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ANNEX 1

ANNEX

to the

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION

Amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2017)2572 on the adoption of the work programme for 2017 and the financing of Union actions in the framework of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

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Policy context

On 13 May 2015, the Commission adopted the European Agenda on Migration (EAM)², which sets out immediate actions to be taken in response to the migration and refugee crisis and four "pillars" for the better management of migration in the future:

- 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.

On 7 June 2016, the Commission launched the Partnership Framework with third countries under the EAM³, aimed at developing cooperation with key countries of origin and transit in addressing the root causes of irregular migration and in the management of migration and refugee flows. This Framework is to be implemented through all the suitable policies and tools of cooperation, Regional Development and Protection Programmes and others.

The 2017 annual work programme for Union action (AWP) in the framework of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) includes:

- actions to support the implementation of the existing Regional Development and Protection Programmes;
- actions in third countries contributing to reduce 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).

These actions will also contribute to implementing the priorities identified in the EAM as well as follow up communications and action plans, notably: the Communication on the reform of the Common European Asylum System and enhancing legal avenues to Europe of 6 April

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).

³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council and the European Investment Bank on establishing a new Partnership Framework with third countries under the European Agenda on Migration (COM(2016) 385 final).

2016⁴, the Action Plan on the integration of third country nationals of 7 June 2016⁵, the Communication on the protection of children in migration of 12 April 2017⁶, and the EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling of 27 May 2015⁷, and the Communication on the Delivery of the European Agenda on Migration of 27 September 2017⁸ and the Communication of 7 December 2017 on Commission's contribution to the EU Leaders' thematic debate on a way forward on the external and the internal dimension of migration policy.

Overview of 2017 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	17 485 000
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	152 583 301

Implementation arrangements	Total (EUR)	% of 2017 AWP appropriations
Grants (direct management)	50 380 000	29.6
Procurement (direct management)	6 593 301	3.9
Indirect management	35 000 000	20.6
Other actions	78 095 000	45.9
TOTAL	170 068 301	100.0

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 or within families) should be reflected in the design and implementation of actions set out below.

⁴ *Towards a reform of the Common European Asylum System and enhancing legal avenues to Europe*, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2016) 197 final).

⁵ *Action Plan on the integration of third country nationals*. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (COM(2016) 377 final).

⁶ *The protection of children in migration*, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2017)211 final).

⁷ *EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling (2015-2020)*. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (COM(2015) 285 final).

⁸ *Delivery of the 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(2017)558 final).

Consistency, complementarity and synergies with other Union instruments will be ensured. In accordance with Article 3(4) and Article 3(5) of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014⁹, actions in relation with third countries will 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 European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (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 Aid¹⁰.

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 actions and budget breakdown for 2017:

Grants (implemented under direct management) (1.2):	EUR 15 200 000
Procurement (implemented under direct management) (1.3):	EUR 1 490 000
Other actions (1.4):	EUR 795 000
TOTAL:	EUR 17 485 000

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

⁹ 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).

¹⁰ *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).

As set out in the 2005 Communication on *Regional Protection Programmes* (RPPs)¹¹, 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 (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 better manage migration and address gaps in migrant protection and asylum, 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*¹² 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 and 2016 AMIF AWP for Union Actions.

Through this AWP, additional support will be provided for developing the RDPP in Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Niger, Chad 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 1268/2012¹³ (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

¹¹ Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on Regional Protection Programmes (COM(2005)388 final).

¹² *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).

¹³ 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).

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 resettlement countries;
- whenever not already covered by the Readmission Capacity-Building Facility 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 the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). Additional funding to reinforce this component has been 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 (EU Trust Fund for Africa).

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 Member States and Dublin-associated states participating in the consortium (Italy, Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom (UK)). 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 IOM participate where relevant.

The sub-group provides overall strategic 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 and the EU Trust Fund for Africa.

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 RDPP North Africa consortium of Member States' authorities to submit a proposal, in accordance with Article 128 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012¹⁴ (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. The authorities of Norway can participate in this action on a no-cost basis only. Non-governmental organisations established in the Member States participating in AMIF and international organisations may be associated with the consortium and participate in the implementation as co-beneficiaries.

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 the 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; European added value; expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact; and cost-

¹⁴ 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).

effectiveness.

Indicative timetable and amount

Reference	Date	Amount
AMIF-2017-AG-IBA-RDPP-NA	Q2 2017	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 better manage migration and address gaps in migrant protection and asylum, 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 and 2016 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.

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, Member States and Dublin-associated states participating in the consortium (the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Switzerland and the UK), 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 EU Trust Fund for Africa or other development co-operation funding.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

This grant will be awarded directly (without a call for proposals) following an invitation to the RDPP Horn of Africa consortium of Member States' authorities 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. The authorities of Denmark, Norway and Switzerland can participate in this action on a no-cost basis only. Non-governmental organisations established in the Member States participating in AMIF and international organisations may be associated with the consortium and participate in the implementation as co-beneficiaries.

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 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; European added value; expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact; and cost-effectiveness.

Indicative timetable and amount

Reference	Date	Amount
AMIF-2017-AG-IBA-RDPP-HA	Q2 2017	EUR 7 500 000

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

Maximum rate of co-financing of eligible costs

90 %

1.2.3. Direct award of action grant for the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) for gathering and analysis of information related to the national asylum systems

Legal basis

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

Budget line

18 03 01 01

Priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The collection and analysis of information related to the national asylum systems is of key importance for the implementation of the Common European Asylum System. The main objective is to ensure that the policymakers have a better understanding of the functioning of a number of national asylum systems via a systematic and consistent approach.

