



Brussels, 23.11.2022
C(2022) 8340 final

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

of 23.11.2022

on the financing of components of the Thematic Facility under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and adoption of the Work Programme for 2023, 2024 and 2025

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012¹, and in particular Article 110 thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund², and in particular Articles 11(8) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the components of the thematic facility under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for 2023, 2024 and 2025. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures³ adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU.
- (3) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (4) Pursuant to Article 62(1), point (c), of the Financial Regulation indirect management is to be used for the implementation of the work programme. Pursuant to Article 62(1), point (b) of the Financial Regulation shared management is to be used for the implementation of the programme, and in particular for the implementation of the specific actions.
- (5) The Commission is to ensure a level of protection of the financial interests of the Union with regard to entities and persons entrusted with the implementation of Union funds by indirect management as provided for in Article 154(3) of the Financial Regulation. To this end, such entities and persons are to be subject to an assessment of their systems and procedures in accordance with Article 154(4) of the Financial

¹ OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

² OJ L 251, 15.7.2021, p. 1.

³ www.sanctionsmap.eu. The sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions are legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy the OJ prevails.

Regulation⁴ and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of the Financial Regulation before a contribution agreement can be signed.

- (6) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (7) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme, it is appropriate to allow changes which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation.
- (8) In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of Protocol No 22 on the position of Denmark, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Denmark did not take part in the adoption of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1147 and is not bound by it or subject to its application. Denmark is therefore not bound by this Decision or subject to its application.
- (9) In accordance with Article 4 of Protocol No 21 on the position of the United Kingdom and Ireland in respect of the area of freedom, security and justice, annexed to the Treaty on European Union and to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Ireland has notified its wish to take part in the adoption and application of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147. The Commission has confirmed that participation by Decision C/2022/1822. Ireland is therefore bound by this Decision.
- (10) The measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Committee for the Home Affairs Funds established by Article 38 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1
The work programme

The multiannual financing decision, constituting the multiannual work programme for the implementation of thematic facility components of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025, as set out in the Annex, is adopted.

Article 2
Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the work programme for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 1 490 539 000, and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the line 10 02 01 (Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund) of the general budget of the Union, as follows:

- (a) EUR 413 100 000 for 2023;
- (b) EUR 525 500 000 for 2024;
- (c) EUR 551 939 000 for 2025.

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph may also cover interest due for late payment.

The implementation of this Decision is subject to the availability of the appropriations:

⁴ Except for the cases of Article 154(6) of the Financial Regulation, where the Commission may decide not to require an ex-ante assessment.

- (a) as provided for in the draft general budget of the Union for 2023, following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority or as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths;
- (b) as provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2024 and 2025 following the adoption of that budget by the budget authority.

Article 3

Methods of implementation and entrusted entities or persons

The implementation of the actions carried out by way of indirect management, as set out in the Annex, may be entrusted to the entities or persons referred to or selected in accordance with the criteria laid down in point 4 of that Annex. The implementation of the actions carried out by way of shared management are described in point 5 of that Annex.

Article 4

Flexibility clause

Cumulated changes to the allocations to actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of the Financial Regulation, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and the objective of the work programme.

The increase of the maximum Union contribution set in the first paragraph of Article 2 of this Decision shall not exceed 20%.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Article 5

Grants

Grants may be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with the conditions set out in the Annex. Grants may be awarded to the bodies referred to in the Annex.

Done at Brussels, 23.11.2022

For the Commission

Ylva JOHANSSON

Member of the Commission



Brussels, 23.11.2022
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ANNEX

ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

on the financing of components of the Thematic Facility under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and adoption of the Work Programme for 2023, 2024 and 2025

ANNEX

Work programme for 2023, 2024 and 2025 for the implementation of components of the Thematic Facility under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

1. INTRODUCTION

This work programme is based on the objectives of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹. It will put into operation many of the elements needed for a comprehensive European approach to migration, asylum, integration, return, and border management, including through, and in cooperation with, partner countries, as set out by the Commission in its Communication on a New Pact on Migration and Asylum². It is based on the understanding that the internal and external aspects of migration are inextricably linked.

This work programme is triannual and will implement the part of the budget 2023, 2024 and 2025 for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) which is not implemented through the national programmes. It covers several types of action:

- Union actions which are transnational actions or actions of particular EU added value, implemented in direct management (grants selected through open calls or directly awarded to identified beneficiaries and procurement) and indirect management (contribution agreements with entities assessed in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation);
- emergency assistance: actions supporting Member States in emergency situations as described in Article 31 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147;
- resettlement and relocation;
- specific actions which will be implemented in shared management and contribute to the national programmes of selected Member States.

Due to its specificities, the work programme for the European Migration Network is adopted separately.

When selecting the actions to be implemented, particular attention was given to choosing the best implementation mode to achieve the objective. In particular, actions will have to be complementary to the national programmes implemented by the Member States under shared management.

Close coordination will also be maintained with other EU funds and programmes to maximise synergies. This includes:

- The Border Management and Visa Instrument (e.g. in the area of reception activities upon first arrival) and the Internal Security Fund (e.g. in the area of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings);
- The European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund Plus. The AMIF supports measures tailored to the needs of third-country nationals generally implemented in the early stages of integration and horizontal actions supporting Member States' capacities in the field of integration. These measures can for

¹ Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (OJ L 251, 15.7.2021, p. 1).

² COM/2020/609 final. 23.9.2020.

example relate to education, employment, housing, social, health and child care. The European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund Plus support interventions for third-country nationals with a longer-term impact in access to inclusive non-segregated mainstream services in education, employment, housing, social, health and child care;

- The Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument, the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance III and EU humanitarian aid regarding actions in or in relation to third countries (such as preventing irregular migration; enhancing cooperation with third countries on returns, reintegration and readmission; addressing the root causes of migration; ensuring legal pathways to Europe for those in need of international protection; and Talent Partnerships). In accordance with Article 5(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147, actions in relation to third countries will be carried out in synergy and in coherence with other actions outside the Union supported through other Union instruments. Such actions are identified and implemented in full coordination with the European External Action Service (EEAS) and relevant Commission external relations services. They will be fully consistent with and, where relevant, complement the Union's humanitarian policy, and respect the principles set out in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid.

Consistency, complementarity and synergies with other Union instruments will be ensured. This includes, in particular, relevant actions of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values programme, Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, and the Recovery and Resilience Facility, which supports reforms and investments specifically supporting the integration of migrants and refugees.

In accordance with Articles 5(3) of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1147, actions in and in relation with third countries will be carried out in synergy and full coherence with the principles and general objectives of the Union's external action, its foreign policy and its international cooperation policy and their actions outside the Union supported from Union funds, in particular external instruments. Such actions are identified and implemented in full coordination with the European External Action Service (EEAS) and relevant Commission external relations services, especially with the Directorates-General for International Partnerships (INTPA), Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (NEAR), throughout their numerous programmes and projects under the different instruments.

All activities implemented under the work programme for 2023, 2024 and 2025 shall respect and be implemented in line with the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, and should be in line with the international obligations of the Union and the Member States arising from the international instruments to which they are party, in particular by ensuring compliance with the principles of gender equality, non-discrimination and the best interests of the child, while ensuring support for persons with disabilities³.

On the basis of the objectives given in Regulation (EU) 2021/1147, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 as follows:

- (a) for grants (implemented under direct management) (point 2),
- (b) for procurement (implemented under direct management) (point 3),

³ Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, COM/2021/101 final, p. 19.

- (c) for actions implemented under indirect management (point 4),
- (d) for actions implemented under shared management (point 5),
- (e) for other actions or expenditure (point 6).

Financial assistance to be provided in the event of an emergency situation⁴ is described in points 2 and 4.

Legal basis

Regulation (EU) 2021/1147

Entities established in Member States participating in AMIF can be beneficiaries of AMIF supported actions. These are all Member States with the exception of Denmark; entities established in Denmark can participate on a no-cost basis only. Member State territories also include the EU outermost regions as recognised under Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU). Furthermore, entities established in overseas countries and territories, which are not EU territory, can also participate, where applicable and when mentioned under geographical conditions for calls for proposals in line with Regulation (EU) 2021/1147.

