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ANNEX 1

ANNEX

to

Commission Implementing Decision

**on the adoption of the work programme for 2016 and the financing of Union actions in
the framework of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund**

ANNEX

2016 work programme for support for Union actions in the framework of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund¹

Policy context

On 13 May 2015, the Commission adopted a European Agenda on Migration (EAM)², which set out immediate action to be taken in response to the human tragedy in the Mediterranean and four ‘pillars’ for the better management of migration:

- reducing the incentives for irregular migration;
- border management — ‘saving lives and securing external borders’;
- ‘Europe’s duty to protect: a strong common asylum policy’; and
- a new policy on legal migration.

The 2016 annual work programme for Union action (AWP) in the framework of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) includes:

- the ‘immediate action’ envisaged in the EAM (support for the Regional Development and Protection Programmes);
- action to reduce the incentives for irregular migration (helping third-countries to meet their obligations as regards readmitting their own nationals residing irregularly in the EU, support for reintegration measures, providing information and awareness-raising on the risks of irregular migration, tackling migrant smuggling, support for the deployment of European migration liaison officers); and
- action relating to the new policy on legal migration (integration of third-country nationals).

¹ 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 (OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 168).

² *A European Agenda on Migration*, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (COM(2015) 240 final).

Overview of 2016 implementation

| Budget lines | Total (EUR) |
|--|-------------|
| 18 03 01 01 — Strengthening and developing the Common European Asylum System and enhancing solidarity and responsibility-sharing between Member States | 15 375 000 |
| 18 03 01 02 — Supporting legal migration to the Union, promoting the effective integration of third-country nationals and enhancing fair and effective return strategies | 27 790 543 |

| Implementation arrangements | Total (EUR) | % of 2016 AWP appropriations |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Grants | 37 550 000 | 87.0 |
| Procurement | 5 090 543 | 11.8 |
| Other actions | 525 000 | 1.2 |
| TOTAL | 43 165 543 | 100 |

Entities established in Member States participating in the AMIF (i.e. all except Denmark) can be beneficiaries of AMIF-supported actions. Entities established in Denmark can participate on a no-cost basis only.

All AWP activities must respect and be implemented in line with the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. All actions concerning children must respect and be implemented in line with the UN Convention on the rights of the child. Any beneficiaries working directly with children should have a well-defined child safeguarding/child protection policy. The increase in the number of migrant children (unaccompanied/separated and within families) should be reflected in the design and implementation of actions set out below.

Consistency, complementarity and synergies with other Union instruments must be ensured. Under Article 3(4) and Article 3(5) of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014³, AWP actions in and in relation with third countries is to be carried out in synergy and coherence with other actions outside the Union supported from Union funds, in particular external assistance instruments. Such actions are identified and implemented in full coordination with the European External Action Service (EEAS) and relevant Commission external relations services, including the Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) as far as humanitarian assistance is concerned. They will be fully consistent with and, where relevant, complement the Union's humanitarian policy, and respect the principles set out in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid⁴.

³ Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 laying down general provisions on the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and on the instrument for financial support for police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, and crisis management (OJ L 150, 20.5.2014, p. 112).

⁴ *The European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid*, Joint Statement by the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission 2008/C 25/01 (OJ C 25, 30.1.2008, p. 1).

1. BUDGET LINE 18 03 01 01: STRENGTHENING AND DEVELOPING THE COMMON EUROPEAN ASYLUM SYSTEM AND ENHANCING SOLIDARITY AND RESPONSIBILITY-SHARING BETWEEN THE MEMBER STATES

1.1. Introduction

As regards the objectives of **strengthening and developing all aspects of the Common European Asylum System and enhancing solidarity and responsibility-sharing between the Member States** (covered by budget line 18 03 01 01), the AWP contains the following action and budget breakdown for 2016:

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Grants implemented under direct management (1.2): | EUR 15 000 000 |
| Other action (1.3): | EUR 375 000 |
| TOTAL: | EUR 15 375 000 |

1.2. Grants

1.2.1. Direct award of action grant for a consortium led by the Italian Ministry of the Interior to support long-term capacity-building and access to international protection and durable solutions for persons in third countries in the framework of a Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) in North Africa

Legal basis

Article 20(2)(f) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 01

Priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results

As set out in the 2005 Communication on *Regional Protection Programmes (RPPs)*⁵, EU RPPs should support action to enhance third countries' capacity to provide that asylum-seekers and refugees receive effective protection, assistance and durable solutions (respectively repatriation, local integration and/or resettlement). In line with a recently adopted more comprehensive approach, which also includes a development dimension, such programmes have been renamed 'Regional Development and Protection Programmes' (RDPPs).

The May 2012 Council Conclusions on the Global Approach to Mobility and Migration

⁵ Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on Regional Protection Programmes (COM(2005)388 final).

(GAMM) also stressed the importance of helping third countries to become robust providers of effective protection in accordance with international law, and the contribution of RDPPs to offsetting negative impacts and supporting positive impacts in local communities. Improved safety, and the availability of and access to means for self-reliance can avert secondary movements and are an important precursor to a durable solution.

The June 2014 European Council Conclusions, the October 2014 Justice and Home Affairs Council Conclusions and the April 2015 European Council Conclusions called for the setting up of an enlarged RDPP for North Africa. The EAM translated these political guidelines into a key 'immediate action'. RDPP assistance to third countries builds on the recognised need for a comprehensive approach to gaps in international protection and to asylum problems. The RDPPs also take into account the approach put forward in the Communication *Lives in dignity: from aid-dependency to self-reliance*⁶ to change the way forcibly displaced persons are helped to become more self-reliant in the communities where they reside, while protecting those most vulnerable. The North Africa RDPP was supported under the 2015 AMIF AWP for Union Actions.

Through this AWP, additional support will be provided for developing the RDPP in Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Niger and, where possible, Algeria, with some activities potentially being rolled out in other countries (e.g. Mauritania) depending on changing migratory flows in Africa.

Activities to be funded from the grant awarded without a call for proposals under Article 190 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012⁷ (the Rules of Application)

Funding will target activities that are not directly focused on development, are complementary to activities already financed from the humanitarian aid budget line, and have a direct impact in the EU, including resettlement activities:

- establishing, developing and improving an effective refugee status determination (RSD) procedure (including registration), with a legal/policy and institutional framework to help host countries better manage migration and refugee situations;
- establishing, expanding and improving reception arrangements in host countries;
- training in protection issues for those dealing with refugees and migrants;
- whenever not already supported by the online media portal providing news and information services for migrants and refugees in third-countries, to be supported by this AWP, and in strict coordination with other existing similar initiatives, information campaigns on access to international protection, the risks relating to irregular migration and possible alternatives;
- encouraging and supporting resettlement commitments by Member States and other

⁶ *Lives in Dignity: from Aid-dependence to Self-reliance*, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (COM(2016) 234 final).

