



Brussels, 25.11.2021  
C(2021) 8458 final

**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION**

**of 25.11.2021**

**on the financing of components of the Thematic Facility under the Asylum, Migration  
and Integration Fund and adoption of the Work Programme for 2021 and 2022**

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## on the financing of components of the Thematic Facility under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and adoption of the Work Programme for 2021 and 2022

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 966/2012<sup>1</sup>, 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 Fund<sup>2</sup>, and in particular Articles 11(8) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the specific actions, Union actions, emergency assistance, resettlement and humanitarian admissions, and support to Member States for the transfer of applicants for international protection or of beneficiaries of international protection in the framework of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, it is necessary to adopt a multiannual financing decision, which constitutes the multiannual work programme, for 2021 and 2022. Article 110 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 ('the Financial Regulation') establishes detailed rules on financing decisions.
- (2) In accordance with Article 39 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 and Article 193(2), the second subparagraph, point (a), of the Financial Regulation, and in order to avoid any disruption in Union support which could be prejudicial to the Union's interests, costs incurred in respect of actions supported under this Decision under direct management and which have already begun may be considered eligible for financing as of 1 January 2021, even if those costs were incurred before the grant application or the request for assistance was submitted. The same rules apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the eligibility of activities and costs under indirect management.
- (3) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures adopted pursuant to Article 215 TFEU.
- (4) It is appropriate to authorise the award of grants without a call for proposals and to provide for the conditions for awarding those grants.
- (5) 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),

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p.1.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 251, 15.7.2021, p. 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.

- (6) 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 Regulation and, if necessary, to appropriate supervisory measures in accordance with Article 154(5) of the Financial Regulation before a contribution agreement can be signed.
- (7) 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.
- (8) 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.
- (9) 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.
- (10) In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 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, and without prejudice to Article 4 of that Protocol, Ireland did not take part in the adoption of Regulation (EU) No 2021/1147 and is not bound by it or subject to its application. Ireland is therefore not bound by this Decision or subject to its application.
- (11) 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 2021 and 2022, 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 2021 and 2022 referred to in Article 1 is set at EUR 905 940 401, 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 371 663 861 for 2021;

(b) EUR 534 276 540 for 2022.

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 provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2022 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.

### *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, 25.11.2021

*For the Commission*

*Ylva JOHANSSON*

*Member of the Commission*



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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 2021 and 2022**

## ANNEX

### **1. Introduction**

This work programme is based on the objectives of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>1</sup>. 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 proposal for a new Pact on Migration and Asylum<sup>2</sup>. It is based on the understanding that the internal and external aspects of migration are inextricably linked.

This work programme is biannual and will implement the part of the budget 2021 and 2022 for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund 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 pillar-assessed entities);
- 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.

In the same way, due to the specificities of Emergency Assistance, a specific financing decision is adopted separately for 2021. 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 and trafficking of human beings);
- The European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund Plus. The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (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 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;

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<sup>1</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> COM/2020/609 final. 23.9.2020.

- 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. 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. Synergies with research in Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe will also be ensured, in particular as regards the topics children in migration, migrant integration, return, and awareness raising in third countries.

All activities implemented under the work programme for 2021 and 2022 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 disabilities<sup>3</sup>.

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 2021 and 2022 as follows:

- a) for grants (implemented under direct management) (point 2),
- b) for procurement (implemented under direct management) (point 3),
- 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 situation<sup>4</sup> is described in points 2 and 4.

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

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

a) 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 [Ireland and]Denmark; entities established in [Ireland and ]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). Futhermore, 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

<b>Implementation arrangements</b>	<b>Budget line 10 02 01</b>
Grants (including emergency assistance in 2022 only)	EUR 260 463 401
Procurement	EUR 7 211 000
Indirect management <sup>5</sup>	EUR 64 000 000
Shared management	EUR 573 666 000
Other actions and expenditure	EUR 600 000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>EUR 905 940 401</b>

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 proposal for a new Pact on Migration and Asylum, which aims to achieve a comprehensive approach to migration management, more effective procedures and a new balance between responsibility and solidarity. This work programme supports these objectives.

Expected results

<sup>5</sup> Part of the emergency assistance budget accounted for under the heading “Grants” may be transferred to the heading “Indirect Management” in accordance with Article 4 of the Financing Decision



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 dimension<sup>6</sup>;
- 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 Council<sup>7</sup>.

## 2. Grants

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is EUR 260 463 401.

