

EVALUATION AND FITNESS CHECK (FC) ROADMAP			
TITLE OF THE EVALUATION/FC	Ex-post evaluation of the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals for 2011-2013		
LEAD DG RESPONSIBLE UNIT	HOME E.2	DATE OF THIS ROADMAP	10 / 2015
TYPE OF EVALUATION	Evaluation	PLANNED START DATE	10 / 2015
	Ex-post	PLANNED COMPLETION DATE	12 / 2016
	Mixed	PLANNING CALENDAR	http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/evaluation/index_en.htm
This indicative roadmap is provided for information purposes only and is subject to change.			

A. Purpose
(A.1) Purpose
<p>The purpose of this ex-post evaluation of the European Integration Fund¹ for 2011-2013 is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to meet the legal obligations for monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the Fund (please see section A.2); to ensure transparency and accountability for the implementation of the European Integration Fund the general objective of which is to support the efforts made by the Member States in enabling third-country nationals of different economic, social, cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds to fulfil the conditions of residence and to facilitate their integration into the European societies; to contribute to making the future implementation of EU financial instruments in the field of integration of third-country nationals more relevant, effective, efficient, sustainable and coherent.
(A.2) Justification
<p>According to Article 18(3) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012², all programmes or activities, where the resources mobilised exceed EUR 5 000 000 shall be subject of an interim and/or ex-post evaluation in terms of the human and financial resources allocated and the results obtained in order to verify that they were consistent with the objectives set.</p> <p>The legal basis for the evaluation of the European Integration Fund actions for 2011-2013 is Articles 47 and 48 of Decision No 2007/435/EC³ according to which the Commission shall submit by 31 December 2015 to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions an ex-post evaluation report. Article 31(5) and (6) of the Regulation (EU) No 516/2014⁴ confirm this obligation.</p> <p>The deadline of 31 December 2015 cannot be met as the Commission's ex-post evaluation report has to take account of the national (ex-post) evaluation reports to be submitted by the Member States. The deadline for those, provided in the legal basis, is 30 June 2015. Considering that the eligibility period of the 2013 annual programmes</p>

¹ Usual name used in replacement of European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals.

² Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1.

³ Decision No 2007/435/EC of the Council of 25 June 2007 establishing the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals for the period 2007 to 2013 as part of the General programme 'Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows', OJ L 168, 28.6.2007, p. 18–36.

⁴ Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, amending Council Decision 2008/381/EC and repealing Decisions No 573/2007/EC and No 575/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Decision 2007/435/EC, OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 168

for the European Integration Fund ends on the same day (30 June 2015), it is not feasible to finalize national ex-post evaluation at the same moment of time as the implementation ends. The national evaluation reports will, therefore, be provided to the Commission by 30 November 2015. Consequently, also the ex-post evaluation report of the Commission is prepared with a delay in comparison with the deadline set in the legal basis. The targeted date for the submission of the report to the European Parliament, to the Council, to the European Economic and Social Committee and to the Committee of the Regions is 31 December 2016.

B. Content and subject of the evaluation

(B.1) Subject area

The European Integration Fund was established for the period 2007 to 2013 as one of four funds under the General Programme "Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows".

The European Integration Fund has been implemented via actions under annual programmes of all EU Member States except Denmark and Croatia (shared management – 93% of the funding) and Community actions (direct management and joint management – 7% of the funding). The Member states' annual programmes (referred to in Article 19 of Decision No 2007/435/EC) were drafted on the basis of 2007-2013 multi-annual programmes of participating Member States and implemented by the authorities of these under the shared management mode. Article 4 of Decision No 2007/435/EC lays down the actions eligible under the European Integration Fund's annual programmes which, among others, include:

- facilitate the development and implementation by Member States of admission procedures by supporting consultation processes with relevant stakeholders and expert advice or information exchanges on approaches which target specific nationalities or categories of third-country nationals;
- render the implementation of admission procedures more effective and accessible to third-country nationals, by using user-friendly Communication and Information Technology, information campaigns and selection procedures;
- prepare third-country nationals for their integration into host society in a better way by supporting pre-travel measures which enable them to acquire knowledge and skills necessary for their integration, such as vocational training, information packages, comprehensive civic orientation courses and language tuition in the country of origin.

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

The European Integration Fund Community actions were implemented under the direct or joint management mode. Under direct management mode a call of proposals was launched and projects were supported by grants awarded by the Commission. Contracts for services were concluded following the calls for tenders published by the Commission. Article 5 of Decision No 2007/435/EC lays down the Community actions eligible under the European Integration Fund, which, among others, include:

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

(B.2) Original objectives of the intervention

According to Article 2 of Decision No 2007/435/EC, the general objective of the European Integration Fund is to support the efforts made by the Member States in enabling third-country nationals of different economic, social, cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds to fulfil the conditions of residence and to facilitate their integration into the European societies, by co-financing the actions provided for in this Decision.

