



# Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

## Call for proposals

Transnational actions  
on asylum, migration and integration

AMIF-2020-AG-CALL

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

### 2020 Call for Proposals

#### AMIF-2020-AG-CALL

### Transnational actions on asylum, migration and integration

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

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

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

The [2020 AMIF work programme for Union action](#) (AWP)<sup>1</sup> expects to yield the following results:

- More support to Member States under the most migratory pressure;
- More support for legal migration and the early integration of legally staying non-EU citizens;
- Countering irregular migration, increasing the effective return of those people who have no right to stay and cooperation on readmission with third countries;
- Equipping the Union with faster and more flexible means of responding to crises.

The legal bases of AMIF are the following:

- Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund<sup>2</sup> ("the AMIF Regulation");
- Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 laying down general provisions on the Asylum, Migration and Integration

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<sup>1</sup> C(2020) 4223 final

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

Fund and on the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management<sup>3</sup> ("the Horizontal Regulation").

The AMIF Regulation sets out four specific objectives:

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

## **2. TOPICS OF THIS CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

Proposals submitted under the present call for proposals must address one of the following topics:

- AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-01: Developing and implementing local integration strategies through multi-stakeholder partnerships
- AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-02: Reducing obstacles and promoting access to basic services for third-country nationals
- AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-03: Promoting the participation of migrants in the design and implementation of integration policies
- AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-04: Promoting complementary pathways for people in need of protection and their further integration
- AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-05: Address assistance, support and integration of third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings
- AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-06: Migrant children's transition to adulthood

Each project application submitted under the present call for proposals must address only one of the following topics. Applicants wishing to apply for more than one topic of the call, need to submit a separate proposal under each topic.

Where applicable the proposals should demonstrate how they will effectively build on the relevant previous or on-going EU funded projects, including but not limited to, under the Horizon 2020.

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

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

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

# **AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-01: Developing and implementing local integration strategies through multi-stakeholder partnerships**

## **Background**

Integration is a multi-sectoral issue that requires the mobilisation of many stakeholders encompassing different aspects of society. The coordination and timely intervention of these stakeholders is key for an early start of the integration process, as well as for its success. As integration takes place mostly at local level, it is particularly important to coordinate the interventions of different stakeholders through locally focused strategies and plans. The development and implementation of these strategies and of related actions should be based on a comprehensive and integrated approach. It should also encompass an effective consultation and cooperation involving third-country nationals (TCNs) wherever possible, in order to take into account their views and experiences.

In this context, the European Commission has already put in place the Urban Agenda Partnership<sup>4</sup> on the inclusion of migrants and refugees, an innovative multi-level governance platform between cities, national governments and the European Commission, as well as the Urban Academy on Integration, which promotes learning and exchanges between cities, regions and national authorities<sup>5</sup>.

Under the 2018 AMIF work programme, the European Commission has also funded eight projects promoting the swift integration of migrants through local and regional networks exchanging knowledge and best practices in all relevant areas of integration<sup>6</sup>. Moreover, other transnational AMIF projects have developed local integration strategies, including in cities, which lacked experience in this area<sup>7</sup>.

## **Objectives**

The objective of the topic is to facilitate the development and implementation of multi-stakeholder local integration strategies encompassing different aspects of the integration process. Consequently, proposals should aim at improving socio-economic inclusion and sense of belonging for migrants in local communities. Moreover, as the exchange of good practices and knowledge across the EU serves these particular objectives, proposals that include improving transnational cooperation between relevant stakeholders in the development and implementation of local integration strategies are encouraged.

## **Actions**

Local integration strategies can be developed by local authorities in urban or suburban areas, small towns or rural areas.

The scope of the local integration strategies should be defined on the basis of and taking into account the local needs, context and administrative structure of communities.

Regarding their content, the local integration strategies do not need to cover all aspects relevant to a comprehensive integration policy; however, they should provide for a relevant local integration framework to tackle pertinent integration challenges, such as housing, integration in the labour market, exchanges between newcomers and the local population, sport and culture.

The proposals should include one or more of the following actions (non-exhaustive list):

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<sup>4</sup> Partnership of the Urban Agenda for the EU on the inclusion of migrants and refugees, <https://www.inclusionpartnership.com/>

<sup>5</sup> See also COM(2016) 377, Action Plan on the integration of third-country nationals, [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/proposal-implementation-package/docs/20160607/communication\\_action\\_plan\\_integration\\_third-country\\_nationals\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/proposal-implementation-package/docs/20160607/communication_action_plan_integration_third-country_nationals_en.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Local and regional networks for the integration of third-country nationals, <https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/librarydoc/local-and-regional-networks-for-the-integration-of-third-country-nationals>. Some of the projects funded by the AMIF work programme on Union actions can be found here: [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/publications/amif-factsheet-compilation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/publications/amif-factsheet-compilation_en)

<sup>7</sup> See in particular the Integra project: <https://integra-eu.net/>

- Consultation activities for the design of the local integration strategy;
- Trainings, workshops and mutual learning activities;
- Technical assistance and peer review from members of the partnership for setting up and implementing a local integration strategy;
- Transfer of knowledge activities between members of the partnership;
- Awareness raising activities and events;
- Creation of tools or platforms to facilitate the dissemination of know-how and best practices.

Proposals may include other actions beyond those listed above; however, they should clearly demonstrate how actions would serve to achieve the objectives outlined above.

Development of the strategies and implementation of the related actions should be based on a comprehensive approach through effective consultation and cooperation with relevant stakeholders, such as local and regional authorities, national public authorities, economic and social partners, employers, social economy actors and civil society organisations, including migrant associations and local communities for the benefit of their views and experiences.

It is not required that all actions foreseen in the local integration strategy are implemented during the lifetime of the project, however, proposals should implement some of them.

### **Outcomes**

Proposals should focus on contributing to the achievement of the following outcomes:

- Established sustainable framework at local level for discussion on the development and the implementation of a local integration strategy;
- Replicable good practices and a methodology for the development and implementation of a local integration strategy that can inspire other local actors across the EU;
- Improved transnational cooperation between active stakeholders in local integration strategy;
- Improved socio-economic inclusion and a sense of community at a local level for migrants involved in the project;
- Increased exchange of experiences, information and best practices on integration at local level;
- Concrete integration projects and measures implemented at a local level as a result of the exchange of information and experiences between partners of the project.

