

EVALUATION AND FITNESS CHECK (FC) ROADMAP			
TITLE OF THE EVALUATION/FC	Ex-post evaluation of the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals for 2007-2010		
LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT	HOME E.2	DATE OF THIS ROADMAP	12 / 2015
TYPE OF EVALUATION	Evaluation	PLANNED START DATE	12 / 2015
	Ex post	PLANNED COMPLETION DATE	12 / 2016
	Mixed	PLANNING CALENDAR	http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/evaluation/index_en.htm
This indicative roadmap is provided for information purposes only and is subject to change.			

A. Purpose
(A.1) Purpose
<p>The purpose of this ex post evaluation of the European Integration Fund¹ for 2007-2010 is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet the legal obligations for monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the Fund (see section A.2); • To ensure transparency and accountability for the implementation of the European Integration Fund the to support the efforts made by the Member States to enable third-country nationals of different economic, social, cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds to fulfil the conditions of residence and to facilitate their integration into the European societies; • To contribute to enhancing the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and coherence of the future implementation of EU financial instruments in the field of integration of third-country nationals. .
(A.2) Justification
<p>According to Article 18(3) of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No 1268/2012², all programmes or activities, where the resources mobilised exceed EUR 5 000 000 shall undergo an interim and/or ex-post evaluation of the human and financial resources allocated and the results achieved, in order to verify that they are consistent with the objectives initially set.</p> <p>The legal basis for the evaluation of the European Integration Fund actions for 2007-2010 is provided by Articles 47 and 48 of Decision No 2007/435/EC³ which stipulates that the Commission submit an ex-post evaluation report to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions by 31 December 2012, for the period 2007-2010. Article 31(5) and (6) of the Regulation (EU) No 516/2014⁴ confirms this obligation.</p> <p>The deadline of 31 December 2012 could not be met, as the Commission's ex post evaluation report has to take account of the national (ex post) evaluation reports submitted by the Member States (step completed) and the</p>

¹ Usual name used in replacement of European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals.

² 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.

³ Decision No 2007/435/EC of the Council of 25 June 2007 establishing the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals for the period 2007 to 2013 as part of the General programme 'Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows', OJ L 168, 28.6.2007, p. 18–36.

⁴ 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

evaluation of the Community Actions, which will be carried out in the framework of the evaluation of the Fund for the period 2011-2013 (planned in the first half of 2016). In line with the planning of the evaluation of the Fund for the period 2011-2013, the Report for 2007-2010 will be submitted to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of the Regions by the end of December 2016.

B. Content and subject of the evaluation

(B.1) Subject area

The European Integration Fund was established for the period 2007 to 2013 as one of four funds under the General Programme "Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows".

The European Integration Fund has been implemented via actions under annual programmes of all EU Member States except Denmark and Croatia (shared management – 93% of the funding) and Community actions (direct management and joint management – 7% of the funding). The Member States's annual programmes (referred to in Article 19 of Decision No 2007/435/EC) were drafted on the basis of 2007-2013 multi-annual programmes of participating Member States and implemented by the appointed authorities under the shared management mode. Article 4 of Decision No 2007/435/EC lays down the actions eligible under the European Integration Fund's annual programmes which, among others, include:

- Development and implementation by Member States of admission procedures by supporting consultation processes with relevant stakeholders and expert advice or information exchanges on approaches which target specific nationalities or categories of third-country nationals;
- More effective implementation of admission procedures and accessibility to third-country nationals, by using user-friendly Communication and Information Technology, information campaigns and selection procedures;
- Improve integration of third-country nationals into host society by supporting pre-travel measures which enable them to acquire knowledge and skills necessary for their integration, such as vocational training, information packages, comprehensive civic orientation courses and language tuition in the country of origin.

The European Integration Fund allocations for the annual programmes were determined on the basis of a methodology defined in Article 12 of Decision No 2007/435/EC.

The European Integration Fund Community actions were implemented under the direct or joint management mode. Under direct management mode a call for proposals was launched and projects were supported by grants awarded by the Commission. Service contracts were established following the calls for tenders published by the Commission. Article 5 of Decision No 2007/435/EC lays down the Community actions eligible under the European Integration Fund, which, among others, include:

- Community cooperation in implementing Community law and good practices in the field of immigration and integration;
- Set-up of transnational cooperation networks and pilot projects based on transnational partnerships designed to stimulate innovation, facilitate exchanges of experience and good practices and improve the quality of integration policies;
- Transnational awareness-raising campaigns;
- Studies, dissemination and exchange of information on best practices and other aspects of immigration and integration policies, including the use of state-of-the-art technology;
- Pilot projects and studies exploring the possibility of new forms of Community cooperation in the field of immigration and integration and Community law in the field of immigration;
- Development and application by Member States of common statistical tools, methods and indicators for measuring policy development in the fields of immigration and integration.