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

The collection and analysis of information related to the national asylum systems in place in different Member States covering all the relevant aspects: overview of the legal framework, asylum and Dublin procedure, reception conditions, detention during asylum procedures.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

This grant will be awarded directly (without a call for proposals) following an invitation to ECRE 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 awarding of the grant is justified by the specific characteristic of the action requiring the technical competence and a high degree of specialisation in the area of EU

asylum *acquis* as provided by ECRE, which has developed a very specific expertise on the different national asylum systems thanks to its wide European network of organisations. This expertise has been used to produce useful and relevant reports on a number of national asylum systems following a common methodology, including via the Asylum Information Database (AIDA) project (<http://www.asylumineurope.org/>) which has been set up for the purpose of collecting data on a certain number of national asylum system.

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 — the applicant 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 — the applicant must have the professional resources, competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed action.

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; European added value; expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact; and cost-effectiveness.

Indicative timetable and amount

Reference	Date	Amount
AMIF-2017-AG-IBA-ECRE	Q3 2017	EUR 200 000

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Maximum rate of co-financing of eligible costs

90 %

1.3. Procurement

The indicative overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2017 is EUR 1 490 000. 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 01

Subject matter of the envisaged contracts

1. Evaluation study / review of the implementation of Regulation establishing a Union Resettlement Framework and amending Regulation (EU) No 516/2014¹⁵;
2. Study on the practical implementation of the Asylum Procedures Directive¹⁶;
3. Study on the practical implementation of the Reception Conditions Directive¹⁷;
4. Study on the feasibility and added value of private sponsorship schemes as a possible pathway to safe channels for admission to the EU, including resettlement;
5. Information and communication activities;
6. Expert meetings, technical workshops and studies in the field of EU asylum policy.

Type of contract

It is envisaged that the actions will be implemented via specific contracts concluded under existing framework contracts.

Indicative number of contracts envisaged

It is envisaged that approximately 6 specific contracts will be concluded under existing framework contracts.

Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedures

Q2-Q4 2017

Implementation

Actions will be implemented by DG HOME.

1.4. Other actions

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

Legal basis

¹⁵ Regulation to be adopted following the Commission's Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Union Resettlement Framework and amending Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2016) 468).

¹⁶ Directive 2013/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection (recast) (OJ L 180, 29.6.2013, p. 60).

¹⁷ Directive 2013/33/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (recast) (OJ L 180, 29.6.2013, p. 96).

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 on children and when feasible all other relevant datasets shall always be disaggregated by age/sex and children who are unaccompanied.

Eurostat will provide assistance to the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) to identify specific European statistics on Asylum and Managed Migration already disseminated in public database. 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 cross sub-delegation of budget from DG HOME to Eurostat on the basis of a memorandum of understanding between them in the area of statistics.

1.4.2 Corporate communication on the priorities of the Union

Legal basis

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

Budget line

18 03 01 01

Amount

EUR 420 000

Description and objective of implementing measure

In 2017, corporate communication will focus mainly on the EU's contribution to jobs and growth putting a particular emphasis, inter alia, EU policy responses to challenges straddling internal and external actions, e.g. counterterrorism and migration.

The communication activities will include integrated communication campaigns, production of content, buying of advertising space, studies and evaluations, organisation of events, and provision of other corporate technical services (cf. C(2016)6838).

The actions will be implemented by the Directorate-General for Communication (DG COMM) both by the representations and headquarters through approximately three direct and specific contracts implementing mainly DG COMM framework contracts (e.g. FWC PO/2015-16/A2).

The procurement is indicatively foreseen to be launched in the first and second semester of 2017 (according to needs).

Implementation

The action will be implemented via a co-delegation of budget from DG HOME to DG COMM.

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 2017:

Grants (implemented under direct management) (2.2):	EUR 35 180 000
Procurement (implemented under direct management) (2.3)	EUR 5 103 301
Actions implemented under indirect management (2.4):	EUR 35 000 000
Other actions (2.5):	EUR 77 300 000
TOTAL:	EUR 152 583 301

2.2. Grants

2.2.1. Call for proposals to support transnational actions to integrate third-country nationals in the EU Member States

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

A successful integration of third-country nationals in EU societies is key to the success of EU migration policies as mentioned in the European Agenda on Migration adopted by the Commission on 27 May 2015.

On 6 April 2016, the Commission adopted a Communication on *the reform of the Common European Asylum System and Enhancing legal migration routes*¹⁸. This Communication stressed inter alia the importance of the integration of third-country nationals given the recent challenges posed by the refugee crisis as well as the existing and future challenges related to migration.

As announced in the 6 April 2016 Communication and taking into consideration both the socio-economic outcomes of third-country nationals in the EU - which are disadvantaged compared to host-country nationals - and the arrival in 2015 of 1.3 million asylum seekers in the EU, the Commission adopted on 7 June 2016 an Action Plan on the integration of third-country nationals.

In the context of the reform of the Common European Asylum System, the Commission on 13 July 2016 proposed a *Regulation establishing a Union Resettlement Framework*¹⁹ to establish a common European policy on resettlement and ensure legal and safe pathways to Europe for persons in need of international protection. This builds upon ongoing resettlement initiatives, i.e. the 20 July 2015 Council scheme under which 22,504 resettlements are envisaged.