Budget line(s)

10 02 01

Implementation arrangements	Budget line 10 02 01 (EUR)
Grants*	341 085 000
Procurement	27 654 000
Indirect management*	329 900 000
Shared management*	791 000 000
Other actions and expenditure	900 000
TOTAL	1 490 539 000
<i>* Potential emergency assistance is included under grants, indirect management and shared management.</i>	

Objectives pursued

The overall objective of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund is to contribute to the efficient management of migration flows and to the implementation, strengthening and development of the common policy on asylum and the common immigration policy, in accordance with the relevant Union acquis and fully respecting the international obligations of the Union and the Member States arising from the international instruments to which they are party. Based on a holistic assessment, the Commission has proposed a fresh start on migration: the New Pact on Migration and Asylum aims to achieve a comprehensive approach to migration management, more effective procedures and a new balance between

⁴ Article 31 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147.

responsibility and solidarity. This work programme supports these objectives.

Expected results

The work programme for the Thematic Facility actions in the framework of the AMIF will support the above objective and will result in:

- strengthening and developing all aspects of the Common European Asylum System, including its external dimension⁵;
- strengthening and developing legal migration to the Member States in accordance with their economic and social needs, and promoting and contributing to the effective integration and social inclusion of third-country nationals;
- contributing to countering irregular migration, enhancing effective, safe and dignified return and readmission, and promoting and contributing to effective initial reintegration in third countries;
- enhancing solidarity and fair sharing of responsibility between the Member States, in particular as regards those most affected by migration and asylum challenges, including through practical cooperation.

Climate and biodiversity mainstreaming

The Fund should support activities that respect the climate and environmental standards and priorities of the Union and would do no significant harm to environmental objectives within the meaning of Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁶.

⁵ Such as preventing irregular migration; enhancing cooperation with third countries on returns, reintegration and readmission; addressing the root causes of migration; ensuring legal pathways to Europe for those in need of international protection, and Talent Partnerships.

⁶ Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (OJ L 198, 22.6.2020, p. 13).

2. GRANTS

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is EUR 341 085 000.

2.1. Call for proposals for transnational actions to support Member States in the field of protection of children in migration

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Legal entities:

- Public bodies
- Non-profit-making private entities
- Profit making private entities (including non-public implementing agencies, industrial or service/consultant companies)
- International organisations

The list may be further restricted in the calls for proposals. In particular, some categories may be only eligible as co-applicant.

Geographical conditions:

- Legal entities established in a Member State participating in the AMIF, or an overseas country or territory linked to it⁷ can participate in this call for proposals.
- Legal entities established in third countries associated to the AMIF can participate in this call for proposals.
- International organisations may be established outside the Member States participating in the AMIF.
- Legal entities (other than international organisations) established in third countries can participate in this call for proposals under the conditions established in Article 19 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147.
 - o only as part of a consortium composed of at least two independent entities, at least one of which is established in a Member State participating in the AMIF;
 - o only for the third countries which are relevant for the call for proposals. These countries will be further specified in the calls for proposals if applicable.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

The protection of children in migration is a priority for the EU. Unaccompanied and separated children are particularly vulnerable and have additional protection needs.

The 2017 *Communication on the protection of children in migration* had identified serious gaps in the protection offered to unaccompanied and separated migrant children in various areas, and set out recommendations on how to address those. In the context of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum and the reform of the Common European Asylum System, the protection of the rights of migrant children is also a priority, and the Commission has tabled several legislative proposals aimed at strengthening the guarantees available to the

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An “overseas country or territory linked to a participating Member State” shall be understood pursuant to Article 355 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

unaccompanied and separated children in the context of border control, asylum and return procedures. The 2021 *EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child* emphasized that all children are entitled to the same level of protection and effective access to their rights, irrespective of their migration status in the EU. Under the 2021 *EU Child Guarantee*, Member States were invited to set up and implement Action Plan for ensuring that all children at risk of poverty and social exclusion – including migrant children and irrespective of their migration status - have effective access to key services such as adequate accommodation, nutrition, healthcare and education.

Among the various protection needs that are specific to unaccompanied and separated children, one that is particularly important is that these children benefit as soon as possible from the assistance and guidance of a guardian/representative. Effective guardianship for unaccompanied migrant children is one of the recommendations at the core of the 2017 Communication on the protection of children in migration. Without effective guardianship, unaccompanied and separated migrant children have reduced chances of accessing their basic rights (starting from suitable accommodation and day-to-day care, and going through healthcare, education, psychosocial support as needed, etc.), and ultimately, of pursuing a durable solution that is conform to their best interest and potential. The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child adopted in March 2021 places renewed emphasis on the need to strengthen guardianship systems in the Member States, and to reinforce the European Guardianship Network ('EGN').

At the 9th meeting of the DG HOME expert group on children in migration, held on 17 February 2022, the European Commission and experts from the EU agencies, UN organisations and Member States administrations discussed the types and sources of external support that guardians need in order to perform their work well. This need is also manifested in the context of the migration crisis caused by war in Ukraine: many children fleeing war have guardians that were appointed in Ukraine, and who need support, being themselves displaced persons.

Irrespective of whether a country has a system of professional or voluntary guardians (or a combination of both), guardians will always need external support such as:

- training - for being able to deliver their tasks well, and to become familiar with EU and national asylum and migration laws),
- being provided adequate resources (starting from the funding necessary to perform their tasks but also including the availability of social assistance, mediators and interpreters, psychosocial support for the children, etc.);
- being able to network with other guardians for support and exchanges of views;
- psychosocial support enabling them to confront the risk of burnout (their tasks being one that exposes the guardians to high emotional charge), etc.

The objective of the call is to stimulate and support the **exchange of good practices and knowledge-sharing** amongst various relevant actors - in particular public administrations and institutions, international organisations, private organisations and citizens (non-exhaustive list) – on the **types of support to be given to guardians of unaccompanied migrant children, in function of their specific needs**.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

2.2. Calls for proposals on integration

Type of applicants targeted by these calls for proposals

Legal entities

- Public bodies
- Non-profit-making private entities
- Profit making private entities (including non-public implementing agencies, industrial or service/consultant companies)
- International organisations

The list may be further restricted in the call for proposals, in particular regarding compulsory participation of local and regional authorities. In addition, some entities may only be eligible as co-applicants.

Geographical conditions:

- Legal entities established in a Member State participating in the AMIF (all Member States except Denmark) or an overseas country or territory linked to it⁸ can participate in this call for proposals.
- Legal entities established in third countries associated to the AMIF can participate in this call for proposals.
- International organisations may be established outside the Member States participating in the AMIF.
- Legal entities (other than international organisations) established in third countries can participate in this call for proposals:
 - o only as part of a consortium composed of at least two independent entities, at least one of which is established in a Member State
 - o only for the third countries which are relevant for the call for proposals. These countries will be further specified in the call for proposals.

Description of the activities to be funded under these calls for proposals.

The calls for proposals on integration aim to provide support to the implementation of the Action plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027⁹. The calls could have the following topics.

Topic 1. Promoting community sponsorship schemes and integration of persons in need of protection

In the Recommendation on legal pathways to protection in the EU¹⁰, which was presented as part of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, the Commission invited the Member States to roll out or scale up community sponsorship schemes. The Commission also underlined support to the integration of persons in need of protection through community sponsorships in its response to the arrivals of displaced persons from Ukraine. The overall aim is to provide support for successful integration into welcoming societies for persons in need of protection. A

⁸ An “overseas country or territory linked to a participating Member State” must be understood pursuant to Article 355 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

⁹ COM(2020) 758 final, 24.11.2020.

¹⁰ OJ L 317, 1.10.2020, p. 13.

number of promising initiatives already existed in this respect in several Member States before Russia's invasion of Ukraine and more were developed as a response to the arrivals of displaced persons from Ukraine, especially relating to housing and the Safe Homes initiative. The challenge is to ensure the growth and expansion of such programmes to more Member States, regions and communities. With strong involvement from local and regional authorities, local communities and civil society organisations, in cooperation with the State and other stakeholders, such programmes have the potential for more effective integration for people in need of protection.

