



# Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

## Call for proposals

Transnational actions  
on asylum, migration and integration

AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL

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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
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## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

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## Introduction

This is a call for proposals for EU **action grants** in the field of migration and integration under the **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)**.

The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in:

- Regulation 2018/1046 ([EU Financial Regulation](#))
- the basic act AMIF Regulation 2021/1147<sup>1</sup>

The call is launched in accordance with the 2023-2025 Work Programme<sup>2</sup> and will be managed by the **European Commission, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME)**.

The call covers the following **topics**:

- AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL-01 - Promoting community sponsorship schemes and integration of persons in need of protection
- AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL-02 - Integration and inclusion at regional and local level
- AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL-03 - Support to integration in education of migrant children and young adults
- AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL-04 - Multi-stakeholder initiatives for migrant integration into the labour market
- AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL-05 - Promoting complementary pathways linked to education and/or work
- AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL-06 - Transnational actions to support Member States in the field of protection of children in migration

We invite you to read the **call documentation** carefully, and in particular this Call Document, the Model Grant Agreement, the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual](#) and the [EU Grants AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

- the [Call Document](#) outlines the:
  - background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected results and impact (sections 1 and 2)
  - timetable and available budget (sections 3 and 4)
  - admissibility and eligibility conditions (including mandatory documents; sections 5 and 6)
  - criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (section 7)
  - evaluation and award procedure (section 8)

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (*OJ L 251*)

<sup>2</sup> Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 8340 final of 23.11.2022 on the financing of components of the Thematic Facility under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and adoption of the Work Programme for 2023, 2024 and 2025

- award criteria (section 9)
- legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements (section 10)
- the Online Manual outlines the:
  - procedures to register and submit proposals online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal')
  - recommendations for the preparation of the application
- the AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement contains:
  - detailed annotations on all the provisions in the Grant Agreement you will have to sign in order to obtain the grant (*including cost eligibility, payment schedule, accessory obligations, etc*).

## 1. Background

Ensuring effective integration and inclusion of third-country nationals is a necessary social and economic investment in the EU. It makes European societies more cohesive, resilient and prosperous. Integration and inclusion can and should be a win-win process, benefiting the entire society. In the Action plan on integration and inclusion 2021-2027<sup>3</sup> (the Action plan), the European Commission has set out strategic guidance and more than sixty concrete actions to promote integration and inclusion of third-country nationals and EU citizens with a migrant background. The Action plan covers all the different stages and phases of the integration process: pre-departure measures, reception and early integration, medium- and long-term integration, which, all together, help build inclusive and cohesive societies.

For the purpose of this call for proposals, "migrants" should be understood as third-country nationals, including beneficiaries of international and temporary protection and applicants for international protection.

This call for proposals includes some of the actions that are needed to achieve the objectives in the sectoral and horizontal areas of the Action plan on integration and inclusion.

In line with the goals of the Action plan and the European Commission Recommendation (EU) 2020/1364 of 23 September 2020 on legal pathways to protection in the EU, i.e., promoting resettlement, humanitarian admission and other complementary pathways, the call for proposals also looks at ways to promote community sponsorship schemes and complementary pathways.

The European Commission strives to make best use of its allocated budget and promotes building synergies between numerous transnational actions, which have already funded in the past under the AMIF 2014-2020<sup>4</sup> as well as the DG JUST programmes REC 2014-2020<sup>5</sup> and those to be implemented in the new generation of work programmes<sup>6</sup>. Applications for this call for proposals should therefore demonstrate how they will effectively build on the relevant previous or on-going EU funded projects under AMIF Union actions or national programme as well as other EU (e.g. EU research framework programme) or national funds. Relevant information can be found on the [European Web Site on Integration](#).

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<sup>3</sup> COM(2020) 758 final, Action plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027, [link](#)

<sup>4</sup> Some of the projects funded by the AMIF work programme on Union actions can be found here: [Factsheets: Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund \(AMIF\) | European Website on Integration \(europa.eu\)](#). Local and regional networks for the integration of third-country nationals, [Local and regional networks for the integration of third-country nationals |](#)

Applicants are invited to consult the toolkit on the use of EU funds for integration in the 2021-2027<sup>7</sup> that the European Commission has published in November 2021. It provides practical information to assist all relevant stakeholders at European, national, regional and local levels to design efficient integration measures under the new EU funding programmes (AMIF; European Social Fund +, ESF+; European Regional Development Fund, ERDF).

In accordance with the specific considerations of each topic as indicated in the dedicated sections, the proposals under this call for proposals should:

- include relevant **key partners** such as national public authorities, local and regional authorities, economic and social partners, employers, social economy actors, and civil society organisations, including migrant organisations and local communities, as **applicable under each topic**;
- take into account migrants with specific needs such as people with disabilities, persons in need of international protection, young migrants and women and adopt a targeted approach addressing the needs and specificities of their end beneficiaries.
- foresee a **monitoring and evaluation strategy**, based on key performance indicators (KPIs), both qualitative and quantitative, with baseline and targets to be used to monitor the implementation and to assess the result of the project, as well as measure the outputs and results of the project against **programme performance indicators**, relevant to the action, included in Annex VIII, regulation 2021/1147, in particular as regards the Specific Objectives in Article 3.
- foresee a sound **communication, dissemination and visibility** of the contents of the projects (outputs and outcomes). 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 projects' beneficiaries**, stakeholders and the European Commission. The aim is in particular to promote more interactions about innovation in project outputs and to increase visibility, learning effects and synergies. The awarded project should use the European Web Site on Integration to disseminate information on their activities (such as information on outputs, events and provision of information on the project so it can be included in the database of good practices); for the above activities as well as for the overall project implementation, the proposals should take into account the efforts to be made to **reduce carbon emissions**. While recognising the importance of physical meetings in achieving the results of transnational actions, the European Commission invites the applicants to consider the **use of online tools** as a way of maximising the use of the budget for the activities supporting the integration of third-country nationals.

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[European Website on Integration \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/rec). Additional information on AMIF can be found here [Funding publications \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/rec)

<sup>5</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/rec>

<sup>6</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/amif2027> and <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/cerv>

<sup>7</sup> [Toolkit on the use of EU funds for the integration of people with a migrant background: 2021-2027 programming period | European Website on Integration \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/cerv)

## 2. Topics under this call for proposals

### Topic 1 - Promoting community sponsorship schemes and integration of persons in need of international protection

#### *Themes and priorities*

As part of the ongoing EU efforts to provide more safe and legal pathways for displaced persons in need of international protection, the European Commission encouraged Member States to explore and expand community sponsorship schemes as a way to underpin resettlement, humanitarian admission and other complementary pathways<sup>8</sup>. One of the actions of the Action plan on integration and inclusion is to “support the development of community sponsorship programmes for beneficiaries of international protection across the EU through funding, facilitation of exchange of best practices and strengthened cooperation between all relevant public and private stakeholders”. There is no commonly agreed definition of the concept of community sponsorship yet, but certain elements and characteristics are common to all. Several Member States are already implementing different models of community sponsorship schemes. Notwithstanding some differences, all community sponsorship schemes are based on a strong partnership between the State, civil society organisations and private individuals. In community sponsorship schemes, non-State actors (e.g. individuals, NGOs, faith-based organisations) play a more structural role in welcoming and integrating those in need of international protection.

Community sponsorship schemes can help Member States increase the number of admission places, addressing key challenges that might hinder the effective upscaling of existing programmes, such as reception needs.

Good practices of relevant experience in complementary pathways and community sponsorship are existing in Australia, Canada, the UK and the U.S.

Following on the first feasibility study<sup>9</sup>, and to promote an EU approach to community sponsorship, the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) set up a Working Group on Community Sponsorship in March 2021.

Recently, community sponsorship models have inspired stakeholders who have rapidly responded to the massive displacement of people fleeing the war in Ukraine. From February 2022 onwards, many people in Europe have opened their private homes to host and support them. In line with the Safe Homes guidance<sup>10</sup>, the experience acquired in this unprecedented demonstration of solidarity could inform the design and implementation of sustainable and resilient schemes accommodating people in need of international protection. As mentioned in the Safe Homes guidance, “the lessons learned and the solutions found to welcome displaced persons from Ukraine can contribute to setting up more efficient future reception systems. Building on the basis of community sponsorship schemes, governments and communities can develop ideas to provide a more structured, sustainable and effective support to people in need, also beyond the current crisis”. Activities related to the Safe Homes guidance are also being implemented through a AMIF emergency assistance funded project led by the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) in several Member States.

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<sup>8</sup> C(2020)6467 final

<sup>9</sup> [Study on the feasibility and added value of sponsorship schemes as a possible pathway to safe channels for admission to the EU, including resettlement](#) October 2018

<sup>10</sup> [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/safe-homes-guidance\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/safe-homes-guidance_en)



### Objectives

The general objective of this topic is to increase the impact and the sustainability of community sponsorships as regards numbers of persons in need of international protection covered, the effectiveness of integration of the persons in need of international protection and should also enhance the quality of the programmes.

