities;
- Activities developing job-related skills and competences, preparing for entry into labour market, (e.g. by providing support in drafting CVs and preparing for a job interview, helping in developing social and professional networks), upskilling or specific actions to support that skills and qualifications of women are properly assessed, validated and recognised; labour market integration measures specifically geared towards women;
- Activities fostering confidence building and improving self-esteem, advancing social, political, cultural and/or sport participation;
- Activities mixing local and migrant population to increase knowledge and awareness;
- Activities tackling gender stereotypes and developing specific support programmes for migrant women;
- Trainings for professionals and public officials working with migrant women / involved in the elaboration and implementation of integration programmes and activities to sensitise them to issues of gender equality and particular needs of migrant women.

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<sup>10</sup> For example, activities organised at times where children are in a childcare setting or at school, or providing a possibility to bring the children and provide informal care arrangements (for example in an adjacent room) during the activities. The geographical proximity of the place where the activities of projects take place and the places women live/ attend should be taken into account.

## Outcomes

- Increased capacity of migrant women to interact and feel at ease in their social environment and to participate to social and political life at local level;
- improved preparation for entering labour market and active social participation;
- improved independence and self-esteem of migrant women;
- better level of knowledge of women rights, increasing migrant women self-confidence, opening of horizons of participating women on how they see their role in society;
- better understanding by professionals and public official working with migrant women of their specific needs and gender issues.

## Further considerations applicable to this topic

- Applicants should consider and clearly detail it in their application how various policy areas and actors are to be involved. To attain the objective of this topic, it is necessary to build collaboration with and engage various actors (through a “multi-stakeholder approach”), such as local authorities and communities, private and public stakeholders, educational institutions, non-formal education actors, civil society organisations including migrant-led organisations, experienced migrant women living already in the host country for a longer time, social workers, health professionals. Migrant women – beneficiaries of projects - need to be directly involved in the design and implementation of the actions. The project proposals should specify the design/ methods of such involvement.
- Migrant women are the target group. Migrant men may also be included in some specific activities, to raise the awareness of content and purpose of the activities and support the continued participation by migrant women in the activities and enhance the understanding of Union values of equality and in particular equality between women and men, and attitudes to gender equality.<sup>11</sup>
- Furthermore, applicants should also consider specific attention to migrant women in a potentially vulnerable situation, including victims of gender-based violence, or who belong to a religious or ethnic minority who could face discrimination or disproportionate obstacles.
- The Commission would welcomes the diversity of large or small projects in terms of budget and number of partners. The Commission considers also valuable that migrant organisations are involved in the projects, be it as applicant, partner or in a different way.
- The Commission considers it valuable to give the possibility to organisations having less experience in the field of integration or having been confronted with this issue only recently, to benefit from the knowledge and practices developed by experienced organisations in that field. Partnerships should, where possible, include organisations having little experience on integration and organisations having experience in that area through the development of integration policies and measures.

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

- [European Web Site on Integration](#); amongst other [specific analysis on projects to support migrant women](#)
- [OECD \(2018\), Triple Disadvantage? A first overview of the integration of refugee women](#)
- [OECD-EU Settling in 2018, Indicators of Immigrant Integration](#) (see in particular chapter 6)

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<sup>11</sup> In particular, attitudes towards women’s economic independence and involvement on the labour market, which depend on balance / involvement of men in domestic and care responsibilities.

- [Council of Europe: Report: Migration from a gender perspective: empowering women as key actors for integration](#)
- [Funded projects under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund;](#)
- [Projects funded under the European Fund for the Integration of Third-Country Nationals;](#)
- [Projects funded under the EU programme for Employment and social innovation as a result of the Call for proposals VP/2016/015: Fast track integration into the labour market for third country nationals, targeting exclusively asylum seekers, refugees and their family members <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=632&langId=en>](#)
- [Financial Transparency System.](#)

## **Topic 4: Awareness raising and information campaigns on the risks of irregular migration in selected third countries and within Europe**

### **Background**

The EU Action plan against migrant smuggling (COM(2015)285)<sup>12</sup> states that raising awareness of the risks of smuggling and 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. To this end, the Action Plan foresees the launch of information and awareness raising campaigns in key countries of origin or transit for migrants. It points to the importance of creating a counter-narrative in the media to oppose misleading information provided by migrant smugglers, including through social media and with the involvement of diaspora communities in the EU.

The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund has already awarded several grants for information and awareness raising activities following previous calls for proposals. In 2018, following the call for proposals AMIF-2017-AG-INFO, six projects have been awarded and are being implemented in third countries of origin and transit of irregular migration. The grants to be awarded following the AMIF-2018-AG-INTE-05 call for proposals are engaging and empowering the voice of diaspora communities within the EU to provide information and raise awareness to counter migrant smugglers' narratives for prospective migrant in third countries. The present call for proposals aims to build on the results and expertise gathered over the last few years, in order to improve effectiveness of outreach to the target audiences.

The decision to embark on an irregular journey to Europe is often characterised by the fact of overlooking the risks for the potential reward. Potential migrants might either overestimate the likelihood of a successful outcome, fail to make a conscious assessment based on evidence or disregard the likely risks altogether. Shortcomings in past information and awareness raising activities have often pointed to the following:

- Few potential migrants receive information or consider it useful;
- Migrants did not trust certain information channels and while there was an abundance of reporting on the migratory situation, resorting to and trusting reliable news and information was still scarce;
- Negative information presented in campaigns was either not believed, or was insufficient to overcome the appeal of the alternative positive information presented by friends, family or smugglers;
- Some migrants chose to disregard the information presented, as they felt that they had no other choice than to migrate.

A recent study published by the European Commission<sup>13</sup> as well as analysis done for the Dutch Ministry of Justice and Security<sup>14</sup>, the implementation of communication campaigns with components targeted at origin, transit and destination countries could influence and reduce irregular migrant flows to Europe. The key challenge is in delivering this information through sources the target audience trusts. It also finds that communication campaigns should consider the following elements for better outcomes:

- The need to separate the sources of information that influence and encourage the aspiration to migrate from the sources of information that lead to departure, and determine the smuggling process and route;

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<sup>12</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eu\\_action\\_plan\\_against\\_migrant\\_smuggling\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eu_action_plan_against_migrant_smuggling_en.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> *How West African migrants engage with migration information en-route to Europe* – Study on communication channels used by migrants and asylum seekers to obtain information in countries of origin and transit, with particular focus on on-line and social media, Seefar and Optimity advisors for the European Commission, October 2017

<sup>14</sup> *Raising awareness, changing behavior?* – Combatting irregular migration through information campaigns, D.Schans, C. Optekamp, November 2016

- The need to address aspirations to migrate irregularly, by seeking to counterbalance the not always realistic views of Europe;
- The need to engage more directly in the migrants' decision-making process by providing timely information, which would help migrants assess properly the likely rewards of risky behaviour, rather than just focusing on the risks themselves;
- The need to use communication channels tailored to the specific groups of the target audience (e.g. internet, television, social media, print etc.);
- The need to nuance communication targeting migrants in transit, by helping them to assess and weigh up the known costs of remaining or the stigma around the 'failure' of being returned on the one hand, against the unknown risks, costs and/or rewards of migrating irregularly onwards to Europe on the other hand;
- The need to work with communities in countries of origin to soften the stigma of return, to change perspectives on returnees and to support the re-integration processes and reconciliation with families;
- The role of network connections, such as family and friends in the transit or destination country in determining destination choices, for both regular and irregular migration journeys.