(B.2) Original objectives of the intervention

According to Article 2 of Decision No 2007/435/EC, the general objective of the European Integration Fund is to support the efforts made by the Member States to enable third-country nationals of different economic, social, cultural, religious, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds to fulfil the conditions of residence and to facilitate their integration into the European societies, by co-financing the actions provided for in this Decision.

The specific objectives of the European Integration Fund are defined by Article 3 of Decision No 2007/435/EC:

- Facilitation of the development and implementation of admission procedures relevant to and supportive of the integration process of third-country nationals.
- Development and implementation of the integration process of newly-arrived third-country nationals in Member States.
- Increase of the capacity of Member States to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate policies and measures for the integration of third-country nationals.
- Exchange of information, best practices and cooperation in and between Member States in developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating policies and measures for the integration of third-country nationals.

In addition, the Strategic guidelines (C(2007)3926 of 21/08/2007) defined the following four priorities for the European Integration Fund:

- Implementation of actions designed to put the 'Common Basic Principles for immigrant integration policy in the European Union into practice';
- Development of indicators and evaluation methodologies to assess progress, adjust policies and measures and to facilitate co-ordination of comparative learning;
- Strengthening policy capacity building, co-ordination and intercultural competence across the different levels and departments of government in Member States;
- Exchange of experience, good practices and information on integration among the Member States.

(B.3) How the objectives were to be achieved

The initial description of the Intervention Logic is based on the general and specific objectives, the priorities (described in the section above) as well as on the types of activity, funded by the European Integration Fund.

In particular, the EIF objectives were to be achieved through the implementation of actions supported by the Fund, as specified in Articles 4 and 5 of Decision No 2007/435/EC. These actions included, among others:

- Measures preventing language from being a barrier to successful integration;
- Provision of services to provide relevant information to third-country nationals and help the third-country nationals to orient themselves in the Member State;
- Actions in the area of education;
- Actions to support intercultural dialogue and intercultural competencies;
- Capacity-building of all actors involved in integration of third-country nationals;
- Measures to increase cooperation and training among Member States;
- Development of indicators, evaluation methods and further measures in order to evaluate actions taken so far and be able to adapt and develop new initiatives;
- Actions aimed at specific target groups such as women, the elderly, minors or disabled people;
- Measures specifically aimed at involving and educating the host society;
- Pre-departure measures involving all kinds of actions before the third-country nationals' arrival to the Member States;
- Actions targeting newly-arriving third-country nationals upon arrival to the Member State;
- Actions targeting third-country nationals already residing in the Member States.

C. Scope of the evaluation/FC	
(C.1) Topics covered	
<p>The evaluation will cover the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions supported under the annual programmes of the participating Member States⁵ for the period 2007-2010. <p>The evaluation will cover the eligibility period 1 January 2007 – 30 June 2010.</p> <p>Under the 2008, 2009 and 2010 annual work programmes the European Integration Fund supported 2986 projects, out of which 2839 through calls for proposals and 147 through other procedures. Community Actions will be covered by the evaluation being launched for the period 2011-2013, as they were not included in the ex post evaluation carried out for the projects.</p>	
(C.2) Issues to be examined	
<p>The evaluation will examine the implementation of actions co-financed by the European Integration Fund and assess their relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, coherence and complementarity, and EU added value.</p> <p>Under the relevance theme, the evaluation will examine to what extent the European Integration Fund objectives, implemented by eligible actions in 2007-2010, corresponded to needs related to support the efforts made by the Member States in enabling third-country nationals to fulfil the conditions of residence and to facilitate their integration into the European societies.</p> <p>Under the effectiveness theme, the evaluation will examine the extent to which the European Integration Fund 2007-2010 actions contributed to the achievement of the objectives defined in Article 2 of Decision No 2007/435/EC and to the priorities defined by the Strategic guidelines (C(2007)3926 of 21/08/2007).</p> <p>Under the efficiency theme, the evaluation will examine if and how the European Integration Fund 2007-2010 actions achieved the expected results at a reasonable cost in terms of financial and human resources deployed.</p> <p>Under the sustainability theme, the evaluation will examine the extent to which the positive effects of the European Integration Fund 2007-2010 actions lasted after the projects were completed.</p> <p>Under the coherence and complementarity theme, the evaluation will examine if and how the European Integration Fund 2007-2010 actions were coherent with and complementary to other actions related to integration of third-country nationals and financed by national resources of the Member States and other EU financial instruments.</p> <p>Under the EU added value theme, the evaluation will examine the additional value resulting from the European Integration Fund 2007-2010 actions, as compared to what the Member States would have done for the implementation of the EU policies in the field of integration of third-country nationals without the support of the European Integration Fund 2007-2010.</p>	
(C.3) Other tasks	
<p>The analysis of the national evaluation reports will be the main basis to answer to the evaluation questions at the EU level.</p>	

