

AMIF - Union Action to support reception, asylum and return systems under pressure (AMIF - 2021-2022 – TF1 - UA - SUP)			
Questions submitted to the functional mailbox (HOME-UA-SUP@ec.europa.eu) and received in webinars			
	Theme	Question	Reply
1.	Scope of the call	Is this call limited to activities related to reception and accommodation facilities within asylum/international protection procedures, or would it encompass such facilities relating to illegal migration and return?	The scope of the Union action is established in the AMIF Thematic Facility Work Programme 2021-2022, and is designed, <i>inter alia</i> to support activities in relation to return procedures. One of its expected impacts (i.e. an impact which the Commission will be expected to assess) is to improve an integrated and coordinated approach to return management at Union and Member States' level. Particular attention should be paid to the General Principles of the call, defined in section 2 of the call document, more specifically to the compliance of the proposed activities with <i>EU acquis</i> , in this specific case stemming from the Return Directive.
2		How do we articulate our needs for this call application with the ongoing exercise of completing the AMIF Operational Programme?	Particular attention should be paid to the General Principles of the call, defined in section 2 of the call document. In this case the principles of additionality, complementarity and EU added-value coupled with the specific nature of this call, are key. In this respect, application should demonstrate why the proposed actions cannot be included in the Member State's (MS) AMIF programme. It will also be necessary to demonstrate that there is no other possibility to support it, either under other EU funding instruments or the national budget.
3		What is meant by "EU added value"? Would any action developed at an external EU border in order to tackle migratory pressure implicitly comply with the general principles?	The application will need to demonstrate that the Member State is exposed to continuous pressure at the EU external borders and is bearing a high share of responsibility on behalf of the Union as a whole. In this respect, the action to be supported with the additional funding will need to be of interest to the EU (i.e. deliver EU added value) in line with the definition of Union action in the AMIF Regulation.
4		Can you please specify the timeframe of the data provided for the justification of the pressure in the reception system?	The data should justify the continuous pressure on the system that is real at the moment of the application (or at the start of the proposed activity, if earlier). This funding instrument is not supposed to finance expected needs/preparedness measures related to any possible future pressure.

5		Could a pressing issue in a third (non-EU) country and its impact be intended as exceptional situation?	The scope of this call is limited to situations in Member States and not in third countries. This call does not address exceptional emergency situations, which are by their nature unexpected and unforeseeable.
6		Regarding the geographical scope, can applications cover more than one member state if the 'pressure' concerns a wider geographical area or should each national context be covered by a different application?	It is not excluded that one application could cover more than one Member State – the important thing is that all the general principles are met.
1	Eligible activities	Can we use the call to improve our short-term accommodation?	The establishment, maintenance, operation and improvement of reception and accommodation facilities fall under the scope of this call as defined in the AMIF TF WP 2021-2022.
2		Please clarify that this funding instrument will finance projects that are in progress and not ones that have been ended.	Please refer to the call document (point 10 starting date and project duration)
3		Can this Union Action fund long term accommodation schemes or are only reception accommodation and services eligible?	The AMIF Member State (MS) programme is the primary funding tool to support long-term needs and investments taking into account the specific situation of MS. The initial allocation for MS' programmes under the AMIF are calculated based on the statistical data that reflect the burden of MS.
1	Types of cost	Should the project personnel be staff already hired by the applicant or personnel specifically hired to implement the project activities?	Only personnel assigned to the action can be eligible. In principle, costs can be eligible for personnel already working for the applicant (i.e. Member State authority or International Organisation) or personnel specifically hired to implement the project activities. For more details, consult the Commission standard annotated grant agreement (link also in the call document) aga_en.pdf (europa.eu) page 34.