The general objective of the information and awareness raising campaigns is to communicate objective information about the perils and difficulties of voyages and about the legal, social and economic realities of life in Europe, to prospective migrants, vulnerable communities, diaspora members and local media outlets. Ultimately, these campaigns should enable asylum seekers and migrants to make informed decisions about their movements and plans for the future. In addition, information campaigns should also emphasise the option/alternative of voluntarily returning to countries of origin for those not in need of international protection, who feel their expectations do not match the reality either on route or in Europe.

### Objectives

The present call for proposals aims at funding projects of information and awareness raising campaigns in the area of migration in **the following third countries: Algeria, Morocco, Senegal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo<sup>15</sup>, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia** (with a focus on preventing irregular migration and, in particular, migrant smuggling, as defined in the AMIF work programme for 2019. The campaigns in third countries may be complemented by components in Europe that focus on engaging the target audiences' network connections.

The **general objective** of the present call for proposals is to contribute to the change of perceptions and behaviour of third country nationals pondering irregularly migrating to the EU and key influencers of their decisions.

The goal of the present call for proposals is to support actions that pursue the following **specific objectives:**

- to provide trusted, factual, balanced information on the risks of irregular migration – during the journey (dangers of migrating irregularly) and after arrival (hardship of living in the EU irregularly and return), as well as on relevant legal alternatives of migration and on available economic opportunities in the country or region of origin;
- to empower credible voices in countering migrant smugglers' narratives on irregular migration and the diasporas' narratives on living irregularly in the EU;
- to strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation between actors such as civil society organisations, researchers, media outlets, local state actors, diaspora and where relevant other stakeholders;
- to enhance the sustainability of communication activities and results of the campaign.

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<sup>15</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



Project proposals submitted under the present call for proposals should build on the lessons learnt from the past and on-going information and awareness raising campaigns and activities in the area of preventing irregular migration and migrant smuggling, including those implemented by the EU, Member States and International Organisations. The projects should seek synergies with ongoing communication activities being implemented under actions funded by the EU, such as the relevant projects co-funded by AMIF<sup>16</sup>, and projects funded by the EU Trust Fund for Africa, as well as, where relevant, with those implemented by EU Member States, International Organisations and other partners.

**Each project proposal should target a single third country, unless the target communities are established in or transiting across several countries.** The reasons behind these choices should be clearly explained and justified in the application. **Applicants may submit more than one proposal and, therefore, apply for more than one grant.** The budget limitations for each project provided under section 5.2 must be respected.

Proposals which focus on information and awareness raising campaigns targeting only diaspora within EU Member States and lacking engagement with third country stakeholders will be rejected under the call for proposals.

### Actions

Project proposals should include all the following components:

1. Preparatory research, in view of developing a tailored communication strategy for the project, in particular to identify the migration context, target audience(s) of the communication activities, its (their) characteristics, motivations, information needs and gaps as well as communication channels and tools, as to design the most effective approach to influence its (their) behaviour. The preparatory research should also rely on results and lessons learnt from previous campaigns and communication activities carried out in the same country and should use available primary and secondary data and own analysis.
2. A tailored communication strategy based on the outcome of the preparatory research, in particular to define:
  - the target audience and its segmentation (gender, age, education, profession, etc.);
  - the geographical scope of the campaign based on the target audience identified (which country/region and which part of that country in particular) and the specific migratory context (country of origin vs transit or destination);
  - a comprehensive concept, including the overarching idea for the campaign structure, the key messages to be used throughout the period of implementation of the activities and the key visual elements;
  - a creative approach allowing for participation and feedback from the target audience, e.g. by fostering use of smartphone apps and text messaging for both multiplication and monitoring/feedback purposes;
  - the communication channels to be used depending on the target audience, ensuring a mix of traditional and social media, including media-buying plan where appropriate, as well as local or community level outreach, and taking into account the habits of each segment of the target audience in terms of media access and consumption as well as access and use of trusted information;

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<sup>16</sup> Currently ten campaigns and communication activities are supported by AMIF, the following through direct awards (e.g. InfoMigrants - <http://www.infomigrants.net/en/>) and Telling the real story (<http://tellingtherealstory.org/>) as well as those campaigns following project funded following the Calls for Proposals AMIF-2017-AG-INFO and AMIF-2018-AG-INTE-05)

- alternative communication tools where appropriate, such as theatre plays, community-led debates, contests (e.g. photo, song, video) and awards (e.g. for journalists), school visits, testimonials, involvement of celebrities etc., adapting them to the habits and characteristics of each context and segment of the target audience;
  - detailed plan for the roll-out and management of the campaign;
  - key performance indicators (KPIs), both qualitative and quantitative, with baseline and targets to be used to monitor the implementation and to assess the result of the campaign from the outset.
3. The production and implementation of the communication campaign, in particular:
- pre-testing of concepts and content of the campaign on sample/focus groups of identified target audience;
  - production of content of the campaign;
  - rolling-out of the communication activities;
4. Monitoring and evaluation of the results and impact of the campaign, in particular:
- collecting and analysing of the key performance indicators (KPIs) defined in the communication strategy;
  - providing for adjustments of the on-going campaign if necessary;
  - allowing for lessons learnt and good practices for future campaigns;
5. A strategy for the sustainability of the campaign activities, in particular:
- engaging with state and non-state actors, throughout the campaign, with a view to sharing know-how and best practices, raising their awareness and building ownership;

### **Further considerations applicable to this topic**

The campaigns should seek to directly **address both prospective migrants and their key influencers**, such as families, religious or community leaders, teachers, diaspora in main countries of transit and destination, returning migrants, social contacts, providers of services facilitating migration, etc.

To ensure the viability of the campaigns, applicants should organise consultations with relevant authorities of the country subject of the proposal throughout the different phases of the project (conception, implementation, evaluation and sustainability).