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

- The European Commission would welcome proposals involving applicants from more Member States than the minimum number identified in the eligibility criteria.
- The European Commission would welcome proposals with broad geographical scope engaging applicants from diverse regions across the EU.
- The proposed consortium should directly involve local and regional authorities as applicants or co-applicants.
- The consortium should include relevant key partners such as local and regional authorities, national public authorities, economic and social partners, employers, social economy actors, and civil society organisations, including migrant associations and local communities.
- Proposals should devote specific attention to migrant women and children, especially of those in potentially vulnerable situations, as well as to members of religious or ethnic minorities who could face discrimination or disproportionate obstacles to societal integration.

## **AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-02: Reducing obstacles and promoting access to basic services for third-country nationals**

### **Background**

The large number of arrivals of people seeking international protection in the European Union in 2015–2016 led many EU Member States to implement new or enhanced measures for the integration of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection. In this emergency context, the integration measures in most Member States focused on ensuring that basic needs would be met in an unfamiliar country, with an emphasis on language learning and access to employment. Few Member States developed integration measures covering the full social and economic inclusion of all their residents<sup>8</sup>.

In spite of substantial progress made, many discrepancies still exist across EU Member States concerning the access to basic services for third-country nationals (TCNs). As access to these services, such as health, housing and education, is a prerequisite for TCNs integration, this subject was identified as a priority under the 2016 Action Plan on integration of third-country nationals<sup>9</sup>. In this regard, there is still a need to facilitate and provide access to basic services for TCNs, in order to encourage further integration and inclusion. These services should ideally be offered in a “mainstreaming approach” so that migrants can fully access the benefits provided by other social policies, which they would be entitled to.

The inability to communicate effectively in a host country’s language can impede access to services and achieving long-term integration. National government authorities are aware of the importance of supporting language learning, but in many countries there is a clear drop-off in support for intermediate and advanced courses. It is therefore crucial to provide adequate language learning possibilities at various levels for TCNs in order to facilitate their integration into all aspects of society, local labour markets and education systems.

Although language learning for primary and secondary school children is usually provided by their host country in order to permit children to integrate into the school system, further language training for young adults is often not provided. Language courses at various levels, including intermediate (B1-B2) and advanced (C1-C2) levels according to the Common European Framework for Languages<sup>10</sup>, would be necessary in order to allow adult TCNs, who have not been through the local school system, to access vocational and higher education programmes.

While TCNs generally have access to mainstream public employment services, availability of other services or vocational training opportunities that are tailored specifically to the needs of TCNs are not always ensured throughout the EU. Moreover, it would be useful to promote financial inclusion and literacy of TCNs in order to facilitate their access to financial services, including digital banking, mortgages, loans and investments. Access to health care and housing also requires more attention from policy-makers. To counter the lack of social housing in some countries, specific initiatives should be put into place in order to assist TCNs in finding proper and affordable accommodation.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected vulnerable communities, including TCNs across the EU<sup>11</sup>. Health care systems have been overstretched and in many cases, TCNs did not receive proper support nor relevant information in their native language.

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<sup>8</sup> See the analysis published on the European Website on Integration (EWSI) “What measures are in place to ensure the long-term integration of migrants and refugees in Europe?”, <https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/feature/what-measures-are-in-place-to-ensure-the-long-term-integration-of-migrants-and-refugees-in-europe>

<sup>9</sup> COM(2016) 377, Action Plan on the integration of third-country nationals, [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/proposal-implementation-package/docs/20160607/communication\\_action\\_plan\\_integration\\_third-country\\_nationals\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/proposal-implementation-package/docs/20160607/communication_action_plan_integration_third-country_nationals_en.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/level-descriptions>

<sup>11</sup> Analysis on Covid-19’s impact of migrant communities published in EWSI (<https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/news/covid-19s-impact-on-migrant-communities>).

Intercultural competence in health care systems is increasingly recognised as an essential element of adequate health care provision. In a majority of countries, it is possible for TCNs to obtain interpretation or cultural mediation services (including via telephone or video), but only a handful of countries make these types of services widely available.

Finally, interpreting services should be of high professional level (both linguistically and ethically) in order to provide sufficient support to TCNs in accessing health care, housing and social service sectors. Currently, interpreters and cultural mediators are not always trained by institutions specialised in interpreting training, providing internationally accepted qualification recognised by professional organisations. Sometimes interpreters do not have any training at all, are trained on the spot or follow short courses organised by NGOs. This results in an unequal quality of interpreting, which can be harmful to both the beneficiary and the provider of the public service involved. Therefore, there is a need to provide systematic and professional training to public service interpreters provided by recognised institutions, based on a framework of minimum standards.

## **Objectives**

The objective of this topic is to improve access to basic services for TCNs, by identifying and reducing obstacles to access services in one or several of the following areas:

- Health care, including mental health, psychological support, COVID-19 related information and support,
- Labour market, especially access to public employment services and to vocational training,
- Social security benefits,
- Housing,
- Financial literacy and access to financial services,
- Continuous education from primary to tertiary levels.

In particular the aim is to improve the quality and availability of information on accessing these services, the capacity of service providers to deal with TCNs, addressing language, cultural and other possible barriers in accessing these services. Consequently, proposals should include a "multi-stakeholder approach" and ensure the involvement of the relevant actors.

## **Actions**

Actions funded under this topic can focus on providing one specific basic service or on a transversal approach to accessing the basic services referred to in the previous section.

Actions can also include the organisation of trainings, conferences, webinars as well as mapping and research.

Proposals should include one or more of the following actions (non-exhaustive list):

- The development and testing of local one-stop-shops to provide information and orientation to a wide range of services, e.g. housing, health care, education, etc.;
- Mechanisms and/or structures to provide effective access to a specific service, such as health care, education, social housing, provision of training for staff in contact with TCNs, e.g. doctors, nurses, teachers, social assistants, interpreters, and administrative staff;
- Setup of cooperation amongst relevant actors relating to innovative tools and/or methods to provide mental health and psychological support to TCNs, especially victims of violence, trauma and/or torture;
- Preparation and provision of adequate language and support courses for TCNs who have the necessary qualifications to access vocational or higher education programmes;
- Support to access to housing through information mechanisms regarding available properties and mediation between TCNs and landlords to facilitate access to

housing, especially concerning private housing, which can supplement social housing if shortages occur;

- Actions relating to financial literacy of TCNs and facilitating access to financial services such as creating awareness raising campaigns, organizing trainings, simplifying procedures to open digital accounts and providing incentives for migrants to use digital mediums;
- Preparation and provisions of adequate trainings by qualified institutions for interpreters involved in supporting access to basic services for TCNs;
- Support capacity building for service providers on intercultural competences;
- Promote Public Service Interpreting standard setting, as well as training of interpreters involved in supporting access to basic services for TCNs by qualified institutions;
- Support teacher training for TCNs in order to broaden their competencies in dealing with migrant children while streamlining language learning for TCNs and enhancing teachers' competences;
- Set up language learning programmes tailored to the learners' needs in communicative competence.