2		<p>Is unit cost a type of lump-sum?</p> <p>On unit-cost, are you referring to national or to European decision?</p>	<p>Both unit costs and lump sums are types of simplified cost options. They are different types of cost-accounting practices.</p> <p>Reference is made to unit costs as per Commission Decisions C(2020)7715, C(2019)2646 and C(2021)35.</p>
1	<p>Other actors involved in the proposal (Co-applicants/co-beneficiaries, third party receiving financial support, subcontractors)</p>	<p>Is it possible for the national authority to apply for a grant as an applicant with NGO as a co-applicant?</p>	<p>Yes, application with multiple co-applicants is possible. Public or private entities can indeed be involved in the implementation of the action as co-beneficiaries (they just cannot be the main beneficiaries of the grant).</p>
2		<p>If the main applicant is a Member State authority, can an International Organisation (IO) be a co-applicant? If so, would the FAFA apply to the Grant Agreement or Contribution Agreement?</p>	<p>Yes, an IO can participate as a co-applicant but a grant agreement will be concluded where the main applicant is a Member State authority.</p> <p>For pillar-assessed entities, article 10.3 of the Grant Agreement will apply, acknowledging the pillar assessment. (See also separate section on pillar-assessment).</p>
3		<p>Would it be possible for the national authority to launch an open call for proposals for NGOs? If possible, how to complete the application form? (how to fill staff and detailed activities in application form in case there is a plan to launch an open call for proposals).</p>	<p>Section 4.2 of the application form describes the conditions for implementing work packages covering financial support to third parties. Page 8 of the Call document itself specifies the conditions for such calls.</p> <p>In the event that the application contains a work package, which includes financial support to third parties, all these details should be provided.</p>

4		<p>Can a Member State involve other actors in the proposal, for example International organisations, or would these only qualify under Topic 2?</p> <p>Would NGOs fit into the category of affiliated entities?</p>	<p>A Member State authority can involve other actors in the proposal, including International Organisations, as co-applicant. Affiliated entities are entities with a link (e.g. legal or capital) to the beneficiaries (which goes beyond the implementation of the action) which implement parts of the action and are allowed to charge costs directly to the grant (please see pages 7 and 8 of the annotated grant agreement aga_en.pdf (europa.eu)).</p> <p>International Organisations, within the meaning of the Financial Regulation, are international public sector organisations set up by international agreements (such as the UN). An International Organisation could be a co-applicant with a Member State, or they could apply directly under Topic 2.</p> <p>NGOs would not normally be affiliated to government entities - they could however be co-applicants. Please see also p.17 of the call document.</p>											
5		<p>What is the difference between “third parties” and “subcontractors”</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Beneficiary</th> <th>Affiliated entity</th> <th>Subcontractor</th> <th>Third party receiving financial support</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <p>Signatory of the grant agreement</p> <p>May be represented by a coordinator in case of multi-beneficiary grant</p> <p>Arrangements that may have been agreed between the coordinator and the other beneficiaries for the action not relevant for the Commission, provided they</p> </td> <td> <p>Subsidiary or member of the beneficiary implementing part of the action</p> <p>Structurally linked with the beneficiary</p> <p>Arrangements that may have been agreed between the beneficiary and its affiliated entity for the action not relevant for the Commission</p> </td> <td> <p>Economic operator providing a service, supply or works to the beneficiary necessary for the action</p> <p>Bound by a contract with the beneficiary specifically concluded for the service, supply or works necessary for the action</p> </td> <td> <p>Final recipients of EU funds</p> <p>Target population of the activity implemented by the beneficiary and consisting in re-distributing EU funds</p> <p>Possibly bound by contractual arrangements with the beneficiary for the action but not compulsorily</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Beneficiary	Affiliated entity	Subcontractor	Third party receiving financial support	<p>Signatory of the grant agreement</p> <p>May be represented by a coordinator in case of multi-beneficiary grant</p> <p>Arrangements that may have been agreed between the coordinator and the other beneficiaries for the action not relevant for the Commission, provided they</p>	<p>Subsidiary or member of the beneficiary implementing part of the action</p> <p>Structurally linked with the beneficiary</p> <p>Arrangements that may have been agreed between the beneficiary and its affiliated entity for the action not relevant for the Commission</p>	<p>Economic operator providing a service, supply or works to the beneficiary necessary for the action</p> <p>Bound by a contract with the beneficiary specifically concluded for the service, supply or works necessary for the action</p>	<p>Final recipients of EU funds</p> <p>Target population of the activity implemented by the beneficiary and consisting in re-distributing EU funds</p> <p>Possibly bound by contractual arrangements with the beneficiary for the action but not compulsorily</p>
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			<p>Further detail on beneficiaries, affiliated entities, sub-contractors and financial support to third parties can be found in the Commission standard annotated grant agreement (link also in the call document) aga_en.pdf (europa.eu)</p>				
6		<p>Where the applicant knows from the outset that actions will be implemented by one or more NGOs active in the field (e.g. through a programmatic contract or funding contract) should they declare themselves in the initial application as co-applicants or as sub-contractors?</p> <p>Likewise, will all the details of the application be filled in analytically for each involved NGO (information on the staff to be involved in the actions by each NGO, including names, separate budgets, work plans, etc.)?</p>	<p>If an NGO is involved as a co-applicant, and is incurring costs, the relevant information should be indeed filled in for every participating co-applicant (information on the staff, separate budget, etc.) The work package is based on the activity not on the implementing actor (a work package can be implemented by several actors).</p>				