Applicants should develop **country-specific and audience-tailored messages** for the proposed campaign. However, these messages should in general address the following:

- Irregular migration often entails unbearable physical and mental suffering along the journey, as a consequence of engaging with and being misled by migrant smugglers. The risks for children, especially unaccompanied, and for women are particularly high;
- The cost of migration is often much higher than expected and often leads to loss of money and accumulation of debts which are not compensated for upon arrival (if arrived at all);
- Those who enter the EU irregularly and are not in need of protection will be returned; voluntary returns is possible from transit countries;
- While success stories are possible, living in the EU irregularly is very often much harder than expected; diaspora may depict a bright scenario, ashamed to unveil the hardships faced in reality;
- If relevant, communicate the legal pathways that exist for both those who migrate for work/education and for those who seek protection;
- Alternatives to migration exist in countries of origin or neighbouring countries/region and are supported financially by the EU and EU Member States

that help to build the local economy and address the root causes of irregular migration;

- Soften the stigma of return in countries of origin, to change perspectives on returnees and to promote success stories of re-integration support and reconciliation with families;

Given the significance of behavioural change in the context of information and awareness raising campaigns, insights from psychology, sociology and behavioural economics could help to target and design communication activities and to measure their effects. Behavioural sciences seek to understand how people make decisions in practice; how their behaviour is influenced by the context in which their decisions are made and how they are likely to respond to specific policy initiatives. Applicants are **encouraged to embed a behavioural approach** to their proposals by:

- identifying the potential behavioural element (i.e. the cause) of the action;
- proposing behavioural levers that can be used to induce behavioural change (e.g. by adapting content of messages, using reference to social norms, addressing misconceptions, raising knowledge, acting upon individual responsibility, perceived norms and loss aversion, framing of the message or adapting the source of the message);
- introducing behavioural element as an indicator for measuring the expected and actual impact of the initiatives.

The projects should lead to the following key **deliverables** for the corresponding components:

- report from the targeted preparatory research carried out in order to develop the tailored communication strategy;
- tailored communication strategy document, including definition of the geographical scope (e.g. if target communities established or transiting across several countries), audience segmentation, selection of topics and messages, plan for the use of tailored media and alternative communication channels, detailed plan for the roll-out of the campaign, etc.;
- monitoring and evaluation methodology document<sup>17</sup>, including credible baseline and targets for key performance indicators (KPIs) for all elements of the campaign covering inputs, outputs, outcomes and impact of the communication activities;
- content of the information and awareness raising campaign, including products and services designed, produced and disseminated during the campaign;
- quarterly monitoring reports, including on implementation, contingencies and adjustment measures and progress towards achieving the proposed key performance indicators;
- a mid-term progress report using the standard form that will be available on the Participant Portal;
- a final report including the results, as well as the observations from the monitoring and evaluation of the project.

## Outcomes

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

- Increase awareness among prospective migrants on the risks of irregular migration and migrant smuggling, the relevant legal alternatives of migration and economic

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<sup>17</sup> Please refer to the European Commission Toolkit on evaluation of communication activities [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-evaluation-toolkit\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-evaluation-toolkit_en.pdf)

opportunities in the country or region of origin; as well as opportunities of voluntary return and reintegration programs from countries of transit;

- empower credible voices in countering migrant smugglers' narratives on irregular migration and the diasporas' narratives on living irregularly in the EU;
- strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation between actors such as civil society organisations, researchers, media outlets, local state actors, diaspora and where relevant other stakeholders;
- enhance the sustainability of communication activities and provide a sound evaluation of results of the campaign.

## Topic 5: Support to victims of trafficking in human beings

### Background

Providing better access to and realising the rights of the victims of trafficking in human beings is a priority under the 2017 Communication 'Reporting on the follow-up to the EU Strategy towards the eradication of trafficking in human beings and identifying further concrete actions'<sup>18</sup> ('2017 Communication'). The European Commission has been supporting transnational projects contributing to the early identification, assistance, support, referral and integration of third country national victims of trafficking in human beings. Ensuring that funding matches anti-trafficking policy aims is a cross cutting priority of the 2017 Communication.

The European Commission second progress report (2018)<sup>19</sup> indicates that Member States reported on victims of trafficking found in asylum application systems; on organised criminal groups abusing asylum procedures. In this respect, Europol<sup>20</sup> has warned that 'OCGs involved in trafficking in human beings also continue to exploit asylum provisions in order to traffic non-EU nationals into the EU. In many occasions, victims are provided with fraudulent documents to conceal their real identity and age'. EU Member States and other sources<sup>21</sup> reported concerns on criminal networks involved in trafficking in human beings taking advantage of the irregular migration routes. In the report, the European Commission notes that trafficking in human beings should be addressed in the context of migration, taking into account the disproportionate targeting of women and girls trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Efforts should continue to ensure that all victims are identified and provided with assistance and protection appropriate to their gender, age and the form of exploitation. Data from EU Member States for years 2015-2016<sup>22</sup> indicate that 56% of registered victims of trafficking in human beings within the EU are non-EU citizens,. Non-EU citizen victims of trafficking in human beings are exploited for sexual (51%) purposes, for labour (32%) or for other (17%) purposes. Females were over three quarters of the victims among non-EU citizens (76%). Girls were over half (54%) of victims within non-EU citizenship.

Based on the 2017 Communication, and on the findings and identified patterns of the European Commission second progress report, which includes information from the Member States, relevant EU Agencies, civil society and relevant reports by international organisations<sup>23</sup>, this topic aims at strengthening relevant stakeholders in transnational context with regard to the implementation of the EU Anti-trafficking Directive.

### Objectives

Transnational proposals should aim to contribute to the objectives of the 2017 Communication and ensure that they take into consideration the findings and identified patterns highlighted in the European Commission Second progress report<sup>24</sup> (2018) and accompanying Staff Working Document<sup>25</sup>, and the Study on data collection on trafficking in

<sup>18</sup>COM(2017)728; [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/20171204\\_communication\\_reporting\\_on\\_follow-up\\_to\\_the\\_eu\\_strategy\\_towards\\_the\\_eradication\\_of\\_trafficking\\_in\\_human\\_beings.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/20171204_communication_reporting_on_follow-up_to_the_eu_strategy_towards_the_eradication_of_trafficking_in_human_beings.pdf)

<sup>19</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20181204\\_com-2018-777-report\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20181204_com-2018-777-report_en.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> Europol, Situation Report Trafficking in human beings in the EU, 2016. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-documents/trafficking-in-human-beings-in-eu>

<sup>21</sup> See for example, Europol, Two years of EMSC, 2017 January-2018 January, at: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-documents/two-years-of-emsc>

<sup>22</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20181204\\_data-collection-study.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20181204_data-collection-study.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> [http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-6639\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-6639_en.htm); see documents COM(2018) 777 final and SWD(2018) 473 final.