Proposals may include other actions beyond those listed above; however, they should clearly demonstrate how actions would serve to achieve the objectives outlined above.

Actions can target TCNs in general or focus on specific groups, such as migrant women, children and/or specifically vulnerable migrants.

The proposed actions should employ a "multi-stakeholder approach" ensuring the involvement of relevant actors, such as public authorities (local, regional or national), economic and social partners, employers, service providers in the relevant areas, e.g. health care, housing, and financial services, civil society organisations, including migrant associations and local communities in the design and implementation of the proposed actions. Applicants should consider and clearly detail in their application how the different domains and relevant actors are to be involved.

## **Outcomes**

Proposals should focus on contributing to the achievement of the following outcomes:

- Develop approaches to facilitate access to basic services that can be adapted to local contexts;
- Mapping of obstacles to basic services for TCNs, including main obstacles preventing access to basic services;
- Improved access to comprehensive health care services for TCNs including mental health, women and children's health, taking into account cultural differences;
- Improved access to social security benefits for TCNs as well as to services facilitating labour market integration;
- Improved access to financial services for TCNs;
- Improved access to housing for TCNs by supporting them in their housing queries and helping to provide them with affordable accommodation based on their needs;
- Improved access to education for TCNs at all levels from primary to tertiary;
- Replicable methodology/projects/tools:
  - Improved access to health care services, housing, education, financial services, social welfare rights and/or labour market;
  - Improved coordination between relevant stakeholders;
- Improved transnational coordination and cooperation between the relevant stakeholders following the implementation of the projects' actions;

- Increased awareness of the obstacles faced by TCNs to access those services and the possible solutions by relevant actors across the EU.

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

- The European Commission would welcome proposals involving applicants from more Member States than the minimum number identified in the eligibility criteria.
- The European Commission would welcome proposals with broad geographical scope engaging applicants from diverse regions across the EU.
- The proposed consortium should include key actors for the achievement of the proposed objectives, such as public authorities (local, regional and/or national), economic and social partners, employers, service providers in the relevant areas, health care, housing, financial services, etc. civil society organisations, including migrant associations and local communities.
- Proposals should also ensure specific attention to migrant women and children, especially if in potentially vulnerable situations as well as to members of religious or ethnic minority who could face discrimination or other disproportionate obstacles to societal integration.

## **AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-03: Promoting the participation of migrants in the design and implementation of integration policies**

### **Background**

In recent years, the European Commission has opened a space for discussion and consultation of civil society organisations, in particular through the European Migration Forum, as part of the increasing importance of open and inclusive policy and law-making.

Building on the pilot action “European Migrant Advisory Board” (2018-19)<sup>12</sup>, the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs of the European Commission set up a European Commission expert group on the views of migrants to advise the European Commission on policies in the field of migration, asylum and integration of migrants<sup>13</sup>.

The European Commission Action Plan on the integration of third-country nationals from 2016<sup>14</sup> stresses that the involvement of third-country nationals (TCNs) in the design and implementation of integration policies is essential to improve their participation and their integration outcomes.

Indeed, increasing refugee and migrant participation in the design and implementation of integration policies is crucial for developing effective policies that are tailored to the needs of its main beneficiaries. Actively involving migrants, asylum applicants and refugees and promoting their participation in consultative and decision-making processes that concern them, can contribute to their empowerment and long-term integration into society.

It is thus clear that there is a need to support the establishment of structured and formalised ways to consult migrants regularly on policies that directly concern them. In recent years, consultative bodies of migrants at local, regional and national level have been established in several Member States; even so, important differences in the degree of direct involvement of migrants in the definition and implementation of integration policies still exist across the EU. In some Member States, migrants are involved in the design of migration, asylum and integration policies through consultative bodies at local, regional and national level, while in other Member States formal ways to consult them are still lacking. Therefore, cooperation between countries with different levels of experience can be particularly effective in this area. Furthermore, promoting the active participation of migrants in consultative and decision-making processes can contribute to their empowerment and long-term integration into society.

### **Objectives**

The objective of this topic is to promote refugee and migrant participation in the design and implementation of integration and related policies at local, regional, national and European level.

### **Actions**

Proposals should include one or more of the following actions (non-exhaustive list):

- Support the setting up of councils or consultative bodies of migrants at local, regional, national and EU level in close cooperation with public authorities;
- Develop innovative consultation mechanisms for migrants in policy areas that concern their inclusion and participation in host societies, e.g. education, health care, employment, housing;

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<sup>12</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/inclusion-migrants-and-refugees/european-migrant-advisory-board-emab>

<sup>13</sup> EC press release 22 July 2020, Integration of migrants: Commission launches a public consultation and call for an expert group on the views of migrants, [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1364](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1364)

<sup>14</sup> COM(2016) 377, Action Plan on the integration of third-country nationals, [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/proposal-implementation-package/docs/20160607/communication\\_action\\_plan\\_integration\\_third-country\\_nationals\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-migration/proposal-implementation-package/docs/20160607/communication_action_plan_integration_third-country_nationals_en.pdf)

- Promote the exchange of experiences between local, regional and/or national public authorities about the involvement of migrants in the design of integration policies and their implementation;
- Enhance capacity building for public authorities at local, regional or national level for efficiently consulting and involving migrants in the design and implementation of policy areas that directly affect them.

Proposals may include other actions beyond those listed above; however, they should clearly demonstrate how actions would serve to achieve the objective outlined above.

### **Outcomes**

Proposals should focus on contributing to the achievement of the following outcomes:

- Increased participation of migrants in decision-making processes at local, regional, national and European level in the field of integration or in policy areas that are particularly relevant for integration, e.g. education, health care, employment, housing;
- Increased involvement of migrants in the implementation of policies in the field of integration or in policy areas that are particularly relevant for integration, e.g. education, health care, employment, housing, etc. at the local, regional and/or national level;
- Increased capacity of local, regional and/or national authorities to effectively consult migrants on policies that directly affect them.

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

- The European Commission would welcome proposals with broad geographical scope engaging applicants from diverse regions across the EU.
- The proposed consortium should include key actors for the achievement of the proposed objectives, namely refugee and migrant organisations as well as local, regional and/or national public authorities.
- Proposals should ensure specific attention to migrant women and children, especially if in potentially vulnerable situations, as well as to members of religious or ethnic minorities who could face discrimination or disproportionate obstacles to societal integration.

