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2. European Action programmes 2014-2020 per sector

2.4 Social affairs, employment and justice

2.4.4 Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

PROGRAMME/CALL	Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2014-2020
Programme	<p>Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund is the new European Programme that will focus on people flows and the integrated management of migration. It will support actions addressing all aspects of migration, including asylum, legal migration, integration and the return of irregularly staying non-EU nationals.</p> <p>Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund draws on the capacity building process developed with the assistance of the European Refugee Fund, the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals and the European Return Fund and extends it to cover more comprehensively different aspects of the common Union asylum and immigration policy, including actions in or in relation to third countries addressing primarily EU interests and objectives in those policy areas, and takes into account new developments.</p>
Objectives	<p>The general objective of the Fund shall be to contribute to an effective management of migration flows in the Union as part of the area of freedom, security and justice, in accordance with the common policy on asylum, subsidiary protection and temporary protection and the common immigration policy.</p> <p>Within its general objective, the Fund shall contribute to the following specific objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. to strengthen and develop the Common European Asylum System, including its external dimension. The achievement of this objective shall be measured by indicators, inter alia, the level of improvement in asylum reception conditions, in the quality of asylum procedures, in the convergence of recognition rates across Member States, and in Member States' resettlement efforts. b. to support legal migration to the Union in line with the economic and social needs of Member States and promote the effective integration of third-country nationals, including of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection. The achievement of this objective shall be measured by indicators, inter alia, the level of increased participation of third-country nationals in employment, education and in democratic processes. c. to enhance fair and effective return strategies in the Member

	<p>States with emphasis on sustainability of return and effective readmission in the countries of origin. The achievement of this objective shall be measured by indicators, inter alia, the number of returnees.</p> <p>d. to enhance the solidarity and responsibility sharing between the Member States, in particular towards those most affected by migration and asylum flows. The achievement of this objective shall be measured by indicators, inter alia, the level of increased mutual assistance between Member States including through practical cooperation and relocation.</p>
<p>Type of project funded</p>	<p>The global resources shall be implemented through the following means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. national programmes; B. Union actions; C. emergency assistance; D. European Migration Network; E. technical assistance. <p>A. Under the programmes, Member States shall pursue in particular the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. strengthening the establishment of the Common European Asylum System by ensuring the efficient and uniform application of the Union acquis on asylum and the proper functioning of Regulation (EU) No 604/2013. Such actions may also include the establishment and development of the Union Resettlement Programme; b. setting up and developing integration strategies, encompassing different aspects of the two-way dynamic process, to be implemented at national/local/regional level where appropriate, taking into account the integration needs of third- country nationals at local/regional level, addressing specific needs of different categories of migrants and developing effective partnerships between relevant stakeholders; c. developing a return programme, which includes a component on assisted voluntary return and, where appropriate, on reintegration. <p>An additional amount may be allocated to the Member States provided that it is earmarked as such in the programme and shall be used to implement specific actions, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. establishment and development in the Union of transit and processing centres for refugees, in particular to support resettlement operations in cooperation with the UNHCR 2. new approaches, in cooperation with the UNHCR, concerning access to asylum procedures targeting main countries of transit such as protection programmes for particular groups or certain procedures for examination of applications for asylum 3. joint initiatives amongst Member States in the field of integration, such as benchmarking exercises, peer reviews or testing of European modules, for example on the

	<p>acquisition of language skills or the organisation of introductory programmes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. joint initiatives aimed at identification and implementation of new approaches concerning the procedures at first encounter and standards of protection of unaccompanied minors5. joint return operations, including joint actions on implementation of Union readmission agreements6. joint reintegration projects in the countries of origin with a view to sustainable return, as well as joint actions to strengthen third countries' capacities to implement Union readmission agreements7. joint initiatives aimed at restoring family unity and reintegration of unaccompanied minors in their countries of origin8. setting up of joint migration centres in third-countries, as well as joint projects to promote cooperation between recruitment agencies and employment services from Member States and third countries <p>B. At the Commission's initiative, the Fund may be used to finance transnational actions or actions of particular interest to the Union, concerning the general and specific objectives.</p> <p>To be eligible for funding, Union actions shall, in particular, support:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. the furthering of Union cooperation in implementing Union law and good practices in the field of asylum, including resettlement and relocation, legal migration, including integration of third-country nationals, and return;b. the setting-up of transnational cooperation networks and pilot projects, including innovative projects, based on transnational partnerships between bodies located in two or more Member States designed to stimulate innovation, and to facilitate exchanges of experience and good practice;c. studies on possible new forms of Union cooperation in the field of asylum, immigration, integration and return and relevant EU law, the dissemination and exchange of information on best practices and on all other aspects of asylum, immigration, integration and return policies, including corporate communication on the political priorities of the Union;d. development and application by Member States of common statistical tools, methods and indicators for measuring policy developments in the field of asylum, legal migration and integration and return;e. preparatory, monitoring, administrative and technical support, development of an evaluation mechanism, required to implement the policies on asylum and immigration;f. cooperation with third countries, in particular in the framework of the implementation of readmission agreements, mobility partnerships and regional protection programmes.