⁷ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (OJ L 362, 31.12.2012, p. 1).

resettlement countries;

- whenever not already covered by the envisaged Readmission Capacity-Building Facility II in targeted countries (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt), and in strict coordination with the latter and other existing instruments to support assisted voluntary return and reintegration, voluntary return and support for returnees from countries of transit to countries of origin in full respect of the principle of non-refoulement;
- support for the integration of migrants and refugees in the host countries of the North Africa region;
- assistance to migrants, asylum seekers and refugees stranded along the migratory route or as they disembark after being rescued at sea; and
- whenever relevant and not already supported by the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) funded development pillar of the RDPP, providing and supporting livelihood, employment and education opportunities, and access to services, including healthcare and diseases prevention services, for migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and host communities.

Where possible, complementary funding may be provided to support other actions relevant to the RDPP, in particular from EU external cooperation instruments supporting development-oriented actions. With regard to the development pillar of the RDPP, the ENI already financed in 2015 a first project, the *Community Resilience Initiative to support the Regional Development and Protection Programme in North Africa*, implemented by IOM. Additional funding to reinforce this component may be allocated by the North of Africa window of the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing the root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) Caritas International and Save the Children International will be associated with the consortium and involved as co-beneficiaries of the action. Other NGOs may be involved in implementation on the basis of financial support for third parties, in accordance with Article 137 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012⁸ (the Financial Regulation) and Article 210 of the Rules of Application, or of sub-contracting.

Governance and control structure

A steering committee has been set up for the RDPP, chaired by the Italian Ministry of the Interior and comprising representatives of the Commission, EEAS, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) and a number of Member States and Dublin-associated states participating in the consortium. The Italian Ministry of the Interior provides the secretariat of the steering committee and technical support/assistance where necessary.

A sub-group has been set up to steer the AMIF-funded action under the RDPP. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) participate where relevant. The sub-group provides overall strategic

⁸ Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and repealing Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 (OJ L 298, 26.10.2012, p. 1).

guidance for implementation, adopts and (where necessary) revises the action priorities and examines and approves each sub-action to be funded by the AMIF under the RDPP, and budget changes.

The committee and the sub-group monitor progress, *inter alia* on the basis of interim progress reports. They meet periodically, as laid down in the committee's terms of reference. Due attention will be paid to the need for coherence and coordination with other initiatives supporting the RDPP/GAMM. In particular, strict coordination and cooperation at all stages will be sought with the development pillar's initiatives of the RDPP, to be financed by the ENI.

Further details on the functioning of the RDPP will be laid down in the grant agreement.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

This action grant will be awarded directly (without a call for proposals) following an invitation to the consortium to submit a proposal, in accordance with Article 128 of the Financial Regulation and Article 190(1)(f) of the Rules of Application. The Italian Ministry of the Interior will act as leader and coordinator of the consortium, which will include the relevant public authorities from Italy, Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom (UK), as well as the UNHCR and the IOM, in association with the ICRC and IFRC, Caritas International and Save the Children International.

The direct award of the grant is justified by the specific characteristics of the action, requiring technical competence and a high degree of specialisation that only the consortium of public authorities, international organisations and associated organisations possesses.

Selection criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 202 of the Rules of Application, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following selection criteria:

- financial capacity — applicants and co-applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period in which the action is carried out and to participate in its funding; and
- operational capacity — applicants and co-applicants must have the professional resources, competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed action.

These are not verified in respect of public bodies and international organisations.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of relevance, quality, cost-effectiveness and European added value.

Indicative timetable and amount

| Reference | Date | Amount |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| HOME/2016/AMIF/AG/RDPP/NA | Q4 2016 | EUR 7 500 000 |

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Maximum rate of co-financing of eligible costs

90 %

1.2.2. Direct award of action grant for a consortium led by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support long-term capacity-building and access to international protection and durable solutions for persons in third countries in the framework of an RDPP in the Horn of Africa

Legal basis

Article 20(2)(f) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 01

Priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results

As set out in the 2005 RPP Communication, EU RPPs should support action to enhance third countries' capacity to provide asylum seekers and refugees with effective protection, assistance and durable solutions (repatriation, local integration and/or resettlement). In line with a recently adopted, more comprehensive approach, which also includes a development dimension, such programmes have been renamed RDPPs.

The May 2012 Council Conclusions on the GAMM also stressed the importance of helping third countries to become robust providers of effective protection in accordance with international law, and the contribution of RDPPs to offsetting negative impacts and supporting positive impacts in local communities. Improved safety, and the availability of and access to means for self-reliance can avert secondary movements and are an important precursor to a durable solution.

The June 2014 European Council Conclusions, the October 2014 Justice and Home Affairs Council Conclusions and the April 2015 European Council Conclusions called for the setting up of an enlarged RDPP in the Horn of Africa. The EAM translated these political guidelines into a key 'immediate action'. RDPP assistance to third countries builds on the recognised need for a comprehensive approach to gaps in international protection and to asylum problems, including efforts to increase resettlement as a durable solution, with the support *inter alia* of the UNHCR. The RDPPs also take into account the approach put forward in the Communication *Lives in dignity: from aid-dependency to self-reliance* to change the way

forcibly displaced persons are helped to become more self-reliant in the communities where they reside, while protecting those most vulnerable. The Horn of Africa RDPP was supported under the 2015 AMIF AWP for Union Actions.

Through this AWP, additional support will be provided for developing the RDPP (with a focus on Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and, if possible, Somalia, South Sudan, Eritrea and Uganda).

Activities to be funded from the grant awarded without a call for proposals under Article 190 of the Rules of Application

Funding will target activities that are not directly focused on development, are complementary to activities already financed from the humanitarian aid budget line, and have a direct impact in the EU, including resettlement activities:

- establishing, developing and improving an effective RSD procedure (including registration), with a legal/policy and institutional framework to help host countries better manage migration and refugee situations;
- establishing, expanding and improving reception arrangements in host countries;
- training in protection issues for those dealing with refugees and migrants;
- information campaigns on access to international protection, the risks relating to irregular migration and possible alternatives;
- encouraging and supporting resettlement commitments by Member States and other resettlement countries;
- voluntary return and support for returnees from countries of transit to countries of origin in full respect of the principle of non-refoulement;
- support for the integration of migrants and refugees in the host countries of the Horn of Africa region;
- assistance to migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees stranded along the migratory route; and
- providing and supporting livelihood, employment and education opportunities, skills training and access to services, including healthcare and diseases prevention services, for migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and host communities.