This general objective can be achieved by supporting actions aiming at mobilising local support and building strong partnerships between key stakeholders that are pursuing one or more of the following specific objectives:

1. developing community sponsorship activities that focus on housing solutions;
2. expanding the number of Member States that operate community sponsorship programmes;
3. increasing the number, quality and commitment of sponsors, who are at the core of community sponsorship programmes;
4. promoting a higher diversity of sponsors, with a particular emphasis on mobilising diaspora communities in the Member States;

All projects should foster transnationality and knowledge sharing via:

- peer-to-peer learning between Member States building on the knowledge of experienced Member States;
- testing new ways of working through the adaptation of existing tools, looking at what works on the ground and at synergies between different stakeholders (national-regional-local; private-public).

### Activities that can be funded

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

- activities developing the complementarity between the reception capacities of Member States and the housing offer provided through community sponsorship;
- information and awareness-raising campaigns for possible sponsors with a special emphasis on diverse target groups (including age, gender, ethnic background, socio-economic background, urban/rural settings) and mobilising diaspora communities;
- activities related to:
  - the selection and recruitment of sponsors, vetting procedures etc.;
  - the role and involvement of diaspora, particularly in the role of facilitator, intermediary actors and cultural mediators;
  - improvement of the matching of sponsors with people in need of international protection;
  - support activities towards sponsors, including training, regular information provision, mediation services, training of organisations to develop and increase the skills necessary to manage the sponsors in the above mentioned areas;
  - mobilising local support and build strong partnerships between key stakeholders, such as national and local authorities, local communities, diasporas, foundations and other private sponsors in recruiting sponsors and increasing their diversity.

- pilot projects<sup>11</sup> for new sponsors and the evaluation of lessons learnt from their first sponsorship experience;

Proposals may also include supplementary activities aiming at developing or adapting common tools (such as quantitative and qualitative indicators) or guidelines to better assess the integration trajectory outcomes of beneficiaries of community sponsorship schemes. Such activities should take into consideration the wealth of existing materials.

Proposals may include other activities beyond those listed above. Applicants should clearly demonstrate how all proposed activities will help achieve the specific objectives outlined above.

Target group of end-users: possible sponsors (EU citizens or legally residing third-country nationals), organisations that would manage sponsors (civil society organisations, education institutions, local and regional authorities, national authorities, employer organisations, business organisations, trade unions etc.). Persons in need of international protection should benefit indirectly from the proposal given the objective of increased number of Member States involved in community sponsorship programmes as well as the increased awareness and the higher number and increased diversity of sponsors.

Relevant proposals should include multiple key partners as members of the proposed consortia, for example: migrant-led organisations, academic institutions, the private sector, civil society organisations, economic and social partners, international organisations, foundations or diaspora communities.

#### *Expected impact (outcomes)*

The expected outcome is the creation of more resilient and crisis-proof resettlement and humanitarian admission programmes via strengthening of the support to, among others, public-private partnerships at local and national level for the community sponsorship schemes rich in numbers and profiles of sponsors. Through the implementation of this topic the European Commission aims to achieve:

- higher number of sponsors for people in need of international protection;
- increased diversity of profiles among sponsors, in terms of socio economic and migration background and in terms of geographical location (including in particular rural areas); a particular focus should be on mobilising diaspora communities;
- strengthened support at the local and national level for the development of community sponsorships, particularly through building effective partnerships between relevant stakeholders, both in the public (national, regional, local authorities) and in the private sector (besides civil society also foundations, businesses etc.).

#### *Additional considerations applicable to this topic*

- The European Commission welcomes proposals with broad geographical scope engaging applicants from diverse regions across the EU.

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<sup>11</sup> Pilot projects might include activities related to technical, legal, and operational support for designing and implementing a community sponsorship pilot project, actions related to the development of an agreement with the Member State's authorities in charge, the selection of the beneficiaries and of the sponsor, the preparation of the departure of third-country nationals to that Member State, their transfer and their integration measures at arrival and afterwards, as well as monitoring and evaluation of the community sponsorship scheme.

- To ensure a smooth implementation of their proposals, applicants are recommended to involve relevant national, regional and/or local authorities at the proposal preparation stage and refer to the results of this consultation process accordingly in their proposals. Letters of support are not necessary for the application and will be disregarded during the evaluation phase.
- To increase the impact of their proposals, applicants are recommended to involve people in need of international protection in the design of the proposals, and in the implementation and evaluation of the programme.
- The European Commission welcomes proposals involving applicants from more Member States than the minimum number identified in the eligibility criteria, as long as they are relevant for the design of the action.

## **Topic 2 - Integration and inclusion at regional and local level**

### *Themes and priorities*

Integration happens in every village, city and region, where migrants live, work, go to school, and where they are members of clubs and associations. Although integration policies are often decided by the central government, the local level plays a key role. It starts from welcoming and guiding newcomers when they first arrive in their new country and continues in accompanying them through the various stages of integration. Consequently, the role of local and regional authorities in the integration process is crucial, especially those authorities that are in the frontline of hosting and welcoming refugees and displaced persons.

In line with the Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion, the support provided under this priority will include local and migrant communities in the design and implementation of integration policies at the local level, facilitating integration of migrants in host communities thanks to volunteering projects, mentoring and other type pairing system like so called "buddy schemes"<sup>12</sup>.

As integration is a multi-sectoral issue, the coordination and timely intervention of various stakeholders needs to be factored in when designing policies. Local strategies and activities ensuring proper coordination and consultation are key for an early start and success of the integration process. The development and implementation of these strategies should encompass all actors in facilitating integration, including migrant communities, which should, wherever applicable, be consulted in designing integration measures and policies.

Local integration actions can be developed by local and regional authorities in urban or suburban areas, small towns or rural areas. There are also potential synergies to be considered: for example, identifying concrete areas of integration-related action in rural areas can make these territories and corresponding communities stronger, more connected, resilient and prosperous, as enshrined in the long-term Vision for the EU's rural areas<sup>13</sup>.

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

For cities and urban areas, the European Commission has put into place the Urban Agenda Partnership<sup>14</sup> on the inclusion of migrants and refugees, an innovative multi-level governance platform between cities, national governments and the European Commission. Furthermore, the European Commission has launched in December 2020, a partnership on integration with the Committee of Regions to seek the views and gather the experience of cities, regions and countries in what successful integration at the local level entails.

Proposals on this topic may focus on any group of migrants for which strategies and actions at local and regional level are of key importance. At the same time, it is important to take into account the needs of local and regional authorities hosting and welcoming applicants for international protection, beneficiaries of international protection and of temporary protection.

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<sup>12</sup> For example see the Erasmus+ project <https://www.migrants4migrants.eu/buddy-system-mentoring-training.html>

<sup>13</sup> [A long-term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas](#) - Towards stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas by 2040 – COM(2021) 345 final.

<sup>14</sup> Partnership of the Urban Agenda for the EU on the inclusion of migrants and refugees, <https://www.inclusionpartnership.com/>

Several local and regional authorities have shown their willingness to support better management of migration. They have come up with innovative strategies to welcome and accompany persons in need of international protection. Actions targeting specifically welcoming persons in need of international protection at local level can considerably ease the first weeks and months of those being resettled or evacuated to a safer place.

Other initiatives of local and regional authorities have facilitated long-term integration by providing counselling and support to migrants for their integration to the labour market, assisting them in finding accommodation, offering language courses (a prerequisite for effective integration) or creating links with the host community.

Local and regional authorities have also been active in facilitating access to basic services: for example, cultural mediators accompanying the migrants through their integration steps have helped them considerably, in particular those migrants who do not speak/understand properly the national language.

### Objectives

The objective of the topic is to help develop and implement local integration strategies as well as increasing the effectiveness of migrants' inclusion at regional and local level

Proposals that include the design of concrete good practices and their dissemination through transnational cooperation between relevant stakeholders in the development and implementation of local integration strategies will be considered particularly relevant.

### Activities that can be funded

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

- design and implementation of local integration strategies with concrete objectives (e.g. speeding up access to services, help with finding employment etc.);
- trainings, including language learning and vocational training, workshops and mutual learning activities on good practice on specific integration topics;
- volunteering, "buddying" and mentoring activities with concrete objectives (e.g. help with education/studies, language learning, finding employment or launching self-employment activities etc.);
- training of cultural mediators or interpreters who will accompany migrants through the integration process;
- creation of know-how and best practices on integration with concrete objectives that will be upscaled and disseminated through specific activities (to be elaborated in the proposals);
- creation of rural partnerships that will work on concrete outcomes (to be defined in the proposals) to ensure inclusion and integration of migrants in rural areas.

Proposals may include other activities beyond those listed above. Applicants should clearly demonstrate how all proposed activities will help achieve the specific objectives outlined above and which aspect of integration they will be targeting (housing, education, health or employment).

Development and implementation of the related activities 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 that should provide, to the extent possible, their views and experiences.