<sup>24</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20181204\\_com-2018-777-report\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20181204_com-2018-777-report_en.pdf)

<sup>25</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20181204\\_swd-2018-473-commission-staff-working-document\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20181204_swd-2018-473-commission-staff-working-document_en.pdf)

human beings in the EU,<sup>26</sup> in particular trafficking for sexual exploitation as well as the high-risk groups and high risk sectors concerned.

Concretely, the objectives of this priority are to:

- Facilitate the early identification of third country national victims of trafficking in human beings including in the context of asylum procedures;
- Provide assistance and support to victims of trafficking in human beings, taking into account the specific needs of the victims; these should be appropriate for victims' age, sex and specific consequences of the form of exploitation they have been subjected to;
- Facilitate the integration of third country national victims of trafficking in the host society, taking into account the individual needs of the victims and in view of finding durable solutions and preventing re-trafficking;
- Facilitate the safe and sustainable voluntary return of third country national victims of trafficking, ensuring appropriate risk assessment and with a view to finding durable solutions and preventing their re-trafficking;
- Ensure durable solutions for third country national child victims of trafficking and prevent re-trafficking.

### **Actions**

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

### **Outcomes**

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

- Improve the identification, situation, integration of third country national victims of trafficking in human beings in cities/regions/rural areas and in high risk sectors

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<sup>26</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20181204\\_data-collection-study.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20181204_data-collection-study.pdf)

involved in the projects and demonstrate how transnational action contribute in this regard;

- Improve transnational cooperation between local and regional authorities and civil society for the identification, integration, as well as voluntary and safe return of third-country national victims of trafficking and for finding durable solutions for child victims;
- Develop practical approaches, tools and guidelines, by building on results of past projects when relevant and appropriate.

### Further considerations applicable to this topic

Project proposals must clearly focus on third country nationals who are victims of trafficking in human beings. Proposals should demonstrate how a comprehensive, victim-centred approach will be adopted, concretely presenting the foreseen gender-specific and child-sensitive elements of the implementation at all stages (from project design in line with the EU legal and policy framework via the different project activities and in the final outcome and/or impact as relevant).

Project proposals must demonstrate their links with the policy priorities set forth in the 2017 Communication 'Reporting on the follow-up to the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of trafficking in human beings and identifying further concrete actions', and take into account the outcomes of the relevant published Studies under the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of trafficking in human beings 2012-2016 as well as the 2016 Commission Progress report on trafficking in human beings and the 2018 Commission Progress report and other documents relevant in the context<sup>27</sup>

Creating appropriate links with victims' countries of origin is not excluded.

Applicants are invited to take note of, to avoid duplications with and to build on projects previously funded by the EU in relation to trafficking in human beings, on which information is available:

- Study on Comprehensive policy review of EU funded anti-trafficking projects<sup>28</sup>
- Past and on-going projects' descriptions can be found on [EC anti-trafficking website](#).

In this context, applicants must explain how proposals take note of, and build on, results of existing projects and, where relevant, ensure synergies and complementarities with

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<sup>27</sup> In particular project proposals should take into account: Study on Comprehensive Policy Review of anti-trafficking projects funded by the European Commission (2016), available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/study\\_on\\_comprehensive\\_policy\\_review.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/study_on_comprehensive_policy_review.pdf); Study on High risk groups for trafficking in human beings (2015, available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-policy/study-high-risk-groups-trafficking-human-beings\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-policy/study-high-risk-groups-trafficking-human-beings_en)); Study on gender dimension of trafficking in human beings (2016, available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-policy/study-gender-dimension-trafficking-human-beings\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-policy/study-gender-dimension-trafficking-human-beings_en)); Second European Commission Progress report and related documents at [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20181204\\_com-2018-777-report\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20181204_com-2018-777-report_en.pdf), see in particular documents COM(2018) 777 final and SWD(2018) 473 final and [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20181204\\_data-collection-study.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20181204_data-collection-study.pdf); the publication EU Anti-trafficking Action 2012-2016 at a glance: [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eu\\_anti-trafficking\\_action\\_2012-2016\\_at\\_a\\_glance.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eu_anti-trafficking_action_2012-2016_at_a_glance.pdf); Europol (2018) [Criminal networks involved in the trafficking and exploitation of underage victims in the European Union](https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-documents/criminal-networks-involved-in-trafficking-and-exploitation-of-underage-victims-in-eu) at <https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-documents/criminal-networks-involved-in-trafficking-and-exploitation-of-underage-victims-in-eu>; EIGE (2018), Gender specific measures anti-trafficking-actions-report; Frontex, Risk analysis for 2019 at <https://frontex.europa.eu/publications/risk-analysis-for-2019-RPPmXF> and Frontex Risk analysis for 2018 at <https://frontex.europa.eu/publications/risk-analysis-for-2018-aJ5nJu>; EASO (2019) Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the European Union 2018 at <https://www.easo.europa.eu/easo-annual-report-2018>.

<sup>28</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/study\\_on\\_comprehensive\\_policy\\_review.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/study_on_comprehensive_policy_review.pdf)

other programmes implemented in countries of origin and transit in a view to avoiding duplication.

This topic aims to fund targeted, practical projects ensuring maximum tangible and demonstrable benefits and impacts. The projects should demonstrate a sound methodology and practical implementation measures and outcomes. Activities such as background research and the mapping of existing materials should be very minor components of applications and where they are included a solid justification is needed, unless clearly indicated otherwise. This is not a call aiming for enhancing the capacity to collect, analyse and disseminate detailed data and statistics; however it is expected that available data is used to justify the need for the foreseen action and as to the impact of the project.

Any training and/or practical tools should have as an overarching objective to make the system work better to improve positive impact on the lives of the victims. Applications should include a clear sustainability plan to ensure that the results of the project are useful in the longer term and after the end of the funding. In this context, applicants are invited to take note of previously funded projects in that area.

The above-mentioned aspects will be taken into account when evaluating the applications.



## Topic 6: Protection of children in migration

### Background

Migrant children continue to arrive to the EU in relatively large numbers. From the 34,376 irregular migrants who arrived to the EU by land or sea or land in the first half of 2019, 23% are children.<sup>29</sup> According to EASO, in 2018, children lodged 159,000 asylum applications in the EU+.<sup>30</sup> The number of unaccompanied migrant children arriving to the EU frontline Member States is notable: in Spain, 13,500 estimated to be present on the territory at the end of 2018, in Italy 8,500, and in Greece 3,700.