## **AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-04: Promoting complementary pathways for people in need of protection and their further integration**

### **Background**

The UNHCR estimates that 1.44 million refugees worldwide will be in need of resettlement in 2021. Resettlement places are crucial for vulnerable refugees. The European Commission along with many governments and international organisations recognise the need to increase their resettlement numbers both at the EU level and globally. Nevertheless, current resettlement numbers remain limited worldwide. Only 57 500 places were available in 2020 worldwide, of which almost 30 000 were pledged by EU Member States. Considering the increasing need for durable solutions, it is essential to provide, in addition to resettlement, safe and legal pathways to the EU for people in need of protection.

At the international level, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted at the General Assembly of the United Nations on 19 September 2016, and the Global Compact for Refugees, adopted in December 2018, called for expanding legal pathways for refugees so that they can become systemic and globally available. The UNHCR Three-Year Strategy (2019-2021) on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways has set ambitious goals to develop complementary pathways in addition to resettlement.

Complementary pathways cover a wide range of programmes that all aim to provide safe and legal admission and lawful stay in any EU Member State for people in need of international protection, taking into account their specific needs and in some cases their skills and competences.

Complementary pathways can be implemented through making existing legal migration channels more accessible to people in need of protection by building on their motivations and talents. They can help families to reunite with their close family members and facilitate labour mobility and student admissions to universities in the EU for people in need of protection.

To develop complementary pathways, NGOs, the private sector and international organisations need to cooperate closely with national authorities of the Member States to make existing legal migration channels more accessible to people in need of international protection. They are also called upon to develop new, innovative humanitarian admission programmes that create additional places for vulnerable refugees.

Swift integration of newcomers into host societies is essential to make complementary pathways a success for all. All relevant stakeholders must work together to achieve this objective. In that respect, community sponsorship models are particularly valuable.

### **Objectives**

The objective of the topic is to lead to the creation of new places for legal admission and an effective integration of people in need of international protection by designing and implementing complementary pathway programmes which would:

- Facilitate their enrolment in European universities;
- Facilitate access to work-related residence permits for individuals with relevant skills for the EU labour market;
- Enable legal and safe family reunification for the beneficiaries of international protection residing in the EU by providing assistance and support;
- Promote new initiatives or improve existing ones led by locally-established actors in the receiving country, e.g. civil society organisations, diaspora communities, local authorities, etc. carried out in cooperation with relevant authorities to establish community sponsorship programmes for the purpose of humanitarian admission and other complementary pathways.

The Commission would particularly welcome proposals that design and implement *new* programmes. Proposals that significantly expand the scope and number of places available

under already existing programmes and building on the lessons learned of the initial programme will also be welcome.

## **Actions**

Proposals should include one or more of the following actions (non-exhaustive list):

- Activities to address the barriers to legal pathways for people in need of international protection
- The development of programmes for the admission and subsequent integration of people in need of international protection in the Member States, including through tailor-made pre-departure and post-arrival measures;
- Activities to mobilise local support and build strong partnerships between key stakeholders, such as national and local authorities, local communities, employers, unions, higher education institutions, students, diasporas and other private sponsors.

Taking into account the transnational aspect of the topic, actions should also foster joint activities between partners in different Member States, such as:

- Activities to enable peer to peer learning between Member States building on the knowledge of experienced Member States using online activities to limit costs,
- Activities to develop or adapt common tools and guidebooks taking into consideration existing material;
- Activities to foster joint actions in the country of first asylum where people in need of international protection are identified to benefit from the programme, such as joint outreach activities and common information sessions about legal pathways opportunities;
- Activities to develop a transnational European network of practitioners.

To ensure the feasibility of their proposals, applicants should consult relevant national authorities at the proposal preparation stage and report on the results of this consultation process accordingly in their proposals.

Proposals are recommended to involve people in need of international protection in the design, implementation and evaluation of the programme.

## **Outcomes**

Proposals should focus on contributing to the achievement of the following outcomes:

- Higher number of people in need of international protection benefiting from a complementary pathway to the EU and benefiting from pre-departure assistance and post-arrival integration measures;
- Strengthened support at the local and national level for the development of complementary pathways, particularly through building effective partnerships between relevant stakeholders;
- Enhanced dissemination and exchange of experiences, knowledge and practices on complementary pathway programmes across the EU, through the creation of networks where feasible.

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

- The European Commission would welcome proposals involving applicants from more Member States than the minimum number identified in the eligibility criteria.
- The European Commission would welcome proposals with broad geographical scope engaging applicants from diverse regions across the EU.
- The proposed consortium should include relevant key partners for the achievement of the proposed objectives such as academic institutions, the private sector, civil

society organisations, economic and social partners, international organisations and diaspora communities.

- Proposals should describe how they started to engage with relevant public authorities in the Member States concerned in order to gain their support for planned actions. The direct involvement of relevant Member States' authorities concerned as applicants or co-applicants would be particularly favoured.
- Proposals should ensure specific attention to women in need of international protection, especially those in potentially vulnerable situations.

## **AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-05: Address assistance, support and integration of third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings**

### **Background**

One of the priorities under the 2017 Communication "Reporting on the follow-up to the EU Strategy towards the eradication of trafficking in human beings and identifying further concrete actions"<sup>15</sup> ("2017 Communication") is to provide better access to and realise the rights of the victims of trafficking in human beings. Ensuring that funding matches anti-trafficking policy is a cross-cutting priority, taking particular account of the gender dimension of the phenomenon, high-risk groups, as well as high-risk sectors.

Victims of trafficking in human beings are found in asylum application systems and organised criminal groups abuse asylum procedures, notably "to legalise both theirs and their victims' status"<sup>16</sup>. In this respect, Europol has warned that "OCGs involved in trafficking in human beings also continue to exploit asylum provisions in order to traffic non-EU nationals into the EU. In many occasions, victims are provided with fraudulent documents to conceal their real identity and age". EU Member States and other sources reported concerns on criminal networks involved in trafficking in human beings taking advantage of the irregular migration routes. Trafficking in human beings in the context of migration needs to take into account the disproportionate targeting of women and girls trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Efforts should continue to ensure that all victims of trafficking in human beings are identified and provided with assistance and protection appropriate to their gender, age and the form of exploitation they are subjected to.