In this context, it is crucial to support efforts of Member States to integrate third-country nationals and promote exchanges of experiences and practices in this field through funding of transnational actions. Funding available under AMIF should focus on certain specific areas, taking into account the objectives of other EU Funds contributing to integration and thereby ensuring complementarity.

Therefore the objectives identified under the 2017 AMIF Work programme call will concentrate on communication/awareness-raising activities, fostering exchanges at local level and paying particular attention to resettled refugees' integration.

Priority 1: Raising awareness on migrants' contribution to EU societies

This priority was not included in the previous calls on integration. In the current context characterised by widespread negative perceptions on migration across EU Member States, the integration of third-country nationals can be facilitated by communication activities promoting a positive narrative on migration and presenting the contribution that third-country nationals can make to societies in different areas. Such communication will be all the more effective if it comes from local and regional authorities as well as from NGOs.

Priority 2: Community building at local level for integration including through volunteering activities

This priority was not included in previous calls. Integration happens first and foremost at

¹⁸ COM(2016)197 final.

¹⁹ COM(2016)468 final.

local level and will only succeed if exchanges between third-country nationals and host-country nationals are fostered and encouraged from the very early stages at local level through different activities such as cultural, sport or other activities. Volunteering can be a particularly effective way to foster the interaction between EU citizens and third country nationals at the local level. Therefore, projects submitted under this priority might include a volunteering component. Synergies with the "European Solidarity Corps"²⁰ can be created in this regard. The objective is to support local communities making efforts to promote these exchanges and replicate this experience in other communities.

Priority 3: Pre-departure and post-arrival support for the integration of persons in need of international protection in particular when having been resettled from a third country including through volunteering activities

This priority was already included in a previous call under 2016 Work Programme but must be maintained in view of the ongoing implementation of the 2015 scheme and the 2016 Commission proposal to establish an EU resettlement Framework. Effective integration measures, both through pre-departure activities and through actions to prepare the host communities to their arrival, will be crucial to ensure the success of resettlement policy and the inclusion of resettled refugees in EU societies. Projects submitted under this priority might include the participation of volunteers for what concern the actions to prepare the host communities to the arrival of refugees. Synergies with the "European Solidarity Corps" can be created in this regard.

Priority 4: Support to the Commission initiative to mobilize employers for the integration of recently arrived migrants in the labour market

In the first part of 2017, the Commission will launch an initiative aiming at mobilizing employers and business representatives for the integration of recently arrived migrants in the labour market. This initiative will highlight the positive actions taken by some employers to foster the integration and will encourage businesses to do more in that respect. In this context, it is envisaged to support this initiative with funding to projects which would promote this initiative through transnational projects.

A close cooperation with the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion will take place during the preparation of the call of proposals with regard to this priority.

Priority 5: Integration of victims of trafficking in human beings

According to the 2016 Report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings²¹, there is strong evidence that the migration crisis has been exploited by criminal networks involved in trafficking in human beings to target the most vulnerable, in particular women and children. In particular, a worryingly sharp increase in arrivals of Nigerian women and girls leaving Libya has been identified (4 371 in January-September 2015 compared to 1 008 in the previous year, 80% of whom estimated by IOM Italy to be victims of trafficking), and there are general concerns of an increasing risk of trafficking for sexual

²⁰ COM(2016) 942 final

²¹ Report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings (2016) as required under Article 20 of Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims. Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2016) 267 final).

exploitation.

In this context, there is a clear need to support the integration of victims of trafficking who are third-country nationals and who are residing legally in a Member State or, where appropriate, who are in the process of acquiring legal residence in a Member State, including beneficiaries of international protection.

This call for proposals aims to address this need and its priority is therefore to support the integration of victims of trafficking (third-country nationals) in the EU Member States.

The provision of assistance and support for the victims of trafficking in human beings under this call could assist the Member States to meet their obligations under Articles 11-14 of Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims²².

For all five priorities, the following dimensions should be considered by applicants:

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 three dimensions 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.

In a context of increased synergies and complementarities between EU funding for integration of third-country nationals, this call will focus on areas where other EU Funds (ESIF, ERASMUS+ and H2020 in particular) do not intervene. The choice of the priorities of the call included in this work programme reflects this objective.

²² Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA (OJ L 101, 15.4.2011, p. 1).

Activities to be funded under the call for proposals

Priority 1: Raising awareness on migrants' contribution to EU societies

Support awareness raising projects through financing projects aiming at highlighting the contribution of migrants to our societies, communicating real facts about migration, as well as combating stereotypes. Possible activities can be projects in schools, creation of audio-visual campaigns, use of social media, training for media professionals, innovative actions directed to the public at large, public communication campaigns by local or regional authorities.

Priority 2: Community building at local level for integration including through volunteering activities

Support projects fostering community building for the integration of third country nationals at local level. These projects should promote exchanges between third-country and host-country nationals at local level, as well as build partnerships and cooperation among all the actors involved in promoting integration at community level. For example, they could consist of the following activities (non-exhaustive list):

- Cultural exchanges, in particular to promote culture and values of the receiving society, European values and the culture of the country of origin, including in the context of the 2018 European Year for Cultural Heritage;
- Volunteering based activities in support of integration activities, involving EU citizens and third-country nationals;
- Sport, cultural and other educational activities, including in the context of the 2018 European Year for Cultural Heritage;
- Activities aiming at empowering migrants to participate in general community life.

Priority 3: Pre-departure and post-arrival support for the integration of persons in need of international protection in particular when having been resettled from a third country including through volunteering activities

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

- For people resettled from outside the EU – clearly linked pre-departure and post-arrival activities;
- Activities and information campaigns to prepare host communities for the arrival of 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.