D. Evidence base	
(D.1) Evidence from monitoring	
<p>The information on the progress against the indicators defined in the annual programmes is provided in the final reports on implementation submitted by the Member States nine months after the end of the eligibility period for the respective annual programme.</p> <p>The Member States which requested the payment of a second pre-financing also submitted progress reports, which in addition to the final reports, may provide further details on the implementation of the annual programmes.</p> <p>In addition to the final, progress and evaluation reports provided by the Member States, the Commission will exploit</p>	

⁵ Belgium did not submit the national evaluation report for the period 2007-2010, hence no data or analysis concerning this country would be included in the Commission report.

the results of monitoring visits.
(D.2) Previous evaluations and other reports
<p>The following evaluation reports will also be taken into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synthesis of the multiannual and annual programmes of the Member States: priorities and actions of the European Fund for the integration of third country nationals; • Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European economic and social committee and the committee of the regions on the results achieved and on qualitative and quantitative aspects of implementation of the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals for the period 2007-2009 (COM (2011)847 final of 5.12.2011); • Compilation and analysis of projects funded under the Community Action Programme of the European Integration Fund.
(D.3) Evidence from assessing the implementation and application of legislation (complaints, infringement procedures)
<p>The evaluation will take into account annual audit reports referred to the European Integration Fund 2007-2010 annual programmes drafted by the national Audit Authorities, as well as audit reports drafted by DG HOME auditors and the Court of Auditors.</p>
(D.4) Consultation
<p>DG HOME will carry-out an internet based public open consultation (using a questionnaire) covering all of the main elements of the evaluation. This will be done in the first half of 2016. The purpose of the consultation will be to collect opinions of the general public on the importance and EU added value of the funding under European Integration Fund as well as feedback from the general public (including third-country nationals) on their personal and professional experience related to actions and projects funded by the European Integration Fund.</p> <p>During the evaluation, a number of interviews will be carried out with various stakeholders amongst those involved in the implementation of the fund (e.g. European Commission officials in charge of funds management and coordination, Member States authorities, international organisations – such as Council of Europe and IOM, non-governmental organisations such as the Centre for the Study of Democracy, European University Institute and Eurocities, and beneficiaries) in order to collect their views and opinions and to complete the answers to the evaluation questions.</p>
(D.5) Further evidence to be gathered
<p>The following additional documents and data sources will be covered as part of the desk research stage of the evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant legal acts (Decisions No 2007/435/EC, No 2008/457/EC and the Strategic guidelines (C(2007)3926 of 21/08/2007)); • Preparatory Actions for the integration of third-country nationals - INTI • Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament: The Hague Programme. Ten Priorities for the Next Five Years. A Partnership for European Renewal. (Com (2005) 184 final, 10 May 2005); • Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: A Common Agenda for Integration – Framework for the Integration of Third-Country-Nationals in the European Union. (COM (2005) 389 final, 1 September 2005); • European Integration Fund 2007-2013 multi-annual programmes of the Member States; • European Integration Fund 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 annual programmes of the Member States; • Descriptions of the Management and Control Systems for the European Integration Fund in the Member States; • Annual Work Programmes for the 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 of the European Integration Fund Community

Actions;

- EUROSTAT statistics;
- Other reports on financial management and system audits, as well as compliance checks with the relevant provisions of the legal basis.

E. Other relevant information/ remarks

While retaining the responsibility for the evaluation and its management, the Commission relies on an external evaluation study, in order to ensure the highest possible objectivity of the evaluation and to benefit from professional evaluation expertise.