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	<p>C. The Fund shall provide financial assistance to address urgent and specific needs in the event of an emergency situation.</p> <p>D. The Fund shall support the European Migration Network and provide financial assistance necessary for its activities and its future development. The objective of the European Migration Network shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - to serve as an Union advisory council for migration and asylum through co-ordination and cooperation at both national and Union level with representatives of Member States, academia, civil society, think-tanks and other Union/international entities; - to meet the migration and asylum information needs of Union institutions and of the Member States by providing up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum, in order to support policymaking in the European Union in these areas; - to provide the general public with the information referred to in previous point. <p>To achieve its objective the European Migration Network shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. collect and exchange up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable data and information from a wide range of sources, including in meetings, by electronic means, through common studies and via ad-hoc queries; b. undertake analysis of the data and information referred to in point (a), including improving comparability, and provide it in format readily accessible to policymakers in particular; c. produce and publish periodic reports on the migration and asylum situation in the Union and the Member States; d. through the provision of the information produced by it, serve as a reference to the wider public for objective, impartial information on migration and asylum. <p>E. At the initiative and/or on behalf of the Commission, up to EUR 2,5 million of the Fund shall be annually used for technical assistance.</p>
<p>Eligible activities</p>	<p>The Programme will finance actions in the following area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. common European asylum system; 2. integration of third-country nationals and legal migration; 3. return. <p>1. In the field of common European asylum system, the Fund shall support:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. measures to improve the conditions of reception of refugees and asylum seekers as well as applicants and beneficiaries of international protection; in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the provision of material aid, including assistance at the border, education, training, support services, health and psychological care; - the provision of support services such as translation and interpretation, education, training, including language

	<p>training, and other initiatives which are consistent with the status of the person concerned;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the setting-up and improvement of administrative structures, systems and training for staff and relevant authorities to ensure effective and easy access to asylum procedures for asylum seekers and efficient and high-quality asylum procedures, in particular, where necessary, to support the development of the Union acquis; - the provision of social assistance, information or help with administrative and/or judicial formalities and information or counselling on the possible outcomes of the asylum procedure, including on aspects such as return procedures; - the provision of legal assistance and representation; - the identification of vulnerable groups and specific assistance for vulnerable persons, in particular in accordance with the points above; - the establishment, development and improvement of alternative measures to detention.provision of integrative actions from the list set out in Article 9 (1) – integration measures - , where this is combined with the reception of persons referred to in points (a) to (e) of Article 4. <p>In specific cases the Fund shall also support actions similar to those listed above, where such actions are related to persons who are temporarily staying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — in transit and processing centres for refugees, in particular to support resettlement operations in cooperation with the UNHCR, or — on the territory of a Member State in the context of other humanitarian admission programmes. <p>In compliance with Programme objectives and national objectives, the Fund may also support actions aiming at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the improvement and maintenance of existing accommodation infrastructure and services; - the strengthening and improvement of administrative structures and systems; - information for local communities; - the training of the staff of authorities, including local authorities, who will be interacting with the persons referred to in paragraph 1 in the context of their reception; - the establishment, running and development of new accommodation infrastructure and services, as well as administrative structures and systems, in particular, where necessary, to address the structural needs of Member States.. <p>b. measures to improve asylum procedures in the Member States and their capacity to develop, monitor and evaluate</p>
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	<p>their asylum policies; in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- actions enhancing the capacity of Member States — including in relation to the mechanism for early warning, preparedness and crisis management established in Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (1) — to collect, analyse and disseminate qualitative and quantitative data and statistics on asylum procedures, reception capacities, resettlement and the transfer of applicants for and/or beneficiaries of international protection from one Member State to another;- actions enhancing the capacity of Member States to collect, analyse and disseminate country-of-origin information; <p>c. actions directly contributing to the evaluation of asylum policies, such as national impact assessments, surveys amongst target groups and other relevant stakeholders, and to the development of indicators and benchmarking. implementation of resettlement and relocation, in particular supporting the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the establishment and development of national resettlement programmes and strategies and other humanitarian admission programmes, including needs analysis, improvement of indicators and evaluation;- the establishment of appropriate infrastructure and services