The calls would help implement the objectives of the Commission Recommendation on community sponsorship schemes and support the efforts made to welcome displaced persons, especially from Ukraine but also from other countries, building on previous projects and initiatives in this area with a view to providing models of best practice, further expansion and scaling up.

Topic 2. Integration and inclusion at regional and local level

The role of local and regional authorities in the integration process is crucial as most of integration measures are implemented at local level. In line with the Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion, the support provided under this priority will include capacity building for local and regional authorities in involving local and migrant communities in the design and implementation of integration policies at the local level and fostering interaction at the local level between migrants and host communities through volunteering projects and mentoring and buddy systems.

Topic 3. Support to integration in education of migrant children and young adults

Challenges persist in relation to education, for example in terms of young people dropping out of school. These challenges have an impact on the overall social inclusion and integration into the labour market (as shown by the higher share of young adult migrants being neither in employment nor in education and training). From early childhood education and care (ECEC) to tertiary and adult education and non-formal education, education and training is the foundation for successful participation in society and the labour market and one of the most powerful tools for building more inclusive societies and promoting equality. Schools have the potential to be real hubs of integration for children and their families.

Activities to be funded would include integration measures taking into account the specificities of migrant children at different stages of their educational path, from ECEC to entering higher education, with a focus on the early stage of integration and the role of school in the integration process. The approach to be adopted would involve key stakeholders, especially local and regional authorities and would take into account the specific needs of displaced children and refugees.

Topic 4. Multi-stakeholder initiatives for migrant integration into the labour market

Although many refugees and other migrants bring skills and qualifications which are acutely needed in EU labour markets, they often face difficulties in having their skills valued and finding jobs that reflect accurately their level of qualification. Migrant women are at particularly high risk of being over-qualified for the jobs they can obtain. Early and effective inclusion in the labour market at the appropriate skill level is beneficial for migrants and host societies alike. Setting the right conditions for this requires the active collaboration of a variety of actors in a multi-stakeholder approach, including public authorities at local, regional, national and European level, civil society organisations, economic and social partners and public and private employers.

The role of social and economic partners is key in this area. Since 2017, the European Commission and European Social and Economic Partners have worked together closely in the European Partnership for Integration to create opportunities for integrating refugees and other migrants into the EU labour market.¹¹ Through a multi-stakeholder approach linking up relevant actors from the European to the local level across the EU, the partnership has generated tangible results in terms of developing and disseminating good practices for labour market integration, building cooperation structures and helping migrants find adequate employment.

It is important to continue this process, also considering the challenges arising from the arrival of people fleeing Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the different levels of experience and engagement regarding labour market inclusion across the EU. It is therefore relevant to promote transnational projects and partnerships to foster the integration of migrants into the labour market and to promote the engagement of employers and social partners on this topic. Such projects should, inter alia, contribute to facilitating and speeding up the assessment, recognition and validation of skills and qualifications of third country nationals.

Topic 5. Access to healthcare

Insufficient access to healthcare services, including mental health, can be a major obstacle to integration and inclusion, affecting virtually all areas of life, including employment and education. Migrants are confronted with specific persistent barriers to accessing general healthcare and mental health care services, including administrative hurdles, discrimination, lack of information and lack of familiarity with the healthcare system, as well as linguistic and intercultural obstacles. Migrant women may face additional challenges. The COVID-19 crisis has shown the importance of accessible health services, with adapted communication to ensure effective access by and treatment of migrants.

These activities would therefore aim to reduce obstacles for migrants to access health services, including mental health services and psychological support.

Topic 6. Support measures for migrant women's integration

In many EU countries, significant gaps in integration outcomes persist between migrant men and women. Migrant women face a so-called "double disadvantage", due to the intersection of being a woman and being a migrant. For example, migrant women in the EU generally have a higher unemployment rate than both non-migrant women and migrant men. Typical challenges labour market integration include language barriers, segregated labour markets, stereotypes, and care responsibilities. In some cases, this can be linked to societal isolation, which does not facilitate the learning of the language and culture of the host country, nor the building of relationships with members of the host community, thus becoming an obstacle to their social inclusion. The OECD stresses the need to address the social isolation of women and put in place measures to facilitate social integration. Effective social integration of women in the host society, in particular the capacity to interact and feel at ease with the new social environment, can also facilitate integration into the labour market.

Projects under this priority would continue and deepen the work started with the projects funded under the 2019 priority, especially in terms of integration into the labour market. Emphasis should be put on accompanying measures to allow effective access for migrant women to integration measures, especially related to care responsibilities and work-life balance

¹¹ https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/migration-and-asylum/legal-migration-and-integration/cooperation-economic-and-social-partners/european-partnership-integration_en

related measures (for example availability of childcare when attending training courses).

Topic 7. Improving digital skills among migrants

The COVID-19 crisis has shown the potential of digitalising services such as education, language and integration courses. However, this shift also made clear that migrants may face particular challenges in accessing digital courses and services because of lack of equipment, language barriers or lack of the digital skills to use these services.

This call would therefore support actions improving digital skills among migrants.

Topic 8. Promoting complementary pathways linked to education and/or work

Complementary pathways aim to offer safe avenues for refugees in addition to resettlement. The UNHCR 3-year strategy on resettlement and complementary pathways calls for a considerably higher number of complementary pathways, including those linked to work and education.¹² The 2020 Commission Recommendation on legal pathways to protection in the EU echoes this call and refers to the skills, qualifications, and the motivation of individuals in need of international protection. In the Recommendation, the Commission invited the Member States to promote complementary pathway programmes linked to education and work for people in need of international protection. A number of promising initiatives already exist in this respect in several Member States and have been granted funding under the previous call for proposals. The challenge is to ensure the growth and expansion of such programmes to more Member States, regions and communities, as well as visibility and continuity of the results achieved by the relevant AMIF-funded projects. With strong involvement from local communities and civil society organisations, in cooperation with the State and other stakeholders (universities, private sector etc.), such programmes have the potential to increase the number of admissions for people in need of international protection.

The call would help implement the objectives of the Commission Recommendation on legal pathways to protection, building on previous projects and initiatives in this area with a view to providing models of best practice, further expansion and scaling up.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

2.3. Call for proposals on the assistance, support and integration of third country national victims of trafficking in human beings

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Legal entities:

- Public bodies
- Non-profit-making private entities
- Profit making private entities (including non-public implementing agencies, industrial or service/consultant companies)
- International organisations

The list may be further restricted in the call for proposals. In particular, some categories may

¹² [5d15db254.pdf \(unhcr.org\)](#)

be only eligible as co-applicant.

Geographical conditions:

- Legal entities established in a Member State participating in the AMIF (all Member States except Denmark) or an overseas country or territory linked to it¹³ can participate in this call for proposals.
- Legal entities established in third countries associated to the AMIF can participate in this call for proposals.
- International organisations may be established outside the Member States participating in the AMIF.
- Legal entities (other than international organisations) established in third countries can participate in this call for proposals:
 - o only as part of a consortium composed of at least two independent entities, at least one of which is established in a Member State
 - o only for the third countries which are relevant for the call for proposals. These countries will be further specified in the calls for proposals.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

Protecting, supporting and empowering the victims of trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, is a priority under the EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings 2021-2025¹⁴. Early identification of such victims, as well as assistance, support and protection are crucial to reduce the harm suffered by them and to provide them with opportunities to rebuild their lives. These opportunities often remain limited to re-integration and rehabilitation programmes, but need to be further developed and include, as opportunities for durable solutions, inclusion into the labour market. The EU Strategy provides that social, economic and educational measures are essential for victims to re-integrate into society.

This call will support concrete transnational measures aiming to enhance early identification of victims of trafficking in human beings. It will also support integration, in particular of victims belonging to vulnerable groups, in their host country, taking into account their specific needs and circumstances.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

2.4. Call for proposals for the prevention of irregular migration through awareness raising and information campaigns on the risks of irregular migration in selected third countries and within Europe

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

Legal entities:

¹³ An “overseas country or territory linked to a participating Member State” shall be understood pursuant to Article 355 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

¹⁴ COM(2021) 171, 14.4.2021.