1	Pillar assessment of International Organisations	If International Organisations can be sub-contracted (by an MS) and they are pillar-assessed, would the conditions of the contract follow the conditions for pillar-assessed organisations or would the MSs own conditions apply?	<p>The pillar-assessment relates to the relationship of the Commission with International Organisations. Member States may have their own agreements.</p> <p>If a Member State sub-contracts an International Organisation articles 9.3 and 9.4 of the Model Grant Agreement apply, which stipulate that the beneficiaries must implement the action as described in Annex 1 and in compliance with the provision of the Agreement, the call conditions and all legal obligations under applicable EU, international and national law.</p> <p>If however an International Organisation is pillar-assessed and participates in the project as co-beneficiary, article 10.3 of the Model Grant Agreement applies. This article provides that participants whose pillar assessment covers procurement and granting procedures may also make purchases, subcontracting and financial support to third parties in accordance with their own internal rules and procedures for purchases, subcontracting and financial support.</p>
2		Page 16 of the Call mentions: "...beneficiaries may be requested to submit different certificates. The types, schedules and thresholds for each certificate are fixed in the Grant Agreement (Data Sheet, point 4 and Art. 24) and the Contribution Agreement." Is this applicable for IOs and their co-applicants and can we know in advance which documents/certificates will be required?	<p>The reference made in the call relates mainly to the provisions of the grant agreement and will follow closely, although not exactly, the provisions of the Model Grant Agreement for Union Actions (https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_amif-isf-bmvi_en.pdf)</p> <p>See article 24, but also article 10.3 regarding pillar-assessed entities.</p>
1	Coordination with national authorities and distinction between Topics	Please clarify the role of the Managing Authority (MA)	If the applicant is an MS authority other than the Managing Authority (MA), the <i>applicant</i> should provide proof that they have coordinated with the MA, and that the MA has been consulted.
2		It is mentioned that <i>where the applicant is an International Organisation, the application has been coordinated and consulted with the competent national authorities and other relevant actors before its submission</i> . Should the International Organisation attach a formal letter of support from the ministry to the application?	Proof of coordination/consultation will have to be provided to allow the evaluators to assess whether this criterion has been met. The form of this proof is up to the applicant. A letter of support would be a good option.

3		<p>The Call document states that the EU co-financing rate is 90 % for Member State authorities and 97 % for International Organisations. If a project proposal is elaborated by an International Organisation as the sole applicant/beneficiary, but envisages some activities relating to facilities owned by a Member State authority, can the 97 % EU co-financing rate still be used for the overall project budget? Or should separate sections in the project budget be defined – one for activities with 97 % EU co-financing rate and one for activities with 90 % EU co-financing rate?</p>	<p>The co-financing rate relates to the (main) applicant/topic. Therefore, if the International Organisation is the main, or only, applicant, the co-financing rate for International Organisations will apply.</p>
4		<p>The Call indicates as Topic 1 – call for proposals for Member States authorities and Topic 2 – call for expression of interest for International Organisations and envisages 3 rounds. Under the same round, is it possible that a MS submits a proposal and an IO expresses interest?</p>	<p>In principle, this is not excluded provided that the applications respect the general principles and criteria of the call.</p>
1	<p>Assessment Reserve List /</p>	<p>Will proposals on the “reserve list” be given priority on the second and third round, if not selected previously or would they need to be resubmitted in the 2nd or 3rd round, respectively?</p>	<p>The ‘reserve list’ will only be used when the full budget foreseen for this standing call is exhausted. The indicative budget per round indicated in the call document is only an estimate of the volume of applications expected. In practice, if the full budget is used up in any round, a reserve list will be constituted at that time should an additional budget be made available under the AMIF Thematic Facility Work Programme 2021-2022.</p>
2		<p>How will points be distributed during the assessment?</p>	<p>The distribution of points per criterion is explained in the call document</p>
3		<p>In pages 9 and 10 of the Call, it is mentioned that IOs are exempted from the operational and capacity check. Is this exemption valid for IOs’ implementing partners as well (co-applicants)? If yes, is it possible</p>	<p>The exemption is only valid for the entities specified in the call document, i.e. public bodies and International Organisations. If the IOs’ implementing partners are participating as co-applicants/co-beneficiaries, their financial and operational capacity will be checked.</p>

