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*to the*

COMMISSION DECISION

**on the adoption of the work programme of the European Migration Network for 2019-  
2020 serving as a financing decision for 2019**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

On the basis of the objectives given in 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, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for the European Migration Network (EMN) for 2019-2020 as follows:

Grants implemented under direct management:	15 640 000 EUR
Procurement implemented under direct management:	1 400 000 EUR
Other actions or expenditures:	1 035 000 EUR
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>18 075 000 EUR</b>

### 1.1. Legal basis

Article 22(3) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

### 1.2. Budget line

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### 1.3. Policy context

The European Migration Network (EMN) was established by Council Decision 2008/381/EC<sup>1</sup>. It is an EU co-funded network whose purpose is to provide up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum for the institutions of the EU, its Member States, plus Norway<sup>2</sup>, in order to inform policymaking and facilitate practical cooperation. The EMN should also serve to make such information available to the wider public. The EMN is made up of the European Commission and National Contact Points (EMN NCPs).

Since 2017, Europe has witnessed a decrease in the number of asylum seekers, including unaccompanied minors, as well as in the number of third-country nationals found to be staying illegally in the EU, following the unprecedented surge in the influx of migrants in 2015 and 2016. The routes by which asylum seekers enter the EU have also changed in the course of 2016 and 2017, thereby affecting more Member States, however, the flows still differ substantially across countries. The impact of migration remains apparent in many Member States today and new needs have arisen linked to the substantial expansion of integration services and return operations, as well as to border operations, asylum processing capacities and (first) reception facilities.

In the course of the last three years, a number of important measures was put forward in order to build a comprehensive approach to migration management. In May 2015, the European Commission adopted the European Agenda on Migration<sup>3</sup>, to set out medium to long term priorities that would help the EU and its Member States to manage the current challenges

<sup>1</sup> Council Decision 2008/381/EC of 14 May 2008 establishing a European Migration Network (OJ L 131, 21.5.2008, p. 7). Decision as last amended by 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).

<sup>2</sup> Norway participates in the work of the EMN, but its National Contact Point (NCP) is not entitled to receive a grant under this work programme, as Norway does not participate in the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).

<sup>3</sup> 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).

and, looking beyond the crisis, to begin to capitalise on the opportunities presented. In December 2017, the Commission published a Roadmap for a sustainable migration policy<sup>4</sup>, inviting all EU Member States to continue the ongoing work through four main actions: ensuring swift progress on the reform of the Common European Asylum System; further strengthening partnerships with third countries; continuing to open legal pathways to Europe and securing adequate funding for future years.

In May 2018, the Commission proposed also a revision of the legislation on Immigration Liaison Officers<sup>5</sup> to intensify the coordination of the common EU action necessary to secure third countries' cooperation on readmission of their own nationals. Fostering coordination among Member States is also at the very core of the proposal to reform the Visa Information System<sup>6</sup> legal framework, which will further secure borders by increasing checks and fostering interoperability.

The Commission continues to support effective migration management among other ways by providing financial and operational assistance to the Member States most affected by the migration routes. It also engages with international organisations and third countries to improve the conditions of migrants and asylum seekers in the territory of the EU as well as in countries of origin and / or transit.

In parallel, the fight against human trafficking and people smuggling was further intensified through cooperation with third countries and joint border and coastal operations. At the same time, legal migration pilot projects in some African countries were developed under the Mobility Partnership Facility to improve legal migration routes and thus discourage irregular migration.

Measures to facilitate legal migration have also been reinforced; changes in EU legislation have clarified further the conditions for legal entry and stay and a common set of rights for migrants exists. The proposed revision of the EU Blue Card Directive<sup>7</sup> is expected to further support Member States, and rules are now in place for specific groups of migrants under the Inter-Company Transfers<sup>8</sup> and Seasonal Workers<sup>9</sup> Directives, which have now been fully implemented in most Member States. The revised Students and Researchers Directive<sup>10</sup> is also expected to become fully operational as from 2019 in the Member States.

The achievements are noteworthy but the work is not finished. Much remains to be done to ensure full implementation and enforcement of existing instruments, as well as to make them more effective. Ensuring an appropriate follow-up to the high numbers of asylum seekers who have been granted international protection will be a key priority as well as ensuring that resettlement programmes are improved to match the needs of those entitled to

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<sup>4</sup> Commission contribution to the EU Leaders' thematic debate on a way forward on the external and the internal dimension of migration policy, Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (COM(2017)820 final).

<sup>5</sup> COM (2018) 303 final of 16.05.2018.

<sup>6</sup> COM (2018) 302 final of 16.05.2018.

<sup>7</sup> Council Directive 2009/50/EC of 25 May 2009 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of highly qualified employment.

<sup>8</sup> Directive 2014/66/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals in the framework of an intra-corporate transfer.

<sup>9</sup> Directive 2014/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 February 2014 on the conditions of entry and stay of third-country nationals for the purpose of employment as seasonal workers.