Priority 4: Support to the Commission initiative to mobilize employers for the integration of recently arrived migrants in the labour market

Projects funded under this priority should both improve information on positive experiences by employers and on modalities and different way to integrate recently arrived migrants in the labour market.

Priority 5: Integration of victims of trafficking in human beings

The activities should address the specific challenges and the specific needs in terms of integration of victims of trafficking. In particular, activities funded under this call should concern:

- support during procedures before national authorities;
- legal and medical assistance (including psychological support);
- psychosocial support;
- accommodation;
- education, vocational training and apprenticeship programmes;
- job placement services;
- income generating activities; and
- specialized family or dependant support.

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) or entities working on a non-profit basis;

b) Applications related to priorities 1, 2, 3 and 4 may be submitted by international organisations which may be also co-applicants in these cases. International organisations cannot submit applications related to priority 5 or be co-applicants for these applications;

c) Union agencies cannot submit applications or be co-applicants;

d) For-profit organisations established in a Member State participating in AMIF can participate as co-applicants in applications related to priorities 1, 2 and 4, but cannot act as lead applicants / coordinators. Their participation must be strictly on a non-profit basis.

For-profit organisations cannot submit applications related to priorities 3 and 5 or be co-applicants for these applications;

- e) Applications related to priorities 1, 2, 3 and 4 must involve a partnership of at least three distinct organisations from at least two different Member States participating in the AMIF. Applications related to priority 5 must involve a partnership of at least two distinct organisations from at least two different Member States participating in the AMIF; and
- f) For applications related to priorities 1, 2, 3 and 4, the grant amount requested must be between EUR 450 000 and EUR 1 000 000. For applications related to priority 5, the grant amount requested must be between EUR 200 000 and EUR 500 000.

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; European added value; expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact; and cost-effectiveness.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

Indicative timetable and amount

Reference	Date	Amount
AMIF-2017-AG-INTE	Q2 2017	EUR 25 000 000

Maximum rate of co-financing of eligible costs

90 %

2.2.2. *Call for proposals to support awareness raising and information campaigns on the risks of irregular migration in selected third-countries*

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

The EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling states that raising awareness of the risks of smuggling and of irregular migration is crucial for preventing prospective migrants and asylum seekers, including people in more vulnerable situations such as children, from embarking on hazardous journeys towards the EU. The Action plan foresees the launch of information and awareness raising campaigns in key countries of origin or transit for migrants.

The objective of the information and awareness raising campaigns is to sensitise the target audience and to provide prospective migrants, vulnerable communities, diaspora members and local media with objective information about the perils and difficulties of voyages and about the legal, social and economic realities of life in Europe. Ultimately, these campaigns seek to enable asylum seekers and migrants to make informed decisions about their movements and plans for the future.

In particular, the country specific information campaign shall contribute to:

- dissuading migrants from leaving their country of origin and migrate irregularly to the EU, while encouraging them instead to opt for legal migration routes;
- reframing the discourse in order to counter the narrative of people smugglers and traffickers, by informing about the risks of irregularly entering the EU, highlighting the dangers of the journey and showing the reality of living conditions in the EU;
- directing prospective migrants to official sources of information, e.g. websites, providing accurate and updated information on EU asylum, migration and voluntary return policy as well as development cooperation projects in the countries of the region.

Activities to be funded under the call for proposals

In order to ensure adequate design and implementation of the information and awareness raising campaigns, the following activities will be supported:

- Ex-ante assessment of the communication patterns among the target audience in order to identify the most appropriate channels, media and communication tools to be used in the planned campaign (e.g. traditional media vs social media and online content more widely; role of local communities; role of diaspora in the EU; support of national celebrities);
- Design of a communication and information strategy, development of communication products and their specific content (messages) and testing;

- Setting up indicators allowing to monitor progress in implementing the action;
- Information and awareness raising activities;
- Evaluation of the results and impact of the action.

The new information and awareness projects will build on the experience of information and awareness raising campaigns on migration previously implemented by the EU, Member States and international organisations in third countries. These projects will seek synergies with communication activities being implemented under the RDPP projects and other projects financed by the EU Trust Fund for Africa.

Grants will be awarded to support migration information and awareness raising campaigns in two to three priority countries identified on the basis of EU mapping of past, on-going and planned migration information and awareness raising campaigns, as well as on the basis of actual needs related to the trends in migration flows.

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);
- entities working on a non-profit basis or international organisations. (Union agencies cannot submit applications or be co-applicants);

b) The grant amount requested must be between EUR 500 000 and EUR 1 000 000.

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; European added value; expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact; and cost-

effectiveness.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

Indicative timetable and amount

Reference	Date	Amount
AMIF-2017-AG-INFO	Q2 2017	EUR 4 500 000

Maximum rate of co-financing of eligible costs

90 %

2.2.3. Direct award of an action grant to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support capacity building for the collection of data on migrant smuggling in third-countries

Legal basis

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

Budget line

18 03 01 02

Priorities for the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The EAM identifies the fight against the migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings as one of the key elements of the migration management.

The EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling (2015-2020)²³ states that the gathering and sharing information on modus operandi, routes, economic models of migrant smuggling networks, on links with trafficking in human beings and other crimes, and on financial transfers, is crucial for targeting the fight against migrant smuggling effectively. At present, knowledge and information about migrant smuggling are sporadic, because of the underground and rapidly changing nature of this phenomenon. The networks' modus operandi depends largely on the region and the circumstances of the migrant who is paying. Obtaining region-specific information is crucial to underpin any legislative, policy or operational counter-measures.