Proposals under this topic should take into account and explain their relevance in relation to the outcomes of relevant findings in documents published in connection with the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of trafficking in human beings 2012-2016 and the 2017 Commission Communication<sup>17</sup>. Other documents relevant in that context should also be considered, such as reports published by the EU agencies, in particular those addressing trafficking for sexual exploitation, as well as the high-risk groups and sectors concerned<sup>18</sup>. These reports include Frontex Risk Analysis 2018<sup>19</sup>, Europol 2018 report on child trafficking<sup>20</sup>, Fundamental Rights Agency 2019 guide to enhance child protection focusing

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<sup>15</sup> COM(2017)728; [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/20171204\\_communication\\_reporting\\_on\\_follow-up\\_to\\_the\\_eu\\_strategy\\_towards\\_the\\_eradication\\_of\\_trafficking\\_in\\_human\\_beings.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/20171204_communication_reporting_on_follow-up_to_the_eu_strategy_towards_the_eradication_of_trafficking_in_human_beings.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-documents/emsc-4th-annual-activity-report---2019>

<sup>17</sup> In particular, project proposals should take into account: Study on Comprehensive Policy Review of anti-trafficking projects funded by the European Commission (2016), available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/antitrafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/study\\_on\\_comprehensive\\_policy\\_review.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/antitrafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/study_on_comprehensive_policy_review.pdf); Study on High risk groups for trafficking in human beings (2015), available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-policy/study-high-riskgroups-trafficking-human-beings\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-policy/study-high-riskgroups-trafficking-human-beings_en); Study on gender dimension of trafficking in human beings (2016), available at: [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-policy/study-gender-dimension-trafficking-human-beings\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-policy/study-gender-dimension-trafficking-human-beings_en); EU Anti-trafficking Action 2012-2016 at a glance, [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eu\\_anti-trafficking\\_action\\_20122016\\_at\\_a\\_glance.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eu_anti-trafficking_action_20122016_at_a_glance.pdf) and EU Anti-trafficking action 2017-2019 at a glance, [https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eu\\_anti-trafficking\\_action\\_2017-2019\\_at\\_a\\_glance.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eu_anti-trafficking_action_2017-2019_at_a_glance.pdf); COM(2018) 777 final and SWD(2018) 473 final, [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20181204\\_com-2018-777-report\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agenda-security/20181204_com-2018-777-report_en.pdf) and Study on Data collection on trafficking in human beings in the European Union (2018) [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agendasecurity/20181204\\_data-collection-study.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/sites/homeaffairs/files/what-we-do/policies/european-agendasecurity/20181204_data-collection-study.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> See, for instance, EASO (2019) Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the European Union 2018 at <https://www.easo.europa.eu/easo-annual-report-2018>; EASO (2020) Annual Report on the Situation of Asylum in the European Union 2019, <https://easo.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EASO-Asylum-Report-2020.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> [https://frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/Risk\\_Analysis/Risk\\_Analysis/Risk\\_Analysis\\_for\\_2018.pdf](https://frontex.europa.eu/assets/Publications/Risk_Analysis/Risk_Analysis/Risk_Analysis_for_2018.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-documents/criminal-networks-involved-in-trafficking-and-exploitation-of-underage-victims-in-eu>

on victims of trafficking<sup>21</sup>, European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) 2018 report on Gender-specific measures in anti-trafficking actions<sup>22</sup>.

The outcomes and findings of the upcoming European Commission Third progress report, the results of the latest EU-wide data collection, as well as the Study on Reviewing the Functioning of National and Transnational Referral Mechanisms, which is one of the key actions of the 2017 Communication (all expected to be published in last quarter of 2020) are also relevant for the objectives of this topic.

COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges affecting disproportionately the most vulnerable. The crisis has exacerbated people's vulnerability to trafficking in human beings, including women and children<sup>23</sup>.

## **Objectives**

Under the EU legal and policy framework addressing trafficking in human beings, this topic aims at strengthening the actions of relevant stakeholders in the context of the implementation of the EU Anti-trafficking Directive<sup>24</sup>.

Consequently, the topic aims to contribute to the enhanced integration of the third-country nationals (TCN) victims of trafficking in human beings and to the objectives of the 2017 Communication and particularly to the following ones:

- Facilitating the early identification of third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings, including in the context of asylum procedures;
- Providing appropriate assistance and support to victims of trafficking in human beings considering their specific needs based on their personal circumstances and such as their age and sex, and the physical and psychological consequences of the form/s of exploitation they have been subjected to;
- Facilitating durable solutions for the integration of third-country national victims of trafficking, including children, in the host society, that take into account the individual needs of the victims and prevent re-trafficking;
- Facilitating durable solutions for the safe and sustainable voluntary return of third-country national victims of trafficking that build upon appropriate risk assessments and prevent their re-trafficking.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the proposals should duly take into account the impact of the pandemic on the integration of TCN victims of trafficking in human beings, including in relation to their early identification, assistance and support, especially in relation to the special needs of the victims.

The main objective of this topic does not include undertaking research as a key action.

## **Actions**

Actions are expected to be justified in relation to the integration of TCN victims of trafficking in human beings.

- Concrete transnational assistance and support measures, including with respect to health and psychological support, to victims of trafficking in human beings, taking into account their personal circumstances such as whether they are pregnant, their health status, their sex, age or a disability that they may have, as well as the physical or psychological consequences of the form of exploitation they have been subjected to (e.g. pregnancy, psychological trauma, physical injuries), while aiming at enabling and facilitating their integration in the host society.

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<sup>21</sup> [https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/fra-2019-children-deprived-of-parental-care\\_en.pdf](https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2019-children-deprived-of-parental-care_en.pdf)

<sup>22</sup> <https://eige.europa.eu/publications/gender-specific-measures-anti-trafficking-actions-report>

<sup>23</sup> See notably Europol 2020, Beyond the pandemic- How Covid 19 will shape the serious and organized crime landscape in the EU

<sup>24</sup> Art. 11, 13 and 14 of Directive 2011/36/EU.

- As part of the abovementioned transnational assistance and support measures, actions can include more specific measures directed for the benefit of TCN victims of trafficking, including, amongst others: education, language training, vocational training, apprenticeship programmes; job placement services, skills enhancement, workplace training and mentoring, and entrepreneurship training.
- Initiatives for setting up and improving transnational cooperation by facilitating exchanges of experiences and best practices among relevant actors, such as law enforcement, judiciary, immigration and asylum authorities, civil society organisations and other services, or international organisations for:
  - The early identification, assistance, support of thirdcountry national victims of trafficking in human beings, for their integration, and within the context of their safe and assisted voluntary return when relevant;
  - Facilitating and implementing durable solutions for child victims.
- Sharing and exchanging experiences, information, knowledge and best practices on integration of TCN victims of trafficking in human beings and disseminate the results.