Where possible, complementary funding may be provided to support other actions relevant to the RDPP, in particular from EU external cooperation instruments supporting development-oriented actions.

NGOs may be involved in implementation on the basis of financial support for third parties, in accordance with Article 137 of the Financial Regulation and Article 210 of the Rules of Application, or of sub-contracting.

Governance and control structure

A steering committee has been set up for the RDPP, chaired by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and comprising representatives of the Commission, EEAS, a number of

Member States and Dublin-associated states participating in the consortium, and the UNHCR and the IOM where relevant. The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides the secretariat of the committee and technical support/assistance where necessary.

A steering group has been set up to steer the AMIF-funded action under the RDPP. It provides strategic guidance for implementation, adopts and (where necessary) revises action priorities and examines and approves sub-actions to be funded and budget changes. It also monitors progress.

The steering committee and the steering group meet periodically, as laid down in the committee's terms of reference. Due attention will be paid to the need for coherence and coordination with other initiatives supporting the RDPP/GAMM. In particular, strict coordination and cooperation at all stages will be sought with the RDPP initiatives to be financed under the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing the root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa or other development co-operation funding.

Further details on the functioning of the RDPP will be laid down in the grant agreement.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

This grant will be awarded directly (without a call for proposals) following an invitation to the consortium to submit a proposal, in accordance with Article 128 of the Financial Regulation and Article 190(1)(f) of the Rules of Application. The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs will act as leader and coordinator of the consortium, which will include relevant public authorities from the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta and the UK, and the UNHCR and the IOM.

The direct award of the grant is justified by the specific characteristics of the action, requiring technical competence and a high degree of specialisation that only the consortium of public authorities and international organisations possesses.

Selection criteria

Financial and operational capacity are not verified in respect of public bodies and international organisations.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of relevance, quality, cost-effectiveness and European added value.

Indicative timetable and amount

| Reference | Date | Amount |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| HOME/2016/AMIF/AG/RDPP/HA | Q4 2016 | EUR 7 500 000 |

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Maximum rate of co-financing of eligible costs

90 %

1.3. Other action

1.3.1 Improving the collection and identification of statistics on asylum and migration

Legal basis

Article 20(2)(d) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 01

Amount

EUR 375 000

Description and objective of implementing measure

The objective is to ensure that asylum and migration statistics are identified and extracted for use in programming and implementing EU policies and that additional statistical data is collected for the same purpose. Data tables collected specifically about children and when feasible all other relevant datasets shall always provide for inclusion of the disaggregation by age/sex and figures on children who are unaccompanied.

Eurostat will provide customised data extractions from the European statistics products in use in response to *ad hoc* requests from the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME). It will also provide technical and methodological support on the collection of additional asylum and migration statistics.

Implementation

The action will be implemented via a sub-delegation of budget from DG HOME to Eurostat on the basis of a memorandum of understanding between them in the area of statistics.

Type of action: Procurement

Type of contract: It is envisaged to use specific contracts.

Indicative number of contracts envisaged: 3

Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedures: Q3-4 2016

2. BUDGET LINE 18 03 01 02: SUPPORTING LEGAL MIGRATION TO THE UNION, PROMOTING THE EFFECTIVE INTEGRATION OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS AND ENHANCING FAIR AND EFFECTIVE RETURN STRATEGIES

2.1. Introduction

As regards the objectives of **supporting legal migration to the Member States to promote the effective integration of third-country nationals and enhancing fair and effective return strategies** (covered by budget line 18 03 01 02), the AWP contains the following actions and budget breakdown for 2016:

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Grants implemented under direct management (2.2): | EUR 22 550 000 |
| Procurement implemented under direct management (2.3): | EUR 5 090 543 |
| Other actions (2.4): | EUR 150 000 |
| TOTAL: | EUR 27 790 543 |

2.2. Grants

2.2.1. Call for proposals to support transnational projects to integrate third-country nationals

Legal basis

Article 20(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 02

Priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The inclusion of an action on the integration of third country nationals in the AMIF 2016 Union actions work programme is justified by the socio economic outcomes of third country nationals in the EU compared with EU citizens (lower employment rate, higher risk of poverty and lower education achievements), in particular for women and young people. In addition, the very high influx of third country nationals to the EU in 2014 and 2015, the often rather low educational background of the newly arrived, and the considerable number of unaccompanied minors, justifies the inclusion of an action dedicated to integration in this work programme. The EAM stressed that EU migration policy would succeed only if underpinned by effective integration policies. In September 2015, the President of the

Commission announced in his State of the Union speech that Member States needed to take a second look at their support, integration and inclusion policies and that the Commission was ready to look into how EU Funds could support these efforts. The recent Commission communication on the 2016 European Semester⁹ also pointed out at the fact that economic and social policies also needed to cater for the recent inflow of migrants and refugees, in particular to provide for their immediate needs and integration in the labour market.

Access to education must also be considered as a key element since it feeds into the highly-skilled human capital needed in EU Member-States, while enabling the participation of refugees and asylum seekers in the receiving society.

Priority 1: Promoting active participation in society overall

Integration goes beyond having a job. Active participation in other aspects of society is equally important, in particular in educational activities and social activities, including for children. Not only does this contribute to the smooth integration of third-country nationals, it also helps to promote a positive image of migration, combat stereotypes, communicate real facts and change the ‘narrative’ on migration.

In the evaluation of projects, the inclusion of the gender dimension through specific action empowering women or creating conditions for their active participation will be considered favourably. This needs to be clearly demonstrated through specific objectives and targets.

The objectives are to:

- promote the development and implementation of innovative actions to increase third country nationals’ participation in educational and social activities, cultural life, media professions, decision-making/consultation and representation frameworks; and
- foster knowledge- and experience-sharing and capacity-building on successful action to increase third country nationals’ participation in society, with a particular focus on social activities, cultural life, sport, media professions, decision-making/consultation and representation frameworks.

Priority 2: Pre-departure and post-arrival support for the integration of persons in need of international protection who are being relocated within the EU or resettled from a third country

Funding will be available for the following activities to integrate persons in need of international protection who have been relocated from another Member State or resettled from outside the EU:

- for people resettled from outside the EU – clearly linked pre-departure and post-arrival activities;
- for people relocated from another Member State – post-arrival activities building on pre-departure information activities; and

⁹ 2016 European Semester: Assessment of progress on structural reforms, prevention and correction of macroeconomic imbalances, and results of in-depth reviews under Regulation (EU) No 1176/2011 (COM(2016)95 final/2).