However, the capacity of many third countries to collect data on migrant smuggling is

²³ EU Action Plan against migrant smuggling (2015-2020). Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions of 27 May 2015 (COM(2015) 285 final).

limited.

The objective of this action is to build the capacity of selected third countries for the data collection on migrant smuggling.

The action will be carried out in the framework of Phase 2 of the "Global Report on Smuggling of Migrants" project implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

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 capacity building of selected third countries for the data collection on migrant smuggling via technical assistance, including workshops and secondment of experts.

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 UNODC 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 this grant is justified by the specific characteristics of the action, requiring technical competence and a high degree of specialisation that only the UNODC 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; European added value; expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact; and cost-effectiveness.

Indicative timetable and amount

Reference	Date	Amount
AMIF-2017-AG-IBA-UNDC	Q2 2017	EUR 80 000

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 an action grant to UNHCR for the continuation of the 'Telling the real story' campaign and expanding the concept to Pashtu and Arab speaking asylum seekers and migrant communities

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

Every year an increasing number of asylum seekers and migrants embark on a dangerous journey towards Europe. The movement is facilitated by far-reaching networks of smugglers and human traffickers who see opportunity for exploiting vulnerable people by promising easy access to asylum and a comfortable social and economic future in Europe.

Preparatory research of communication patterns among asylum seekers and migrants carried out by UNCHR in the framework of the on-going EU funded “Telling the real story” campaign, as well as other migration communities, notably Pashtu and Arab speaking, had shown that the target audience had a vague notion of dangers of the journey and used two heavily biased sources of information on which they based their decision to leave for Europe. Firstly, the propaganda of smugglers. Secondly, the untruthful feedback of relatives in Europe who are under enormous social pressure to succeed that they paint an unrealistically positive picture of life in Europe. Once the unrealistically high expectations are shattered upon arrival, many of them regret having come in the first place.

In an effort to respond to this burning situation, the EU has already financed two pilot campaigns in Niger implemented by IOM and in Ethiopia and Sudan carried out by UNHCR. The latter has proved particularly successful in engaging asylum seekers, prospective and returning migrants as well as communities.

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

The activities supported by this project will build on the experience of the AMIF funded information campaign ‘Telling the real story’ in Ethiopia and Sudan carried out by the UNHCR in years 2015-2016. The "Telling of real story" project provided for an innovative design to re-enact traditional oral communication patterns of Somali and Eritrean societies by 21st century means, i.e. social media. Unlike other communication projects, it didn't insert messages and slogans from outside sources, but enabled and boosted intra- community dialogue. This unique approach will be continued through communication activities in the Horn of Africa region (Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia) and expanded to other priority migration communities in Africa, as well as Syrian, Iraqi and other Arabic and Pashtu

speaking refugees. When appropriated, it will be complemented by the use of other trusted sources of information, such as radio or TV in the regions covered by the project. A direct participation and engagement of the targeted audience will be central for the success of the project and ensured by specifically designed outreach activities.

This project seeks synergies with similar activities being implemented as a part of the country specific communication projects foreseen under this AWP, on-going RDDP projects and projects funded under the EU Trust Fund for Africa as well as other EU funded information activities in other regions.

An action grant will be awarded to support information campaigns in three priority regions in Africa as well as in the countries of origin and main countries of transit of Afghans and Arabic speaking migrants and asylum seekers.

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 UNHCR 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 this grant is justified by the specific characteristics of the action, requiring technical competence and a high degree of specialisation that only the UNHCR 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; European added value; expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact; and cost-effectiveness.

Indicative timetable and amount

Reference	Date	Amount
AMIF-2017-AG-IBA-UNHC	Q2 2017	EUR 3 000 000

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Maximum rate of co-financing of eligible costs

90 %

2.2.5. Direct award of an action grant to a consortium of leading EU public media led by France Médias Monde to support the 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, the obligation to return will be enforced.

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 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.

A trilingual (French, English and Arabic) news and information platform of the hub has been developed under Phase 1 of the project financed as an action under the AMIF 2016 AWP.

This action will constitute the support the operation of this trilingual platform, curating and making available all relevant information via networks of journalists around the world, other media organisations, NGOs, institutional sources, etc., producing dedicated, tailor-made journalistic content and operating a network 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.

In addition, this action will support the introduction of other languages such as Dari/Pashto, Urdu, Somali, Tigrinya, Amharic and the languages spoken most in western Africa.

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. The action will be complementary to other information activities on the risks of irregular migration, including the information campaigns supported under this AWP.

Governance structure

A Steering Committee composed of a representative of each participating media partner (*France Médias Monde, Deutsche Welle, Radio Montecarlo Arabic and Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata*) and a Commission representative will be responsible for the governance

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.

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 of leading EU public media led by *France Médias Monde* 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 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; European added value; expected results, dissemination, sustainability and long-term impact; and cost-effectiveness.

Indicative timetable and amount

Reference	Date	Amount
AMIF-2017-AG-IBA-MINS	Q2 2017	EUR 2 600 000

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 under budget line 18 03 01 02 in 2017 is EUR 5 103 301. 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 (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purpose of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing²⁴;
2. Impact assessment study on the attraction of non-EU innovative entrepreneurs;
3. Fitness check of the legal migration acquis.
4. European dialogue on skills and migration (in particular meeting costs);
5. Support for the European Integration Network (in particular meeting costs, study visits, reports);

²⁴ Directive (EU) 2016/801 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purpose of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing (recast) (OJ L 132, 21.5.2016, p. 21).