Taking into account the challenges in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on the assistance, support and integration of TCN victims of trafficking in human beings, actions can include initiatives via online or other technological means, to the extent that they contribute to the objectives of the call.

- Proposals should clearly focus on TCNs who are victims of trafficking in human beings<sup>25</sup>.
- Proposals should demonstrate how a comprehensive, victim-centred approach will be adopted, concretely presenting the foreseen gender-specific and child-sensitive elements of the implementation at all stages (from project design in line with the EU legal and policy framework via the different project activities and in the final outcome and/or impact as relevant).
- Proposals should demonstrate a sound methodology and practical implementation measures.
- Activities such as background research and the mapping of existing materials should be very minor components of the proposals and where they are included a solid justification is needed, unless clearly indicated otherwise.

As this topic does not aim to enhance the capacity to collect, analyse and disseminate detailed data and statistics, the scope of data collection should be limited to the sole purpose of justifying the need for the foreseen actions and presenting the expected impact of the project.

Any training and/or practical tools should have as an overarching objective to make the system work better to improve positive impact on the lives of the victims.

Whenever relevant, proposals can include the creation of links with victims' countries of origin, with a view for example to facilitate durable solutions for the safe and sustainable voluntary return of TCN victims of trafficking and prevent their re-trafficking.

## **Outcomes**

Proposals should focus on contributing to the achievement of the following outcomes:

- Improved identification, situation and integration of TCN victims of trafficking in human beings in those contexts, e.g. cities/regions/rural areas, and high-risk sectors, such as agriculture and hospitality, addressed by the proposal;
- Improved transnational cooperation between local and regional authorities and civil society for the identification, integration, as well as voluntary and safe return of

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<sup>25</sup> In accordance with Articles 11, 13 and 14 of the EU Anti-trafficking Directive

third-country national victims of trafficking and for finding durable solutions for child victims;

- Developing practical approaches, tools and guidelines, by building on results of past projects when relevant and appropriate.

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

This topic aims to fund targeted, practical projects ensuring maximum tangible and demonstrable benefits and impacts, including aiming at achieving concrete and direct impact and benefits on the lives of the victims, in cooperation with relevant authorities and civil society and other actors.

Proposals are expected to take into account the results of previously EU funded projects in relation to trafficking in human beings, such as those for which information is available:

- Study on Comprehensive policy review of EU funded anti-trafficking projects;
- Past and ongoing projects' descriptions can be found on [EC anti-trafficking website](#).

Where relevant proposals should ensure synergies and complementarities with other programmes implemented in countries of origin and transit in a view to avoiding duplication.

## AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-06: Migrant children's transition to adulthood

### Background

Children constitute a large share of the migrants arriving to Europe: in 2019, from 123,700 migrants who arrived to the EU via the Mediterranean routes, 27% were children, often unaccompanied by family or adults responsible for them. 7.1% of children applying for asylum in the EU-27 in 2019 were unaccompanied, standing for 14,100 asylum applications. The majority of unaccompanied children were boys (85%), and two-thirds were aged 16 to 17 (9200 people)<sup>26</sup> about to reach the age of maturity. It is indeed a common feature across the EU that the majority of the unaccompanied children registered as present on their territories are close to reaching the age of 18.

When an asylum applicant, refugee or migrant child reaches the age of 18, several legal protection measures and guarantees offered up until then cease to be available. Very frequently, unaccompanied children who turn 18 must immediately leave the specialised care facility, where they were accommodated as children. They immediately face difficulty in securing proper accommodation, if public support or third-party guarantees are not available for contracting on the real estate market. At the same time, young adults abruptly lose the benefit of guidance and support from their representative or guardian, whose legal mandate is then discontinued. In some jurisdictions, migrant children who have not obtained international or subsidiary protection or a humanitarian permit may have a difficulty to regularize their stay after turning 18. This may in turn impede any continued education or training, and respectively, their access to the labour market.

A 2014 study commissioned by the Council of Europe and the UNHCR<sup>27</sup> identified several specific areas where transition to adulthood requires support, including psychological impact, specific guarantees in the asylum procedure, family reunification, access to education and vocational training, access to accommodation, health care and information.

The 2017 *Communication on the protection of children in migration* identified serious gaps in the protection offered to migrant children in various areas and set out recommendations on how to address those. The Commission highlighted that migrant children need continued support to facilitate their transition into adulthood – support that should be initiated prior to reaching maturity and continue after turning 18 years old. The 2017 Communication maintains its relevance and importance, particularly in light of the forthcoming Pact on Migration and Asylum and the ongoing reform of the Common European Asylum System.

Applicants are invited to take note of the following publications and further bibliography therein referenced:

- European Commission (2017): [Communication on the protection of children in migration](#), COM(2017) 211 final.
- 18<sup>th</sup> European Week of Cities and Regions, 9 October 2019: [Local strategies to support transition to adulthood](#).
- Council of Europe and the European Commission (2017): "[Young Refugees' Transition to Adulthood Literature Review and Policy Brief](#)".
- UNHCR and Council of Europe (2014): [Unaccompanied and separated asylum-seeking and refugee children turning eighteen: what to celebrate?](#)
- Fundamental Rights Agency (2019): [Integration of young refugees in the EU: good practices and challenges](#).

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<sup>26</sup> See Eurostat data on asylum applications from unaccompanied minors in 2019, <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/2995521/10774034/3-28042020-AP-EN.pdf/03c694ba-9a9b-1a50-c9f4-29db665221a8>.

<sup>27</sup> UNHCR and Council of Europe (2014): [Unaccompanied and separated asylum-seeking and refugee children turning eighteen: what to celebrate?](#)

- Parliamentary Assembly, Council of Europe, Committee on Migration, Refugees and Displaced Persons. (2014): "Migrant Children: What Rights at 18?"
- Voices of Young Refugees in Europe (2016): ["The issue of transition of unaccompanied minor refugees to adulthood should be addressed, Recommendations by young refugees"](#).

## Objectives

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 organisation, private organisations and citizens (non-exhaustive list) - providing support to unaccompanied migrant children during their transition to adulthood.

This topic is not aimed at capacity-building for institutionalised care systems, or research on transition to adulthood and forms of supporting it.

## Actions

Proposals should include actions aimed at increasing the exchange amongst relevant actors of good practices, and enhancing knowledge across the EU on supporting the transition of unaccompanied migrant children to adulthood, in particular:

- Conferences, workshops, seminars, thematic meetings, study visits,
- Exchange programs,
- Developing training modules that can be further shared for other similar actions in the future, including outside the scope of the financed program,
- Providing training developed under the program or in other contexts to the chosen beneficiaries of the program – public and/or private actors who provide support to unaccompanied minors to ease their transition towards adulthood.