The 2017 Communication on the protection of children in migration<sup>31</sup> is still actual. The Communication identified serious gaps in the protection offered to migrant children in different areas, and set out recommendations on how to address the gaps identified. The Communication had highlighted the need to provide adequate reception and support to the migrant children, including in terms of accommodation, access to basic services, and specialised support for the most vulnerable, and the negative impact that detention measures may have on children, especially when detention is the consequence of an irregular migration status. The Communication thus recommended to work towards ensuring the availability of alternative care systems and of effective alternatives to administrative detention on migration grounds.

According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child ('UNCRC'), a child should grow up in a family environment, and children temporarily deprived of their family environment, including migrant children, are entitled to special protection and assistance. In line with the requirements of Art. 24(2) of the Reception Conditions Directive (2013/33/EU), unaccompanied children seeking to obtain international protection in the EU must be provided suitable and safe reception conditions, which include placement with a foster family, accommodation centres with special provision for children, or other suitable accommodation, such as supervised independent living arrangements for older children. The UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children (2010) constitute relevant standards in this respect.<sup>32</sup>

The notion of "alternative care" in this context is not only about offering suitable accommodation outside the traditional reception institutions, but also about providing suitable assistance to the children - which should be tailored to their individual needs, besides facilitating access to education and healthcare.

Nowadays there is consensus amongst EU stakeholders that well-managed alternative care systems are more beneficial to the well-being and harmonious development of the unaccompanied migrant children. Notably so, alternative care systems are also less costly than institutional reception facilities. Yet, for a variety of reasons – of legal, cultural, socio-economic nature - at present only a small number of unaccompanied and separated migrant children arriving to the EU have the opportunity to benefit from quality alternative care, while the majority are still placed in institutional reception facilities. Nonetheless, there is a growing wealth of knowledge and expertise on how to provide quality alternative care, which needs however to be shared and spread across the Member States.

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<sup>29</sup> <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/mediterranean> - last accessed on 26 June 2019.

<sup>30</sup> EU28 plus Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Iceland.

<sup>31</sup> COM(2017) 211 final of 12.4.2017.

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.refworld.org/docid/4c3acd162.html>.

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

The [2018 AMIF call for proposals](#) has already proposed as a priority to finance projects facilitating the exchange of good practices and the provision of training on how to access alternative care systems and to support their operation (including by training the families providing the care), and respectively, on the effective use of alternatives to detention. In view of the importance and topicality of the two subjects – i.e., alternative care systems and alternatives to detention, the present Call shall continue the financing of projects on the same subjects.

### **Objectives**

Concretely, the objectives of this topic is to fund projects focusing on the exchange of good practices and/or provision of the necessary training across the Member States so as to support the implementation/expansion/improvement of alternative/non-institutionalised care systems for the migrant children (such as family-based care, or foster care, or supervised independent housing arrangements, etc.) and/or of effective alternatives to the detention of children on grounds related to migration.

Projects with an exclusively national/regional/local focus should seek AMIF funding *via* the National Programmes, taking account of projects already co-funded in this area.<sup>33</sup>

### **Actions**

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

This topic does not aim to fund actions involving:

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

### **Outcomes**

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

- Creation/consolidation/expansion and improvement of foster/family-based/independent living alternative care systems that are better adapted to the needs of children and more apt to promote their sound development. Increased/improved use of family-based care/foster care/supervised independent housing for unaccompanied children.

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<sup>33</sup> See projects in this area previously funded at [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/rights\\_child/compilation\\_previously\\_funded\\_projects\\_rights\\_of\\_the\\_child\\_and\\_violence\\_against\\_children.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/rights_child/compilation_previously_funded_projects_rights_of_the_child_and_violence_against_children.pdf), in particular the NIDOS Alfaca I and II projects, which mapped the different models used in Europe.

- Creation/consolidation/expansion and improvement of effective and viable alternatives to the detention of migrant children, especially when detention is aimed to prevent absconding.
- Training and preparation of staff/foster carers/family-based carers for performing all tasks related to promoting the well-being of the children (suitable accommodation, access to basic services and support, pro-integration activities). Preparing the carers for being able to identify and cater for the individual needs of each child and to table a tailored response to meet them.
- Exchange of good practices and 'know how' across the Member States, as well as dissemination of the knowledge already accumulated on family-based alternative care systems and alternatives to detention across the national borders and at regional and local levels.
- Improved access to of alternative care systems and to effective alternatives to detention for the migrant children, measurable through indicators such as:
  - o Number of migrant children who will benefit from the projects (Possibly disaggregated by age groups 0-14 and 15-17), and duration (for how long).
  - o Number of training days that carers benefit from.
  - o Number of places in alternative care (foster care, family-based care, (semi)-independent living etc.) covered (specifying if new places were created) by the project.
  - o Number of places in alternatives to detention (specifying if new places were created) covered by the project.
  - o Description of the services provided to unaccompanied minors (e.g. access to mental health, health and education/vocational training/labour market support) that were improved as a result of the project.

### Further considerations applicable to this topic

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

- The [10th European Forum on the rights of the child](#): the protection of children in migration, held on 29-30 November 2016.
- The [11th European Forum on the rights of the child](#): Children deprived of their liberty and alternatives to detention, held on 6-8 November 2017. Under the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme, the EU has funded a number of transnational projects aiming at building child protection capacity in the area of alternative care<sup>34</sup> which are also a useful reference for potential applicants for this call.
- The [12th European Forum on the Rights of the Child](#) – and in particular the Workshop on the protection of children in migration.
- [The Daphne Toolkit](#)
- [DG Justice Grants](#)
- [Projects financed by DG JUSTICE on the rights of the child](#)
- DG HOME Funded projects under the 2018 AMIF Call

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

<sup>34</sup> See Section 4 [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/rights\\_child/compilation\\_previously\\_funded\\_projects\\_rights\\_of\\_the\\_child\\_and\\_violence\\_against\\_children.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/fundamental-rights/files/rights_child/compilation_previously_funded_projects_rights_of_the_child_and_violence_against_children.pdf)

At least one public authority from the country/countries where the alternative care or alternatives to detention are implemented must be involved either directly as applicant or co-applicant or indirectly (for example, only as beneficiary of the exchanges of good practices or training).

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

## **Topic 7: Transnational projects by Member States for training of experts in the area of asylum and immigration**

### **Background**

In the area of asylum and migration, the national administrations of EU Member States are confronted with a wide range of different tasks and activities requiring high level of expertise. Continued training and learning opportunities for personnel are key to strengthen their knowledge and skills and ensure they will perform their job at a satisfactory level. Enhanced quality within the Member States' national asylum and migration services also contributes to the effective implementation of the Common European Asylum System.