6. Support for the work of the European Migration Forum (in particular meeting costs);
7. Support for the EU Immigration Portal (EUIP);
8. Support for the European website on integration (EWSI)
9. Meeting with legal migration lawyers associations from Member States;
10. Data collection, studies and conferences on the links between the trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling;
11. Information and communication activities;
12. Expert meetings, technical workshops and studies in the field of EU migration policy.

Type of contract

It is envisaged that:

- actions 1 to 7 and 9 to 12 will be implemented via specific contracts concluded under several existing framework contracts;
- action 8 will be implemented via a direct service contract until the end of 2017; a new framework contract will be launched in 2017 to implement the action from 2018.

Indicative number of contracts envisaged

It is envisaged that the following contracts will be concluded:

- approximately 20 specific contracts under existing framework contracts; and
- one direct service contract.

Indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedures

Q3 2017

Implementation

Actions will be implemented by DG HOME.

2.4. Actions implemented in indirect management

2.4.1. Readmission Capacity Building Facility III

Legal basis

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

Budget line

18 03 01 02

Amount

EUR 26 300 000

Implementing entity

This action will be implemented in the indirect management mode on the basis of a delegation agreement to be concluded with IOM.

IOM has been selected as the entity entrusted with the tasks under the indirect management on the basis of its technical competence and its capacity to carry-out the tasks.

Established in 1951, IOM is the leading inter-governmental organisation in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners. With 166 member states, a further 8 states holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants.

IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation on migration issues, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration problems and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.

Following the signing of the agreement concerning the relationship between the United Nations and the IOM, IOM joined the United Nations System on 19 September 2016.

IOM has implemented many EU funded actions related to returns and readmissions, including Readmission Capacity Building Facility I (AMIF 2015 AWP).

IOM successfully passed the Commission's seven-pillar assessment in 2014.

Indirect management via a delegation agreement with IOM will provide the necessary flexibility in the identification of specific actions to be implemented, with the Commission steering and monitoring closely the financial support provided by the Facility. Readmission Capacity Building Facility III will be able to respond rapidly and in an effective manner to priorities identified in the framework of cooperation with third-countries on readmissions.

Overall objective and purpose of the action

The Readmission Capacity-Building Facility III will continue the approach of the previous Facilities under the AMIF 2015 and 2016 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 third countries, with a

view to reduce irregular migration. This action is in line with EAM priorities, calls from the European Council and the objectives of the EU action plan on return²⁵, which all stress the need for the EU to help third countries fulfil their readmission obligations.

In line with the action plan on return²⁶, support under the Facility 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 by the Commission and Member States on return and reintegration of migrants to their countries of origin.

The Facility will focus on needs-based capacity-building in the area of return, readmission and reintegration. It aims to provide the EU with a funding mechanism to cater to fast-changing political priorities 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.

Like its predecessors, 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 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 returnees 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

²⁵ *EU action plan on return*, Commission Communication to the European Parliament and the Council (COM(2015) 453, 9.9.2015).

²⁶ 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.

of the third countries concerned and their readmission cooperation with the EU:

- needs assessments;
- training curricula, workshops and information materials;
- reintegration packages;
- investment in infrastructure related to return, readmission and reintegration;
- equipment;
- IT solutions and software;
- secondment of experts;
- study visits, peer-to-peer expert meetings and conferences; and
- recommendations/guidance documents, studies and other publications.

Actions supported under the Facility will be implemented either directly by IOM or via sub-contracting or via grants awarded by IOM. IOM may award grants under the Facility following calls for proposals open to public authorities / public agencies of EU Member States, public authorities / public agencies of third countries and non-governmental organisations working on a non-profit basis. In duly justified cases and when approved by the steering group, IOM may award grants without a call for proposals to public authorities / public agencies of third countries with a *de jure* or *de facto* monopoly for activities related to readmission or identity management of their own nationals.

Governance and control structure

A steering group for the Readmission Capacity Building Facility, comprising representatives of the Commission and the IOM, will determine needs, select countries/actions to be supported, and examine and approve specific actions to be carried out, taking into account activities funded under other EU funds or by other donors. The steering group will also decide whether an action will be implemented by IOM directly or via grants awarded by IOM.

Complementarity

Complementarity to activities funded under the 2015 and 2016 Facilities, to other actions funded by AMIF (European Reintegration Instrument Network) and to actions funded under other instruments such as the EU Trust Fund for Africa or the Development Cooperation Instrument (including the action "Improving reintegration of returnees in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan") will be ensured, including by activities of the steering group.

2.4.2. Mobility Partnership Facility II

Legal basis

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

Budget line

18 03 01 02

Amount

EUR 8 700 000

Implementing entity

This action will be implemented in the indirect management mode on the basis of a delegation agreement to be concluded with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

ICMPD has been selected as the entity entrusted with the tasks under the indirect management on the basis of its technical competence and its capacity to carry-out the tasks.

ICMPD is an international organisation with strong expertise in the support to migration dialogues with third countries and Mobility Partnerships (MP) and in managing EU funds/contracts (including Mobility Partnership Facility I (MPF I) financed under the AMIF and ISF 2014 AWP).

ICMPD has established a strong network with EU Member States and partner countries covered by the MPs and the Common Agendas for Migration and Mobility (CAMM) and has project-based offices in some MP and CAMM countries.