- activities to prepare host communities for the arrival of relocated or resettled people.

Integrated multi-stakeholder partnerships should be sought, ideally between national, regional and local authorities (municipalities) and civil society organisations. Projects could focus on exchanges and mutual learning between stakeholders in Member States with varying degrees of experience of resettlement or relocation.

In the evaluation of the projects, the inclusion of the gender dimension will be considered favourably. This needs to be clearly demonstrated through specific objectives and targets.

The objectives are to support:

- pre-departure activities aimed at preparing resettled third country nationals for their life in the EU; these should serve as a basis for subsequent post-arrival activities.
- specific post-arrival activities, especially building on/deepening pre-departure activities and enabling effective integration of resettled and relocated people; and
- capacity-building in the receiving communities, in particular for service-providers and potential employers.

These activities should *inter alia* address vulnerable groups (e.g. women, children).

Gender mainstreaming

Projects should seek to promote gender equality. Where relevant, applicants should ensure that gender equality issues are taken into account by paying attention to the situation and particular needs of women and men.

Rights of the child mainstreaming

Projects should seek to promote the respect of the rights of the child. Where relevant, applicants should ensure that rights of the child issues are taken into account by paying attention to the situation and particular needs of children.

Equal employment opportunities

The Commission encourages applicants to promote equal employment opportunities for all their staff and team, and to employ an appropriately diverse mix of people.

Applicants should take these objectives into account when planning their project and preparing their application, and demonstrate in their proposal how they will achieve them.

Beneficiaries will be required to detail in their final activity report the steps taken to meet these objectives and the extent to which they have been achieved.

Activities to be funded under the call for proposals

- Concrete initiatives fostering the active participation of third-country nationals in the receiving society (information dissemination, awareness-raising, training, diversity

management plans and measures, mentoring programmes);

- Promotion, dissemination and sharing of successful practices, experiences and mechanisms in the field of quick insertion in education and in the labour market and the active participation of third-country nationals in the receiving society;
- Pre-departure activities, which could include:
 - language training and training on skills and attitudes to facilitate integration;
 - managing expectations;
 - step-by-step guidance through the resettlement process;
 - providing basic information on the receiving society's legal framework, systems and social and cultural norms, rights and responsibilities;
 - workshops on living in a multicultural and multi-religious environment; and
 - guidance on access to services, money management, etc.;
- Post-arrival activities, which could include:
 - language tuition;
 - continuing the socio-cultural orientation provided in pre-departure activities;
 - knowledge of rights, including rights of the child, responsibilities and institutions;
 - skills training;
 - training officials, volunteers and service-providers on working with resettled or relocated people (e.g. sensitising them to vulnerability and experience of trauma);
 - establishing volunteering opportunities in the host community; and
 - referral to appropriate services, etc.;
- Activities to prepare host communities for the arrival of relocated or resettled people, which could include:
 - preparing the relevant administrative bodies (schools, etc.);
 - socio-cultural orientation (e.g. information about countries of origin);
 - countering myths;
 - workshops on living in a multicultural and multi-religious environment; and
 - direct exchanges between the resettled/relocated people and host communities.

All projects must have a concrete and practical dimension, directly targeting third-country nationals. EASO activities in this field should be taken into account.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

a) Applicants and co-applicants must be:

- legal persons;
- established in a Member State participating in AMIF (this does not apply to

international organisations);

- public bodies (including local authorities, public employment services, youth services and education institutions), entities working on a non-profit basis or international organisations. (Union agencies cannot submit applications or be co-applicants);

- b) For-profit organisations can participate only as co-applicants and not as coordinators. Their participation must be strictly on a non-profit basis;
- c) Applications must involve a partnership of at least three distinct organisations from at least two different Member States participating in the AMIF; and
- d) The grant amount requested must be between EUR 450 000 and EUR 750 000.

Selection criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 202 of the Rules of Application, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following selection criteria:

- financial capacity — applicants and co-applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period in which the action is carried out and to participate in its funding; and
- operational capacity — applicants and co-applicants must have the professional resources, competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed action.

These are not verified in respect of public bodies and international organisations.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of relevance, quality, cost-effectiveness and European added value.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

Indicative timetable and amount

| Reference | Date | Amount |
|------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| HOME/2016/AMIF/AG/INTE | Q4 2016 | EUR 9 500 000 |

Maximum rate of co-financing of eligible costs

90 %

2.2.2. Direct award of action grant to OECD for the reporting on indicators of migrants' integration

Legal basis

Article 20(2)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 02

Priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Integration of immigrants and their children has become a priority issue in the policy agenda of many EU and OECD countries, not least because of the refugee crisis. Integration, both in its economic and social dimensions, is a prerequisite not only for a positive economic impact in the long run and for migrants being able to function as autonomous citizens in their host countries. It is also vital for building positive views by the host-country society on refugees and migrants in general. And it is the key for social cohesion.

Over the past years, significant efforts have been made to develop statistical tools to monitor the integration of immigrants and their children at the international level. In order to support its effort to provide accurate data and indicators on the integration of immigrants and their children, the OECD has been developing a broad knowledge regarding integration policies and integration outcomes in OECD countries.

In 2015, the OECD and the European Commission jointly released the first international comparison covering all EU and OECD countries of the outcomes for immigrants and their children (Indicators of Immigrant Integration 2015 - Settling in). It covered 41 countries through 27 indicators organised around five areas: Employment, education and skills, social inclusion, civic engagement and social cohesion. It also presented detailed contextual information (demographic and immigrant-specific) for immigrants and immigrant households, as well as two special chapters dedicated to specific groups. The first group is that of young people with an immigrant background, whose outcomes are often seen as the benchmark for the success or failure of integration. The second group are third-country nationals in the European Union, who are the target of EU integration policy. The publication was released together with a web tool (<http://www.compareyourcountry.org/indicators-of-immigrant-integration>).

Building on these experiences, the OECD and the DG Home Affairs of the European Commission will jointly update the monitoring of the integration of immigrants and their children in the 28 EU Member States plus the OECD non-EU countries hosting a large number of immigrants.

Activities to be funded from the grants awarded without a call for proposals under Article 190 of the Rules of Application

The 2016 publication will be more synthetic than the 2015 one and include an update of the core indicators. It will also look at evolution over time. Not all the data would be released in the publication itself but a comprehensive set of more detailed indicators would be available

on-line, to the extent possible disaggregated by gender, educational level and other relevant dimensions (depending on the indicator). The publication would cover all the EU28 as well as all non-EU OECD countries, thereby placing the European experience in a broader international perspective. To have a broad comparative approach regarding target groups, the publication would cover, for the core indicators and to the extent possible, both foreign-born and third-country nationals (for the EU and OECD European countries).