The list above is not exhaustive or cumulative, and proposals may include other actions beyond those listed above. Proposal should clearly lay down how the actions will serve to increase the exchange of good practices and to enhance the knowledge across the EU on supporting the transition of unaccompanied migrant children to adulthood.

Good practices, trainings<sup>28</sup>/and any other relevant activities for supporting the transition of unaccompanied migrant children to adulthood referred under this topic should relate to one or several areas where transition to adulthood requires support, such as for example psychological impact, specific guarantees in the asylum procedure, family reunification, access to information, access to education and/or vocational training, access to accommodation and health care.

Proposals should ensure that the public actors who are relevant for the proposed actions are consulted on the design and implementation of the proposed actions, as to ensure that they will derive the maximum benefit of the actions therein proposed. These actors are in particular child protection agencies, ministries/authorities for children or social affairs; social protection; children's ombudspersons; social services responsible for: housing, labour market integration, higher education and vocational training; health and mental health; counselling and psychosocial support; caregivers' associations, civil society organisations; academia, etc.

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<sup>28</sup> See for example Integration of young refugees in the EU: good practices and challenges: [https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra\\_uploads/fra-2019-integration-young-refugees\\_en.pdf](https://fra.europa.eu/sites/default/files/fra_uploads/fra-2019-integration-young-refugees_en.pdf)

## **Outcomes**

Proposals should focus on contributing to the achievement of the following outcomes:

- Increased exchange of good practices and 'know-how' for supporting the transition of unaccompanied migrant children to adulthood;
- Reinforced offer of trainings, exchange programs, study visits and other relevant activities on supporting the transition of unaccompanied migrant children to adulthood to the benefit of the relevant public and private actors.

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

Proposals should demonstrate adequate design of the monitoring and evaluation component in the project implementation phase. Proposals should present methodologies and metrics that are appropriate for measuring progress of the actions, which should involve quantitative and qualitative indicators.

For the benefit of design, implementation and dissemination of the results the project, proposals are recommended to include in the consortium relevant partners from the national, regional and local levels.

Proposals should build upon the results of previously funded projects where relevant, such as in particular:

- The Daphne Toolkit,
- Commission grants managed by Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers by and in particular for projects on the rights of the child.

### 3. TIMETABLE

	Stages	Date and time or indicative period
a)	Publication of the call	15 October 2020
b)	Deadline for submitting applications	16 February 2021 – 17:00 (Brussels Time)
c)	Info sessions for potential applicants (webcast)	26 November 2020
d)	Evaluation period	March – June 2021
e)	Information to applicants	July 2021
f)	Signature of grant agreement	October – November 2021
g)	Provisional starting date of the action	December 2021 – January 2022
h)	Kick-off meeting in Brussels – project coordinators <sup>29</sup>	January - February 2022

### 4. BUDGET AVAILABLE

The total budget earmarked for the co-financing of projects under this call for proposals is estimated at EUR 32 700 000, which is provisionally allocated as follows:

AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-01:	7 500 000
AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-02:	6 000 000
AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-03:	6 000 000
AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-04:	10 000 000
AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-05:	2 000 000
AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-06:	1 200 000

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

### 5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

#### 5.1. General provisions (admissibility)

Applications must be:

- Sent no later than the deadline for submitting applications referred to in section 3;
- Submitted using the Electronic Submission System of the Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal<sup>30</sup>;

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<sup>29</sup> Depending on the evolution COVID-19 restrictions

<sup>30</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/>

- Submitted using the standard Submission Form Part A and Part B of the respective call for proposals. The template for Part B shall not be customised, i.e. keep all its foreseen sections (even if not relevant for your proposal), and without deleting instructions or changing the font. They must include all the mandatory information and be accompanied (if applicable<sup>31</sup>) by the audit report annexes;
- Drafted in one of the EU official languages. English is preferred in order to speed up the evaluation procedure.

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

## **5.2. Eligibility criteria**

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

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

#### a) Legal Status

The following entities can apply as lead applicants:

- Public bodies for all topics of this call for proposals,
- Non-profit-making private entities for all topics of this call for proposals,
- Profit making entities for topic AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-04 and 06,
- International organisations<sup>32</sup> for topic AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-04 and 06.

The following entities can apply as co-applicants:

- Public bodies for all topics of this call for proposals,
- Non-profit-making private entities for all topics of this call for proposals,
- Profit making entities for topics AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-01, 02, 04 and 06
- International organisations<sup>33</sup> for topics AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-04 and 06.

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

- Union Agencies,
- Natural persons.

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

#### b) Country of establishment

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

- The Member States of the European Union with the exception of Denmark ("Member States participating in AMIF").

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

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<sup>31</sup> See section 7.1.

<sup>32</sup> The term "international organisations" is used in this call for proposals as defined in Article 156 of the FR (Euratom 2018/1046);

(a) international public-sector organisations set up by intergovernmental agreements, and specialised agencies set up by such organisations;

(b) the International Committee of the Red Cross;

(c) the International Federation of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies;

(d) other non-profit organisations assimilated to international organisations by a Commission decision.

<sup>33</sup> See footnote 32

For UK applicants: Please be aware that following the entry into force of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement<sup>34</sup> on 1 February 2020 and in particular Articles 127(6), 137 and 138, the references to natural or legal persons residing or established in a Member State of the European Union are to be understood as including natural or legal persons residing or established in the United Kingdom. UK entities are therefore eligible to participate under this call.

### 5.2.2. Eligibility of the application

In order to be eligible, applications:

- a) Must be transnational, i.e. involve at least five eligible entities established in five different Member States (for topic AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-01 and 02), at least two eligible entities established in two different Member States (for topic AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-05) and at least three eligible entities established in three different Member States (for topic AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-03, 04 and 06) participating in the AMIF programme;
- b) Must request an EU contribution between EUR 750 000 and 1 500 000 for topics AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-01 and 02, between EUR 400 000 and 750 000 for topics AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-03, between EUR 700 000 and 2 000 000 for topic AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-04 and between EUR 300 000 and 600 000 for topics AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-05 and 06. Applications seeking lower or higher EU contributions will be rejected;
- c) Must have an implementation period of maximum 36 months for AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-01, 02, and 04 and 24 months for AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-03, 05 and 06. Applications for projects scheduled to run for a longer period will be rejected.<sup>35</sup> Activities must not have started prior to the date of submission of the grant application.