to ensure the smooth and effective implementation of resettlement actions and actions concerning other humanitarian admission programmes, including language assistance;- the setting up of structures, systems and training of staff to conduct missions to the third countries and/or other Member States, to carry out interviews and to conduct medical and security screening;- the assessment of potential resettlement cases and/or cases of other humanitarian admission by the competent Member States' authorities, such as conducting missions to the third country, carrying out interviews and conducting medical and security screening;- pre-departure health assessment and medical treatment, pre-departure material provisions, pre-departure information and integration measures and travel arrangements, including the provision of medical escort services;- information and assistance upon arrival or shortly thereafter, including interpretation services;- actions for family reunification purposes for persons being resettled in a Member State;
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- the strengthening of infrastructure and services relevant to migration and asylum in the countries designated for the implementation of Regional Protection Programmes;- creating conditions conducive to the integration, autonomy and self-reliance of resettled refugees on a long-term basis. <p>2. In the field of integration of third-country nationals and legal migration, the Fund shall support:</p> <p>a. actions to facilitate integration and pre-departure measures the following actions taking place in the country of origin, shall in particular be eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- information packages and campaigns to raise awareness and promote intercultural dialogue, including via user-friendly communication and information technology and websites;- the assessment of skills and qualifications, as well as enhancement of transparency and compatibility of skills and qualifications in a third country with those of a Member State;- training enhancing employability in a Member State;- comprehensive civic orientation courses and language tuition; <p>b. assistance in the context of applications for family reunification within the meaning of Council Directive 2003/86/EC and integration measures in the framework of consistent strategies, implemented by NGOs, local authorities and / or regional, specifically designed to promote the integration of third-country nationals at local and / or regional, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- setting up and developing such integration strategies with the participation of local or regional actors, where appropriate, including needs analysis, the improvement of integration indicators, and evaluation, including participatory assessments, in order to identify best practices;- providing advice and assistance in areas such as housing, means of subsistence, administrative and legal guidance, health, psychological and social care, child care and family reunification;- actions introducing third-country nationals to the receiving society and actions enabling them to adapt to it, to inform them about their rights and obligations, to participate in civil and cultural life and to share the values enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union;- measures focusing on education and training, including language training and preparatory actions to facilitate access to the labour market;
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- actions designed to promote self-empowerment and to enable third-country nationals to provide for themselves;- actions that promote meaningful contact and constructive dialogue between third-country nationals and the receiving society, and actions to promote acceptance by the receiving society, including through the involvement of the media;- actions promoting both equality of access and equality of outcomes in relation to third-country nationals' dealings with public and private services, including adaptation of those services to dealing with third-country nationals; <p>c. capacity-building of beneficiaries, as defined in point (g) of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- building up strategies promoting legal migration with a view to facilitating the development and implementation of flexible admission procedures;- supporting cooperation between third countries and the recruitment agencies, the employment services and the immigration services of Member States, as well as supporting Member States in their implementation of Union migration law, consultation processes with relevant stakeholders and expert advice or information exchanges on approaches which target specific nationalities or categories of third-country nationals with respect to the needs of the labour markets;- reinforcing the capacity of Member States to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate their immigration strategies, policies and measures across the different levels and departments of administrations, in particular enhancing their capacity to collect, analyse and disseminate detailed and systematic data and statistics on migration procedures and flows and residence permits, and develop monitoring tools, evaluation schemes, indicators and benchmarking for measuring the achievement of those strategies;- training of beneficiaries as defined in point (g) of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 and of staff providing public and private services, including educational institutions, promoting the exchange of experiences and best practices, cooperation and networking, and intercultural capacities, as well as improving the quality of services provided;- building sustainable organisational structures for integration and diversity management, in particular through cooperation between different stakeholders enabling officials at various levels of national
