



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL HOME AFFAIRS

Directorate E – Migration and Security Funds; Financial Resources and Monitoring

Unit E.2: National programmes for South and East Europe, AMIF/ISF Committee
Unit E.3: National programmes for North and West Europe, Evaluations, MFF

AMIF-ISF/2019/02

Note to the Members of the Asylum, Migration and Integration and Internal Security Funds Committee

Subject: Launch of the Specific Action pledging exercise under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) - Support to measures for the accommodation and services for applicants of international protection and beneficiaries

This pledging exercise is subject to a disclaimer clause. Any decision on the pledging proposals is subject to the entering into force of the Commission Delegated Regulation (referred to below) and the availability of budget. However, in order to save time, pledging proposals may be submitted and technically assessed in the meantime.

1. INTRODUCTION

The European Agenda on Migration, put forward by the European Commission on 13 May 2015¹ and endorsed by the European Council of 25 and 26 June 2015², comprises a set of short and long-term measures, including improved reception conditions, in view of reinforcing protection of the fundamental rights of asylum-seekers, paying particular attention to the needs of vulnerable groups.

In the context of the mid-term review exercise of the AMIF national programmes of Member States, additional funding needs were identified, in particular from those Member States confronted with high migratory pressure.

The upcoming Commission Delegated Regulation amending Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund³ will provide the possibility for Member States to address these needs. This amendment will add to Annex II of the AMIF Regulation a new Specific Action which will be targeting the reception, accommodation and respective services for applicants for international protection, detention facilities for third country nationals who are present in a Member State and do not or no longer fulfil the conditions for entry and/or stay in a Member State, as well as housing support for

¹ COM(2015) 240 final.

² EUCO 22/15 CO EUR 8 CONCL 3.

³ Commission Delegated Act amending Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the draft delegated act adopted by the Commission on 14 December 2018 is being reviewed by the European Parliament; its opinion is expected on 15 February 2019.

beneficiaries of international protection, “including in controlled centres” established by a Member State.

The present note sets out how and when Member States can pledge, preferences for assessing the proposals, implementation rules as well as the proposal form to be used.

2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Specific Actions are designed as top-up funding, i.e. amounts that will be added to Member States' basic allocations depending on their willingness to implement under their National Programmes actions that respond to specific Union priorities⁴.

The additional amount available for these Specific Actions is allocated to the Member States based on their pledges, i.e. proposals that will be assessed by the Commission.

If a proposal for a Specific Action is accepted by the Commission, the action and the corresponding amount will be included in the relevant AMIF National Programme through a revision of the latter.

The funding allocated for a Specific Action under the national programme of a given Member State may not be used for any other purpose than that of implementing the Specific Action awarded. This means that in case of under-spending or non-implementation of the Specific Action, the corresponding amount cannot be transferred to any other part of the national programme. Any unused amounts for which payments have been made by the Commission will have to be reimbursed to the Union budget.

Whereas the regular EU co-financing rate under the national programmes shall not exceed 75%⁵, Specific Actions may benefit from an increased co-financing rate of 90%⁶.

3. PLEDGING EXERCISE

The EU budget envisaged for this pledging exercise is up to EUR 175 million.

The information on the successful proposals will be communicated to the Member States in May 2019 and the respective revisions of the national programmes are expected to be finalised in summer 2019.

3.1 Measures targeted in this pledging exercise

Targeted measures relate to the provision of accommodation for applicants and beneficiaries of international protection and relevant services in a rental accommodation scheme, including ensuring the provision of material reception conditions through a cash allowance scheme. It does not address detention facilities and related services for third-country nationals. The upgrading of existing infrastructure/equipment and their maintenance is eligible; the construction of new infrastructure is not eligible.

The Specific Action proposed may cover 12 months; its implementation should start no later than 1 January 2020.

The exercise targets Member State(s) under high migration pressure, facing important overcrowding and bottlenecks in their reception and accommodation capacities for applicants and beneficiaries of international protection.

⁴ Article 16(1) of AMIF Regulation (EU) No 516/2014.

⁵ Article 16(3) of Horizontal Regulation (EU) No 514/2014.