- Public bodies
- Non-profit-making private entities
- Profit making private entities (including non-public implementing agencies, industrial or service/consultant companies)
- International organisations

The list may be further restricted in the calls for proposals. In particular, some categories may be only eligible as co-applicant.

Geographical conditions:

- Legal entities established in a Member State participating in the AMIF (all Member States except Denmark) or an overseas country or territory linked to it¹⁵ can participate in this call for proposals.
- Legal entities established in third countries associated to the AMIF can participate in this call for proposals.
- International organisations may be established outside the Member States participating in the AMIF.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

The New Pact on Migration and Asylum¹⁶ and the EU Security Union Strategy¹⁷ underline the importance of preventing and combatting migrant smuggling, including criminal networks involved herein. The New Pact announces that the EU will strengthen cooperation with countries of origin and transit to prevent dangerous journeys and irregular crossings, including through tailor-made partnerships against migrant smuggling with third countries¹⁸. It foresees improved action on the ground in third countries, among others through information and awareness raising campaigns, using strategic communication as a tool to inform (potential) migrants about the risks of irregular migration, including becoming victims of trafficking in human beings, and potential alternatives in order to counter misinformation spread by migrant smugglers.

The European Commission presented in September 2021 a renewed EU action plan against migrant smuggling (2021-2025)¹⁹. It envisages the launch of information and awareness raising campaigns in key countries of origin or transit for migrants as part of dedicated partnerships against migrant smuggling in third countries. The general objective of these campaigns is to prevent irregular migration. The specific objective is to achieve increased awareness among (potential) migrants enabling them to make informed migrational decisions.

Activities carried out under information campaigns could include promoting an evidence-based

¹⁵ An “overseas country or territory linked to a participating Member State” shall be understood pursuant to Article 355 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

¹⁶ ^[1] COM(2020)609 final.

¹⁷ COM(2020)605 final.

¹⁸ Financial support to the implementation of these partnerships will be provided by the ISF, AMIF and BMVI funds, in complementarity with the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI), the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance III for the period 2021-2027.

¹⁹ ^[1] COM(2021)591 final.

narrative on migration, dispelling prevalent myths on migration, clearing up false expectations of (potential) migrants about life realities in Europe, as well as informing about legal alternatives of migration to the EU, economic alternatives in the country of origin and the region and, the possibilities of voluntary return. Campaigns may also involve diaspora and networks of migrants in the EU and target audiences in refugee and reception facilities in transit countries.

Based on the information gained during past campaigns, a study on best practices in awareness raising campaigns²⁰ was carried out in August 2021, providing a toolkit for the implementation of future campaigns, recommendations on research and design as well as their delivery and working methods. Projects to be funded under AMIF shall take into account the findings and lessons learnt from this study. They shall furthermore be designed in the spirit of complementarity and synergy with other past or ongoing projects in third countries concerned, either EU or Member State funded.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

2.5. Direct Award to the European Council of Refugees and Exiles to maintain and further develop and update the Asylum Information Database (AIDA)

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The European Council of Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) has a track-record in research and documentation activity and will further develop and update the Asylum Information Database (AIDA).

In accordance with Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation, the direct award of this grant is justified by the specific characteristic of the action, requiring the technical competence and a high degree of specialisation in the area of EU asylum *acquis* as provided by ECRE, which has developed a very specific expertise on the different national asylum systems thanks to its wide European network of organisations.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals

The activities to be funded include the collection and analysis of information related to the national asylum systems in place in different Member States (legislation and practice): overview of the legal framework, asylum and Dublin procedure, reception conditions, detention during asylum procedures, monitoring the implementation of the Common European Asylum System rules via a systematic and consistent collection of comparable information at regular intervals, including on the functioning of national asylum systems.

The activities to be funded include the collection and analysis of information related to the national asylum systems in place in different Member States (legislation and practice): overview of the legal framework, asylum and Dublin procedure, reception conditions, detention during asylum procedures, monitoring the implementation of the Common European Asylum System rules via a systematic and consistent collection of comparable information at

²⁰ Study on best practices in irregular migration awareness campaigns: final report - European Commission, August 2021, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2837/678132>. A link to the study will be provided in the call documents.

regular intervals, including on the functioning of national asylum systems.

The action forms a specific part of a broader ECRE research and documentation activity to maintain and further develop and update the AIDA database, which contains information and reports on the asylum systems of the EU Member States and the implementation of the Common European Asylum System rules in the Member States. The action will enable to continue the AIDA project through the maintenance of existing activities, including country research and comparative research on various aspects (legal, institutional, practices etc.). The financial support will allow the AIDA project to continue and provide reliable, up-to-date and quality information on the functioning of the Common European Asylum System and the asylum systems of the EU Member States, thus supporting the work of EU institutions and agencies, legal practitioners, think tanks, civil society organisations and academics in the field.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

2.6. Direct Award to the UEFA foundation for children

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The action grant will be awarded directly (without a call for proposals) following an invitation to the UEFA Foundation for Children, in accordance with Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation.

The direct award of this grant is justified by the specific characteristics of the action, requiring technical competence, high degree of specialisation and administrative power that only the UEFA Foundation for Children possesses. The UEFA Foundation for Children has a unique expertise, access and legitimacy for activities linked to the UEFA European Football Championship 2024.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals

The UEFA EURO 2024 aims to have a profound impact on global audiences through visibility and media and serve as an awareness-raising platform, providing a deeper understanding of the diversity within Europe and the contribution of a healthy and fair system of migration to the well-being, prosperity and cohesion of European societies/communities to the public. A media campaign will target the European public, policy makers, media representatives, and multi-sectoral stakeholders in the field of education, gender equality, youth economic empowerment, employability / entrepreneurship, and social inclusion / integration.

The campaign aims to raise awareness, inspire behaviour, and lead the thinking on how sport can enable young migrants and youth from host communities to acquire transferable skills to support their employability/social entrepreneurship skills, and strengthen their abilities to make deliberate decisions on their livelihoods. Through volunteering, sport activities can also be used for non-formal learning or for more active participation. Sport activities for all is an effective tool for integration and inclusion. It increases the opportunities for encounters and exchanges between migrants, EU citizens with migrant background and local communities. The campaign will be implemented and overseen by the UEFA Foundation for Children. This campaign, taking place in several EU countries and cities, is and unique opportunity to

showcase the potential of football as a catalyst of social inclusion and cultural integration.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

2.7. Direct awards - Emergency assistance

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award for emergency assistance

The following entities can submit applications for emergency assistance: Member States, International Organisations or Union agencies. Other entities can be involved in the implementation of the action as co-applicants. The action grant will be awarded directly (without a call for proposals), in accordance with Article 195(a) or (b) of the Financial Regulation. The direct award of this grant is justified by the emergency support operations as described below or other exceptional and duly justified emergencies.

Where a Member State submits a request to use emergency assistance as an allocation to its national programme, and the Commission so decides, the budget will be implemented in shared management.

N.B. For entities referred to in Article 24(1), point (b), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147, namely international organisations and organisations assimilated with international organisations in accordance with Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, the budget will be implemented in indirect management (see point 4).

Description of the activities to be funded by the emergency assistance direct awards

Emergency assistance aims to enhance solidarity by ensuring consistency and complementarity with EU humanitarian assistance, by providing additional support to address duly justified emergency situations resulting from one or more of the following:

- a) exceptional emergency situations characterised by a large or disproportionate influx of third-country nationals into one or more Member States which places significant and urgent demands on those Member States' reception and detention facilities, and on their asylum and migration management systems and procedures;
- b) an event of a mass influx of displaced persons within the meaning of Council Directive 2001/55/EC²¹;
- c) an exceptional migratory situation in a third country, including where persons in need of protection could be stranded due to political developments or conflicts, notably where it might have an impact on migration flows towards the Union.

The emergency assistance will be provided for as long as the emergency situation lasts.

Emergency assistance may support ad hoc humanitarian admission programmes aimed at allowing temporary stay on the territory of a Member State in the event of an urgent

²¹ Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof (OJ L 212, 7.8.2001, p. 12).

humanitarian crisis in third countries, and also provide support in specific situations covered by Article 33 of the Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council ²².