<sup>10</sup> 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 purposes of research, studies, training, voluntary service, pupil exchange schemes or educational projects and au pairing.

receive refugee status.

Finally, in the light of the results of a Special Eurobarometer on Integration<sup>11</sup>, the EU is called to take a more important role in the integration of immigrants, as integration is considered by the majority of EU citizens as a necessary investment for their countries.

#### **1.4. Objectives and Tasks of the European Migration Network**

As stated in Council Decision 2008/381/EC, the objective of the EMN shall be to meet the information needs of Community institutions and of Member States' authorities and institutions on migration and asylum, by providing up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum, with a view to supporting policymaking in the European Union in these areas. The EMN shall also serve to provide wider public with such information.

Referring to Article 2 of Council Decision 2008/381/EC, this shall be achieved by:

- collecting and exchanging up-to-date and reliable data and information from a wide range of sources;
- analysing such data and information and provide this in a readily accessible format;
- in collaboration with other relevant EU bodies, contributing to the development of indicators and criteria that will improve the consistency of information and helping in the development of Community activities related to migratory statistics;
- producing and publishing periodic reports on the migration and asylum situation in the Community and the Member States;
- creating and maintaining an Internet-based information exchange system which provides access to relevant documents and publications in the area of migration and asylum;
- raising awareness of the EMN, by providing access to the information it gathers and disseminating the output of the EMN, unless this information is of a confidential nature;
- co-ordinating information and cooperating with other relevant European and international bodies.

The work programme for the European Migration Network for 2019-2020 includes the action grants to the EMN National Contact Points of the EU Member States participating in the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF); actions implemented through procurement actions; and other actions or expenditures including an administrative arrangement with the Joint Research Centre (JRC), a co-delegation with the Directorate-General for Informatics (DIGIT) and a co-delegation with the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (JUST).

Consistency and co-ordination with the relevant Union instrument and structures in the area of migration and asylum will be ensured.

## **2. GRANTS**

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is EUR 15 640 000.

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<sup>11</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/results-special-eurobarometer-integration-immigrants-european-union\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/news/results-special-eurobarometer-integration-immigrants-european-union_en)

## 2.1. Direct Awards of Action grants to EMN National Contact Points

### *Type of applicants targeted by the direct awards*

Applicants (Coordinators) must be the entities appointed, by each Member State participating in AMIF, as National Contact Point of the European Migration Network for 2019-2020.

The Applicants (Coordinators) may implement the action in partnership with other entities (as Co-Applicants) belonging to the national administration to be identified in the Grant Agreement.

### *Description of the activities to be funded by the grant(s) awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of Article 195(d) of the Financial Regulation and Article 22(3) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014*

The main objective for the EMN Work Programme 2019-2020 is to produce up-to-date, objective, reliable, relevant and comparable information to support policymakers, practitioners, academia and the wider public by:

- Identifying information/knowledge of policy relevance at national/EU levels that is needed in view of contributing to policy making;
- Providing up-to-date, objective, reliable, relevant and comparable information, in response to identified needs while **ensuring complementarity with other Member States and EU institution initiatives**;
- Increasing the EMN's ability to proactively respond to the needs of policymakers at national/EU level and other target groups, addressing both short and longer-term strategic objectives;
- Sharing good practices and contributing to the development of practical cooperation and knowledge building on migration and asylum to overcome identified challenges and barriers;

To achieve these objectives, the specific priorities shall be:

- **Identify, analyse and meet information needs of EU and national policymakers**, through the **timely provision of relevant information in an appropriate, concise format**;
- **Share knowledge of policy developments** across the EU taking into account specific needs and different approaches of Member States by encouraging **greater use and facilitate access to EMN publications, documents, dialogues, platforms** (such as the new EMN IES) and websites;
- Further develop **networking and support practical cooperation** at both national and European level on migration and asylum **using the EMN as a platform for raising awareness about migration, return and asylum issues**;
- **Gather and sharing information on Member States' practices and facilitate practical cooperation** with Member States on **specific aspects of asylum and migration including identifying and sharing innovative best practices to the challenges faced by policy makers and practitioners**;
- **Improve comparability** of statistics and other information at EU-level, including continued cooperation with Eurostat and the on-going development of the **EMN Glossary** and its dissemination to wider audiences;
- **Increase further the impact/effectiveness of the EMN by means of targeted communication and strategic dissemination** of EMN outputs in appropriate formats;
- The EMN has its own unique capability to quickly provide information on specific

political issues taking into account the view of all EU Member States and Norway. The further added value of the EMN for policy makers lies in more in-depth analytical approaches to its outputs. **The EMN will support policy-makers with tailored products to allow also for further engagement with media and the general public by providing up to date, objective and relevant information.**

- The EMN will continuously adapt to meet its audiences' increasing needs for accurate, evidence-based knowledge to inform policy making, and to facilitate EU Citizens' access to the facts about migration and asylum, to counteract false or misleading narratives. **The EMN will therefore assist in communicating better with media and the general public on migration, return and asylum policies** by providing up to date, objective and targeted migration information that assist with media reporting and public debates.
- **EMN will explore ways to open its attendance for relevant third countries as observers to ensure a mutually beneficial information exchange on migration related topics to foster an enriching cooperation; and**
- **EMN will explore innovative modelling and tools to monitor national asylum pressures and contribute to develop migration IT-tools including using social media and apps** (together with the Joint Research Centre (JRC)) where needed.