The indicators are to cover all policy areas identified in the Zaragoza Declaration, organised in the following way: i) Contextual information; ii) Access to the labour market and job quality; iii) Education and skills; iv) Social inclusion (including income, housing, health); v) Civic engagement and active citizenship; and vi) Social cohesion and discrimination.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

An action grant will be awarded directly (without a call for proposals) following an invitation to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to submit a proposal, in accordance with Article 128 of the Financial Regulation and Article 190(1)(f) of the Rules of Application.

The direct award of the grant is justified by the specific characteristics of the action, which require the OECD's technical competence, its high degree of specialisation and its administrative power. The OECD has a unique expertise, legitimacy and contacts with the data providers (MS administrations) to support the EU in this task.

Selection criteria

Financial and operational capacity are not verified in respect of public bodies and international organisations.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of relevance, quality, cost-effectiveness and European added value.

Indicative timetable and amount

| Reference | Date | Amount |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| HOME/2016/AMIF/AG/OECD/01 | Q3 2016 | EUR 250 000 |

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Maximum rate of co-financing of eligible costs

90 %

2.2.3. Direct award of action grant to OECD for a comparative report on labour migration policies and the role of ‘expression of interest’ models and matching mechanisms

Legal basis

Article 20(2)(c) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 02

Priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results

In the Communication on a reform of the Common European Asylum System and enhancing legal avenues to Europe¹⁰, the Commission announced that it would launch a study on the possible development of a mechanism at EU level that would aim at improving transparency and facilitating the matching between potential migrants and employers. In this regard, some developed countries which compete with the EU in attracting skilled migrants have recently moved towards a system of pre-selection with a "pool of pre-screened candidates", followed by actual admission procedures. Such a system is both demand-driven (i.e. requiring the need for a job offer or a contract as a pre-requisite) and focuses on human capital elements (i.e. the skills and qualifications of the person, the experience etc.). Without questioning Member States' competence to decide the volumes of economic migrants they admit, the study would look into the possibility of a pre-screening mechanism enabling the creation of a pool of candidates accessible to Member States and employers in the EU.

The OECD demonstrated its unique experience and knowledge in that field by several publications and research on labour migration (for example “Managing Labour Migration: Smart Policies to Support Economic Growth”¹¹). Because of its expertise, legitimacy and contacts with the data providers (MS administrations), OECD is in a unique position to support the EU in this task.

Activities to be funded from the grant awarded without a call for proposals under Article 190 of the Rules of Application

- Analyse and compare existing expression of interest systems, as well as cases where it was decided not to go for such a system (e.g. US)
- Identify needs of current EU system to manage migration that could be addressed by an expression of interest system
- Design possible scenarios of transposing one or more building blocks of EOI systems or similar systems to the EU migration system to address identified needs

¹⁰ *Towards a reform of the Common European Asylum System and enhancing legal avenues to Europe*, Commission Communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (COM(2016) 197 final).

¹¹ OECD. (2014), *International Migration Outlook 2014*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

- Assess feasibility and value added of different scenarios against existing tools at EU and national level (including an impact and risks assessment).
- Draft conclusions and suggestions for way forward.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

An action grant will be awarded directly (without a call for proposals) following an invitation to the OECD to submit a proposal, in accordance with Article 128 of the Financial Regulation and Article 190(1)(f) of the Rules of Application.

The direct award of the grant is justified by the specific characteristics of the action, which require the OECD's technical competence, its high degree of specialisation and its administrative power. The OECD has a unique expertise, legitimacy and contacts with the data providers (MS administrations) to support the EU in this task.

Selection criteria

Financial and operational capacity are not verified in respect of public bodies and international organisations.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of relevance, quality, cost-effectiveness and European added value.

Indicative timetable and amount

| Reference | Date | Amount |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| HOME/2016/AMIF/AG/OECD/02 | Q3 2016 | EUR 200 000 |

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Maximum rate of co-financing of eligible costs

90 %

2.2.4. Direct award of action grants for the Readmission Capacity-Building Facility II

Legal basis

Article 20(2)(f) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 02

Priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The Readmission Capacity-Building Facility II will continue the approach of the previous Facility under the 2015 AMIF AWP, i.e. contribute to the policy priorities of concluding and implementing readmission agreements (or, in the absence of formal agreements, improving practical cooperation on readmission) with priority third countries, with a view to reducing irregular migration. This is in line with EAM priorities, calls from the European Council and the objectives of the EU action plan on return¹², which all stress the need for the EU to help third countries fulfil their readmission obligations.

In line with the action plan on return¹³, IOM-managed support will be given to third countries with which the EU has concluded or is expecting to conclude a readmission agreement and those with which it is seeking to improve cooperation on readmission. This will be closely coordinated with ongoing assistance provided on return and reintegration of migrants from the priority countries to their countries of origin.

The Facility will focus on capacity-building and provide the EU with a funding mechanism to cater to urgent needs and react in a timely manner by implementing existing readmission agreements or negotiating new ones. Given the number of countries potentially needing financial assistance in this area and the range of issues to be addressed, only this type of flexible mechanism will allow the EU to be able to adapt rapidly to changing circumstances and respond effectively to short-term requests for assistance, while maintaining an approach that prioritises coordination of assistance in this field.

The overall objective of the Facility is therefore to contribute to effective and efficient cooperation between the EU and its partner countries in the field of readmission through fast-response, short-term capacity-building initiatives.

Activities to be funded from the grants awarded without a call for proposals under Article 190 of the Rules of Application

Like its predecessor, the Facility will provide support in areas of intervention (at policy, legislative, institutional and/or operational level) relevant to the successful preparation and implementation of readmission agreements/commitments with priority third countries, in full

¹² EU action plan on return, Commission Communication to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2015) 453, 9.9.2015).

¹³ The action plan announces the Facility under the 2015 AMIF AWP and states that it will be expanded through additional funding in the following years.

respect of potential returnees' human rights and dignity. This could involve:

- strengthening identity management, including civil registers and travel document issuing systems;
- enhancing readmission case management, *inter alia* by developing automated systems and standardising procedures for handling readmission requests;
- developing and piloting frameworks for post-arrival assistance, reintegration and monitoring for own nationals in partner countries;
- establishing/strengthening assisted voluntary return and reintegration programmes for stranded migrants from partner countries;
- providing returnees with reintegration assistance on their arrival in partner countries;
- improving the quality and management of return-related data;
- facilitating dialogue with Member States, countries of origin and transit to support practical cooperation and the exchange of good practices on return; and
- measures aimed at preventing irregular migration, including awareness-raising.