### 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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).

#### Geographical conditions:

- Legal entities established in a Member State participating in the AMIF, or an overseas country or territory linked to it<sup>8</sup> 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

As affirmed under the 2017 European Commission's Communication on the protection of children in migration<sup>9</sup> and reiterated under the EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child<sup>10</sup>, the protection of children in migration is a shared value and a policy priority for the EU. The Strategy also recognises that migrant children must be protected and granted access to their basic rights on the same terms as EU children, irrespective of their migration status. Accordingly, the Commission has invited the Member States to take action to address the gaps identified in the protection of migrant children.

The objective of this call is to finance programmes facilitating the exchange of good practices, knowledge-sharing training and capacity building amongst various relevant actors (private or public entities and institutions, including public authorities) who are providing specialised support to migrant children (including unaccompanied and separated children, but also children within families) in order to ensure their access to basic child rights, comprising: housing, food, healthcare (including mental care), psychosocial support, education and/or vocational training, legal assistance throughout the applicable migration procedures, alternative care, etc. The proposed actions (exchange of good practices, knowledge-sharing, training) should benefit professionals providing such support, including guardians/representatives, social assistants, foster families, case workers, psychosocial workers, teachers, etc.

#### Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

<sup>8</sup> 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).

<sup>9</sup> COM(2017) 211 final.

<sup>10</sup> COM(2021) 142 final.

## 2.2. Four 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 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[and Ireland] or an overseas country or territory linked to it<sup>11</sup> 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 the AMIF.
  - 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 calls for proposals.

The calls for proposals on integration aim to provide support to the implementation of the Action plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027<sup>12</sup>.

### **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.

### **Access to healthcare**

<sup>11</sup> 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).

<sup>12</sup> COM(2020) 758 final, 24.11.2020.

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 by specific persistent barriers to accessing general healthcare and mental health care services, including administrative hurdles, discrimination, lack of information and of familiarity with the healthcare system, and linguistic and intercultural obstacles. Migrant women may face additional challenges. The COVID-19 crisis has shown the importance of accessible health services, adapted communication to ensure effective access by and treatment of migrants.

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

#### **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.

#### **Promoting community sponsorship schemes and complementary pathways**

In the Recommendation on legal pathways to protection in the EU<sup>13</sup>, which was presented as part of the proposal for a new Pact on Migration and Asylum, the Commission invited the Member States to roll out or scale up community sponsorship schemes and promote complementary pathway programmes linked to education, work and family reunification for people in need of international protection. The overall aim is to provide more places of safe and legal admission to the EU in the light of high protection needs globally, and to ensure successful integration into welcoming societies. A number of promising initiatives already exist in this respect in several Member States. The challenge is to ensure growth and expansion of such programmes to more Member States, regions and communities. With a strong involvement of 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 places of admission 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

These four actions 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:

<sup>13</sup> C(2020) 6467 final, 23.9.2020.

- 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 and Ireland) or an overseas country or territory linked to it<sup>14</sup> 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 the AMIF.
  - 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, especially women and children, is a priority under the EU Strategy on combatting trafficking in human beings 2021-2025.<sup>15</sup> The assistance, support and protection to victims are a challenge and opportunities for victims to rebuild their lives remain limited as re-integration and rehabilitation programmes need to be further developed and opportunities for durable solutions, such as inclusion into the labour market, are scarce. The anti-trafficking 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 the integration of the victims in the host country, taking into account their specific needs and circumstances, as well as victims among vulnerable groups.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

## 2.4. Two calls for proposals to support return and reintegration activities

<sup>14</sup> 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).

<sup>15</sup> COM(2021) 171, 14.4.2021.

## Type of applicants targeted by the 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 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 and Ireland) or an overseas country or territory linked to it<sup>16</sup> 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 the AMIF.
  - 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 calls for proposals

### **Development of (innovative) alternatives to detention for different migratory situation**

The successful implementation of the proposed new Pact on Migration and Asylum will rely on the capacity to successfully prevent and respond to unauthorised movements and absconding of applicants and irregular migrants. However, Member States remain hesitant to implement and use alternatives to detention and largely rely on detention to ensure compliance with migration procedures. This is mostly due to high rates of absconding when alternatives are implemented. Better and wider use of effective alternatives to detention and the development of new and innovative common EU solutions for preventing absconding that ensure the respect of fundamental rights, are therefore important. Based on ongoing research and (political) developments, with the call DG HOME will aim to develop (innovative) alternatives to detention or do research into the effectiveness and feasibility of such measures.

<sup>16</sup> 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).