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

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

In addition, the Strategic guidelines (C(2007)3926 of 21/08/2007) defined the following four priorities for the European Integration Fund:

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

(B.3) How the objectives were to be achieved

The initial description of the Intervention Logic is based on the general and specific objectives, the priorities (described in the section above) as well as on the types of activities, funded by European Integration Fund.

In particular, the EIF objectives were to be achieved by the implementation of actions supported by the Fund, specified in Articles 4 and 5 of Decision No 2007/435/EC. The actions funded included, among others:

- Measures preventing language from being a barrier to successful integration;
- Provision of services to provide relevant information to third-country nationals and help the third-country nationals to orient themselves in the Member State;
- Actions in the area of education;
- Actions to support intercultural dialogue and intercultural competencies;
- Capacity-building of all actors involved in integration of third-country nationals;
- Measures to increase cooperation and training among Member States;
- Development of indicators, evaluation methods and further measures in order to evaluate actions taken so far and be able to adapt and develop new initiatives;
- Actions aimed at specific target groups such as women, the elderly, minors or disabled people;
- Measures specifically targeted at involving and educating the host society;
- Pre-departure measures involving all kinds of actions before the third-country nationals' arrival to the Member States;
- Actions targeted at newly-arriving third-country nationals upon arrival to the Member State;

- Actions targeted at third-country nationals already residing in the Member States.

The Intervention Logic will further be developed during the Inception Phase of the Ex-post evaluation in view to elaborate a comprehensive overview on of how different parts of the FUND set-up interacted between each other.

C. Scope of the evaluation/FC

(C.1) Topics covered

The evaluation will cover the following:

- Actions supported under the 2011, 2012 and 2013 annual programmes of 26 participating Member States.

The evaluation will cover the eligibility period 1 January 2011 – 30 June 2015.

- The European Integration Fund Community Actions supported under the 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 annual work programmes, i.e.
 - 10 projects selected through the call of proposal and 1 project related to the Hungarian Presidency were funded under the 2010 annual work programme (all implemented after 1 January 2011);
 - 9 projects selected through the call of proposal were funded under the 2011 annual work programme;
 - 22 projects selected through the call of proposal 2012⁵ and 2013, 2 contribution agreements signed with OECD and 2 projects related to the Cyprus and Italian Presidency were funded under the 2012 and 2013 annual work programmes.

Community Actions under the 2010 annual work programme will be covered by the evaluation as they were all implemented after 1 January 2011. The period covered by the evaluation will be 1 January 2011 – 31 March 2016.

(C.2) Issues to be examined

The evaluation will examine the implementation of actions co-financed by the European Integration Fund and assess their relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, coherence and complementarity, and EU added value.

Under the relevance theme, the evaluation will examine to what extent the European Integration Fund objectives, implemented by eligible actions in 2011-2013, corresponded to needs related to support the efforts made by the Member States in enabling third-country nationals to fulfil the conditions of residence and to facilitate their integration into the European societies.

Under the effectiveness theme, the evaluation will examine to what extent the European Integration Fund 2011-2013 actions contributed to the achievement of the objectives defined in Article 2 of Decision No 2007/435/EC and to the priorities defined by the Strategic guidelines (C(2007)3926 of 21/08/2007).

Under the efficiency theme, the evaluation will examine to what extent the effects of the European Integration Fund 2011-2013 actions were achieved at a reasonable cost in terms of financial and human resources deployed.

Under the sustainability theme, the evaluation will examine to what extent the positive effects of the European Integration Fund 2011-2013 actions lasted after the interventions were terminated.

Under the coherence and complementarity theme, the evaluation will examine to what extent the European Integration Fund 2011-2013 actions were coherent with and complementary to other actions related to integration of third-country nationals, financed by national resources of the Member States and other EU financial instruments.

Under the EU added value theme, the evaluation will examine what is the additional value resulting from the European Integration Fund 2011-2013 actions compared to what the Member States would be able to carry out through investments necessary for the implementation of the EU policies in the field of integration of third-country nationals without the support of the European Integration Fund 2011-2013 actions.

(C.3) Other tasks

The evaluation will include an analysis of national evaluation reports which are submitted by the participating Member States in accordance with Article 48(2) of Decision No 2007/435/EC to the Commission by 30 November 2015. This analysis will be fully integrated into the evaluation work which together with the analysis of other data to

⁵ Due to a technical error, the deadline for the call of proposal 2012 has been postponed.

be collected will be the basis for answering to the evaluation questions.

Apart from the reporting on the common indicators (please see section D.1 below) and a brief description of the implementation of the national annual programmes, the national evaluation reports will provide answers to a number of common evaluation questions, covering the themes of effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, coherence and complementarity, and EU added value. The analysis of the national evaluation reports will be the main basis for the answering of the evaluation questions at the EU level.