In particular, the following activities should be financed in line with the priorities and needs of the third countries concerned and their readmission cooperation with the EU:

- needs assessments;
- training curricula, workshops and materials;
- equipment, IT solutions and software linked to training;
- study visits, peer-to-peer expert meetings and conferences; and
- recommendations/guidance documents, studies and other publications.

The 2016 AWP provides for support to be given as a priority to Afghanistan, and also to Iraq, Somalia, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Gambia, Senegal, Mali, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Cameroon, RD Congo, Algeria, Egypt, and to Pakistan, Turkey, Bangladesh, Morocco, Tunisia, Ghana and Nigeria on the basis of practical or political need.

The IOM will implement the action directly, in close cooperation with the competent authorities of interested Member States and involving relevant local governmental and civil society stakeholders.

Governance and control structure

A steering group set up under the 2015 Facility, comprising representatives of DG HOME and the IOM, will determine needs, select countries/action to be supported, and examine and approve specific activities to be carried out, taking into account activities funded under other EU funds or by other donors.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

Action grants will be awarded directly (without a call for proposals) following invitations to

the IOM to submit proposals, in accordance with Article 128 of the Financial Regulation and Article 190(1)(f) of the Rules of Application.

The direct award of the grants is justified by the specific characteristics of the action, which require the IOM's technical competence and high degree of specialisation on readmission and reintegration issues. The IOM is an international organisation with a specific mandate, broad expertise in the field of migration and a proven track record in managing EU funds in cooperation with third countries, including in the area of readmission and the type of action proposed.

Selection criteria

Financial and operational capacity are not verified in respect of public bodies and international organisations.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of relevance, quality, cost-effectiveness and European added value.

Indicative timetable and amount

| Reference | Date | Amount |
|------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| HOME/2016/AMIF/AG/RCBF | Q4 2016 | EUR 7 000 000 |

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Maximum rate of co-financing of eligible costs

95 %

2.2.5. Direct award of an action grant for the European Reintegration Instrument Network to support the reintegration of returnees from Member States under migratory pressure, in particular Greece and Italy

Legal basis

Article 20(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 02

Priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The European Reintegration Instrument Network (ERIN) is a joint return and reintegration programme involving several European partner states: the Netherlands (network leader), Austria, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Finland, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK. Participation is open to all Member States and the Commission has actively encouraged them and all Schengen-associated states to join.

ERIN contributes to the overall policy in favour of voluntary return over forced returns and encouraging irregular migrants, where appropriate, to opt for voluntary assisted return as the swiftest, most dignified and in many cases the most sustainable option for return.

The EAM underlines the need to increase the number of irregular migrants returning to their countries of origin/transit. In this context (as reiterated in the EU action plan on return), priority should be given to encouraging (assisted) voluntary return. Given the ever-growing migratory pressure and the fact that many migrants are not in need of international protection, the EU's and the Member States' overall goal is to see more irregular migrants returning voluntarily, or being returned, to their countries of origin and/or transit.

Due to ERIN's current added value and activities, the action plan identifies it (together with the European Integrated Return Management Network (EURINT) and European Return Liaison Officers (EURLO) network) as an essential element of the integrated return management system being developed by the EU. Member States have pointed to ERIN as the model for a future (more) harmonised European approach to voluntary returns.

ERIN offers to all participating Member States the possibility of using a single harmonised contracting procedure for assisted voluntary return packages through independent partners in countries of origin (NGOs, international organisations such as the IOM). It is currently operational in 11 third-countries and negotiations are ongoing to extend coverage to 11 more. Given the increasing magnitude of forced returns, ERIN can also assist in implementation of community development programmes on top or instead of an individual package to returnees.

Between 1 June 2014 and 31 May 2016, ERIN is being supported via a grant under the Return Fund 2013 Community Actions. It is also supported via a specific action under the 2014-2020 national AMIF programme for the Netherlands.

Greece and Italy have not been able to benefit fully from participation in ERIN due to their national budgetary constraints. Other Member States under migratory pressure have not necessarily participated in ERIN previously.

The objective is to support the return of irregular migrants from Member States that are faced with particular pressure and were/are not able to benefit fully from ERIN action, in particular Greece and Italy, by covering part of the costs of reintegration using the ERIN joint procurement services.

This will be closely coordinated with ongoing assistance provided on return and reintegration of migrants to their countries of origin.

These costs are not covered by the Return Fund grant for ERIN or the ERIN specific action under the 2014-2020 national AMIF programme for the Netherlands.

Activities to be funded from the grant awarded without a call for proposals under Article 190 of the Rules of Application

The action will support the provision of reintegration assistance to third-country nationals returning from Member States under migratory pressure, in particular Greece and Italy, to their countries of origin or other third countries.

ERIN contractors will be paid a flat-rate fee per returnee to provide reintegration services, including social, job and business support with a view to long-term sustainable reintegration in the country of origin, to the third-country nationals who return in the framework of assisted voluntary and forced return.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

The action grant will be awarded directly (without a call for proposals) following an invitation to ERIN to submit a proposal, in accordance with Article 128 of the Financial Regulation and Article 190(1)(f) of the Rules of Application. The Dutch Security and Justice Ministry will act as leader and coordinator of the network, which is also composed of the competent authorities of the Netherlands, Austria, Belgium, Germany, Greece, Finland, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Romania, Spain, Sweden and the UK. The competent authorities of Norway and Switzerland participate in ERIN, but can participate in this action on a no-cost basis only.

The direct award of this grant is justified by the specific characteristics of the action, requiring technical competence and a high degree of specialisation that only the above-mentioned network of public authorities possesses. ERIN is the only EU network involved in the joint procurement of reintegration services.

Selection criteria

Financial and operational capacity are not verified in respect of public bodies and international organisations.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of relevance, quality, cost-effectiveness and European added value.

Indicative timetable and amount

| Reference | Date | Amount |
|------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| HOME/2016/AMIF/AG/ERIN | Q3 2016 | EUR 2 500 000 |

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Maximum rate of co-financing of eligible costs

90 %

2.2.6. Direct award of an action grant for the European Return Liaison Officers network to support video-conferencing as a tool for identifying irregular migrants

Legal basis

Article 20(2)(f) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 02

Priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The EURLO network is a network of Member States and Schengen-associated states aimed at stimulating country-of-origin focused, comprehensive, integrated cooperation on returns, in particular through officers in key third-countries. Its current members are the competent authorities of Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK, but the Commission encourages all Member States to consider joining.