In view of the above, all proposed consortia should directly involve local and regional authorities as applicants or co-applicants. Moreover, they should include key partners relevant for the achievement of the objectives such as migrants, diaspora communities and migrant-led organisations, civil society organisations, economic and social partners, as appropriate.

#### Expected impact (outcomes)

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

- faster inclusion of migrants, making it more effective and with less administrative burden;
- improved engagement and participation of migrants involved in the project at the local level;
- scalable/replicable good practices and a methodology for the development and implementation of local integration initiatives and strategies that can inspire other local actors across the EU, where possible also taking into account migrants with specific needs;
- improved cross-border cooperation between authorities and other stakeholders involved in issuing scalable/replicable good practices and a methodology for the development and implementation of local integration strategies;
- improved cooperation between national and local authorities;
- enhanced visibility of the views and opinions of migrants associations and migrants at national, regional and local level.

#### Additional considerations applicable to this topic

- The European Commission welcomes proposals with broad geographical scope engaging applicants from diverse regions across the EU. Proposals with a rural areas dimension that look at effective migrants' inclusion in these areas are welcome.
- The European Commission welcomes proposals involving applicants from more Member States than the minimum number identified in the eligibility criteria, as long as they are relevant for the design of the action.
- Applicants are recommended to design their proposals in a way that they:
  - focus on people in need of international protection (beneficiaries of international and temporary protection, applicants for international protection);
  - take into account specific needs of migrant women and migrants with specific needs and vulnerabilities, if relevant.

### **Topic 3 - Support to integration in education of migrant children and young adults<sup>15</sup>**

#### *Themes and priorities*

Challenges persist in relation to migrants' education, for example in terms of young people dropping out of school, as underlined in the Action plan on integration and inclusion and in the OECD "Making integration work" volume on young people with migrant parents<sup>16</sup>. These challenges have an impact on the overall social inclusion and integration into the labour market (as shown by the higher share of young adult migrants being neither in employment nor in education and training).

From early childhood education and care (ECEC) to tertiary and adult education and non-formal education and training, language learning is the foundation for successful participation in society and one of the most powerful tools for building more inclusive societies. Schools have the potential to be real hubs of integration for children and their families. Learning the local language remains one of the key challenges, especially for children in need for international protection and their families. It is also an obstacle, if not addressed properly, that has a long-lasting effect on migrant inclusion, in terms of school success but also of social inclusion, given the difficulties to master the school learning requirements and the difficulties to communicate with the local community. Challenges related to learning the local language were highlighted even further in the context of the high number of displaced children from Ukraine to be included in the local school in a very short period<sup>17</sup>.

Teaching migrant children the local language effectively needs to be adapted to the classroom and the local school. The local community and especially the NGOs and volunteers can also help with language learning through informal and non-formal education, for example through culture, art or sports activities. The role of local and regional authorities is in this context very important.

In addition to language learning, there are many other challenges that migrant children, as all children, have to face and which are covered by other instruments covering youth and education policies than the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, for example [Creative Europe](#), [Erasmus+](#)<sup>18</sup>.

#### *Objectives*

The general objective of the topic is to lead to more effective language learning for migrant children involving local stakeholders, including school, NGOs, local and regional authorities and migrant-led organisations.

This can be achieved through the following specific objectives:

- providing adapted and balanced language reception/introduction classes for both children;
- creating an inclusive school culture and maintaining and building on languages of migrant learners spoken at home;

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<sup>15</sup> Young adults in the context of this topic should be understood as teenagers and young people below the age of 18 years old;

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/young-people-with-migrant-parents\\_6e773bfe-en](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/social-issues-migration-health/young-people-with-migrant-parents_6e773bfe-en)

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.schooleducationgateway.eu/en/pub/viewpoints/experts/including-ukrainian-refugees.htm>

<sup>18</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/education-youth-sport-and-culture\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/education-youth-sport-and-culture_en)

- developing a favourable environment for migrants' inclusion in non-formal and informal education.

### Activities that can be funded

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

- activities to mobilise local support and build strong partnerships between key stakeholders, such as national and local authorities, local communities, sport education institutions, sport institutions, diasporas and foundations;
- conferences and workshops to develop relevant methodology and exchanges of good practices on language learning for migrant children in formal, non-formal and informal education;
- pilot projects and upscaling activities of good practices on language learning in formal, non-formal and informal education;
- coaching, mentoring activities, and so called "buddy" system, with or without a linguistic component;
- dissemination and network building among stakeholders;
- training on for example how language learning can be differentiated and more effective (depending on the needs and specificities of the migrants e.g. age, academic level, work-specific vocabulary) for stakeholders, like school staff, sport and culture local organisations;
- activities related to the involvement of diaspora, particularly in the role of facilitator. These activities can include intermediary actors and cultural mediators (including knowledge building of migrant-led organisations);
- activities directed at / involving migrant parents.

Proposals may include other activities beyond those listed above. Applicants should clearly demonstrate how all proposed activities will help achieve the specific objectives outlined above.

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

- peer-to-peer learning between organisations;
- activities to develop or adapt common tools and toolkits for effective language training in different environments and for different target groups (children/young adults/parents) on the basis of modern methods taking into consideration the wealth of existing material.

It is recommended to involve migrants in the design of the proposals, and in the implementation and evaluation of the programme.

Target group: The target group of the activities should be migrant children (children and teenagers less 18-year-old). All education/school stages for minors are therefore covered, including early childhood education and care.

### Expected impact (outcomes)

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

- more and better trained staff on language learning (staff involved in formal/informal education activities, such as local and regional authorities and



NGOs involved in provision to culture, art, sport related services) and intercultural communication courses, helping out more migrants;

- development and upscaling of buddy, coaching and mentoring systems targeting young migrants, with or without a language-learning component;
- more local support and building strong partnerships between key stakeholders, such as migrants, migrant led organisations and diasporas, school, youth related organisations, NGOs, local and regional authorities, companies, foundations etc.;
- establishing replicable good practices and methodologies for the development and implementation of national, regional or local strategies for language learning of migrant children inside and outside schools;
- better inclusion migrant parents, allowing them to help their child and themselves find their place.

*Additional considerations applicable to this topic*

- The European Commission welcomes proposals with broad geographical scope engaging applicants from diverse regions and municipalities across the EU.
- The European Commission welcomes proposals involving applicants from more Member States than the minimum number identified in the eligibility criteria, as long as they are relevant for the design of the action.
- The European Commission welcomes proposals where the proposed consortium includes key partners for the achievement of the proposed objectives such as migrant-led organisations, academic institutions, the private sector, civil society organisations, international organisations and diaspora communities.

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

### *Themes and priorities*

Including refugees and other migrants<sup>19</sup> in the labour market at an early stage and at the appropriate skill level has proven to be beneficial for them and host societies alike. While many refugees bring skills and qualifications with them that are acutely needed on EU labour markets, they often face difficulties in finding jobs that reflect accurately their skills and level of qualification. Migrant women often face additional obstacles to integration compared to migrant men and are at a particularly high risk of being over-qualified for the jobs they obtain. Their specific needs and the ones of migrants with vulnerabilities, e.g. disabilities, should also be taken into consideration.

The Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027 emphasises the importance of effective skills assessment, fast recognition of qualifications and provision of appropriate training for successful labour market integration. The 2023 European Year of Skills will be an opportunity to advance the labour market integration of migrants.

Effective labour market inclusion requires the active collaboration of a variety of actors, including public authorities at local, regional, national and European level, civil society organisations, economic and social partners as well as public and private employers. The European Partnership for Integration is an example for such a multi-stakeholder approach: Since 2017, the European Commission and European Social and Economic Partners have worked together closely to create opportunities for integrating refugees and other migrants into the EU labour market.<sup>20</sup> It is important to continue pursuing and amplifying such multi-stakeholder processes. This was made apparent against the background of the arrival of displaced people from Ukraine, but also looking at the different levels of experience with labour market inclusion across EU Member States.

### *Objectives*

Proposals should address one or more of the following specific objectives:

- strengthen cooperation between labour market actors and migrants themselves at EU, regional, national and local levels by creating and/or reinforcing transnational partnerships on labour market inclusion;
- advance effective inclusion of migrants in the labour market both early on after their arrival in the EU and at a level adequate to their qualifications, including by mobilising all stakeholders who can help and by promoting/building on the EU tools available;
- contribute to a better matching between skills, competences and qualifications of migrants that are already in the EU, on the one hand, and demand on EU labour markets (including labour shortages) on the other hand;
- Promote inclusive workplaces, including by raising awareness about direct and indirect discrimination and elaborating good practice on tackling discrimination and promoting diversity in the workplace;

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<sup>19</sup> For the purpose of this topic, “migrants” should be understood to mean third-country nationals including beneficiaries of international and temporary protection and applicants for international protection.

<sup>20</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/migration-and-asylum/legal-migration-and-integration/cooperation-economic-and-social-partners/european-partnership-integration\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/migration-and-asylum/legal-migration-and-integration/cooperation-economic-and-social-partners/european-partnership-integration_en)

- Promote sustainable employment conditions for migrants, in particular beneficiaries of international and temporary protection and applicants for international protection.