With regard to the asylum procedure, for example, Member States shall ensure that the personnel of the national authorities that receive applications for international protection or are responsible for their examination have the appropriate knowledge and receive the necessary appropriate training. In this respect, Member States shall take into account the relevant training established and developed by the European Asylum Support Office (EASO)<sup>35</sup>.

In accordance with its mandate<sup>36</sup>, EASO supports practical cooperation among Member States, including by establishing and developing training opportunities available to members of national administrations and national authorities responsible for asylum and reception matters. EASO's *Training and Learning Strategy* contributes to strengthen the implementation of the Common European Asylum System, mainly through three categories of programs: the Training Curriculum (which covers core aspects of the asylum procedure through interactive models), the Operational Training (to support Member States subject to particular pressure on their asylum and reception systems) and other relevant training initiatives, such as the development of specific training resources.

Information about the training and learning activities of EASO is available on EASO's website at: <https://easo.europa.eu/training-quality>.

### **Objectives**

This topic aims at supporting transnational projects that foster practical cooperation among national authorities responsible for asylum and migration matters from EU Member States, which, in the framework of the implementation of the Common European Asylum System, have similar specific training/learning needs or wish to exchange practices and experiences on training initiatives.

Funded projects should liaise with EASO at all the appropriate levels to ensure complementarity and consistency with EASO's *Training and Learning Strategy* and its training modules and tools.

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<sup>35</sup> Directive 2013/32/EU on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection (recast), Articles 4 and 6 (OJ L180/60 of 29.6.2013).

<sup>36</sup> Regulation (EU) N° 439/2010 establishing a European Asylum Support Office, Article 6 (OJ L132/11 of 23.3.2010).

**Actions**

- Mapping of current training and learning needs of personnel dealing with asylum and reception related matters, within Member States' national asylum and reception administrations, courts and tribunals, national services which are not entirely covered by EASO training and learning activities. The mapping should take into consideration the European Sectoral Qualification Framework for asylum and reception officials developed by EASO;
- Identification of future training and learning needs within the context of continuing professional development in Member States' national asylum and reception administrations and courts and tribunals;
- Exploring /identifying tailored solutions for induction training, relevant for personnel not having deep knowledge/skills on asylum and reception matters within Member States' national administrations, with a view to complement the operational training provided by EASO in view of their potential deployment on the ground.

**Outcomes**

- Analysis of training and learning needs and other carried out activities;
- enhanced cooperation on training activities in the area of asylum and reception among EU Member States;
- promotion of high quality training and learning standards in the practical implementation of the Common European Asylum System.

### Further considerations applicable to all topics in this Call

In addition to the regular dissemination activities of the projects outcomes, the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) would like to encourage more dialogue among the individual project beneficiaries and between the community of project beneficiaries, stakeholders and the Commission services. The aim is in particular to promote more interaction about innovation in project outputs and to increase visibility, learning effects and synergies. Moreover, DG HOME invites applicants to reflect on how to reinforce the communication, dissemination and visibility of the contents of their projects (outputs and outcomes). Applicants are therefore encouraged to include in their proposals meetings or activities in Brussels, as well as dissemination products supporting DG HOME's communications efforts, such as factsheets, and to plan accordingly.

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

If a project will involve direct contact with children, the beneficiaries of funding (including partners) need to provide their child protection/safeguarding policy. Each partner must provide their own child protection policy if they will be working directly with children<sup>37</sup>.

### 3. TIMETABLE

	Stages	Date and time or indicative period
a)	Publication of the call	29/07/2019
b)	Deadline for submitting applications	30/01/2020 17:00 Brussels time
c)	Info sessions for potential applicants (webcast)	October 2019
d)	Evaluation period	February – May 2020
e)	Information to applicants	July 2020
f)	Signature of Grant Agreement	October/November 2020
g)	Starting date of the action	December 2020 / January 2021
h)	Kick-off meeting in Brussels – project coordinators	January/February 2021 Brussels

<sup>37</sup> More information on these areas can be found at: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/rights-child/child-protection-systems\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/rights-child/child-protection-systems_en)

## 4. BUDGET AVAILABLE

The total budget earmarked for the co-financing of projects is estimated at EUR 21.5 million, which is provisionally allocated as follows:

- Topic 1 – EUR 4 000 000
- Topic 2 – EUR 4 000 000
- Topic 3 – EUR 4 000 000
- Topic 4 – EUR 4 850 000
- Topic 5 – EUR 2 550 000
- Topic 6 – EUR 1 700 000
- Topic 7 – EUR 400 000

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

## 5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### 5.1. General provisions (admissibility)

Applications must be:

- sent no later than the deadline for submitting applications referred to in section 3;
- submitted using the Electronic Submission System of the Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal<sup>38</sup>;
- submitted using the standard Submission Form Part A and Part B of the respective call for proposals. They must include all the mandatory information and be accompanied (if applicable<sup>39</sup>) by the audit report annexes;
- drafted in one of the EU official languages. English is preferred in order to speed up the evaluation procedure.

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

### 5.2. Eligibility criteria

#### 5.2.1. *Eligibility of the applicants and co-applicants*

All the applicants and co-applicants must fulfil the following eligibility requirements for applications to be eligible. To prove these eligibility requirements, applicants and co-applicants will have to provide the relevant information and upload necessary documents showing their legal status in the Participant Register.

##### a) Legal Status

The following entities can apply as lead applicants:

- public bodies, for all topics of this Call;
- non-profit-making private entities, except for topic 7;
- international organisations<sup>40</sup>, except for topics 5 and 7;

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<sup>38</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/>

<sup>39</sup> See section 7.1

<sup>40</sup> The term "international organisations" is used in this call for proposals as defined in Article 156 of the FR (Euratom 2018/1046);



The following entities can apply as co-applicants:

- public bodies, for all topics of this Call;
- non-profit-making private entities, except for topic 7;
- profit making entities, except for topics 5 and 7;
- international organisations<sup>41</sup>, except for topics 5 and 7;

The following are not eligible, neither as applicants nor as co-applicants:

- Union Agencies
- natural persons

Affiliated entities, i.e. legal entities having a legal or capital link with applicants, should take part in the action as individual co-applicants in order to declare eligible costs unless there are affiliated to a public body.

#### b) Country of establishment

With the exception of international organisations, applicants and co-applicants must be established in the following countries to be eligible:

- the Member States of the European Union with the exception of Denmark ("Member States participating in AMIF");
- for topic 1, entities from Switzerland and Canada<sup>42</sup>, only as co-applicants and only on a no-cost basis.

International organisations can be established outside the above-mentioned countries.