The emergency assistance will be provided in the form of action grants awarded directly without a call for proposals, following a proposal for action, including a request for funding, submitted to the Commission by one of the eligible entities.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

Selection and award criteria

Selection criteria

In accordance with Article 198 of the Financial Regulation, proposals for action shall be evaluated on the basis of the following selection criteria:

- Financial capacity - Applicants and co-applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period for which the grant is awarded and to participate in its funding.
- Operational capacity - Applicants and co-applicants must have the professional competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed action.

In accordance with Article 198(5) of the Financial Regulation, the verification of the financial and operational capacity shall not apply to public bodies and international organisations.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 199 of the Financial Regulation, proposals for an action will be evaluated on the basis of a duly justified emergency situation and relevance of the proposal with regard to the objectives and the expected impact of the proposed activities on addressing the emergency situation in the countries concerned.

Co-financing rate and other information

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs: Up to 100% of the total eligible costs.

Other information: Where necessary for the implementation of an action, emergency assistance may cover expenditure which was incurred prior to the date of submission of the grant application or the request for assistance for that action, provided that that expenditure was not incurred prior to 1 January 2021.

²² Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national or a stateless person (OJ L 180, 29.6.2013, p. 31).

2.8. Direct award to Infomigrant consortium for the multilingual online information portal for prospective migrants

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The action grant will be awarded directly (without a call for proposals) following an invitation to the consortium of leading EU public media led by France Médias Monde to submit a proposal, in accordance with Article 195(f) of the Financial Regulation. The direct award of this grant is justified by the specific characteristics of the action, requiring technical competence and a high degree of specialisation that only the above-mentioned consortium possesses. This consortium is the only provider with the necessary expertise, the European perspective and the already existing presence in the target countries that would allow this project to be a success. The consortium brings together leading EU media with a wide international audience, broadcasting in over 30 languages and attracting over 230 million listeners and viewers each week via TV, radio, internet and mobile devices. Only this consortium can guarantee widespread international publicity in a range of languages and with a broad network of correspondents, stringers, observers and bloggers in the target countries.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195 of the Financial Regulation

The objective of this action is to continue producing reliable, fact-based information available to (potential) migrants and asylum seekers, and to counter the misinformation from smugglers and traffickers, via media outlets already present in migrants' and asylum seekers' countries of origin and transit, with a particular emphasis on online and social media channels. In view of the EU policy on Migration and the (then) EU Action Plan Against Migrant Smuggling in 2015, the InfoMigrants.net multi-lingual news and information platform was developed by a high profile media consortium with actions funded under each AMIF work programme since 2016. The portal, which aims to reach prospective migrants worldwide and inform them of the dangers and the legal realities, was formally launched in May 2017. In 2018, the portal was extended to include the languages of Dari and Pashtu. During the past years, the portal has continued to reach prospective migrants and to give them accurate information including the dangers of irregular travel and the legal realities of coming to Europe. Today InfoMigrants.net is one of the most effective channels to provide clear information to would-be migrants in countries of origin, in transit and even already in Europe. The activities to be funded by this grant include the continuation and expansion of the operations of the multilingual online platform, including the additional language of Bengali.

This action is complementary to specific information campaigns selected via open calls for proposals. The main differences are the wider geographical coverage of InfoMigrants, the online nature of the actions allowing a wider outreach, and the method of implementation, due to the specific nature of the InfoMigrants action. This action requires technical competence, including linguistic, and a high degree of specialisation regarding media consumption habits in third countries that only the above-mentioned consortium possesses. This consortium is the only provider with the necessary expertise, developed over the last 5 years of the project, and can rely on its media partners with significant audiences in the targeted regions to amplify messages.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

3. PROCUREMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts under this work programme is EUR 27 654 000.

IT development and procurement strategy choices will be subject to pre-approval by the European Commission Information Technology and Cybersecurity Board, following the IT governance process established in the European Commission.

3.1. Actions implemented by procurement contracts

General description of the contracts envisaged

In 2023, 2024 and 2025, the Commission intends to undertake actions through contracts following public procurement (calls for tenders as well as specific contracts under existing framework contracts, with the possibility to launch calls for the award of new framework contracts).

These procurement activities will cover the following:

- Organisation of conferences, expert meetings, seminars, events and communication activities,
- Support to the development and maintenance of IT platforms and systems,
- Undertaking surveys, studies, evaluations and impact assessments,
- Communications activities, including campaigns, social media and web communications, and contribution to the overall Commission corporate communication priorities²³

These activities will aim to monitor the proper implementation of existing legislation or to prepare, or accompany, new legislation, or respond to policy changes in the area covered by the AMIF.

It may in particular cover specific fields, including but not limited to:

- Support for the Urban Agenda Inclusion partnership
- Support to activities of the Partnership on integration with the European Committee of the Regions
- Support the activities of Commission expert Group on the views of migrants
- Support to the European network of migration law practitioners
- Support for developments in the statistics on asylum, migration, migrant integration, and managed migration, relevant to the policies of DG HOME.
- Support for the implementation and further development of the common EU return framework

Implementation

²³ C(2020) 9390 of 18.12.2020 Corporate communication action in 2021-2023 under the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027.

These actions will be implemented directly by the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs, or via subdelegation or co-delegation to the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, the Directorate-General for Informatics, the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Eurostat, the Publications Office or to the Directorate-General for Communication..

4. ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED IN INDIRECT MANAGEMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for indirect management under this work programme is EUR 329 900 000.

4.1. Direct Award / Contribution agreement - Projects to support long-term capacity-building and access to international protection and durable solutions for persons in third countries in the framework of the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP)

Implementing entity

The Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) – Protection Pillar will be implemented by Member States whose selection remains to be confirmed and will be based on their technical and geographical competence, coordination capacity in case of consortium, and confidence expressed by other Member States wishing to support the action.

Entities established in the Member States participating in the AMIF, international organisations and non-governmental organisations may be associated and participate in the implementation.

Description of the activities to be funded

RDPPs represent an important aspect of engagement and dialogue with partner countries as part of the external dimension of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, namely that of supporting other countries hosting refugees and host communities. RDPP assistance to third countries is part of the EU's comprehensive approach to better manage migration in all its aspects and address gaps in migrant protection and asylum, including efforts to increase access to durable solutions.

The EU's comprehensive approach is reflected in the objectives of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework and the Global Compact. Having partner countries as principal providers of protection in accordance with international law is key to promote durable solutions at the local level. Support to enhanced protection and access to durable solutions also improves safety and access to means for self-reliance. This in turn can avert onward movements along the different migratory routes.

This action will promote protection, assistance and durable solutions in a multi-stakeholder approach with an enhanced focus on capacity building.

Steering Committees, co-chaired by DG HOME and the Member State leading the consortium for a respective geographical zone, will be entrusted with the governance and control of the action. The Steering Committees provide overall strategic guidance, define and agree on the geographical scope/areas, adopt, and whenever necessary revise, the annual work plans. In addition to the chair, the Steering Committees shall comprise representatives of other pertinent Commission services, the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) where relevant, and Member States and countries associated to the Dublin regulation. Where relevant, strategic partners including international organisations and non-governmental organisations may be invited to participate in the Steering Committees on an ad hoc basis.

The RDPP – Protection Pillar will be implemented in full complementarity with protection actions funded by the EU's external funding instruments, including through the Humanitarian aid regulation, NDICI-Global Europe, and Team Europe initiatives.

Following an assessment of the previous grants awarded, geographical priorities in line with

the external dimension of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, and following a whole-of-route approach, it may be decided that one or several RDPPs will receive funding under the 2023-2025 AMIF work programme.

For comparison, the RDPP – Protection Pillar under the AMIF Regulation has been implemented since 2015 by the Italian Ministry of Interior for the North Africa component .

Implementation

The action will be implemented indirectly by DG HOME provided that all co-beneficiaries are eligible to work under indirect management and are assessed in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation. Actions implemented under this section will be provided in the form of contribution agreements following a proposal for action, including a request for funding, submitted to the Commission by one of the eligible entities. If the Commission were not in a position to sign a contribution agreement, a grant may be awarded in accordance with Title VIII of the Financial Regulation (notably Article 195).