		to know in advance which documents they will need to provide?	The type of documents other entities could be requested to provide is set out in section 7 of the call document
4		For the first round of applications, if the grant is to be signed in May or June, could a letter of award be received prior to that, i.e., in April?	The evaluation result letter notifying an applicant that an award has been made will precede the grant preparation and signature.
5		Would the Commission partially cover the budget for a (successful) proposal if the overall call budget were not enough to cover all the successful proposals?	Please refer to Q1 under this Theme.
1	Distinction between this call and Emergency Assistance	<p>How to reconcile the general principle of medium-term needs established in this call with the need for rapid response?</p> <p>What are the fundamental differences between projects funded by the AMIF Emergency Assistance (EMAS) and projects funded by this call?</p> <p>Do these instruments respond to different criteria? Could the Commission provide specific examples of how Member States would foster complementarity and synergies between these two instruments?</p>	<p>Emergency Assistance and this Union action respond to different situations and needs.</p> <p>Emergency Assistance under the 2021-27 AMIF Regulation will be activated only in cases where it is established that there is an exceptional emergency situation (as defined in the Regulation), which is by its nature unexpected and requires an immediate and short-term response that should bring rapid relief to the sudden and disproportionate pressure.</p> <p>The Union action is designed to provide additional support to those Member State exposed to continuous pressure on its asylum, reception and migration systems where resources under MS programme or other funding instruments are not sufficient.</p> <p>Concerning complementarity, the triggering point and the nature of needs are different.</p>
2		Why are these projects limited to 2 years?	This funding is designed to address medium-term needs and investments that are foreseeable and cannot be supported under MS programme which is a primarily source of funding, in particular for long-term needs.

3		What could be meant by an exceptional situation in order to submit a consistent application?	This call does not address exceptional emergency situations, which are by their nature unexpected and unforeseeable.
4		Should the application for these funds be connected to triggering of the implementation of the „Force Majeure and Crisis Directive/Regulation” and/or the „Instrumentalization Regulation”	This is not a crisis instrument.
5		We have so far only ever used the EMAS, can we submit already a new project proposal to the Commission?	All applications submitted under this standing call will enter the competitive process and will be assessed according to the general principles and criteria of the call.
1	Eligible entities	Parmi les autorités des États membres éligibles à déposer une demande de subvention, leurs territoires d'outre mer sont-ils éligibles?	Les territoires d'outre mer relèvent du champ d'application de l'AMIF and peuvent donc bénéficier de la subvention, comme co-bénéficiaire. La demande doit être faite par les autorités nationales de l'État Membre dont relève le territoire d'outre-mer concerné.
2		Pourriez vous préciser quelles sont les organisations internationales (OI) ciblées.	Les Organisations Internationales (OI) éligibles sont des OI dans le sens de l'article 156 du règlement financier.
3		On the level of the national authority that needs to submit the project proposal: should the proposal be submitted by the Ministry or can be submitted separately by one of its ministerial departments such as the asylum or the reception department? Can a ministerial department submit more than one proposal?	The application may be submitted by a government department provided that it can act on behalf of MS authorities. There is no limit on the number of proposals submitted (there is only a limit on available budget) that will enter the competitive process.
1	Application Form	In Annex I of the application form information on key related projects is required. What is the purpose of this request - is the Commission looking for complementarity with past projects?	The list of past related projects will assist both the applicant and the Commission to avoid any risk of double-funding and to assess the complementarity. It will also provide input to the assessment of the “Quality” criterion in terms of the capacity of the applicant or co-applicant. It is also needed in the event that it is necessary to perform the operational and/or financial capacity check on a co-applicant.

