

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS

The Director General

Brussels, 15 OCT. 2015

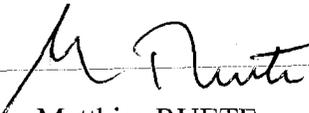
DECISION FOR A NON- SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME
2015 FOR UNION ACTIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ASYLUM, MIGRATION AND
INTEGRATION FUND

Whereas:

- The Annual Work Programme for Union actions within the framework of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (hereafter 2015 AMIF UA AWP) was adopted by Commission Decision C(2015)5385 final on 3 August 2015.
- In order to better reflect the policy priorities and needs, in the light of the current refugee crisis, the priorities and amount of the Call for Proposals on Integration foreseen under point 2.2.1 of the 2015 AMIF UA AWP have to be modified. Moreover, as the action grants foreseen under the initial point 2.2.4 for both 2015 EU Presidencies will not be awarded, the corresponding EUR 250.000 will be transferred to the Call for Proposals on Integration and the actions now foreseen under section 2.2 Grants will be renumbered.
- Point 1.2.3 of the Annual Work Programme will be updated, as regards the deadline for Greece to clear the "backlog" of pending asylum cases at second instance which has now been set at December 2016 in the Greek Roadmap on Asylum for 2015 that was presented in the March 2015 JHA Council.
- Due to these changes, the Annex of Decision C(2015)5385 should be modified accordingly.
- In accordance with Article 2 of Commission Decision C(2015)5385 final of 3 August 2015, the proposed modifications do not modify the total amount of the commitment appropriations foreseen in the 2015 AMIF UA Annual Work Programme and do not affect significantly the nature and objectives of the Annual Work Programme.

I hereby decide the following:

The Annex to Commission Decision C(2015)5385 final is hereby replaced by the attached Annex.


Matthias RUETE

Annex: AMIF UA 2015 Annual Work Programme - modified Annex to Commission Decision C(2015)5385 final (Version of September 2015)



Brussels, 3.8.2015
C(2015) 5385 final

ANNEX 1

ANNEX

to the

Commission Implementing Decision

concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2015 and the financing for Union actions within the framework of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund

ANNEX

Annual Work Programme for 2015 for support to Union Actions under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund¹

The Annual Work Programme takes into account the adoption of the European Agenda for Migration on the 13 May 2015 and reflects it in the implementation of the actions proposed.

Overview of the 2015 implementation

Budget lines	Amount for AWP 2015
Budget line 18 03 01 01 - Asylum and solidarity	18.245.177 €
Budget line 18 03 01 02 - Immigration and integration	17.217.765 €
TOTAL Budget line 18 03 01	35.462.942 €

Implementation modalities		Total Amount	% of the 2015 appropriations for AWP
Direct management	Grants	30.850.000	87 %
	Procurement	4.612.942	13 %
TOTAL			100,00 %

All EU Member States, with the exception of Denmark, are participating in the "Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund": hence entities established in the participating Member States can take part as beneficiaries in the actions that are supported under this financial instrument. Entities established in Denmark can only participate on a no-cost basis.

All activities implemented under this work programme shall respect and shall be implemented in line with the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

Consistency, complementarity and synergies with other Union instruments shall be ensured.

As foreseen in Article 3(4) and 3(5) of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 (Horizontal Regulation), actions in and in relation to third countries under this work programme will be carried out in synergy and in coherence with other actions outside the Union supported through EU funds, in particular external assistance instruments. The identification and implementation of such actions is fully coordinated with EEAS and relevant Commission's external relations services, including ECHO as far as humanitarian assistance is concerned. Such actions will be fully consistent with, and, where relevant, complementary to the Union's humanitarian policy and respects the humanitarian principles as set out in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid.

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).

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

On the basis of the objective of **strengthening and developing the Common European Asylum System and enhancing solidarity and responsibility sharing between the Member States** covered by this budget line, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2015 as follows:

Direct management	
- for grants (1.2):	16.600.000 €
- for procurement (1.3):	1.645.177 €
TOTAL:	18.245.177 €

1.2. Grants

1.2.1. Direct award of action grant for a pilot project on Resettlement and Alternative European Models to Providing Protection to Refugees

LEGAL BASIS

Articles 20(2)(a) of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

In consideration of the increasing refugee and migratory pressures that first countries of asylum and EU Member States are respectively experiencing, while resettlement will provide a solution for some, it alone cannot realistically address all refugee protection needs nor reduce onward movement from first countries of asylum to Europe. Therefore, there is a need to identify and promote new admission schemes in Europe aimed at providing protection to refugees, on the basis of expertise pooling, exchange of information and knowledge and best practice sharing between established, new and emerging resettlement countries in Europe. In addition to proposing a European resettlement scheme, the European Agenda on Migration, adopted on 13 May 2015, called on the Member States to use to the full the other legal avenues available to persons in need of protection, including private non-governmental sponsorships and humanitarian permits, and family reunification clauses.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 RAP