⁶ Article 16(4) of Horizontal Regulation (EU) No 514/2014.

3.2 Admissibility and assessment aspects

Only admissible pledging proposals will be assessed. A proposal is considered admissible if it is submitted by the application deadline, via SFC in the official Application Form attached to this Note, readable and complete.

The admissible proposals will be assessed in two phases: 1) their eligibility and 2) their qualitative assessment:

1) As regards the eligibility of the proposals, the following aspects will be considered:

- the pledging Member State should be under high and disproportionate migratory pressure, due to the presence of a significant number of applicants and beneficiaries of international protection in the Member State as well as a continuous flow of arrivals registered over the past two years, i.e. 2017 and 2018. This criterion will be assessed by a) the number of first time applicants of international protection registered in the Member State as well as the number of positive decisions granted, relative to the country population over the last two years, and/or b) the number of irregular crossings at the external borders of the Member State over the last two years;⁷
- the pledging Member State should prove that extra support to strengthen the reception capacities has been identified in the mid-term review of the AMIF national programme in 2017. For this purpose, the conclusions of the mid-term review as finalised in the Commission's closing of the exercise letter will be considered;
- the pledging Member State should demonstrate that the remaining funding (i.e. not committed and not consumed) from the allocation to its AMIF national programme for the programming period 2014-2020 do not suffice to cover the proposed measures. Namely, the commitment and consumption under the AMIF national programme on the basis of the last available to the Commission accounts and annual implementation report will be considered;
- the proposed action is in line with the objectives and priorities of the European Agenda on Migration.

Only the proposals complying with the four above points will undergo a full qualitative assessment.

2) For the qualitative assessment of the proposals, the following issues will be considered:

- the expected impact of the action in terms of major improvement in the reception capacities and number of persons affected;
- the relevance of the action to the needs;
- identified risks and mitigating measures;
- the maturity of the proposal (the level of development and planning of the action).

⁷ For the purposes of the eligibility assessment, it is not necessary for the pledging Member State to satisfy both conditions under a) and b). However, the presence of both conditions cumulatively in a Member State will be taken into account at the qualitative assessment.

3.2 Pledging proposal

Member States are invited to submit their proposals at the latest by 28 February 2019, using the proposal form in Annex.

Clarification requests on this Note can be sent by 31 January 2019 to HOME-AMIF-ISF-COMMITTEE@ec.europa.eu.

In order to allow the Commission to allocate the available funding, all proposals by Member States must be assessed at the same time. Proposals submitted after this deadline will not be considered for the assessment.

The proposals should be submitted through SFC2014 as an 'other Member State document' attached to the most recently adopted AMIF national programme of the Member State. Member States may submit additional documentation if so desired.

The Members of the AMIF and ISF Committee will be informed at the latest 10 working days before the deadline for the submission of the proposals in the case that the proposal deadline is extended or if the pledging exercise is not confirmed.

Beate GMINDER
Chair of the AMIF-ISF Committee
[e-Signed]

Proposal form for Specific Actions

Member State:		Date:
Fund: AMIF	Specific Action 2019	
Location:		
Title:		
Needs assessment. a) Please describe the high and disproportionate migratory pressure faced. b) Please refer to the Mid-Term Review needs assessment and indicate why the measures cannot be financed through the national programme. c) Please explain how the proposed action is in line with the objectives of Agenda on Migration and the priorities set out in the note to Member State launching this pledging exercise.		
Expected qualitative and quantitative outcome and impact, including the major improvement in the reception capacities and the estimated number of final beneficiaries.		
Describe how the measures proposed will be carried out: the type of actions targeted including their timing/sequencing (preparation/procurement/implementation),		
Indicate the estimated budget, co-financing rate, and the type of eligible costs: And fill-in the indicative financial table:		
Action cost in EUR	1st Semester 2020	2nd Semester 2020
Action (Actor)		
Action (Actor)		
Action (Actor)		
Risks and mitigating factors:		
Maturity of the proposal (how far the action is developed and is ready to kick-off):		
Other information useful for the assessment:		