Activities that can be funded

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

- developing innovative approaches to labour market integration, including by promoting/building on the EU tools available;
- upscaling activities of established good practices;
- developing and providing training to stakeholders (e.g. bridging courses and on the-job training for migrants; capacity building for SMEs), building on existing good practices;
- conferences, workshops, awareness-raising and other activities to create and strengthen partnerships between key labour market actors and further refine the solutions to labour market integration for migrants at the appropriate level of qualifications.

Proposals may include other activities beyond those listed above. Applicants should clearly demonstrate how all proposed activities will help achieve the specific objectives outlined above.

Target group (main end-users):

- social partners (cross-industry or sectoral organisations):
  - European, national or regional employers' organisations;
  - European, national or regional trade union organisations;
- economic partners:
  - European, national or regional chambers of commerce and industry;
  - European, national or regional skilled craft chambers;
- public or private employment services;
- vocational education and training providers;
- national, regional and local authorities with responsibility for integration into the labour market;
- authorities responsible for recognition of qualifications;
- migrant organisations and non-governmental organisations active in the field of labour market integration;
- foundations with relevant experience;
- companies.

Project applications including in the proposed consortium at least three of the above-mentioned categories of entities as co-applicants will be considered as particularly relevant.

### Expected impact / outcomes

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

- sustainable networks between labour market actors at local/regional/national/European level to advance concrete aspects of labour market integration;
- tools to assess and validate migrants' skills and qualifications, in line with employers' needs and in a timely manner, and to match migrants' skills with vacancies, in particular in shortage occupations, taking into account experience with existing private and public tools (e.g. EU Talent Pool Pilot, EURAXESS);
- good practices that contribute to inclusive workplaces and sustainable employment conditions for migrants;
- training methods for different labour market actors as well as migrants in need of upskilling/reskilling and/or bridging courses, including proper dissemination to all relevant stakeholders.

### Additional considerations

The European Commission welcomes proposals that:

- take into account specific needs of migrant women and migrants with specific needs and vulnerabilities.
- involve applicants from more Member States than the minimum number identified in the eligibility criteria, as long as they are relevant for the design of the action.
- focus on people in need of international protection (beneficiaries of international and temporary protection, applicants for international protection).
- involve migrant-led organisations in the consortium and/or as beneficiaries of the actions of the project.

## **Topic 5 - Promoting complementary pathways linked to work**

### *Themes and priorities*

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. In April 2022, the Global Task Force for Refugee Labour Mobility, co-led by UNHCR and Canada, was launched to implement this goal. The European Commission will work more closely with the Task Force.

At the EU level, the 2020 Recommendation on legal pathways to protection in the EU<sup>21</sup> encourages the Member States to promote complementary pathways for people in need of international protection, in addition to resettlement and humanitarian admission schemes. EU funding was made available to promote complementary pathways under the 2020 AMIF Union Actions Call for Proposals.

During the 2022 high-level Forum on legal pathways to protection, the topic of complementary pathways linked to work for people in need of international protection was discussed among EU Ministers and international partners. There was consensus that specific refugee labour mobility programmes should be promoted in the Member States to offer more opportunities for skilled people in need of international protection. There was also agreement that it was time to move to concrete action to make complementary pathways linked to work a reality in the EU, and that more EU-wide action was needed to create the necessary frameworks, support structures and stakeholder engagement across Member States.

Complementary pathways linked to work could be particularly relevant to address labour shortages in the Member States, while at the same time harnessing the skills and talents of those in need of international protection. Certain sectors, such as ICT, science, engineering, health and long-term care, agriculture, transport, horticulture, food processing and tourism, construction and harbour work, transport and logistics could be particularly well suited for complementary labour pathways given the high number of job opportunities in these areas.<sup>22</sup>

### *Objectives*

The general objective of this topic is to increase the impact and the sustainability of complementary labour pathways as regards numbers of legal admission places and the quality of the programmes.

This could be achieved via one or more of the following specific objectives:

1. creating new and/or upscaling existing complementary labour pathway programmes to offer more places of admission to skilled persons in need of international protection and address labour shortages in the Member States,
2. expanding the number of Member States that implement such programmes and expanding the number of businesses willing to engage,

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<sup>21</sup> Commission Recommendation (EU) 2020/1364 of 23 September 2020 on legal pathways to protection in the EU

<sup>22</sup> See Commission Communication on Attracting Skills and Talent to the EU, COM/2022/657 final; [EUR-Lex - 52022DC0657 - EN - EUR-Lex \(europa.eu\)](#)

3. creating the necessary (facilitated) procedures and support structures to enable admission of skilled persons in need of international protection through complementary labour pathway programmes.

Programmes should be designed in such a way to promote the integration of beneficiaries in the host society.

*Activities that can be funded*

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

- Activities to engage national authorities concerned by complementary pathways linked to work, notably Ministries of home affairs and Ministries of Labour to fill information gaps, create closer cooperation across policy fields and establish fast and simple admission procedures.
- Activities to mobilise support and build strong partnerships on complementary pathways between key stakeholders, such as local authorities, employer organisations, business organisations, companies, trade unions, local communities, diaspora communities and other relevant stakeholders, in order to identify the steps and create the necessary procedures to enable the effective implementation of such schemes.
- Developing and providing training to stakeholders, especially to companies and employer organisations on how to take part effectively in a complementary pathway project, building on existing good practices.
- Conferences, workshops and awareness-raising activities.
- Activities relating to engaging companies that might be willing to take part in complementary pathways, in both urban/rural settings, notably through outreach, information provision and motivation.
- Activities relating to mobilising diaspora communities: information campaigns and awareness-raising campaigns, including on promoting the added value for stakeholders in investing in complementary pathways and by mobilising a wide variety of approaches and making use of new technologies.
- Activities to facilitate and/or improve the matching of companies and job offers with people in need of international protection.
- Training of companies to ensure sustainable commitment and the provision of quality support towards workers recruited via a complementary pathway linked to work.
- Pilot projects on work-related complementary pathways, leading to actual admission and job placement, and the evaluation of first experiences of both, employers, and workers.
- Activities to create support programmes for skilled people in need of international protection residing in a country of first asylum to facilitate access to labour migration avenues, building on existing initiatives and partnering with relevant stakeholders.
- In third countries hosting refugees, organisation of joint study, information campaigns, job fairs etc. with a view to recruiting skilled refugees.

Proposals may include other activities beyond those listed above. Applicants should clearly demonstrate how all proposed activities will help achieve the specific objectives outlined above.

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, also including exploring good

practices of third countries with relevant experience in complementary pathways, for example, Australia, Canada, the UK and the U.S.

To ensure the feasibility of their proposals, namely with regard to admissibility of third-country nationals, applicants should involve relevant national authorities at the proposal preparation stage and refer to the results of this consultation process accordingly in their proposals. The direct involvement of relevant Member States' authorities concerned as applicants or co-applicants would be particularly favoured. Letters of support are not necessary and will be disregarded during the evaluation phase.

Target group (main end-users):

- social partners (cross-industry or sectoral organisations):
  - European or national associations of employers,
  - European, national or regional trade union organisations
- economic partners:
  - European, national or regional chambers of commerce and industry,
  - European, national or regional skilled craft chambers
- public and/or private employment services
- vocational education and training providers
- national authorities with responsibility for refugee admission, labour migration and integration into the labour market
- regional and local authorities with responsibility for integration into the labour market
- migrant organisations and non-governmental organisations active in the field of promoting complementary pathways and labour market integration

The proposed consortium should include relevant key partners as co-applicants for the achievement of the proposed objectives such as the private sector, civil society organisations, economic and social partners, international organisations and diaspora communities as well as persons in need of international protection and migrant-led organisations.

#### *Expected impact (outcomes)*

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

- reinforced and expanded sustainable networks between national authorities, labour market actors at local/regional/national level, international organisations and relevant NGOs to advance complementary pathways linked to work leading to concrete admissions;
- well-developed and tested methods and tools for international recruitment of persons in need of international protection outside the EU and matching them with shortages in the European labour market (possibly as an element of the EU Talent Pool that is currently under development);
- strengthened support at the local and national level for the development of complementary labour pathways, particularly through building effective partnerships between relevant stakeholders;

- higher number of organisations involved in designing and implementing complementary labour pathways and more clarity/awareness about their role/contribution and the added value of their engagement in complementary pathways.

*Additional considerations applicable to this topic*

- The European Commission welcomes proposals with broad geographical scope engaging applicants from diverse regions across the EU.
- The European Commission welcomes proposals involving applicants from more Member States than the minimum number identified in the eligibility criteria, as long as they are relevant for the design of the action.