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

### **5.2.2. Eligibility of the application**

In order to be eligible, applications:

- a) must be transnational, i.e. involve at least two (for topics 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7) or three (for topics 2 and 3) eligible entities established in two (for topics 1, 4, 5, 6

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

<sup>41</sup> The term "international organisations" is used in this call for proposals as defined in Article 156 of the FR (Euratom 2018/1046);

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

<sup>42</sup> Entities from Switzerland and Canada can be co-beneficiaries because relevant experience has been developed in these States in terms of resettlement and private sponsorship.

and 7) or three (for topics 2 and 3) different Member States participating in the AMIF programme<sup>43</sup>.

- b) must request an EU contribution between EUR 400.000 and EUR 1.000.000 for topics 1, 2 and 3; between EUR 300.000 and EUR 1 000.000 for topic 4, between EUR 300.000 and EUR 600.000 for topic 5, between EUR 300.000 and EUR 600.000 for topic 6, and between EUR 300.000 and EUR 400.000 for topic 7. Applications seeking lower or higher EU contributions will be rejected.
- c) must have an implementation period of maximum 36 months for topic 1, and of 24 months for topics 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7<sup>44</sup>. Applications for projects scheduled to run for a longer period will be rejected. Activities must not have started prior to the date of submission of the grant application.

### 5.2.3. Summary of eligibility of applicants, co-applicants and the application

Maximum duration of project	Topic 1	Topic 2	Topic 3	Topic 4	Topic 5	Topic 6	Topic 7
Months	36	24	24	24	24	24	24
<b>Minimum number of</b>							
Entities	2	3	3	2	2	2	2
Member States participating in AMIF	2	3	3	2	2	2	2
<b>Participation of non-profit private organisations</b>							
As Lead applicants / coordinators	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
As co-applicants	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no
<b>International Organisations can participate as</b>							
Lead applicants / coordinators	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
Co-applicants	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
<b>Participation of for-profit organisations</b>							
As Lead applicants / coordinators	no	no	no	no	no	no	no
As co-applicants	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	no
<b>Requested Grant amount</b>							
Minimum (EUR)	400 000	400 000	400 000	300 000	300000	300 000	300 000
Maximum (EUR)	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	600000	600 000	400 000

<sup>43</sup> In case the co-applicant is an international organisation established in an EU Member State (participating in the AMIF), the other co-applicant(s) needs to be established in a different EU Member State (participating in the AMIF) than the international organisation. In case the co-applicant is an international organisation established outside the EU, at least two other co-applicants established in two different EU Member States (participating in the AMIF) are required.

<sup>44</sup> The project duration may be extended during its implementation for duly justified reasons subject to the Commission's approval via an amendment to the grant agreement.

### 5.3. Eligible activities

To be eligible, proposed activities must be compatible with the types of Union actions activities eligible for funding according to Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund<sup>45</sup>.

Projects applicants could involve volunteers from the European solidarity Corps (ESC)<sup>46</sup> in their projects. In this case, project beneficiaries should make sure they include insurance for volunteers of the ESC in their project proposal. For more information, please check the [ESC web page](#) and related information such as the ESC legal basis and factsheets in the Europa Web Site<sup>47</sup>.

## 6. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Applicants will be excluded from participating in the call for proposals procedure and from the grant award if they are in any of the exclusion situations referred to in article 136(1) of the EU Financial Regulation<sup>48</sup>, i.e. one of the following situations:

### 6.1. Exclusion from participation in the call for proposals

- (a) the applicant is bankrupt, subject to insolvency or winding-up procedures, its assets are being administered by a liquidator or by a court, it is in an arrangement with creditors, its business activities are suspended, or it is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for under EU or national laws or regulations;
- (b) it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the applicant is in breach of its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions in accordance with the applicable law;
- (c) it has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the applicant is guilty of grave professional misconduct by having violated applicable laws or regulations or ethical standards of the profession to which the applicant belongs, or by having engaged in any wrongful intent or gross negligence, including, in particular, any of the following:
  - (i) fraudulently or negligently misrepresenting information required for the verification of the absence of grounds for exclusion or the fulfilment of eligibility or selection criteria or in the performance of a contract, a grant agreement or a grant decision;
  - (ii) entering into agreement with other applicants with the aim of distorting competition;
  - (iii) violating intellectual property rights;
  - (iv) attempting to influence the decision-making process of the Commission during the award procedure;
  - (v) attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon it undue advantages in the award procedure;
- (d) it has been established by a final judgment that the applicant is guilty of any of the following:

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<sup>45</sup> OJ L 150, 20/5/2014, p. 168.

<sup>46</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/youth/>.

<sup>47</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/european-solidarity-corps-legal-texts-and-factsheets\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/european-solidarity-corps-legal-texts-and-factsheets_en).

<sup>48</sup> Regulation (EU, EURATOM) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ 2018 L193, p. 1).

- (i) fraud, within the meaning of Article 3 of Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 July 1995;
  - (ii) corruption, as defined in Article 4(2) of Directive (EU) 2017/1371 or Article 3 of the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 May 1997, or conduct referred to in Article 2(1) of Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA, or corruption as defined in the applicable law;
  - (iii) conduct related to a criminal organisation, as referred to in Article 2 of Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA;
  - (iv) money laundering or terrorist financing within the meaning of Article 1(3), (4) and (5) of Directive (EU) 2015/849 of the European Parliament and of the Council;
  - (v) terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities, as defined in Articles 1 and 3 of Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA, respectively, or inciting, aiding, abetting or attempting to commit such offences, as referred to in Article 4 of that Decision;
  - (vi) child labour or other offences concerning trafficking in human beings as referred to in Article 2 of Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;
- (e) the applicant has shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations in the performance of a contract, a grant agreement or a grant decision financed by the Union's budget, which has led to its early termination or to the application of liquidated damages or other contractual penalties, or which has been discovered following checks, audits or investigations by an authorising officer, OLAF or the Court of Auditors;
- (f) it has been established by a final judgment or final administrative decision that the applicant has committed an irregularity within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95;
- (g) it has been established by a final judgement or final administrative decision that the applicant has created an entity in a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or any other legal obligations of mandatory application in the jurisdiction of its registered office, central administration or principal place of business;
- (h) it has been established by a final judgement or final administrative decision that an entity has been created with the intent referred to in point (g);
- (i) for the situations referred to in points (c) to (h) above, the applicant is subject to:
- (i) facts established in the context of audits or investigations carried out by European Public Prosecutor's Office after its establishment, the Court of Auditors, the European Anti-Fraud Office or the internal auditor, or any other check, audit or control performed under the responsibility of an authorising officer of an EU institution, of a European office or of an EU agency or body;
  - (ii) non-final judgments or non-final administrative decisions which may include disciplinary measures taken by the competent supervisory body responsible for the verification of the application of standards of professional ethics;
  - (iii) facts referred to in decisions of persons or entities being entrusted with EU budget implementation tasks;
  - (iv) information transmitted by Member States implementing Union funds;
  - (v) decisions of the Commission relating to the infringement of Union competition law or of a national competent authority relating to the infringement of Union or national competition law; or

- (vi) decisions of exclusion by an authorising officer of an EU institution, of a European office or of an EU agency or body.