2		<p>In addition to the declaration of the applicant (Part A) and points B.1.2 and B.1.3 (Part B), is there a specific format or document (i.e. letter or other), for the declaration of the applicant organization with any specific details, indicators or baseline information?</p>	<p>Information on indicators and baselines is requested in sections 1.2 and 2.5 of Part B of the application form. Any further specific information can be included in the Work Packages as relevant.</p>
3		<p>What type of justification should be provided if we wish to set costs for financial support to third parties at higher than EUR 60 000?</p>	<p>Justification for providing more than the stated maximum amount would have to explain the reasons for this choice.</p>
4		<p>Section 4.2. Work Packages and Activities: Staff effort per participant: please clarify which data is requested concerning a) the effort per work package b) the work - package leader for each work package.</p>	<p>This table should present the number of staff (person/months), in the sense of staff budgeted under budget heading A. If the costs of people working on the project are not considered as staff costs, they should appear as sub-contracting or another type of cost.</p>
5		<p>If civil servants will take part in monitoring the project, although they will not be paid by the project, should they be included in the staff table (paragraph 2.3 project teams, staff)?</p>	<p>Civil servants may well participate in the management/monitoring of the project, even if they are not paid by the project. To show this contribution, it could be mentioned in the box in section 2.3 where "insert text" is mentioned.</p>

6		Part A - General Information/Data - 2.1.2: Registration Number : Please clarify with what data we fill in this cell	Please fill in only if applicable.
1	Control/Audit	<p>Please elaborate on the control and audit of the projects? Will it be the same audit modality as the AMIF Emergency Assistance projects?</p> <p>Les règles d'éligibilité et de contrôle seront-elles celles de l'État membre ou de la Commission (ce sont les auditeurs de la Commission qui auditeront les projets, et non l'autorité d'audit de l'État membre?)</p>	<p>It will be the same modality as for Emergency Assistance projects or other Union Actions implemented following a call for proposals (being implemented under direct or indirect management) as provided in the grant or contribution agreement (article 25.1.3 and article 17 respectively).</p> <p>On est en gestion directe (ou indirecte) avec les Actions de l'Union, alors les modalités de contrôle et audit seront les mêmes qu'avec les AU ou EMAS.</p>
1	Budget	<p>La Commission prévoit-elle une ligne budgétaire consacrée aux États membres et une autre ligne budgétaire spécifique pour les organisations internationales ?</p> <p>What is the total budget allocated to this fund? And where can we find the budget allocated by country ?</p>	<p>Non, le budget est cumulatif pour les deux topics.</p> <p>The budget is indicated in the call document, section 3. The action is funded by the AMIF Thematic Facility Work Programme 2021-2022. There is no allocation by country nor per topic.</p>
2		<p>May pillar-assessed entities use a different budget template for the purpose of their application (e.g. the former EMAS template or standard PRAG template for grants)? Is the application form (part A and B) compulsory under this call?</p>	<p>Pillar-assessed entities are encouraged to use Annex II of the application form, as we ask for the cost breakdown mentioned in the call. Pillar-assessed entities may use their own template but are strongly encouraged to use the same budget headings (A-E). If they do not use these headings, this will render comparison difficult.</p> <p>The whole application form (parts A + B + annexes) is compulsory.</p>

3		Is there flexibility in re-allocating costs (staff, operational costs etc.) between the Work Packages during implementation?	There is a certain flexibility, which will be indicated in the grant/contribution agreement. Beyond that, changes will be possible during the implementation via amendments depending on the circumstances.
1	Communication with the Commission / logistics of the call	Could the Commission share a specific document with guidance to fill in our application?	The application form already provides details as regards the information requested. In addition, any questions can be asked by applicants using the functional mailbox indicated in the call document. The published Q&A will also be updated on a regular basis.
2		What is the cut-off date for application: the date of sending out the paper document or the date when the paper application is registered on your side	Please refer to the call document (point 5).
3		Who is the focal point for questions and remarks concerning the application form?	Please always contact the functional mailbox, address above and in section 5 of the call document. Questions and answers may be published on this website in the format of these Q&A.
4		Is OPSYS registration necessary?	This call is not managed by any Commission system (such as OPSYS, which is used for External Actions).
5		What is the address for applications submitted by hand?	The delivery address for paper applications is indicated in the call document (page 6.)