## **Topic 6- Transnational actions to support Member States in the field of protection of children in migration**

### *Themes and priorities*

A considerable number of migrant children arrive to the EU unaccompanied or separated from their parents.<sup>23</sup> In 2021, 23,255 asylum applicants in the EU27 were unaccompanied minors, up by 72% compared with 2020 (13,550).<sup>24</sup> The number of unaccompanied minors fleeing from Ukraine and having taken up temporary protection in the EU is comparatively much smaller (Eurostat data available until end May 2022<sup>25</sup> at the time of writing), yet it should be noted that the actual number of unaccompanied, and particularly separated children arriving to the EU to war in Ukraine – comprising children from the Ukrainian institutions – is in practice larger than the number of those already registered for temporary protection.<sup>26</sup>

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

The 2017 *Communication on the protection of children in migration*<sup>27</sup> had identified serious gaps in the protection offered to unaccompanied and separated migrant children in various areas and set out recommendations on how to address those. In the context of the *Pact on Migration and Asylum* and the reform of the Common European Asylum System,<sup>28</sup> the protection of the rights of migrant children is also a priority, and the European Commission has tabled several legislative proposals aimed at strengthening the guarantees available to the unaccompanied and separated children in the context of border control, asylum and return procedures. The 2021 *EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child* emphasized that all children are entitled to the same level of protection and effective access to their rights, irrespective of their migration status in the EU.<sup>29</sup> Under the 2021 *EU Child Guarantee*,<sup>30</sup> Member States

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<sup>23</sup> 'Unaccompanied minor' means third-country nationals or stateless persons below the age of eighteen, who arrive on the territory of the Member States unaccompanied by an adult responsible for them whether by law or custom, and for as long as they are not effectively taken into the care of such a person, or minors who are left unaccompanied after they have entered the territory of the Member States (Art. 2 (f) of the Temporary Protection Directive 2001/55/EC).

Within the group of the unaccompanied children, some are to be considered as 'separated'. A 'separated child' is a child who arrives on the territory of the Member States accompanied by relatives or known (non-related) adults, whereby sometimes the latter have been provided by the parent(s) an authorisation to travel with the child and/or provide temporary care (example: Ukrainian mother traveling with her own children and those of another family). EU law does not contain a legal definition of 'separated' children, but the notion is defined in the [UN General Comment No 6 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child; Treatment of Unaccompanied and Separated Children Outside their Country of Origin](#).

<sup>24</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr\\_asyunaa/default/table?lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr_asyunaa/default/table?lang=en). To a large extent, this increase was caused by the rise in the number of unaccompanied minors from Afghanistan (12,270 in 2021 compared to 5 495 in 2020).

<sup>25</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr\\_asyumtspm/default/table?lang=en](https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/databrowser/view/migr_asyumtspm/default/table?lang=en).

<sup>26</sup> For a variety the reasons, including the fact that in several Member States the children are not registered for temporary protection until the procedures for the appointment /recognition of guardians is finalised, as well as the fact that some Member State have national legislation provision automatically protection to all migrant children, and therefore the incentives for registering for temporary protection may be reduced.

<sup>27</sup> COM (2017) 211 final of 12.4.2017.

<sup>28</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/new-pact-migration-and-asylum\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/new-pact-migration-and-asylum_en).

<sup>29</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/rights-child/eu-strategy-rights-child-and-european-child-guarantee\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/rights-child/eu-strategy-rights-child-and-european-child-guarantee_en).

were invited to set up and implement Action Plan for ensuring that all children at risk of poverty and social exclusion – including migrant children and irrespective of their migration status - have effective access to key services such as adequate accommodation, nutrition, healthcare and education.

Among the various protection needs that are specific to unaccompanied and separated children, one that is particularly important is that these children benefit as soon as possible from the assistance and guidance of a guardian/representative. Effective guardianship for unaccompanied migrant children is one of the recommendations at the core of the [2017 Communication on the protection of children in migration](#). Without effective guardianship, unaccompanied and separated migrant children have reduced chances of accessing their basic rights (starting for suitable accommodation and day-to-day care, and going through healthcare, education, psychosocial support as needed, etc.), and ultimately, of pursuing a durable solution that is conform to their best interest and potential. The [EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child](#) adopted in March 2021 places renewed emphasis on the need to strengthen guardianship systems in the Member States, and to reinforce the European Guardianship Network ('EGN').<sup>31</sup>

Several EU Member States have reformed their guardianship systems in recent years. The Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) published in February 2022 a Report informing of the current guardianship arrangements across the EU.<sup>32</sup> The European Commission has supported the establishment of the *European Guardianship Network* (EGN),<sup>33</sup> a forum where guardianship institutions from the Member States can exchange information and best practices. Effective guardianship is also at the core of the *EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child* of March 2021 (COM(2021) 142 final of 21.3.2021) and of the Pact on Asylum and Migration.

At the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the DG HOME expert group on children in migration, held on 17 February 2022, the European Commission and experts from the EU agencies, UN organisations and Member States administrations discussed the types and sources of external support that guardians need in order to perform their work well.<sup>34</sup> The experts underlined that, irrespective of whether a country has a system of professional or voluntary guardians (or a combination of both), guardians will always need external support such as:

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

The migratory crisis provoked by the war in Ukraine brings renewed emphasis on the need for external support to the guardians, and in particular in the numerous cases of

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<sup>30</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1428&langId=en>.

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.egnetwork.eu/>

<sup>32</sup> Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) (2022): Guardianship systems for unaccompanied children in the European Union: developments since 2014 - <https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2022/guardianship-systems-children-update>.

<sup>33</sup> See footnote 31 above.

<sup>34</sup> The Minutes of the expert meeting are available here: <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/screen/expert-groups/consult?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=3564&NewSearch=1&NewSearch=1>.

guardians that have been appointed in Ukraine before the children arrived in the EU to seek protection. In fact, numerous 'separated' children arrive from Ukraine accompanied by a relative or know adult that has either already been appointed as a guardian under Ukrainian law prior to fleeing the country (and who, by giving effect to the provisions of the 1996 Hague Convention on Parental Responsibility and Protection of Children, must be recognised by the EU Member States as guardian without any further formalities), or have documents from the parents in Ukraine authorising them to accompany the children in the travel to the EU, and who subsequently become candidates for being appointed as guardians of the children once settled inside the EU. There is also the special situation of children from Ukrainian institutions, many of them affected by disabilities, who arrive in the EU in groups and accompanied by a guardian appointed in Ukraine. These guardians will be refugee themselves and will need external support in the host country in order to be able to deliver well on their tasks. This is a subject that has been explored with experts at a Workshop organised by DG HOME on 30 May 2022.<sup>35</sup>

### Objectives

The objective of the topic 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) – on the types of support to be given to guardians of unaccompanied migrant children, in function of their specific needs.

Projects aimed at capacity-building for institutionalised care or research shall not be financed under this topic.

Activities that can be funded:

Proposals should include activities 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;
- developing practical support 'concept modules' that can be then applied in to-be-defined contexts;
- 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 guardians.

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.

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<sup>35</sup> [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-07/FAQs%20UAMs%20and%20separated%20children%20TPD\\_en\\_1.pdf](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-07/FAQs%20UAMs%20and%20separated%20children%20TPD_en_1.pdf)

Good practices, trainings<sup>36</sup> and any other relevant activities for supporting guardians referred under this topic should relate to one or several areas where support is need – see illustrative list mentioned in the descriptive part above.

Proposals should ensure that the public actors who are relevant for the proposed actions, such as 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. 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.

#### *Expected impact (outcomes)*

Proposals should present methodologies and metrics as appropriate for measuring progress with significance towards the following outcomes:

- facilitated exchange of good practices and know-how for guardians;
- increased availability of and access to good practices and 'know-how' for supporting the guardians;
- reinforced offer of trainings, exchange programs, study visits and other relevant activities on supporting guardians;
- increased visibility of guardianship across all Member States.

#### *Additional considerations applicable to this topic*

- The European Commission welcomes proposals with broad geographical scope engaging applicants from relevant partners from national, regional and local levels across the EU.
- The European Commission welcomes proposals involving applicants from more Member States than the minimum number identified in the eligibility criteria, as long as they are relevant for the design of the action.

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<sup>36</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)

### 3. Available budget

The available call budget is **EUR 40 000 000**. Specific budget information per topic can be found in the table below.

Topic	Topic budget
AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL-01 - Promoting community sponsorship schemes and integration of persons in need of protection	EUR 8 000 000
AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL-02 - Integration and inclusion at regional and local level	EUR 8 000 000
AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL-03 - Support to integration in education of migrant children and young adults	EUR 6 000 000
AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL-04 - Multi-stakeholder initiatives for migrant integration into the labour market	EUR 6 000 000
AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL-05 - Promoting complementary pathways linked to education and/or work	EUR 6 000 000
AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL-06 - Transnational actions to support Member States in the field of protection of children in migration	EUR 6 000 000

We reserve the right not to award all available funds or to redistribute them between the call topics, depending on the proposals received and the results of the evaluation.