Due to the network's current added value and activities, the action plan on return identifies it (together with the EURINT and ERIN programmes) as an essential element of the integrated return management system being developed by the EU. Under the action plan, it should be fully incorporated into the future Return Office under the Frontex Agency in the medium to long term.

The network has received a grant under the Return Fund 2013 Community Actions (1 June 2014 to 31 October 2016) for a pilot project, involving Belgium, Luxembourg and Poland, to develop video-conferencing as a tool for identifying irregular migrants. It is also supported via a specific action under the 2014-2020 national AMIF programme for Belgium.

The objective of this action is to expand the use of video-conferencing for identification to other Member States in the network and to implement it in hotspots.

These activities are not covered by the EURLO projects supported under the Return Fund or the 2014-2020 national AMIF programme for Belgium.

Video-conferencing is a faster and more efficient way of holding identification interviews and so allows for detained persons to be returned or released more quickly. Its use reduces the cost of detention (shorter detention periods) and the cost of transportation between

detention centres and embassies.

Activities to be funded from the grant awarded without a call for proposals under Article 190 of the Rules of Application

The action will support EURLO Member States' use of video-conferencing to identify irregular migrants.

The EURLO secretariat will procure the necessary cloud services and a basic set of (fixed, mobile) end-points per participating Member State/hotspot.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

The action grant will be awarded directly (without a call for proposals) following an invitation to the EURLO network to submit a proposal, in accordance with Article 128 of the Financial Regulation and Article 190(1)(f) of the Rules of Application. Belgium's Federal Public Service of the Interior — Immigration Office will act as leader and coordinator of the network, which is also composed of the competent authorities of Belgium, Austria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Sweden and the UK. The competent authorities of Norway and Switzerland participate in the network, but can participate in this action on a no-cost basis only.

The direct award of this grant is justified by the specific characteristics of the action, requiring technical competence and a high degree of specialisation that only the above-mentioned network of public authorities possesses. The EURLO network is the only EU network of this kind involved in practical cooperation on returns in the countries of origin. The EURLO national authorities have a *de jure* monopoly on identifying irregular migrants.

Selection criteria

Financial and operational capacity are not verified in respect of public bodies and international organisations.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of relevance, quality, cost-effectiveness and European added value.

Indicative timetable and amount

| Reference | Date | Amount |
|------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| HOME/2016/AMIF/AG/ERLO | Q4 2016 | EUR 700 000 |

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Maximum rate of co-financing of eligible costs

90 %

2.2.7. Direct award of an action grant to a consortium of leading EU public media led by France Medias Monde and including Deutsche Welle, Radio France Internationale, France 24, RMD and ANSA, to support implementation of the EU Migrants' Information Strategy

Legal basis

Article 20(2)(g) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 02

Priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results

In its conclusions of 9 November 2015, the JHA Council called for a common information strategy addressing asylum seekers, migrants, smugglers and traffickers and aimed at:

- discouraging migrants from embarking on perilous journeys and using the services of people-smugglers;
- explaining EU rules on the management of external borders and international protection, including resettlement, relocation and return;
- countering the narratives used by traffickers and smugglers;
- informing people about criminal prosecutions against traffickers and smugglers; and
- informing people about return operations.

Any information strategy geared to reducing pull factors should clearly explain that:

- migrants must register in their first Member State of arrival;
- under EU law, asylum seekers have no right to choose which Member State will examine their application; and
- migrants without a need for protection are legally obliged to return; if they do not do so voluntarily, they will be returned.

In addition, a clear message should be sent that migrants cannot refuse to cooperate with the relevant national authorities.

In response to the Council conclusions, the Commission set up a task force on a migrants'

information strategy (MIS), bringing together all relevant institutional actors, which has drawn up a MIS based on three phases: assessment, content-production and dissemination.

On 10 March 2016, the JHA Council asked the Commission to continue to develop and ensure implementation of the MIS, *inter alia* through cooperation with EU public media operating internationally, in particular those already providing news and information services in the national languages of migrants' countries of origin and transit, especially in North Africa and the Middle East.

The objective of this action is to implement the MIS by making reliable, fact-based information available to (potential) migrants and asylum seekers, and to send clear messages to discourage smugglers and traffickers, via media outlets already present in migrants' and asylum seekers' countries of origin and transit, with a particular emphasis on online and social media channels.

Activities to be funded from the grant awarded without a call for proposals under Article 190 of the Rules of Application

The grant will fund the development and operation of an online media portal (information hub) providing, on a single platform, news and information services for migrants and refugees in third-countries to:

- discourage them from embarking on perilous journeys and engaging with smugglers;
- explain EU rules on the management of external borders and international protection;
- counter the narratives currently being used by migrant smugglers;
- explain that migrants not in need of protection will be swiftly returned; and
- address the increasing number of children in migration (unaccompanied and separated as well as within families), including in terms of addressing children in a context and age-appropriate manner, as well as families which send their children on perilous journeys.

The portal will curate and make available all relevant information via networks of journalists around the world, other media organisations, NGOs, institutional sources, etc. and produce dedicated, tailor-made journalistic content. A network will be created of 'migration observers' who have already made the trip or are based at transit points. Feedback and experiences will be exchanged through an interactive service via correspondents, observers and bloggers already active in key third countries of origin and transit.

The portal will be developed in several stages:

- i. development of a trilingual (French, English and Arabic) news and information platform, with the simultaneous launch of a social media presence and the start of cooperation with the media partners;
- ii. introduction of other languages such as Dari/Pashto, Urdu, Somali, Tigrinya, Amharic and the languages spoken most in western Africa;
- iii. expansion to other media partners in Europe or elsewhere (Radio Netherlands Worldwide and BBC Media have expressed interest in joining at this stage);
- iv. tapping into technologies and channels used by migrants and refugees: SMS,

internet.org, USSD, etc.

The target audiences are mainly people in the Middle East, the Maghreb, sub-Saharan Africa, the Western Balkans, Afghanistan and Pakistan who currently depend mainly on erroneous information passed on by migrant smugglers and/or human traffickers.

The service will be free, available worldwide and accessible on basic phones, smartphones, digital tablets and computers.

Where possible and appropriate, the action will draw on lessons learnt from pilot information campaigns by the UNHCR in the Horn of Africa and the IOM in Niger under the 2014 AMIF AWP.