D. Evidence base

(D.1) Evidence from monitoring

The information on the progress against the indicator targets defined in the annual programmes is provided in final reports on implementation submitted by the Member States nine months after the end of the eligibility period for the annual programme concerned (i.e. reports for 2012 were submitted by 31 March 2015, and reports for 2013 are due by 31 March 2016).

The Member States which requested the payment of a second pre-financing also submitted progress reports, which in addition to the final reports, may provide further details on the implementation of the annual programmes.

Indicators used in the national annual programmes vary between years and between Member States, and therefore cannot be aggregated at the EU level. In order to address this issue, DG HOME developed a set of common ex-post indicators in 2014 and requested the Member States to provide values for these indicators as part of their national (ex-post) evaluation reports for 2011-2013⁶ to be submitted to the Commission by 30 November 2015.

In addition to the final, progress and evaluation reports provided by the Member States, the Commission has carried out its own monitoring visits. Commission reports from these visits will also be one of the sources of information for the evaluation.

(D.2) Previous evaluations and other reports

The following evaluation reports will also be taken into account:

- Synthesis of the national evaluation reports on the results and impacts of actions co-financed by the European Integration Fund 2007-2010;
- Synthesis of the multiannual and annual programmes of the Member States: priorities and actions of the European Fund for the integration of third country nationals;
- Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European economic and social committee and the committee of the regions on the results achieved and on qualitative and quantitative aspects of implementation of the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals for the period 2007-2009 (COM (2011)847 final of 5.12.2011);
- Special Report of the Court of Auditors No 22/2012 "Do the European Integration Fund and European Refugee Fund contribute effectively to the integration of third-country nationals?" and especially its observations relevant to evaluation;
- Special Report of the Court of Auditors No 15/2014 "The External Borders Fund has fostered financial solidarity but requires better measurement of results and needs to provide further EU added value", and especially its observations relevant to this evaluation;
- Compilation and content analysis of projects funded under the Community Action Programme of the European Integration Fund.

(D.3) Evidence from assessing the implementation and application of legislation (complaints, infringement procedures)

The evaluation will take into account annual audit reports for the European Integration Fund 2011-2013 annual programmes drafted by the national Audit Authorities, as well as audit reports drafted by the DG HOME auditors and the Court of Auditors.

(D.4) Consultation

⁶ These are submitted by the participating Member States in accordance with Article 48(2) of Decision No 2007/435/EC to the Commission

DG HOME will carry-out an internet based public open consultation (using a questionnaire) covering all of the main elements of the evaluation in spring 2016. The purpose of the consultation will be to collect opinions of the general public on the importance and EU added value of the funding under European Integration Fund as well as feedback from the general public (including third-country nationals) on their experience with participation in actions funded by the European Integration Fund. It will ask if they think that support to the efforts made by the Member States in enabling third-country nationals of different economic, social, cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds to fulfil the conditions of residence and to facilitate their integration into the European societies is a good thing to be done, how strong it should be and identify possible weak points.

In addition, during the evaluation, the external contractor will carry out a number of interviews with various stakeholders that have been involved in the implementation of the fund (e.g. European Commission officials in charge of the funds' management and coordination, Member States authorities, international organisations – such as Council of Europe and IOM, non-governmental organisations such as Center for the Study of Democracy, European University Institute and Eurocities, and beneficiaries) in order to collect their views and opinions and to complete the answers to the evaluation questions..

(D.5) Further evidence to be gathered

The following additional documents and data sources will be covered under the desk research stage of the evaluation:

- Relevant legal acts (Decisions No 2007/435/EC, No 2008/457/EC and the Strategic guidelines (C(2007)3926 of 21/08/2007));
- Preparatory Actions for the integration of third-country nationals - INTI
- Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament: The Hague Programme. Ten Priorities for the Next Five Years. A Partnership for European Renewal. (Com (2005) 184 final, 10 May 2005);
- Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: A Common Agenda for Integration – Framework for the Integration of Third-Country-Nationals in the European Union. (COM (2005) 389 final, 1 September 2005);
- European Integration Fund 2007-2013 multi-annual programmes of the Member States;
- European Integration Fund 2011, 2012 and 2013 annual programmes of the Member States;
- Descriptions of the Management and Control Systems for the European Integration Fund in the Member States;
- Annual Work Programmes for the 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 European Integration Fund Community actions;
- Solid Guidance Notes SOLID/2010/24 (Clarifications on the scope of Integration Fund), SOLID/2011/28 (Strategic objectives for the annual programmes 2012-2013 for the European Refugee Fund (ERF) and the European Fund for the integration of third-country nationals (IF)), and SOLID/2011/3 (Manual of the Eligibility Rules of costs – 4th version);
- EUROSTAT statistics;
- Any reports on financial and system audits as well as compliance checks with the relevant provisions of the legal base will also be taken into account.

E. Other relevant information/ remarks

While retaining the responsibility for the evaluation and its management, the Commission will rely on an external evaluation study, in order to ensure the highest possible credibility for the evaluation findings and to mobilise professional evaluation expertise.