### 4. Timetable and deadlines

Timetable and deadlines (indicative)	
Call opening:	17 January 2023
<u>Deadline for submission:</u>	<u>16 May 2023 17:00:00 CET (Brussels)</u>
Evaluation:	May 2023- November 2023
Information on evaluation results:	December 2023- January 2024-
GA signature:	January 2024-February 2024

### 5. Admissibility and documents

Proposals must be submitted before the **call deadline** (see *timetable section 4*).

Proposals must be submitted **electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the Topic page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Proposals (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided *inside* the Submission System (⚠ NOT the documents available on the Topic page — they are only for information).

Proposals must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents:


- Application Form Part A — contains administrative information about the participants (future coordinator, beneficiaries and affiliated entities) and the summarised budget for the project (*to be filled in directly online*)
- Application Form Part B — contains the technical description of the project (*to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded*)
- **mandatory annexes and supporting documents** (*to be uploaded*):
  - detailed budget table: not applicable
  - CVs of core project team: not applicable
  - activity reports of last year: not applicable
  - list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years) (*template available in Part B but to be submitted **as a separate annex***).

At proposal submission, you will have to confirm that you have the **mandate to act** for all applicants. Moreover, you will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that the participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (especially eligibility, financial and operational capacity, exclusion, etc). Before signing the grant, each beneficiary and affiliated entity will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour (DoH). Proposals without full support will be rejected.

Your application must be **readable, accessible and printable**.

Proposals are limited to maximum **50 pages** (Part B without annexes). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

You may be asked at a later stage for further documents (*for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc*).

 For more information about the submission process (including IT aspects), consult the [Online Manual](#).

## 6. Eligibility

### Eligible participants (eligible countries)

In order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
  - EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs)), excluding Denmark<sup>37</sup>, countries associated to the AMIF or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature;

Beneficiaries and affiliated entities must register in the [Participant Register](#) — before submitting the proposal — and will have to be validated by the Central Validation Service (REA Validation). For the validation, they will be requested to upload documents showing legal status and origin.

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<sup>37</sup> In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of Protocol No 22 on the position of Denmark, annexed to the TEU and to the TFEU, Denmark is not taking part in the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 and is not bound by it or subject to its application

Other entities may participate in other roles, such as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions, etc (see section 13).

### Specific cases

**Natural persons** — Natural persons are NOT eligible (with the exception of self-employed persons, i.e. sole traders, where the company does not have legal personality separate from that of the natural person).

**International organisations** — International organisations are **eligible for all topics**, but can be **coordinators only under topics 1, 5 and 6**. International organisations can participate as co-beneficiaries regardless of their geographical location. As a result, their geographical location is irrelevant and in analogy, being based in an eligible country does not contribute to the fulfilment of the minimum partnership requirement (see table [Overview eligibility conditions](#)).


**Entities without legal personality** — Entities which do not have legal personality under their national law may exceptionally participate, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf, and offer guarantees for the protection of the EU financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons<sup>38</sup>.

**EU bodies** — EU bodies (with the exception of the European Commission Joint Research Centre) can NOT be part of the consortium.

**Associations and interest groupings** — Entities composed of members may participate as 'sole beneficiaries' or 'beneficiaries without legal personality'<sup>39</sup>. ⚠ Please note that if the action will be implemented by the members, they should also participate (either as beneficiaries or as affiliated entities, otherwise their costs will NOT be eligible).

**Countries currently negotiating association agreements** — Beneficiaries from countries with ongoing negotiations (see list above) may participate in the call and can sign grants if the negotiations are concluded before grant signature (with retroactive effect, if provided in the agreement).

**EU restrictive measures** — Special rules apply for certain entities (e.g. entities subject to [EU restrictive measures](#) under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)<sup>40</sup> and entities covered by Commission Guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#)<sup>41</sup>). Such entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

 For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#). The identity of the applicant (and compliance with general eligibility conditions) will be verified through the documents provided in the [Participant Register](#) during legal entity validation (copy of the resolution, decision or other official document establishing the entity, etc).

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<sup>38</sup> See Article 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

<sup>39</sup> For the definitions, see Articles 187(2) and 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

<sup>40</sup> Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the [EU Sanctions Map](#).

<sup>41</sup> Commission guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#) on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp. 9-11).

Consortium composition

Proposals must be submitted by:

**for topic 1:**

- minimum three applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) from three different participating Member States.
- the following entities **can NOT apply as coordinator**:
  - profit making entities

**for topic 2:**

- minimum five applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) from five different participating Member States.
- the following entities **can NOT apply as coordinator**:
  - profit making entities
  - International Organisations

**for topic 3:**

- minimum five applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) from five different participating Member States.
- the following entities **can NOT apply as coordinator**:
  - profit making entities
  - International Organisations

**for topic 4:**

- minimum four applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) from three different participating Member States.
- the following entities **can NOT apply as coordinator**:
  - profit making entities
  - International Organisations

for topic 5:

- minimum three applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) from three different participating Member States.
- the following entities **can NOT apply as coordinator**:
  - profit making entities



for topic 6:

- minimum five applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) from five different participating Member States.
- the following entities **can NOT apply as beneficiary or coordinator**:
  - profit making entities

#### Other important considerations

Projects should take into account the results of projects supported by other EU funding programmes. The complementarities must be described in the project proposals (Part B of the Application Form).

Projects should comply with EU policy interests and priorities (*such as environment, social, security, industrial and trade policy, etc*).

#### Duration

Maximum duration of projects per each topic is listed in the table regarding Eligibility Overview. Extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment.

#### Grant amount

The minimum and maximum grant amount must comply with the limits per topic set in the table regarding Eligibility Overview.

#### Ethics

Projects must comply with:

- highest ethical standards
- EU values based on Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union and Article 21 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and
- other applicable EU, international and national law.

Applications should pay appropriate attention to the effects of the project on individual rights and freedoms, and indicate the measures taken to limit or remedy such effects.

Applicants must show in their application that they respect ethical principles and EU values based on Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union and Article 21 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Projects involving ethics issues may be made subject to specific ethics rules.

Overview eligibility conditions

	AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL-01	AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL-02	AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL-03	AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL-04	AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL-05	AMIF-2023-TF2-AG-CALL-06
Entities	3	5	5	4	3	5
Member States (*) participating in AMIF	3	5	5	3	3	5
<b>Participation of non-profit private organisations as</b>						
Coordinators	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Beneficiaries	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>International Organisations can participate as</b>						
Coordinators	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Beneficiaries	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Participation of for-profit organisations as</b>						
Coordinators	No	No	No	No	No	No
Beneficiaries	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Maximum duration of projects (in months)	36	36	36	36	36	30
Minimum grant amount (EUR)	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	1 000 000	750 000
Maximum grant amount (EUR)	2 000 000	2 000 000	2 000 000	2 000 000	2 000 000	1 000 000

(\*) Please note that international organisations can participate in the proposed consortia regardless their geographical location. As a result, their geographical location is irrelevant and in analogy, being based in an eligible country cannot be taken into consideration in calculating the minimum of countries within a partnership. The rules on eligible countries do not apply to them.

## 7. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

### Financial capacity

Applicants must have **stable and sufficient resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all these projects.

The financial capacity check will be carried out on the basis of the documents you will be requested to upload in the [Participant Register](#) during grant preparation (*e.g. profit and loss account and balance sheet, business plan, audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year, etc*). The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators, but will also take into account other aspects, such as dependency on EU funding and deficit and revenue in previous years.

The check will normally be done for all beneficiaries, except:

- public bodies (entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organisations
- if the individual requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000.

If needed, it may also be done for affiliated entities.

If we consider that your financial capacity is not satisfactory, we may require:

- further information
- an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibility for all beneficiaries or joint and several liability of affiliated entities (*see below, section 10*)
- prefinancing paid in instalments
- (one or more) prefinancing guarantees (*see below, section 10*)

or

- propose no prefinancing
- request that you are replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

 For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

### Operational capacity

Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications** and **resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share (including sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature).

This capacity will be assessed together with the 'Quality' award criterion, on the basis of the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain it by the time the task implementation starts.

If the evaluation of the award criterion is positive, the applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity.

Applicants will have to show their capacity via the following information:

- general profiles (qualifications and experiences) of the staff responsible for

managing and implementing the project

- description of the consortium participants
- list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years).

Additional supporting documents may be requested, if needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant.

Public bodies, Member State organisations and international organisations are exempted from the operational capacity check.

### Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate<sup>42</sup>:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- guilty of grave professional misconduct<sup>43</sup> (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decisionmaking- or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No [2988/95](#) (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decisionmaking- or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decisionmaking- or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).

Applicants will also be refused if it turns out that<sup>44</sup>:

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<sup>42</sup> See Articles 136 and 141 of EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

<sup>43</sup> Professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition, violation of IPR, attempting to influence decision-making processes or obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain advantage.

<sup>44</sup> See Article 141 EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

- during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information
- they were previously involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

## 8. Evaluation and award procedure

The proposals will have to follow a two-step evaluation procedure. For all eligible applications, in the first step, there will be a pre-selection on the basis of the Relevance award criterion only. In the second step, the successful proposals will be assessed against the full set of award criteria.