4.2. Contribution Agreement - Migration Partnership Facility

Implementing entity

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is a specialised international organisation with sound experience in implementing regional migration dialogues with third countries and in managing funding and programmes linked to migration management. ICMPD successfully passed the Commission’s ex-ante “pillar assessment” (assessment in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation) on its level of capacity of financial management and protection of financial interests and has been selected as the entity entrusted to implement this action in indirect management based on its competence and successful implementation of MPF I, II and III.

Furthermore, ICMPD has established a strong network with EU Member States and partner countries relevant for migration engagement and has project-based offices in several partner countries.

Description of the activities to be funded

The Migration Partnership Facility (MPF) supports, in line with the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, the external dimension of the EU’s migration policy with flexible support to EU member states and partner countries with a particular focus on priority regions including Neighbourhood, Eastern Partnership, EU candidate countries and potential candidates, Africa and Asia.

The MPF will keep offering tailor-made support for policy dialogue and operational cooperation with third countries. Examples of activities include: activities seeking to improve partner countries’ policy and legal frameworks for migration and mobility; strengthened information, outreach and protection of migrants; review and development of legislation, policy documents/strategies, action plans, policy tools and instruments, standard operating procedures linked to migration management; capacity-building of partner country authorities in legal migration management (including migration monitoring); capacity-building of partner country authorities; practices and policies on migrants’ contributions to national development; partner countries’ policy and legal frameworks as well as capacity-building on asylum policy

and protection in line with international standards; support to migration dialogues and relevant needs identified in the dialogues with relevant partner countries.

The MPF will also continue to support the implementation of Talent Partnerships with priority partner countries in order to attract talented students, researchers and workers to the EU. The Partnerships could combine direct support for mobility schemes and training with capacity building in areas such as labour market or skills intelligence, vocational education and training, integration of returning migrants, and diaspora mobilisation. Projects supported through the Migration Partnership Facility will be implemented preferably via call(s) for proposals, open to public bodies of EU Member States, EU Member States-based organisations, and in some cases international organisations as lead applicants. Public authorities of priority partner countries, public bodies of the same or other EU Member States, international organisations or non-governmental organisations working on a non-profit basis established in the EU or in the priority partner countries will be able to apply as co-applicants (future co-beneficiaries).

The overall strategic guidance, leadership and oversight for the implementation of the MPF is carried out by the MPF Steering Committee (SC). In order to ensure complementarity with external policies, the SC consists of representatives of the European Commission (DG HOME, the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations - DG NEAR - and the Directorate-General for International Partnerships - DG INTPA, and the European External Action Service - EEAS). The SC is chaired by DG HOME, while ICMPD acts as secretariat and provides technical support/assistance for its functioning.

Actions eligible for funding by the Facility shall be in line with the objectives of the AMIF, the ISF and the BMVI, and each Fund will support actions falling within its remit.

4.3. Contribution Agreement - Support the implementation of the EU Strategy on voluntary return and reintegration (Return and Reintegration Facility)

Implementing entity

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is a specialised international organisation with sound experience in implementing regional migration dialogues with third countries and in managing funding and programmes linked to migration management. ICMPD successfully passed the Commission's ex-ante "pillar assessment" (assessment in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation) on its level of capacity of financial management and protection of financial interests.

As ICMPD is already supporting the current European Return and Reintegration network (ERRIN) as implementing partner within its structures, these activities would ensure continuation in governance, staffing and available capacity. ICMPD has established a strong network with EU Member States and partner countries relevant for migration engagement and has project-based offices in several partner countries. ICMPD is therefore well-placed to implement activities in the field of on return and reintegration and has the support of Member States

Description of the activities to be funded

In the context of the transfer of the activities currently carried out under the European Return and Reintegration Network (ERRIN) to Frontex (finalised in June 2022), there are a limited number of activities which fall outside the scope of Frontex' legal and financial mandate or

which are complementary to the activities of Frontex. Member States have expressed strong demand for continuing several such activities with the support of EU funding through the AMIF.

In the ERRIN Strategic Management Board, Member States have discussed various options for continued funding of these activities. Member States have expressed clear preference for a Union Action to be carried out by an implementing entity. ICMPD (already an implementing partner of ERRIN) has expressed its readiness to carry out these activities.

ICMPD would provide Member States with access to operational and financial support that is required to develop and implement joint projects and activities in the areas of return and reintegration that fall outside the mandate of Frontex, or which are complementary to the activities of Frontex. This concerns in particular the setting up of a funding mechanism to be used for innovative projects led by one or more Member States, coupled with project support; such a mechanism exists under the ERRIN but cannot be taken over by Frontex. Projects can target one or more third countries or parts thereof and for the benefit of one or more Member States and reinforcing the overall EU capacity to provide assistance to voluntary return and sustainable reintegration in line with the EU-wide return efforts. The overall objective would be to provide adequate, high-performance and flexible operational, financial and knowledge support that enables Member States to develop and implement return and reintegration projects and activities in cooperation with other Member States.

Activities would focus, inter alia, on: increasing the effectiveness of return and reintegration programmes and approaches by ensuring adequate assistance tailored to general or specific needs; promoting the link between the reintegration programmes and development cooperation activities (including long-term reintegration) in partner countries funded by NDICI; improving strategies to reach the target group; embedding reintegration assistance in the context of the countries of return; supporting third countries' and local communities ownership of the readmission and reintegration processes including through better coordination and reintegration management and outward referral to the other forms of assistance; testing innovative approaches including government-to-government and involving new stakeholders. ICMPD could develop a facility open to all Member States that will be operational by the time the current ERRIN comes to an end (June 2022). Furthermore, although the development and maintenance of some IT tools (e.g. Reintegration Assistance Tool (RIAT) and Return & Reintegration Assistance Inventory (RRAI)) at EU level may be funded from a different source (e.g. the European Migration Network budget), ICMPD can support training and use (by Member States, Frontex and reintegration service providers) and data quality elements for the use of these IT-tools. A case in point, for RIAT, is training of Member State authorities' staff as well as the users of the systems in third countries.

A steering committee entrusted with the governance and oversight of seeing the implementation of the actions would need to be set up, including with the appropriate representation of the Commission, Member States and Frontex as relevant.

The Return and Reintegration Facility and activities proposed by ICMPD would provide a useful tool in the context of the implementation of the EU strategy on voluntary return and reintegration to support a coherent and effective EU approach to return and reintegration and are pertinent for achieving the goals set out in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum.

Implementation

The action will be implemented indirectly by DG HOME provided that all co-beneficiaries are assessed in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation.

4.4. Direct award/Contribution Agreement - Support and preparatory activities to facilitate voluntary transfers of either applicants for or beneficiaries of international protection

Implementing entity

International organisations and entities assimilated with international organisations in accordance with Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, which submit an application for which the action is awarded. This concerns entities which have been subject to an ex ante assessment pursuant to Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a framework partnership agreement in force concluded with the Commission pursuant to Council Regulation (EU) 2016/369²⁴, or those that are covered by the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement concluded with the United Nations.

Such organisations will have to demonstrate specific technical competence and experience appropriate for the action.

Entities established in the Member States participating in AMIF, international organisations and non-governmental organisations may be associated and participate in the implementation.

Description of the activities to be funded

The objective of this action is to contribute towards the overall objective of enhanced solidarity and fair responsibility sharing between Member States by providing support and preparatory activities that will facilitate voluntary transfers of either applicants for international protection or beneficiaries of international protection from Member States that benefits from the voluntary transfers. The action will focus, in particular, on the following pre-departure activities that will take place in the Member State that benefits from the voluntary transfers: health checks, cultural orientation, internal transfers, accommodation, logistical arrangements before departure, provision of clothing suitable for the weather in the Member State of transfer at the time of departure, etc.

Upon arrival in the Member State of transfer, the persons can be supported within the regular national framework for asylum and integration activities, also those funded with the support of the Member State's programme under AMIF. This action is thus complementary to the funding allocated to the Member States under their national programmes, where the support to the management of secondary movements (as part of national systems) following first transfer are encouraged²⁵.

Implementation

The action will be implemented indirectly by DG HOME provided that all co-beneficiaries are assessed in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation..