ICMPD successfully passed the Commission's six-pillar assessment in 2014.

The indirect management via the delegation agreement with the ICMPD will provide the necessary flexibility in the identification of specific actions to be implemented, with the Commission, in co-operation with the EU Member States and the European External Action Service (EEAS) steering and monitoring closely the financial support provided by the facility. The MPF II will be able to respond rapidly and in an effective manner to the priorities identified in the framework of MP/CAMM (existing or under preparation), as well as the need to ensure complementarity with the actions funded through external cooperation instruments.

Overall objective and purpose of the action

The Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM) is, since 2005, the overarching framework of the EU external migration and asylum policy. The framework defines how the EU conducts its policy dialogue and operational cooperation with third countries in the area of migration and mobility, based on clearly defined priorities which reflect the strategic objectives of the EU, and firmly embedded in the EU's overall foreign policy framework.

The GAMM has been given a new impulse with the adoption of the Communication on establishing a new Partnership framework with third countries under the European Agenda on Migration²⁷. The Framework proposes the so-called compacts as a new tool for a more coordinated, systematic and structured approach, matching the EU interest and the interests

²⁷ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council and the European Investment Bank on establishing a new Partnership Framework with third countries under the European Agenda on Migration (COM(2016) 385 final).

of our partners.

The GAMM is implemented through several political instruments (bilateral and regional policy dialogues and action plans), legal instruments (such as visa facilitation and readmission agreements), operational support and capacity-building measures that are made available in particular to third country administrations.

The most elaborated bilateral cooperation frameworks under the GAMM are the MPs and CAMMs. While CAMMs are signed by the EU on behalf of all MS, MPs signatories include the EU (represented by the Commission), the third country concerned, as well as individual EU Member States, on a voluntary basis.

MPs are offering a framework for an enhanced and tailor-made policy dialogue and operational cooperation with third countries in a wide range of fields related to migration and mobility, with concrete actions covering the four thematic priorities of the GAMM:

- (a) better organising legal migration, and fostering well-managed mobility;
- (b) preventing and combating irregular migration, and eradicating trafficking in human beings;
- (c) maximising the development impact of migration and mobility; and
- (d) promoting international protection, and enhancing the external dimension of asylum.

So far, MPs have been concluded with nine countries: Moldova (2008), Cape Verde (2008), Georgia (2009), Armenia (2011), Morocco (2013), Azerbaijan (2013), Tunisia (2014), Jordan (2014) and Belarus (2016). Negotiations on a Mobility Partnership with Lebanon were launched in 2015 and are now in the final stages. The conclusion of a Mobility Partnership between the EU and Lebanon would provide a comprehensive framework for policy dialogue and cooperation on all migration-related aspects.

CAMMs are an alternative framework for bilateral dialogue and cooperation, notably in cases where one side or the other is not ready to enter into the full set of obligations and commitments implied by a MP, such as the negotiation of visa facilitation and readmission agreements. Like the MPs, the CAMMs set a number of common recommendations, targets and commitments for dialogue and cooperation. So far, CAMMs have been signed with Nigeria, Ethiopia and India and draft CAMMs have been proposed to, or are envisaged with Brazil and Bangladesh.

The operational implementation of MPs and CAMMs is notably supported through relevant programmes funded by the EU financial instruments. Given the need to also target actions under MPs and CAMMs which represent a high priority to the EU and its Member States and have a direct impact on the EU migration agenda, the Commission decided to fund the MPF I under the AMIF 2014 AWP, as well as under the 2014 annual work programmes of the Internal Security Fund (ISF) – Borders and Visa and ISF – Police. The delegation agreement for the MPF I was signed with ICMPD in December 2015 for the period of 24 months (until 31 December 2017).

Given the need to support the MPs and CAMMs after the end of the MPF I implementation, this action will provide support to the MPs and CAMMs in the period after 2017.

The objective of this action is to support the preparation and implementation of current and future MPs, CAMMs and similar processes, such as the Prague Process, through actions which represent a high priority to the EU and its Member States and have a direct impact on the EU migration agenda which now encompasses the new Partnership Framework.

In line with the objectives foreseen and actions eligible under the AMIF, in particular the following actions shall receive funding: (i) support to partner countries' policy and legal frameworks for migration and mobility, including through circular and temporary migration schemes as well as better information and protection of migrants, including pre-departure training; (ii) information of potential migrants on opportunities for legal migration and on requirements for legal stay, as well as on the risks of irregular migration; (iii) capacity-building of partner countries' authorities in legal migration management (including migration monitoring); (iv) support to partner countries' policy and legal frameworks as well as capacity-building on asylum policy and protection in line with international standards; (v) support to the migration dialogue with relevant partner countries.

In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives, in particular the following activities should be financed: (i) Capacity-building support through the deployment of experts (mainly from EU Member States); (ii) Development and implementation of trainings and training material; (iii) Exchange of personnel; (iv) Provision of specific equipment which would be indispensable in relation to the abovementioned capacity-building support and training; (v) Information and awareness raising campaigns; (vi) Organisation of expert meetings and conferences; (vii) Studies, evaluations and monitoring activities.

Support to these actions will complement EU funding provided through the ISF-Police and ISF-Borders funded components of the MPF II, as well as those actions covered through the national programmes of the EU Member States and those more development-oriented actions to be funded through external cooperation instruments (such as ENI, DCI, EDF, PI). Coherence and complementarity will be concretely ensured through the MPF Steering Committee.