An **evaluation committee** (assisted by independent outside experts) will assess all applications. Proposals will first be checked for formal requirements (admissibility, and eligibility, *see sections 5 and 6*). Proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated (for each topic) against the operational capacity and award criteria (*see sections 7 and 9*) and then ranked according to their scores.

For proposals with the same score (within a topic or budget envelope) a **priority order** will be determined according to the following approach:

Successively for every group of *ex aequo* proposals, starting with the highest scored group, and continuing in descending order:

- 1) The *ex aequo* proposals within the same topic will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the award criterion 'Relevance'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Impact'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Quality'.
- 2) If this does not allow to determine the priority, a further prioritisation can be done by considering the overall project portfolio and the creation of positive synergies between projects, or other factors related to the objectives of the call.
- 3) After that, the remainder of the available call budget will be used to fund projects across the different topics in order to ensure a balanced spread of the geographical and thematic coverage and while respecting to the maximum possible extent the order of merit based on the evaluation of the award criteria.

All proposals will be informed about the evaluation result (**evaluation result letter**). Successful proposals will be invited for grant preparation; the other ones will be put on the reserve list or rejected.

 No commitment for funding — Invitation to grant preparation does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding. We will still need to make various legal checks before grant award: *legal entity validation, financial capacity, exclusion check, etc.*

**Grant preparation** will involve a dialogue in order to fine-tune technical or financial aspects of the project and may require extra information from your side. It may also include adjustments to the proposal to address recommendations of the evaluation committee or other concerns. Compliance will be a pre-condition for signing the grant.

If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter). Please note that notifications which have not been opened within 10 days after sending are

considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from opening/access (see also [Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions](#)). Please also be aware that for complaints submitted electronically, there may be character limitations.

## 9. Award criteria

The **award criteria** for this call are as follows:

- **Relevance:** clarity and consistency of the objectives and scope of the project seen against the objectives and expected impact/outcomes (if applicable) as identified in section 2; contribution to the relevant EU strategic documents and/or action plans and legislative context; previous results in the field; European/trans-national dimension (30 points)
- **Quality:** logical links between the identified problems, needs and solutions proposed; methodology for implementing the project (concept and methodology, timetable, monitoring and evaluation); expertise and quality of the consortium and project teams; management structures and procedures; risks and risk management; feasibility of the project within the proposed time frame; cost effectiveness and best value for money (50 points)
- **Impact:** expected short-term and long-term impact of results on target groups/general public; degree of ambition and innovation; appropriate communication strategy, including visibility of EU funding; appropriate dissemination strategy for ensuring sustainability and long-term impact; sustainability of results after EU funding ends; replicability/usability/potential for amplification of the results (20 points).

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Relevance	21	30
Quality	n/a	50
Impact	n/a	20
<b>Overall (pass) scores</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

Maximum points: 100 points.

Individual thresholds for the criterion 'Relevance': 21/30 points.

Overall threshold: 70 points.

Proposals that pass the individual threshold for the criterion 'Relevance' AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding – within the limits of the available call budget. Other proposals will be rejected.

## 10. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements

If you pass evaluation, your project will be invited for grant preparation, where you will be asked to prepare the Grant Agreement together with the EU Project Officer.

This Grant Agreement will set the framework for your grant and its terms and conditions, in particular concerning deliverables, reporting and payments.

The Model Grant Agreement that will be used (and all other relevant templates and guidance documents) can be found on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

### Starting date and project duration

The project starting date and duration will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 1*). Normally the starting date will be after grant signature. Retroactive application can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons but never earlier than the proposal submission date.

Project duration: maximum 30 or 36 months, as mentioned under each topic in the Eligibility overview table (extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment).

### Milestones, KPIs and deliverables

Project proposals should provide key performance indicators (KPIs), both qualitative and quantitative, with baseline and targets to be used to monitor the implementation and to assess the result of the project, as well as measure the outputs and results of the project against programme performance indicators, relevant to the action, included in Annex VIII, regulation 2021/1147, in particular as regards the Specific Objectives in Article 3.

The milestones and deliverables for each project will be managed through the Portal Grant Management System and will be reflected in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement.

The following deliverables will be mandatory for all projects:

- A mid-term progress report.
- A final project report.

### Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount

The grant parameters (*maximum grant amount, funding rate, total eligible costs, etc.*) will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 3 and art 5*).

For each topic the **minimum and maximum grants** limits (representing up to **90% of the total eligible cost** of the project) are detailed in *section 6 above*. The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

The grant will be a budget-based mixed actual cost grant (actual costs, with unit cost and flat-rate elements). This means that it will reimburse ONLY certain types of costs (eligible costs) and costs that were *actually* incurred for your project (NOT the *budgeted* costs). For unit costs and flat-rates, you can charge the amounts calculated as explained in the Grant Agreement (*see art 6 and Annex 2 and 2a*).

The costs will be reimbursed at the funding rate fixed in the Grant Agreement (**90%**).

Grants may NOT produce a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). For-profit organisations must declare their revenues and, if there is a profit, we will deduct it from the final grant amount (*see art 22.3*).

Moreover, please be aware that the final grant amount may be reduced in case of non-compliance with the Grant Agreement (*e.g. improper implementation, breach of obligations, etc*).

### Budget categories and cost eligibility rules

The budget categories and cost eligibility rules are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 3, art 6 and Annex 2*).

*Budget categories for this call:*

- A. Personnel costs
  - A.1 Employees, A.2 Natural persons under direct contract, A.3 Seconded persons
  - A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries
  - A.5 Volunteers
- B. Subcontracting costs
- C. Purchase costs
  - C.1 Travel and subsistence
  - C.2 Equipment
  - C.3 Other goods, works and services
- D. Other cost categories *not applicable*
- E. Indirect costs

*Specific cost eligibility conditions for this call:*

**⚠ Please note that you must use unit costs for the following cost categories:**

- personnel costs:
  - **SME owner/natural person unit cost<sup>45</sup>: Yes**
  - **volunteers unit cost<sup>46</sup>: Yes (without indirect costs)**
- **travel and subsistence unit cost<sup>47</sup>: Yes**
- **equipment costs: depreciation**
- other cost categories:
  - costs for **financial support to third parties: not allowed**
- indirect cost flat-rate: 7% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs and exempted specific cost categories, if any)
- VAT: non-deductible VAT is eligible (but please note that since 2013 VAT paid by beneficiaries that are public bodies acting as public authority is NOT eligible)
- divers:

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<sup>45</sup> Commission [Decision](#) of 20 October 2020 authorising the use of unit costs for the personnel costs of the owners of small and medium-sized enterprises and beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary for the work carried out by themselves under an action or work programme (C(2020)7715).

<sup>46</sup> Commission [Decision](#) of 10 April 2019 authorising the use of unit costs for declaring personnel costs for the work carried out by volunteers under an action or a work programme (C(2019)2646).

<sup>47</sup> Commission [Decision](#) of 12 January 2021 authorising the use of unit costs for travel, accommodation and subsistence costs under an action or work programme under the 2021-2027 multi-annual financial framework (C(2021)35).



- in-kind contributions for free are allowed, but cost-neutral, i.e. cannot be declared as cost

 Volunteers costs — Volunteers costs are not a classic cost category. There are no costs because volunteers work for free, but they may nonetheless be added to the budget in the form of a pre-fixed unit cost (per volunteer) and thus allow you to benefit from the volunteers' work for the grant (by increasing the amount of reimbursement up to 100% of the normal costs, i.e. cost categories other than volunteers). More information is available in the [AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement, art 6.2.A.5](#).

#### Reporting and payment arrangements

The reporting and payment arrangements are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4 and art 21 and 22*).


After grant signature, you will normally receive a **prefinancing** to start working on the project (float of normally **80%** of the maximum grant amount; exceptionally less or no prefinancing). The prefinancing will be paid 30 days from entry into force/financial guarantee (if required) — whichever is the latest.

There will be no **interim payments**.

In addition, you will be expected to submit one or more progress reports not linked to payments.

**Payment of the balance:** At the end of the project, we will calculate your final grant amount. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, we will ask you (your coordinator) to pay back the difference (recovery).

All payments will be made to the coordinator.

 Please be aware that payments will be automatically lowered if one of your consortium members has outstanding debts towards the EU (granting authority or other EU bodies). Such debts will be offset by us — in line with the conditions set out in the Grant Agreement (*see art 22*).

Please also note that you are responsible for keeping records on all the work done and the costs declared.

#### Prefinancing guarantees

If a prefinancing guarantee is required, it will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4*). The amount will be set during grant preparation and it will normally be equal or lower than the prefinancing for your grant.

The guarantee should be in euro and issued by an approved bank/financial institution established in an EU Member State. If you are established in a non-EU country and would like to provide a guarantee from a bank/financial institution in your country, please contact us (this may be exceptionally accepted, if it offers equivalent security).