²⁴ Council Regulation (EU) 2016/369 of 15 March 2016 on the provision of emergency support within the Union (OJ L 70, 16.3.2016, p. 1).

²⁵ Article 20 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147, i.e. EUR 500 for transfer of each applicant and/or beneficiary of international protection provided to the Member State that benefits from the transfer and EUR 10 000 for each applicant and/or beneficiary of international protection transferred to another Member State.

4.5. Contribution Agreement - Emergency assistance

Implementing entity

International organisations and non-profit organisations assimilated with international organisations in accordance with Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, which submit an application for which the action is awarded. This concerns organisations which have been subject to an ex ante assessment pursuant to Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a framework partnership agreement in force concluded with the Commission pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/369, or those that are covered by the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement concluded with the United Nations.

Such organisations will have to demonstrate specific technical competence and experience appropriate for the action.

Description of the activities to be funded

The description of the activities to be funded, and the selection and award criteria, are as for emergency assistance grants.

Co-financing rate and other information

Selection and award criteria, and the maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs, are as for emergency assistance grants.

Emergency assistance may support expenditure incurred prior to the date of submission of the request for assistance (but not earlier than 1 January 2021), if this is necessary for the successful implementation of the action and it is demonstrated that the emergency situation prevailed earlier than the submission of the request.

Actions implemented under this section will be provided in the form of contribution agreements following a proposal for action, including a request for funding, submitted to the Commission by one of the eligible entities. If the Commission were not in a position to sign a contribution agreement, a grant may be awarded in accordance with Title VIII of the Financial Regulation (notably Article 195).

4.6. Direct Award for a comparative publication on national integration policies in EU and OECD countries

Implementing entity

The comparative publication on national integration policies in EU and OECD countries will be implemented in indirect management by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The OECD has a unique expertise in integration policies, legitimacy and contacts with the providers of policy information (administrations of EU Member States as well as non-EU OECD countries)

Description of the activities to be funded

As highlighted in the Action plan on integration and inclusion, the Commission should publish regular reports analysing progress and highlighting areas of common challenges, based on common statistical indicators, as well as recent inspiring policy developments in the Member

States.

The OECD could prepare a comparative policy overview of existing national integration policies and their scale and scope, looking at differences across the major migration categories (refugees, family migrants, and labour migrants).

The research would provide a comprehensive overview, tackling the different aspects of integration policies. It would be based on previous reports made in the OECD series “Making Integration Work” in which this publication would be included.

The proposed output would be based on the gathering of new information from OECD and EU countries. It would also build on the OECD’s rich prior work on integration. It will present results in an accessible way.

Implementation

The action will be implemented indirectly by DG HOME.

4.7. EURCAP - Readmission Capacity Building Facility IV

Implementing entity

IOM has been selected as the entity entrusted with the tasks under the indirect management on the basis of its technical competence and its capacity to carry-out the tasks. Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organisation in the field of migration, and an important partner for the EU in pursuing many of the EU priorities on migration, in line notably with the 2020 New Pact on Migration and Asylum, through collaboration within relevant strands of IOM's mandate. These include: activities to foster international dialogue and cooperation which can serve to strengthen comprehensive, tailor-made and mutually-beneficial migration partnerships; response to migration crises and several activities aiming to improve migration governance and management, policy and legal frameworks. In the field of Return, Readmission and Reintegration, IOM pursues activities such as: information and counselling to returnees, advice and capacity building to local and national authorities in partner countries, with a focus on strengthening the local ownership of return processes. IOM has implemented many EU funded actions related to returns and readmissions, including the Readmission Capacity Building Facilities I, II and III (AMIF AWP 2015, AMIF AWP 2017). Indirect management via a contribution agreement with IOM will provide the necessary flexibility in the identification of specific actions to be implemented, with the Commission steering and monitoring closely the financial support provided by the Facility.

Description of the activities to be funded

The Readmission Capacity-Building Facility IV will continue the approach of the previous Facilities under the AMIF 2015 - AWP 2017, i.e. contribute to the policy priorities on improving cooperation with third countries on return and readmission, with a view to reducing irregular migration. This action is in line with the objectives of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum. Support under the Facility will be given to third countries with which the EU has concluded, or is expecting to conclude, a readmission agreement/arrangement and those with which the EU is seeking to improve cooperation on readmission. The Facility will focus on needs-based capacity-building in the area of return, readmission and reintegration. It aims to provide the EU with a funding mechanism to cater to fast-changing political priorities and react in a timely manner towards a number of countries potentially needing support in this area, with the overall objective of contributing to effective and efficient cooperation between the EU and its partner countries in the field of readmission through fast-response, streamlined capacity-building initiatives.

Like its predecessors, the Facility will provide support in areas of intervention (at policy, legislative, institutional and/or operational level) relevant to the successful preparation and implementation of readmission agreements/commitments or practical improvement of cooperation in readmission with priority third countries, and with a focus on:

- enhancing readmission case management, inter alia by developing digital platforms for handling return related processes (ie readmission requests), when possible interconnected with the available identity databases,
- contributing to readmission cooperation by supporting the EU readmission community of practice (EU Member States, DG HOME and associated agencies) inter alia by providing expertise and building on lessons learnt through implementation of the existing Readmission Case Management Systems to support the adoption, use and development of the system;
- development, hosting, maintenance and training related to the centralised e-

Readmission Case Management System, including its EU segment (FPS);

- measures aiming to prevent irregular migration, including awareness-raising and communication capacity building,
- measures to make full use of the activities that IOM can offer in the context of return, readmission and reintegration for migrants returning from the EU to the partner countries: activities to facilitate dialogue; developing and piloting frameworks to support practical cooperation; exchange of good practices with third countries; strengthening local ownership in return, readmission and reintegration.

Implementation

The action will be implemented indirectly by DG HOME provided that all co-beneficiaries are eligible to work under indirect management and are assessed in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation.

4.8. Direct Award to support reception, asylum and return systems under pressure

Type of applicants targeted by the direct award

The following entities can be invited to submit applications: International organisations and non-profit organisations assimilated with international organisations in accordance with Article 156 of the Financial Regulation, which submit an application for which the action is awarded. This concerns organisations which have been subject to an ex ante assessment pursuant to Article 154 of the Financial Regulation, including those that are signatories of a framework partnership agreement in force concluded with the Commission pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/369, or those that are covered by the Financial and Administrative Framework Agreement concluded with the United Nations. Other entities can be involved in the implementation of the action as co-applicants.

The application should be coordinated with the competent national authorities and other relevant actors.

Description of the activities to be funded.

The objective of this action is to provide additional support to the reception, asylum and return systems of Member States particularly exposed to the migratory pressure at the EU external borders, e.g. due to their geographical position. This action will contribute to enhancing solidarity with the Member States bearing a high share of responsibility on behalf of the Union as a whole.

Under this action, support will be provided in relation to *inter alia*: 1/ services such as information provision, health checks and assistance, transportation, interpretation and intercultural mediation, identification of and assistance to vulnerable persons and persons with disabilities, legal and psycho-social assistance, as well as support to early integration; 2/ the establishment, maintenance, operation and improvement of reception and accommodation facilities (including facilities at points of disembarkation as well as quarantine facilities) in line with EU standards; 3/ the operations and equipment necessary for the registration and processing of asylum applications; 4/ return procedures.

Contribution agreements will be awarded following the evaluation of proposals submitted by applicants invited directly by the European Commission.

Implementation

The action will be implemented indirectly by DG HOME provided that all co-beneficiaries are assessed in accordance with Article 154 of the Financial Regulation.

5. ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED UNDER SHARED MANAGEMENT

The global budgetary envelope reserved for shared management under this work programme is EUR 791 000 000.

5.1. Specific actions

As per Article 18 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, Member States participating in that fund may receive funding for specific actions²⁶ in addition to their allocation through the national programmes and provided the conditions set out in this Article are fulfilled.

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for specific actions under this work programme is EUR 126 000 000.

Type of applicants targeted by the specific actions

All Member States participating in the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

Description of the activities to be funded by the specific actions

The specific actions will fund transnational or national projects that bring Union added value in accordance with the objectives of the Fund.