Governance and control structure

An editorial board composed of a representative of each participating media partner and a Commission representative will be responsible for the governance and control of the project. It will meet on a regular basis to identify the priority themes to be covered and to ensure that the reliable factual information to be provided is in line with the above description of services. It will take decisions on extending the project to other media partners and languages and on the use of additional technologies and channels.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

The action grant will be awarded directly (without a call for proposals) following an invitation to the consortium to submit a proposal, in accordance with Article 128 of the Financial Regulation and Article 190(1)(f) of the Rules of Application. *France Medias Monde* will implement the action at the head of the consortium, which will also be composed of *Deutsche Welle*, *Radio France Internationale*, *France 24*, *Radio Montecarlo Arabic (RMD)* and *Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata (ANSA)*.

The direct award of this grant is justified by the specific characteristics of the action, requiring technical competence and a high degree of specialisation that only the above-mentioned consortium possesses. Specifically, the consortium brings together leading EU media with a wide international audience, broadcasting in over 30 languages and attracting over 230 million listeners and viewers each week via TV, radio, internet and mobile devices. They are reliable and trusted sources of information with a strong presence in the target countries (in particular in North Africa, the Middle East, the Western Balkans, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq). Together, they have almost 40 million Facebook ‘friends’, 12 million Twitter followers and over 55 million website hits a month. Only this consortium can guarantee widespread international publicity in such a range of languages and with such a broad network of correspondents, stringers, observers and bloggers in the target countries.

Selection criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 202 of the Rules of Application, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following selection criteria:

- financial capacity — applicants and co-applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period in which the action is carried out and to participate in its funding; and
- operational capacity — applicants and co-applicants must have the professional resources, competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed action.

Financial and operational capacity are not verified in respect of public bodies and international organisations.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals will be evaluated on the basis of relevance, quality, cost-effectiveness and European added value.

Indicative timetable and amount

| Reference | Date | Amount |
|------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| HOME/2016/AMIF/AG/INFO | Q3 2016 | EUR 2 400 000 |

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Maximum rate of co-financing of eligible costs

90 %

2.3. Procurement

The indicative overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2016 is EUR 5 090 543. In addition to the specific items below, the following may also be funded within the indicative envelope:

- activities to improve information and communication on European issues in the migration and integration policy areas covered by the Fund;
- conferences and seminars; and
- studies, evaluations and impact assessments where needed to prepare or accompany new legislation or respond to policy changes in the area of migration and integration.

Legal basis

Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 02

Subject matter of the envisaged contracts

1. Conformity study on the transposition of Directive 2014/36/EU on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers;¹⁴
2. Conformity study on the transposition of Directive 2014/66/EU on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer;¹⁵
3. Conferences and expert meetings as part of the European dialogue on skills and migration;
4. Support for the network of national contact points on integration/the European Integration Network (including meeting costs, online database, handbooks, study visits, newsletter);
5. Support for the work of the European Migration Forum (including meeting costs);
6. Support for the EU Immigration Portal (EUIP);
7. Support for the European website on integration (EWSI);
8. Preparation of a handbook on the prevention of migrant smuggling (including consultation meetings and seminars, drafting, translation costs);
9. Development of third countries' national and regional strategies to combat migrant smuggling (including consultancy services, consultation meetings and seminars);
10. Setting-up of EU cooperation platforms on migrant smuggling in relevant third countries (including meetings);
11. Study on the transposition and application of Directive 2009/52/EC providing for minimum standards on sanctions and measures against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals;¹⁶
12. Feasibility studies and consultancy services on the development of biometric registries in irregular migrants' countries of origin, to be used in the framework of the return and readmission policy; and
13. Expert meetings, technical workshops, studies and communication activities in the field of EU migration policy.

¹⁴ Directive 2014/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers (OJ L 94, 28.3.2014, p. 375).

¹⁵ Directive 2014/66/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer (OJ L 157, 27.5.2014, p. 1).

¹⁶ Directive 2009/52/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2009 providing for minimum standards on sanctions and measures against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals (OJ L 168, 30.6.2009, p. 24).

Type of contract

It is envisaged that:

- actions 1, 2 and 11 will be implemented via specific contracts concluded under a new framework contract on legal compliance assessment and legal services in the area of migration and home affairs;
- actions 8, 9, 10 and 12 will be implemented via specific contracts concluded under new framework contracts for consultancy services in the field of migration and for the organisation of meetings;
- actions 3, 4, 5, 6, will be implemented via specific contracts concluded under several existing framework contracts; and
- action 7 will be implemented via a direct service contract.

Indicative number of contracts envisaged

It is envisaged that the following contracts will be concluded:

- three new framework contracts (legal compliance assessment and legal services in the area of migration and home affairs; consultancy services in the field of migration; and for the organisation of meetings);
- approximately 20 specific contracts under existing or new framework agreements; and
- one direct service contract.

Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedures

Q3-4 2016

Implementation

Actions will be implemented by DG HOME.

2.4. Other action

2.4.1. Support for the deployment of European Migration Liaison Officers

Legal basis

Article 20(2)(f) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Budget line

18 03 01 02

Amount

EUR 150 000

Description and objective of the implementing measure

The European Council of 23 April 2015 gave a commitment to deploying European migration liaison officers (EMLOs) in key third countries of origin and transit. This was further confirmed in the EAM and the EU action plan against migrant smuggling¹⁷.

The main purpose of designating and deploying EMLOs is to step up coordination in order to maximise the impact of EU action on migration in third countries and encourage key countries of origin/transit to engage on the whole range of migration issues. EMLOs will:

- help implement the comprehensive approach presented in the EAM, *inter alia* by:
 - helping to prevent and counter irregular migration;
 - encouraging better organisation of legal migration and mobility; and
 - mainstreaming migration issues in development cooperation;
- contribute to the operation of bilateral and regional frameworks for cooperation on migration; and
- gather, exchange, analyse and report on migration-related developments (as highlighted in the action plan against migrant smuggling).

The priority countries for the deployment of EMLOs are Egypt (regional mandate covering East Africa), Morocco, Lebanon (covering Syria), Niger, Nigeria, Senegal (regional mandate covering neighbouring countries), Pakistan (regional mandate covering Afghanistan), Serbia (regional mandate covering the Western Balkans), Ethiopia (regional mandate covering the Horn of Africa), Tunisia (covering Libya), Sudan (regional mandate covering the Horn of Africa, in particular Eritrea, which cannot be covered from Ethiopia), Turkey and Jordan. An EMLO may also be deployed in Bangladesh.

The EMLOs will be national experts seconded to work in the EU Delegations. Member States will pay their salaries and allowances and the Commission will cover (civilian) mission and security costs under this action.

Implementation

The action will be implemented by a sub-delegation of budget to the Directorate-General International Cooperation and Development / EEAS.

¹⁷ COM(2015) 285 final.