Amounts blocked in bank accounts will NOT be accepted as financial guarantees.

Prefinancing guarantees are formally NOT linked to individual consortium members, which means that you are free to organise how to provide the guarantee amount (*by one or several beneficiaries, for the overall amount or several guarantees for partial amounts, by the beneficiary concerned or by another beneficiary, etc*). It is however important that the requested amount is covered and that the guarantee(s) are sent to us in time to make the prefinancing (scanned copy via Portal AND original by post).

If agreed with us, the bank guarantee may be replaced by a guarantee from a third party.

The guarantee will be released at the end of the grant, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Grant Agreement.

### Certificates

Depending on the type of action, size of grant amount and type of beneficiaries, you may be requested to submit different certificates. The types, schedules and thresholds for each certificate are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4 and art 24*).

### Liability regime for recoveries

The liability regime for recoveries will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet point 4.4 and art 22*).

For beneficiaries, it is limited joint and several liability with individual ceilings — *each beneficiary up to their maximum grant amount*.

In addition, the granting authority may require joint and several liability of affiliated entities (with their beneficiary).

### Provisions concerning the project implementation

Security rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 13 and Annex 5)*

Ethics rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 14 and Annex 5)*

IPR rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 16 and Annex 5)*:

- rights of use on results: Yes

Communication, dissemination and visibility of funding: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 17 and Annex 5)*:

- additional communication and dissemination activities: Yes
- limited communication and visibility to protect persons involved: No

Specific rules for carrying out the action: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 18 and Annex 5)*:

- EU restrictive measures: Yes
- durability: Yes
- specific rules for humanitarian actions: Yes
- specific rules for blending operations: No

### Other specificities

n/a

### Non-compliance and breach of contract

The Grant Agreement (chapter 5) provides for the measures we may take in case of breach of contract (and other non-compliance issues).

 For more information, see [AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

## 11. How to submit an application

All proposals must be submitted directly online via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

Submission is a **2-step process**:

### a) create a user account and register your organisation

To use the Submission System (the only way to apply), all participants need to [create an EU Login user account](#).

Once you have an EULogin account, you can [register your organisation](#) in the Participant Register. When your registration is finalised, you will receive a 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

### b) submit the proposal

Access the Electronic Submission System via the Topic page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section (or, for calls sent by invitation to submit a proposal, through the link provided in the invitation letter).

Submit your proposal in 3 parts, as follows:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator, beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners) and the summarised budget for the proposal. Fill it in directly online
- Part B (description of the action) covers the technical content of the proposal. Download the mandatory word template from the Submission System, fill it in and upload it as a PDF file
- Annexes (*see section 5*). Upload them as PDF file (single or multiple depending on the slots). Excel upload is sometimes possible, depending on the file type.

The proposal must keep to the **page limits** (*see section 5*); excess pages will be disregarded.

Documents must be uploaded to the **right category** in the Submission System otherwise the proposal might be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The proposal must be submitted **before the call deadline** (*see section 4*). After this deadline, the system is closed and proposals can no longer be submitted.

Once the proposal is submitted, you will receive a **confirmation e-mail** (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the [IT Helpdesk webform](#), explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Details on processes and procedures are described in the [Online Manual](#). The Online Manual also contains the links to FAQs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System.

## 12. Help

As far as possible, ***please try to find the answers you need yourself***, in this and the other documentation (we have limited resources for handling direct enquiries):

- [Online Manual](#)
- FAQs on the Topic page (for call-specific questions in open calls; not applicable for actions by invitation)
- [Portal FAQ](#) (for general questions).

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 European Commission cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of applicants or actions.

Please also consult the Topic page regularly, since we will use it to publish call updates. (For invitations, we will contact you directly in case of a call update).

### Contact

For individual questions on the Portal Submission System, please contact the [IT Helpdesk](#).

Non-IT related questions should be sent to the following email address: [home-amif-union-actions@ec.europa.eu](mailto:home-amif-union-actions@ec.europa.eu)

Please indicate clearly the reference of the call and topic to which your question relates (*see cover page*).

## 13. Important

### IMPORTANT

- **Don't wait until the end** — Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute **technical problems**. Problems due to last minute submissions (*e.g. congestion, etc*) will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.
- **Consult** the Portal Topic page regularly. We will use it to publish updates and additional information on the call (call and topic updates).
- **Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System** — By submitting the application, all participants **accept** to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the [Portal Terms & Conditions](#).
- **Registration** — Before submitting the application, all beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners must be registered in the [Participant Register](#). The participant identification code (PIC) (one per participant) is mandatory for the Application Form.
- **Consortium roles** (*n/a for IBA named beneficiary calls*) — When setting up your consortium, you should think of organisations that help you reach objectives and solve problems.

The roles should be attributed according to the level of participation in the project. Main participants should participate as **beneficiaries** or **affiliated entities**; other entities can participate as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions. **Associated partners** and third parties giving in-kind contributions should bear their own costs (they will not become formal recipients of EU funding). **Subcontracting** should normally constitute a limited part and must be performed by third parties (not by one of the beneficiaries/affiliated entities). Subcontracting going beyond 30% of the total eligible costs must be justified in the application.

- **Coordinator** — In multi-beneficiary grants, the beneficiaries participate as consortium (group of beneficiaries). They will have to choose a coordinator, who will take care of the project management and coordination and will represent the consortium towards the granting authority. In mono-beneficiary grants, the single beneficiary will automatically be coordinator.
- **Affiliated entities** — Applicants may participate with affiliated entities (i.e. entities linked to a beneficiary which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries, but do not sign the grant and therefore do not become beneficiaries themselves). They will get a part of the grant money and must therefore comply with all the call conditions and be validated (just like beneficiaries); but they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition (if any).
- **Associated partners** — Applicants may participate with associated partners (i.e. partner organisations which participate in the action but without the right to get grant money). They participate without funding and therefore do not need to be validated.
- **Consortium agreement** — For practical and legal reasons it is recommended to set up internal arrangements that allow you to deal with exceptional or unforeseen circumstances (in all cases, even if not mandatory under the Grant Agreement). The consortium agreement also gives you the possibility to redistribute the grant money according to your own consortium-internal principles and parameters (for instance, one beneficiary can reattribute its grant money to another beneficiary). The consortium agreement thus allows you to customise the EU grant to the needs inside your consortium and can also help to protect you in case of disputes.

- **Balanced project budget** — Grant applications must ensure a balanced project budget and sufficient other resources to implement the project successfully (*e.g. own contributions, income generated by the action, financial contributions from third parties, etc*). You may be requested to lower your estimated costs, if they are ineligible (including excessive).
- **No-profit rule** — Grants may NOT give a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). This will be checked by us at the end of the project.
- **No double funding** — There is a strict prohibition of double funding from the EU budget (except under EU Synergies actions). Outside such Synergies actions, any given action may receive only ONE grant from the EU budget and cost items may under NO circumstances declared to two different EU actions.
- **Completed/ongoing projects** — Proposals for projects that have already been completed will be rejected; proposals for projects that have already started will be assessed on a case-by-case basis (in this case, no costs can be reimbursed for activities that took place before the project starting date/proposal submission).
- **Combination with EU operating grants** — Combination with EU operating grants is possible, if the project remains outside the operating grant work programme and you make sure that cost items are clearly separated in your accounting and NOT declared twice (see [AGA – Annotated Model Grant Agreement, art 6.2.E](#)).
- **Multiple proposals** — Applicants may submit more than one proposal for *different* projects under the same call (and be awarded a funding for them).  
Organisations may participate in several proposals.  
BUT: if there are several proposals for *very similar* projects, only one application will be accepted and evaluated; the applicants will be asked to withdraw one of them (or it will be rejected).
- **Resubmission** — Proposals may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission.
- **Rejection** — By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in this this Call Document (and the documents it refers to). Proposals that do not comply with all the call conditions will be **rejected**. This applies also to applicants: All applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them doesn't, they must be replaced or the entire proposal will be rejected.
- **Cancellation** — There may be circumstances which may require the cancellation of the call. In this case, you will be informed via a call or topic update. Please note that cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.
- **Language** — You can submit your proposal in any official EU language (project abstract/summary should however always be in English). For reasons of efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English for the entire application. If you need the call documentation in another official EU language, please submit a request within 10 days after call publication (for the contact information, see *section 12*).

- **Transparency** — In accordance with Article 38 of the [EU Financial Regulation](#), information about EU grants awarded is published each year on the [Europa website](#).

This includes:

- beneficiary names
- beneficiary addresses
- the purpose for which the grant was awarded
- the maximum amount awarded.

The publication can exceptionally be waived (on reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that the disclosure could jeopardise your rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm your commercial interests.

- **Data protection** — The submission of a proposal under this call involves the collection, use and processing of personal data. This data will be processed in accordance with the applicable legal framework. It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your proposal, subsequent management of your grant and, if needed, programme monitoring, evaluation and communication. Details are explained in the [Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement](#).