### **Support to the implementation of sponsorship**

The Commission has proposed a return sponsorship is a new form of solidarity contribution that Member States can use to assist each other. Return sponsorship would form part of the common EU system of returns, including operational support provided through the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and the application of the coordination mechanism to promote effective cooperation with third countries in the area of return, reintegration and readmission. For this purpose, funding should be available for sponsoring Member States in providing e.g. counselling on return and reintegration, assisting in the voluntary return and reintegration of migrants and leading or supporting the policy dialogue with third countries for facilitating identification, return, reintegration and readmission.

In relation to the proposed return sponsorship, the Return Coordinator – supported by the High Level Network for Return – would act as facilitator. The Coordinator would support the identification of the sponsorship activities that Member States can offer or are in need to, facilitate the exchanges among the Member States concerned by the implementation of sponsorship, helping “demand” and “offer” to meet. Once appointed, the Return Coordinator would play a central role in promoting return solidarity between the Member States, further supporting the coherence of the overall return system.

#### Implementation

The two actions will be implemented directly by DG HOME

## **2.5. 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:

- 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 and Ireland) or an overseas country or territory linked to it<sup>17</sup> can participate in this call for proposals.

<sup>17</sup> 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).

- 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 proposed new Pact on Migration and Asylum<sup>18</sup> 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 countries<sup>19</sup>. The EU will also aim to provide on the ground assistance in third countries to combat migrant smuggling, including the instrumentalisation of irregular migration through intentional disinformation by private and state actors, for example through support to information campaigns on the risks of smuggling and irregular migration. Such activities could be achieved through promoting an evidence-based narrative on combating the myths and the false expectations of (potential) migrants about life in Europe, as well as on the possibilities of voluntary return from transit countries and on legal alternatives of migration to the EU and other relevant destinations, in particular with regard to options in the region of origin.

To operationalise such actions, the renewed EU action plan against migrant smuggling will envisage 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 objective of this call is to finance projects that aim at sensitising specific target audiences against the dangers of smuggling and providing prospective migrants, vulnerable communities, diaspora members and local media with objective information about the perils and difficulties of voyages and about the legal, social and economic realities of life in Europe. Ultimately, these campaigns seek to enable asylum seekers and migrants to make informed decisions about their movements and plans for the future. In addition, information campaigns both in Europe and in third countries should also provide information whenever possible on relevant legal or economic alternatives, as well as emphasise the opportunities for voluntary returns to countries of origin for those not in need of international protection, who feel their expectations do not match the reality either on route or in Europe.

All actions shall 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. Moreover, the actions shall be in line with the findings and lessons learnt from the *study on best practices in awareness raising campaigns*<sup>20</sup>. Therefore any project proposal should demonstrate the use of the recommendations and the guidance toolkit presented in the study to the greatest extent, namely by outlining sound research and design components, robust delivery and working methods as well as practical monitoring and evaluation planning.

#### Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

<sup>18</sup> COM(2020) 609 final

<sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> A link to the study will be provided in the call documents.



## 2.6. 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: Member States and international organisations, in accordance with Article 195(c) and/or (f) of the Financial Regulation. Other entities can be involved in the implementation of the action as co-applicants.

If the applicant is an international organisation, the application should be coordinated with the competent national authorities and other relevant actors.

N.B. For international organisations and organisations assimilated with international organisations in accordance with Article 156 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>21</sup> ('the Financial Regulation'), the budget will be implemented in indirect management.

### 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 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 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 and 4/ return procedures.

The action grants will be awarded following the evaluation of proposals submitted by applicants invited directly by the European Commission.

If DG HOME is not in a position to award grants under this action, grants under emergency assistance will be awarded, in direct or indirect management, in line with the provisions included in Points 2.5 and 4.2.

### Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

<sup>21</sup> 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 966/2012 (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).

## 2.7. 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 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's 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

## 2.8. 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/EC<sup>22</sup>;
- 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 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<sup>23</sup>.

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

<sup>22</sup> 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).

<sup>23</sup> 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).

### 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 regards 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: 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.

## **2.9. 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 in the years 2021 and 2022 is EUR 7 211 000.

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

- Studies, evaluations, impact assessments and fitness check in the area of migration
- Expert meetings, technical workshops, webinar, conferences, seminars and other events
- Support for the European Integration Network (EIN)

- Support to activities of the Partnership on integration with the 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 to the European Website on Integration (EWSI) (direct service contract)
- Support for the EU Immigration Portal (EUIP)
- Communication actions, including campaigns, social media activities and other actions aimed at raising awareness, understanding and acceptance of EU policies in the field of asylum and migration
- Support for developments in asylum, migration and migrant integration statistics relevant to the policies of DG HOME
- Support to return coordinator, including sponsorship IT module, technical capacity, pilots, twinnings

### Implementation

Procurement will be implemented directly either by DG HOME or via subdelegation or co-delegation to the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, to the Directorate-General for Informatics, to Eurostat, to the Publications Office or to DG Communication

#### 4. *Actions implemented in indirect management*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for indirect management in the years 2021 and 2022 is EUR 64 000 000.