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	<p>administrations to swiftly acquire information about experiences and best practices elsewhere and, where possible, to pool resources between relevant authorities as well as between governmental and non-governmental bodies to provide services to third- country nationals more effectively, inter alia, through one-stop-shops (i.e. coordinated integration-support centres);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contributing to a dynamic two-way process of mutual interaction, underlying integration strategies at local and regional level by developing platforms for the consultation of third-country nationals, exchanges of information among stakeholders and intercultural and religious dialogue platforms between third-country nationals' communities, between those communities and the receiving society and/or between those communities and policy and decision-making authorities; <p>actions to promote and reinforce the practical cooperation between the relevant authorities of Member States, with a focus on, inter alia, exchanges of information, best practices and strategies, and the development and implementation of joint actions, including with a view to safeguarding the integrity of the immigration systems of Member States.</p> <p>3. In the field of return, the Fund shall support:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. measures accompanying return procedures, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the introduction, development and improvement of alternative measures to detention; - the provision of social assistance, information or help with administrative and/or judicial formalities and information or counselling; - the provision of legal aid and language assistance; - specific assistance for vulnerable persons; - the introduction and improvement of independent and effective systems for monitoring enforced return, as laid down in Article 8(6) of Directive 2008/115/EC; - the establishment, maintenance and improvement of accommodation, reception or detention infrastructure, services and conditions; - the setting-up of administrative structures and systems, including IT tools; b. the training of staff to ensure smooth and effective return procedures, including their management and implementation. return measures, in particular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - measures necessary for the preparation of return operations, such as those leading to the identification of third- country nationals, to the
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	<p>issuing of travel documents and to family tracing;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- cooperation with the consular authorities and immigration services of third countries with a view to obtaining travel documents, facilitating repatriation and ensuring readmission;- assisted voluntary return measures, including medical examinations and assistance, travel arrangements, financial contributions and pre- and post-return counselling and assistance;- removal operations, including related measures, in accordance with the standards laid down in Union law, with the exception of coercive equipment;- measures to launch the progress of reintegration for the returnee's personal development, such as cash-incentives, training, placement and employment assistance and start-up support for economic activities;- facilities and services in third countries ensuring appropriate temporary accommodation and reception upon arrival; <p>c. (g) specific assistance for vulnerable persons.practical co-operation and capacity building measures, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- actions to promote, develop and reinforce operational cooperation and information exchange between the return services and other authorities of Member States involved in return, including as regards cooperation with the consular authorities and immigration services of third countries and joint return operations;actions to support cooperation between third countries and the return services of Member States, including measures aiming to strengthen third countries' capacities to conduct readmission and reintegration activities, in particular in the framework of readmission agreements;- actions enhancing the capacity to develop effective and sustainable return policies, in particular by exchanging information on the situation in countries of return, best practices, sharing experiences and pooling resources between Member States;- actions enhancing the capacity to collect, analyse and disseminate detailed and systematic data and statistics on return procedures and measures, reception and detention capacities, enforced and voluntary returns, monitoring and reintegration;- actions directly contributing to the evaluation of return policies, such as national impact assessments, surveys amongst target groups, the development of indicators and benchmarking;- information measures and campaigns in third countries aimed at raising awareness of the
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	appropriate legal channels for immigration and the risks of illegal immigration.
Eligible organizations	The main beneficiaries of the financial support for asylum and migration will be the Member States' departments responsible for the implementation of relevant acquis or policies as well as international organisations or NGOs working in the field of asylum and migration (admission procedures, integration measures and return operations).
Eligible countries	The eligible countries are the 28 EU Member States.
Duration	The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund has a duration of 7 years from 1 st January 2014 to 31 st December 2020. The duration of the various projects to be implemented will be announced with the release of new calls for the new programming period 2014-2020.
Budget	The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) has a total budget of €3.1 billion for 2014-2020. The total amount is divided as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - €2,752 million shared management (national programmes) - €385 million centralised management (Union actions, actions in and in relation to third-countries, emergency assistance, European Migration Network, technical assistance of the COM). The level of support per each type of initiative may vary eg the emergency assistance may amount to 100 % of the eligible expenditure, national programmes may be funded with a rate between 75% and 100 % according to strategic priorities.
Deadlines	Under the new Programme, the deadlines for the submission of project proposals will be announced with the publication of new calls.
How to apply	The application rules will be announced once the first call will be published.
Evaluation criteria	The evaluation criteria will be announced with the release of new calls of the programming period 2014-2020.
Link	Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund REGULATION (EU) No 516/2014 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 16 April 2014 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, amending Council Decision 2008/381/EC and repealing Decisions No 573/2007/EC and No 575/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Decision 2007/435/EC DG Home Affairs – European Commission website