Governance and control structure

The steering committee set up under the MPF I, led by the Commission and comprising also EEAS representatives, will ensure effective governance and control of the MPF II. ICMPD will ensure the secretariat of the steering committee and provide technical support/assistance when necessary.

The steering committee will work in close consultation with EU Member States and, whenever relevant, with international organisations. Its role will be to provide the overall strategic guidance for the implementation of the MPF II, as well as to examine and approve each concrete action to be funded under the MPF II, with due attention to the necessity to ensure coherence and coordination with other funds supporting the MPs/CAMMs. It will also adopt, and whenever necessary revise, the annual work plan of the facility. All EU Member States having co-signed Mobility Partnerships will be consulted and informed in due course before the adoption of the annual work plan. The MPF steering committee will meet regularly - at least twice a year - to assess the latest developments in terms of the implementation of GAMM and the various MPs, as well as to decide on the overall priorities for the use of the MPF II.

On the basis of requests for concrete support to an MP submitted by an MP/CAMM partner country, by one or more EU Member State signatory of that MP, or at the initiative of the Commission, notably within the framework of the governance structures of each MP (MP meetings, Local Cooperation Platforms, etc.), the MPF steering committee tasks ICMPD to identify, in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, the relevant activities to be carried out.

ICMPD management tasks include the management of the award procedures, accounting and administration of the facility, as well as monitoring and reporting.

Actions supported through the MPF II will be implemented preferably via a call for proposals. The call will be open to proposals of EU Member States (public authorities/public agencies of EU Member States) as lead applicants (future coordinators). Public authorities of MP/CAMM countries or non-governmental organisations working on a non-profit basis established in the EU or in the MP/CAMM countries will be able to apply only as co-applicants (future co-beneficiaries). In the case of MPs, EU MS will be able to apply only for actions in relation to those partner countries with which they have signed the MP.

When no EU Member State is in a position to apply under the call for proposals or no proposal presented by them could be selected for funding by the steering committee, the steering committee may task ICMPD with its direct implementation, under the condition that the action is of a short-term nature (i.e. training, short-term technical assistance, conferences, seminars, workshops and study visits) and that the overall amount for actions directly implemented by ICMPD would not exceed one third of the facility's operational budget. Any decision taken by the steering committee to task ICMPD with the direct implementation of an action will be subject to the prior consultation of the relevant EU MS.

2.5. Other actions

2.5.1. Contribution to the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing the root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa

Legal basis

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

Budget line

18 03 01 02

Amount

EUR 77 000 000

Description and objective of the implementing measure

On 20 October 2015, a Commission Decision on the establishment of a European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa was adopted²⁸.

According to the Decision, the overall objective and purpose of this Trust Fund shall be to address the crises in the regions of the Sahel and the Lake Chad, the Horn of Africa, and the North of Africa. It will support all aspects of stability and contribute to better migration management as well as addressing the root causes of destabilisation, forced displacement

²⁸ Commission Decision C(2015) 7293 final.

and irregular migration, in particular by promoting resilience, economic and equal opportunities and security and development.

The EU Trust Fund for Africa was formally constituted at the Valletta Summit on Migration held on 11-12 November 2015. The EU Trust Fund for Africa provides funding to fulfil the objectives and implement the Valletta Action Plan and complement financial instruments available for cooperation with African partners by the EU, its Member States and associated countries.

The Trust Fund enables the EU, its Member States and contributing donors to respond to the different dimensions of crisis situations by providing support jointly, flexibly and quickly. In doing so, it will complement other strands of action such as political dialogue and development cooperation programmes, as well as humanitarian assistance, stabilisation and crisis response assistance and CFSP/CSDP actions where appropriate. It also complements the activities of EU Member States and of other development partners.

The Trust Fund finances activities in the following countries in Africa, crossed by the major migration routes:

- for the Sahel region and Lake Chad area: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal;
- for the Horn of Africa: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda;
- for North Africa: Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia;
- African neighbours of these eligible countries may also, on a case-by-case basis, benefit from projects with a regional dimension in order to deal with regional migration flows.

The AMIF contribution to the EU Trust Fund for Africa will enable the Trust Fund to finance activities which fall outside of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) definition of the official development assistance (ODA).

The AMIF contribution to the EU Trust Fund for Africa was tentatively foreseen by the indicative resource table of the Strategic orientation document of the Fund.

Activities funded by the EU Trust Fund for Africa fall within the scope of Article 20(2)(f) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014.

Implementation

The action will be implemented via a contribution to the EU Trust Fund for Africa. The Director-General of the Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) is the authorising officer by delegation responsible for managing this Trust Fund. The AMIF 2017 contribution will be earmarked for the North Africa, Horn of Africa and Sahel windows of the Trust Fund.

2.5.2. 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 300 000

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 smuggling.

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 also Syria), Niger, Nigeria, Senegal (regional mandate covering also the neighbouring countries), Pakistan (regional mandate covering also Afghanistan), Serbia (regional mandate covering all the Western Balkans countries), Ethiopia (regional mandate covering the whole Horn of Africa), Tunisia (covering also Libya), Sudan (regional mandate covering the parts of Horn of Africa, in particular Eritrea, which cannot be covered from Ethiopia), Turkey, Jordan, Bangladesh and Mali. Other countries can be added to reflect political priorities.

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, telecommunication and security costs under this action and any other relevant costs or activities under this action.

Implementation

The action will be implemented by a co-delegation of budget to DG DEVCO (and a subsequent transfer to the EEAS).