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

	AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-01	AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-02	AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-03	AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-04	AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-05	AMIF-2020-AG-CALL-06
<b>Maximum duration of project</b>						
Months	36	36	24	36	24	24
<b>Minimum number of</b>						
Entities	5	5	3	3	2	3
Member States participating in AMIF	5	5	3	3	2	3
<b>Participation of non-profit private organisations as</b>						
Lead applicants / coordinators	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
As co-applicants	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>International Organisations can participate as</b>						
Lead applicants / coordinators	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Co-applicants	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Participation of for-profit</b>						

<sup>34</sup> Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community.

<sup>35</sup> The project duration may be extended during its implementation for duly justified reasons subject to the Commission's approval via an amendment to the grant agreement.

<b>organisations as</b>						
Lead applicants / coordinators	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Co-applicants	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Requested Grant amount</b>						
Minimum (EUR)	750 000	750 000	400 000	700 000	300 000	300 000
Maximum (EUR)	1 500 000	1 500 000	750 000	2 000 000	600 000	600 000

### 5.3. Eligible activities

To be eligible, proposed activities must be compatible with the types of Union actions activities eligible for funding according to Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund<sup>36</sup>.

Projects applicants could involve volunteers from the European solidarity Corps (ESC) in their projects. In this case, project beneficiaries should make sure they include insurance for volunteers of the ESC in their project proposal. For more information, please check the ESC web page and related information such as the ESC legal basis and factsheets in the Europa Web Site<sup>37</sup>.

## 6. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

Applicants will be excluded from participating in the call for proposals procedure and from the grant award if they are in any of the exclusion situations referred to in article 136(1) of the EU Financial Regulation<sup>38</sup>, i.e. one of the following situations:

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

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

<sup>36</sup> OJ L 150, 20/5/2014, p. 168.

<sup>37</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/european-solidarity-corps-legal-texts-and-factsheets\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/publications/european-solidarity-corps-legal-texts-and-factsheets_en)

<sup>38</sup> Regulation (EU, EURATOM) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ 2018 L193, p. 1).

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

- (iv) information transmitted by Member States implementing Union funds;
- (v) decisions of the Commission relating to the infringement of Union competition law or of a national competent authority relating to the infringement of Union or national competition law; or
- (vi) decisions of exclusion by an authorising officer of an EU institution, of a European office or of an EU agency or body.

## 6.2. Exclusion from award

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

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

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

## 7. SELECTION CRITERIA

### 7.1. Financial capacity

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

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

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

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

- Request further documents;
- Request budget modifications / reallocations of costs;
- Introduce interim payments based on interim reports;
- Modify pre-financing percentage.

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

- Request a change of co-applicant;
- Reject the application.

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

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

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

## 7.2. Operational capacity

Applicants and co-applicants must have the professional competencies as well as appropriate qualifications necessary to complete the proposed action. The purpose of the verification is to assess whether applicants and co-applicants possess the resources they require to implement the action.

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

- General profiles (qualifications and experiences) of the staff primarily responsible for managing and implementing the proposed action, to be provided under point 5.1.4,
- A description of the partnership in the context of the proposed action, to be provided under point 5.1.1.

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

## 8. AWARD CRITERIA

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

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

### **Evaluation Step 1:**

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

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

### **Evaluation Step 2:**

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

- European added value: the project activities, outcomes and impact should have a broad EU relevance; applications will be assessed on whether a suitable number of countries is involved in the project activities and on whether the expected impact will concern a significant number of countries (20 points);
- Expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact: the expected results are appropriate for the achievement of the objectives of the action; the dissemination strategy is clear, targeted and appropriate; the project is sustainable; the project's results ensure a long-term impact on the target groups and/or general public (10 points).

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

## **9. LEGAL COMMITMENTS**

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

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

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

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

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

## **10. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

### **10.1. General Principles**

#### a) Non-cumulative award

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

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

#### b) Non-retroactivity

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

#### c) Co-financing

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

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

- The Beneficiary's own resources,
- Income generated by the action,

- Financial contributions from third parties.

d) Balanced budget

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

Beneficiaries with general accounts in a currency other than the euro shall convert costs incurred in another currency into euro at the average of the daily exchange rates published in the C series of the Official Journal of the European Union, determined over the corresponding reporting period.<sup>39</sup> Where no daily euro exchange rate is published in the Official Journal of the European Union for the currency in question, conversion shall be made at the average of the monthly accounting rates established by the Commission and published on its [website](#), determined over the corresponding reporting period.

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

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

e) Financial support to third parties

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

f) Non-profit rule

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

g) Purchase of equipment

The costs for the equipment envisaged to be purchased shall only cover the project duration depreciation costs. The latter shall be written off in accordance with international accounting standards and the beneficiary's usual accounting practices.

## **10.2. Maximum amount requested**

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

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

## **10.3. Payment arrangements**

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

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

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<sup>39</sup> For further guidance on exchange rate please consult the Guide for Applicants.

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

### **11.1. How to apply**

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

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

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

No modification of the application is allowed once the deadline for submission has elapsed. However, if there is a need, the evaluation committee on behalf of the authorising officer may correct obvious clerical errors in application documents upon confirmation of the intended correction by the applicant<sup>40</sup>.

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

### **11.2. Related documents**

The following documents are available via the Electronic Submission System:

- Application form (Submission Form Part A and Part B),
- Required annex – Audit Report, if applicable<sup>41</sup>,
- Model Grant Agreement,
- Guide for Applicants.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **11.5. Contacts**

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

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

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<sup>40</sup> Article 151 of the Financial Regulation

<sup>41</sup> See section 7.1.

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

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

## **12. PUBLICITY**

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

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

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

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

- Name and address of the beneficiary,
- Subject of the grant,
- Amount awarded.

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

## **13. DATA PROTECTION**

The reply to any call for proposals involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CV). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any personal data requested that are required to evaluate the application in accordance with the call for proposal will be processed solely for that purpose by Commission or third parties acting on behalf and under the responsibility of the Commission.

Personal data may be registered in the Early Detection and Exclusion System by the Commission, should the beneficiary be in one of the situations mentioned in Articles 136 and 141 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046<sup>42</sup>. For more information see the Privacy Statement on:

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

## **14. MEANS OF REDRESS**

If, at any stage of the administrative treatment of grant applications, the persons or entities concerned consider that they have been affected by an instance of

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<sup>42</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32018R1046>

maladministration, they may, irrespective of any other means of redress, make a complaint to the European Ombudsman in accordance with Article 228(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and as provided by the Parliament Decision of 9 March 1994 on the regulations and general conditions governing the performance of the Ombudsman's duties published in Official Journal L 113 of 4 May 1994.