## 6.2. Exclusion from award

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

- (a) are subject to a conflict of interest in connection with the action;
- (b) are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the Commission as a condition of participation in the grant award procedure or fail to supply this information;
- (c) find themselves in one of the situations of exclusion, referred to in section 6.1.

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

## 7. SELECTION CRITERIA

### 7.1. Financial capacity

Applicants and co-applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the duration of the grant and to participate in its funding. Organisations participating in several projects shall have sufficient financial capacity to implement multiple projects.

Financial capacity checks will be performed for all applicants and co-applicants in line with the requirements of the EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

The documents that will be requested when assessing the financial capacity include (1) the profit and loss accounts and (2) the balance sheets. For newly created entities a business plan may replace the above documents.

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

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

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

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

A financial capacity assessment **will not be carried out** if:

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

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

### 7.2. Operational capacity

Applicants and co-applicants must have the professional competencies as well as appropriate qualifications necessary to complete the proposed action. The purpose of the

verification is to assess whether applicants and co-applicants possess the resources they require to implement the action.

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

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

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

## 8. AWARD CRITERIA

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

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

### **Evaluation Step 1:**

- Relevance: applications will be assessed on the extent to which they match the priorities and expected outcomes as identified in this call for proposals (section 2 above) and in the relevant EU strategic documents and/or action plans (section 1 above), and on the extent to which the proposal address a real/actual need at European level in the prioritised areas. (30 points).

Applications receiving less than 21 points for the "relevance" criterion will not be evaluated further, i.e. will not go to the second evaluation step.

### **Evaluation Step 2:**

- Quality of the project: applications will be assessed with regards to the clarity of their objectives; the appropriateness of their methodology; the quality of their expected outputs, which must be clear, appropriate, realistic and replicable; the quality of the consortium, which must have relevant co-applicants with clear roles and added value; the robustness of the project management, monitoring and evaluation strategy and indicators; and the way risks are identified and mitigated (20 points);
- Cost-effectiveness: applications will be assessed with regards to whether the costs of the proposed action are adequate to the activities and proportionate to the expected results (best value for money) (20 points);
- European added value: the project activities, outcomes and impact should have a broad EU relevance; applications will be assessed on whether a suitable number of

countries is involved in the project activities and on whether the expected impact will concern a significant number of countries (20 points);

- Expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact: the expected results are appropriate for the achievement of the objectives of the action; the dissemination strategy is clear, targeted and appropriate; the project is sustainable; the project's results ensure a long-term impact on the target groups and/or general public (10 points).

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

## 9. LEGAL COMMITMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

## 10. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

### 10.1. General Principles

#### a) Non-cumulative award

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

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

#### b) Non-retroactivity

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

#### c) Co-financing

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

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

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

d) Balanced budget

The budget estimate of the action is to be included in the application form. It must have revenue and expenditure in balance and must be drawn up in euro.

Beneficiaries with general accounts in a currency other than the euro shall convert costs incurred in another currency into euro at the average of the daily exchange rates published in the C series of the Official Journal of the European Union, determined over the corresponding reporting period.<sup>49</sup> Where no daily euro exchange rate is published in the Official Journal of the European Union for the currency in question, conversion shall be made at the average of the monthly accounting rates established by the Commission and published on its [website](#), determined over the corresponding reporting period.

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

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

e) Financial support to third parties

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

f) Non-profit rule

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

## **10.2. Maximum amount requested**

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

Consequently, part of the total eligible expenses must be financed from sources other than the EU grant (see section 10.1.c).

## **10.3. Payment arrangements**

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

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

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

## **11.1. How to apply**

Proposals must be submitted by the deadline indicated in section 3 via the Electronic Submission System. Open calls are published on the [calls for proposals page](#).

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<sup>49</sup> For further guidance on exchange rate please consult the Guide for Applicants.



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

In submitting a proposal, the applicant accepts the procedures and conditions as described in this call for proposals and in the documents to which it refers.

No modification of the application is allowed once the deadline for submission has elapsed. However, if there is a need, the evaluation committee on behalf of the authorising officer may correct obvious clerical errors in application documents upon confirmation of the intended correction by the applicant <sup>50</sup>.

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

### **11.2. Related documents**

The following documents are available via the Electronic Submission System:

- Application form (Submission Form Part A and Part B)
- Required annex –Audit Report, if applicable<sup>51</sup>
- Model grant agreement
- Guide for applicants

### **11.3. Applications for several projects**

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

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

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

### **11.4. Multiple applications for the same project**

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

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

### **11.5. Contacts**

For questions on the online submission tools, please contact the [IT helpdesk](#) via the Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal (FTOP) website.

Non-IT related questions should be sent to the following email address: [HOME-AMIF-UNION-ACTIONS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:HOME-AMIF-UNION-ACTIONS@ec.europa.eu). In order to ensure an efficient handling of any enquiry please indicate clearly the reference of this call for proposals.

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

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<sup>50</sup> Article 151 of the Financial Regulation

<sup>51</sup> See section 7.1

Applicants are advised to consult the call's website regularly, where the Commission will publish additional relevant information, such as answers to frequently asked questions (if appropriate) or the results of the selection procedure.

## **12. PUBLICITY**

### **12.1. By the beneficiaries**

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

### **12.2. By the Commission**

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

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

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

## **13. DATA PROTECTION**

The reply to any call for proposals involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CV). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any personal data requested that are required to evaluate the application in accordance with the call for proposal will be processed solely for that purpose by Commission or third parties acting on behalf and under the responsibility of the Commission.

Personal data may be registered in the Early Detection and Exclusion System by the Commission, should the beneficiary be in one of the situations mentioned in Articles 136 and 141 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046<sup>52</sup>. For more information see the Privacy Statement on:

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/data-protection-public-procurement-procedures\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/data-protection-public-procurement-procedures_en).

## **14. MEANS OF REDRESS**

If, at any stage of the administrative treatment of grant applications, the persons or entities concerned consider that they have been affected by an instance of maladministration, they may, irrespective of any other means of redress, make a complaint to the European Ombudsman in accordance with Article 228(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and as provided by the Parliament Decision of 9

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<sup>52</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32018R1046>

March 1994 on the regulations and general conditions governing the performance of the Ombudsman's duties published in Official Journal L 113 of 4 May 1994.