Even in today's busy landscape of information providers, EMN offers a unique and demonstrated added value due to its strong presence in the Member States and Norway as well as to the quality and in-depth analytical approach of its outputs. EMN products have EU-wide coverage, are widely available and easily accessible to the general public. The EMN strives to respond and adapt to meet the needs for accurate and concise knowledge necessary to produce evidence-based policies. Thanks to its strong national networks, EMN is aiming to further facilitate EU Citizens' access to the facts about migration and asylum which is crucial to counteract false or misleading narratives.

### ***Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria***

#### ***Eligibility criteria***

Applicants (Coordinators) must be the entities appointed, by each Member State participating in AMIF, as National Contact Point of the European Migration Network for 2019-2020.

The Applicants (Coordinators) may implement the action in partnership with other entities (as Co-Applicants) belonging to the national administration to be identified in the Grant Agreement.

#### ***Implementation***

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME
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#### ***Maximum rate of co-financing of eligible costs***

95 %
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### **3. PROCUREMENT**

The global budgetary envelope reserved for procurement contracts in 2019-2020 is EUR 1 400 000.

#### ***General description of the contracts envisaged***

Service Provider activities to assist the Commission in the organisation of the work of the EMN.

Organization of EU level events for the dissemination of the main results of the EMN activities.

***Implementation***

Actions will be implemented by DG HOME.
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**4. OTHER ACTIONS OR EXPENDITURES**

**4.1. Support activities provided by the Joint Research Centre**

***Amount***

EUR 15 000
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***Description***

Performing activities related to the activities of the EMN and/or specific studies, which are, for example, very technical and/or concern activities of non-EU actors which the EMN National Contact Points are not in a position to do.

***Implementation***

The action will be implemented via an administrative arrangement with the JRC.
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**4.2. IT services provided by the Commission's Directorate-General for Informatics**

***Amount***

EUR 200 000
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***Description***

This action will allow maintenance and annual hosting of the EMN IT system and EMN website development and update. This will contribute to the part of the legislative mandate of the EMN to meet the information needs of EU institutions and of Member States' authorities and institutions on migration and asylum by providing up-to-date, objective, reliable and comparable information on migration and asylum, with a view to supporting policymaking in the European Union in these areas.

This action will contribute to the possibility for the EMN to create and maintain an Internet-based information exchange system (IES), which provides access to relevant documents and publications in the area of migration and asylum. Furthermore, the EMN is charged with coordinating information and cooperate with other relevant European and international bodies. As requested by Member States and agreed by the responsible Commission services, further development of IT migration management tools inside the EMN IES will be implemented on EMN-IES specific activities.

***Implementation***

The action will be implemented via a co-delegation to the Directorate-General for Informatics (DIGIT).
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#### **4.3. IT services provided by the Commission's Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers**

##### ***Amount***

EUR 820 000
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##### ***Description and objective of the implementing measure***

This action allows further development of IT migration management tools for the Member States and the Commission. The action will also help the EMN in meeting information needs on migration and asylum, through the EMN information exchange system described above.

##### ***Implementation***

The action will be implemented via a co-delegation to the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (JUST).
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**ANNEX : 2019-2020 INDICATIVE GRANT ALLOCATIONS FOR EMN NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS**

<b>MEMBER STATE</b>	<b>EMN National Contact Point 2019-2020 indicative grant amount</b>
AUSTRIA	900 000 EUR
BELGIUM	795 000 EUR
BULGARIA	200 000 EUR
CROATIA	339 000 EUR
CYPRUS	300 000 EUR
CZECH REPUBLIC	229 000 EUR
ESTONIA	478 000 EUR
FINLAND	1027 000 EUR
FRANCE	716 000 EUR
GERMANY	890 000 EUR
GREECE	465 000 EUR
HUNGARY	324 000 EUR
IRELAND	788 000 EUR
ITALY	1 028 000 EUR
LATVIA	295 000 EUR
LITHUANIA	460 000 EUR
LUXEMBOURG	975 000 EUR
MALTA	225 000 EUR
NETHERLANDS	995 000 EUR
POLAND	339 000 EUR
PORTUGAL	493 000 EUR
ROMANIA	30.000 EUR
SLOVAK REPUBLIC	468 000 EUR
SLOVENIA	185 000 EUR
SPAIN	789 000 EUR
SWEDEN	1 000 000 EUR
UNITED KINGDOM	907 000 EUR

When the EMN National Contact Points are constituted by offices of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), the provisions of the framework administrative agreement will be applicable.