##### 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 the selection of Member States to be entrusted with the implementation for the RDPP – Protection Pillar under the Thematic Facility 2021-22 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 proposal for a 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, chaired by 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 the representatives of the Commission, the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) 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 proposal for a 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 2021-2022 AMIF work programme.

For comparison, the RDPP – Protection Pillar under the previous AMIF Regulation has been implemented since 2015 by the Italian Ministry of Interior for the North Africa component and by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands for the Horn of 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 pillar assessed.

### **4.2. Contribution Agreement - Migration Partnership Facility**

#### Implementing entity

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is a specialised international organisation with a 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” 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 proposal for a 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. Actions will be implemented taking



into account the political priorities set out in the conclusions adopted by the European Council at its meeting on 24-25 June, 2021.

The MPF will also support the implementation of Talent Partnerships with 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 authorities or agencies of EU Member States as lead applicants. Public authorities of priority partner countries, 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.

#### Implementation

The action will be implemented indirectly by DG HOME provided that all co-beneficiaries are pillar assessed.

### **4.3. Contribution Agreement - Support the implementation of the EU Strategy on voluntary return and reintegration**

#### 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" 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 (to be 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 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.

## Implementation

The action will be implemented indirectly by DG HOME provided that all co-beneficiaries are pillar assessed.

#### **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) 2016/369<sup>24</sup>, 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, 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 encouraged<sup>25</sup>.

Implementation

<sup>24</sup> 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).

<sup>25</sup> 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.

The action will be implemented indirectly by DG HOME provided that all co-beneficiaries are pillar assessed.

#### 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

Emergency assistance aims to enhance solidarity by ensuring consistency and complementarity with EU humanitarian assistance, by providing urgent 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 Directive 2001/55/EC;
- 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 humanitarian crisis in third countries, and may also provide support in specific situations covered by Article 33 of the Regulation (EU) No 604/2013.

The emergency assistance 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.

##### 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).

## 5. *Actions implemented under shared management*

The global budgetary envelope reserved for shared management in the years 2021 and 2022 is EUR 573 666 000.

### 5.1. **Specific actions**<sup>26</sup>

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 actions in addition to their allocation through the national programmes.

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for specific actions in the years 2021 and 2022 is EUR 20 066 000.

Type of applicants targeted by the specific actions

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

The implementation of the specific actions will require cooperation among Member States unless it is provided in response to situations where new developments in the Union require additional funding to be made available to one or more Member States.

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 focus on specific topics including:

- Support to victims of trafficking in human beings, including early identification and prompt referral, and provision of services for non-EU victims, delivering for a victim centred, child, and gender specific approach
- Joint activities on return and admission
- Finalisation of the running projects and activities of the European Return and Reintegration Network (ERRIN)
- 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 programme.

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

Implementation

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<sup>26</sup> 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.

The action will be implemented 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. Resettlement<sup>27</sup> and humanitarian admission<sup>28</sup>

### 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. The action will be implemented taking into account the political priorities set out in the conclusions adopted by the European Council at its meeting on 24-25 June, 2021.

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 humanitarian admission:

- (a) women and children at risk;
- (b) unaccompanied minors;
- (c) persons having medical needs that can be addressed only through humanitarian admission;

<sup>27</sup> 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

<sup>28</sup> 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).

(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 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

#### 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 protection<sup>29</sup> or of beneficiaries of international protection<sup>30</sup>.

In particular:

Member States participating in the AMIF programme shall receive, in addition to the allocation received under their national programme<sup>31</sup>, an additional amount of **EUR 10 000** for each **applicant for international protection transferred from another Member State**<sup>32</sup> 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 unity<sup>33</sup> 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 programme<sup>34</sup>, 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 responsible<sup>35</sup>, 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.

<sup>29</sup> 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

<sup>30</sup> 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.

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

<sup>32</sup> In accordance with Article 17 of Regulation (EU) No 604/2013.

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

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

<sup>35</sup> In accordance with Regulation (EU) No 604/2013.

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

The action will be implemented 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 in the years 2021 and 2022 is EUR 600 000.

### 6.1. **European Migration Liaison Officers**

Indicative Amount

EUR 600 000
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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 maximize 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 relevant policy developments and provide analysis and recommendations through regular reporting. EMLOs will contribute to the operational implementation of the comprehensive approach presented in the proposal for a 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.