They will contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and may in particular focus on specific topics including:

- Integration at local and regional level
- Actions to support reception, asylum and return systems under pressure
- Cooperation between Member States on language assessment in the field of asylum

Funding allocated for specific actions shall not be used for other actions in the Member State's programme, except in duly justified circumstances and as approved by the Commission through the amendment of the Member State's programme²⁷.

Complementarities with similar actions funded under the Member States' programmes shall also be specified to avoid duplications.

Implementation

²⁶ As per Article 2, point (10), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147: 'Specific actions' means transnational or national projects that bring Union added value in line with the objectives of the Fund for which one, several or all Member States may receive an additional allocation to their programmes.

²⁷ As per Article 18, point (2) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147

The actions will be implemented in shared management by one or more Member States participating in the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund via funding received in addition to the allocation under the Member States' programmes, in line with Article 18 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147.

5.2. Resettlement²⁸ and humanitarian admission²⁹

Type of applicants targeted

All Member States participating in the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

Description

To put in practice the Commission Recommendation (EU) 2020/1364 on legal pathways to protection in the EU, this action will provide support to the Member States participating in the AMIF programme to enhance their resettlement efforts, and to provide additional places of admission for people in need of international protection through humanitarian admission programmes.

In accordance with Article 19 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Member State participating in the AMIF programme shall receive resources, under shared management, for resettlement and humanitarian admission.

Resettlement

Member States shall receive, in addition to their allocation calculated in accordance with Article 13(1)(a) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147, an additional amount of EUR 10 000 for each person admitted through resettlement. Where appropriate, Member States may also be eligible for the respective amounts for family members of persons admitted through resettlement if the persons are admitted to ensure family unity.

Humanitarian Admission

Member States, in addition to their allocation calculated in accordance with point (a) of Article 13(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147, shall receive an additional amount of EUR 6 000 for each person admitted through humanitarian admission. This amount is increased to EUR 8 000 for each person, from the following vulnerable groups, admitted through

²⁸ As per Article 2, point (8), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147: 'resettlement' means the admission following a referral from the UNHCR of third-country nationals or stateless persons from a third country to which they have been displaced, to the territory of the Member States, and who are granted international protection and have access to a durable solution in accordance with Union and national law

²⁹ As per Article 2, point (5), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147: 'humanitarian admission' means the admission following, where requested by a Member State, a referral from the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ('UNHCR'), or another relevant international body, of third-country nationals or stateless persons from a third country to which they have been forcibly displaced to the territory of the Member States, and who are granted international protection or a humanitarian status under national law that provides for rights and obligations equivalent to those of Articles 20 to 34 of Directive 2011/95/EU of 13 December 2011 on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection, and for the content of the protection granted (OJ L 337, 20.12.2011, p. 9).

humanitarian admission:

- (a) women and children at risk;
- (b) unaccompanied minors;
- (c) persons having medical needs that can be addressed only through humanitarian admission;
- (d) persons in need of humanitarian admission for legal or physical protection needs, including victims of violence or torture.

Where a Member State admits a person belonging to more than one of these categories of vulnerable groups it shall receive the fixed amount for that person for one category only. Where appropriate, Member States may also be eligible for the respective amounts for family members of persons admitted through humanitarian admission if the persons are admitted to ensure family unity.

The amounts referred to in this action shall take the form of financing not linked to costs in accordance with Article 125 of the Financial Regulation. The amounts will be allocated to Member States provided the conditions are fulfilled, i.e. persons are resettled/admitted in accordance with the respective definitions.

The amounts allocated to Member States within this action shall be allocated to the respective national programmes for the first time in the financing decision approving that programme.

Those amounts shall not be used for other actions in the Member State's programme except in duly justified circumstances, as approved by the Commission through the amendment of that programme. Those amounts may be included in the payment applications to the Commission, provided that the person in respect of whom the amount is allocated was effectively resettled or admitted.

Member States shall retain the information necessary to allow the proper identification of the persons resettled or admitted and of the date of their resettlement or admission.

To take account of current inflation rates, relevant developments in the field of resettlement and other factors, the Commission may adopt delegated acts to adjust, if deemed appropriate, and within the limits of available resources, the amounts mentioned above.

Implementation

The action will be implemented in shared management by Member States participating in the AMIF programme via funding received in addition to the allocation under the Member State's national programmes, in line with Article 19 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147.

5.3. Relocation

Type of applicants targeted

All Member States participating in the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

Description

In accordance with Article 20 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, Member States shall receive resources, under shared management, for the transfer of applicants for international

protection³⁰ or of beneficiaries of international protection³¹.

In particular:

Member States participating in the AMIF programme shall receive, in addition to the allocation received under their national programme³², an additional amount of EUR 10 000 for each applicant for international protection transferred from another Member State³³ or as a result of similar forms of relocation. Where appropriate, Member States may also be eligible to receive EUR 10 000 for each family member of persons referred to hereinabove, provided that those family members have been transferred to ensure family unity³⁴ or have been transferred as a result of similar forms of relocation.

Member States participating in the AMIF programme shall receive, in addition to the allocation received under their national programme³⁵, an additional amount of EUR 10 000 for each beneficiary of international protection transferred from another Member State. Where appropriate, Member States may also be eligible to receive the respective amounts for family members of persons referred to hereinabove if those family members have been transferred to ensure family unity.

The Member State covering the cost of transfers referred to above shall receive a contribution of EUR 500 for each applicant for international protection or beneficiary of international protection transferred to another Member State.

The amounts referred to in this action shall take the form of financing not linked to costs in accordance with Article 125 of the Financial Regulation.

The amounts shall be allocated to the Member State's programme, provided that the person in respect of whom the amount is allocated was effectively transferred to a Member State or was registered as an applicant in the Member State responsible³⁶, as applicable.

Those amounts shall not be used for other actions in the Member State's programme except in duly justified circumstances, as approved by the Commission through the amendment of that programme.

Member States shall retain the information necessary to allow the proper identification of the persons transferred and of the date of their transfer.

To take account of current inflation rates, relevant developments in the field of relocation and other factors, the Commission may adopt delegated acts to adjust, if deemed appropriate, and within the limits of available resources, the amounts mentioned above.

Implementation

³⁰ As per Article 2, point (1), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147: 'applicant for international protection' means an applicant as defined in Article 2, point (c), of Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council

³¹ As per Article 2, point (2), of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147: 'beneficiary of international protection' means a beneficiary of international protection as defined in Article 2, point (b), of Directive 2011/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council.

³² In accordance with Article 13(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 of the European Parliament and of the Council

³³ In accordance with Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 604/2013.

³⁴ In accordance with Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 604/2013.

³⁵ In accordance with Article 13(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147.

³⁶ In accordance with Regulation (EU) No 604/2013.

The action will be implemented in shared management by Member States participating in the AMIF programme via funding received in addition to the allocation under the Member State's national programmes, in line with Article 20 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147.

6. OTHER ACTIONS OR EXPENDITURE

The global budgetary envelope reserved for other actions and expenditure under this work programme is EUR 900 000.

6.1. European Migration Liaison Officers

Indicative Amount

EUR 900 000

Description

European Migration Liaison Officers (EMLOs) are national experts seconded to work in the Delegations of the European Union in third countries. EU Member States cover the costs of their salaries and allowances, and the Commission covers, through this action, the costs of (civilian) missions, telecommunication and security costs, and any other relevant costs or activities under this action.

The main purpose of designating and deploying EMLOs is to step up coordination to maximise the impact of EU action on migration in third countries and to enhance the engagement of key countries of origin and transit on the entire spectrum of migration issues. EMLOs will interact with national and regional authorities to promote and support engagement with the EU on migration issues. They will gather relevant knowledge and information related to migratory trends and policy developments and provide analysis and recommendations through regular reporting. EMLOs will contribute to the operational implementation of the comprehensive approach presented in the New Pact on Migration and Asylum by inter alia contributing to migration governance and management, including the prevention and countering of irregular migration, counter-smuggling and border protection measures, better organising legal migration and mobility, ensuring more effective coordination between Member States and third countries on return, readmission and reintegration, providing protection and support to host communities and building economic opportunities. The EMLOs will also contribute to the implementation of the bilateral and regional cooperation frameworks on migration.