Building upon their effective partnership, IOM, ICMC and UNHCR have developed practical cooperation in resettlement with a focus on emergency resettlement to respond to the Syrian refugee crisis through mapping European responses and extending the scope of the activities to incorporate other measures that are providing legal access and protection to refugees such as: humanitarian admission, visa facilitation, educational scholarships, family reunification and other relevant protection mechanisms, with dedicated research currently being undertaken on these programmes. Coordinated by IOM, the pilot project would seek to map and further test the legal contexts, the partnerships as well as the feasibility and viability of different schemes such as extended family reunification, humanitarian admission, private sponsorship, student visas and protected entry procedures, amongst others. The reality is that global resettlement needs are currently estimated at over 1 million persons, though only 80,000 resettlement places are available on an annual basis. There is therefore a pressing need to identify and promote

alternative opportunities to providing protection to those in need of international protection. Programmes developed by central or local governments or civil society on humanitarian admission, family-linked individual sponsorship, medical evacuation and student scholarships by Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Portugal and the UK in response to the Syrian refugee crisis illustrate the flexibility of EU Member States to adapt to escalating protection needs. Protected entry procedures and humanitarian visas have also been initiated by EU Member States in the past, and should be promoted again to complement regular national resettlement programmes.

Together with a more organized collection and presentation of these various national initiatives that could allow for their replication in other countries, the project will also allow for peer-learning by European actors in different Member States and thus support the improvement of quality of the various initiatives. The valuable lessons learned throughout the different resettlement initiatives by Member States would also feed into the development of various innovative new schemes.

Through this project, the partnership IOM/UNHCR/ICMC expects that the development of alternative European models to providing protection to refugees can be enhanced through increased data collection and research, information sharing and exchange, capacity building, awareness raising and visibility. In addition, it would focus on increased engagement of local actors and civil society who play a pivotal advocacy and support role for the implementation of such programmes. Moreover, it could also lead to expanded opportunities for non-resettlement countries in Europe to provide protection to refugees and participate in European responsibility sharing mechanisms through different tools.

The indicative maximum duration of this action shall be 24 months.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

This action grant will be awarded directly without a call for proposals following an invitation from the Commission to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) (Coordinator for the partnership including UNHCR and ICMC) in line with the objectives for 2015, in accordance with the provisions of article 128 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) N° 966/2012 of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and to article 190(1) (f) of its Rules of Application (Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) N° 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012).

The direct awarding of the grant is justified by the specific characteristic of the action requiring the technical competence and a high degree of specialization in the area of refugee protection and resettlement as provided by the partnership composed of IOM, UNHCR and ICMC which has worked since 2009 to promote and facilitate transnational European cooperation in refugee resettlement. Within the partnership, UNHCR, as per its mandate enshrined in the 1951 Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees and related practice, has ensured the communication of its resettlement priorities, submission categories, and operations; IOM, as mandated by its constitution and per its long standing operational experience, has focused on pre-departure arrangements, and on linking pre-departure and post-arrival planning and processes; and ICMC, in accordance with its extensive experience in the field, has focused on reception and integration programmes, networking with civil society, comparative research, as well as database and website development. Collectively, the specialisation of the three organisations in all aspects of refugee protection has been perfectly complementary, as manifested through the successful joint coordination of the European Resettlement Network (www.resettlement.eu).

Selection criteria

The verification of the financial and operational capacity shall not apply to International Organisations in accordance with Article 131 (3) of the Financial Regulation.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals for an action shall be evaluated on the basis of relevance, quality, cost-effectiveness and European added value of the proposed action.

Indicative timetable and indicative amount

Reference	Date	Amount
HOME/2015/AMIF/AG/ERSN	Q2 2015	500.000 €

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

95 %

1.2.2 Direct award of action grant for 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

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Information and analysis of this information related to the national asylum systems is key asset as one of the priorities of DG HOME is the implementation of the Common European Asylum System. The objective is to have better understanding of the functioning of a number of national asylum systems via a systematic and consistent approach.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 RAP

Gathering 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 of asylum procedures.
The indicative maximum duration of this action shall be 12 months.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

This action grant will be awarded directly without a call for proposals following an invitation from the Commission to the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) in line with the objectives for 2015, in accordance with the provisions of article 128 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) N° 966/2012 of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and to article 190(1) (f) of its Rules of Application (Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) N° 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012).

The direct awarding of the grant is justified by the specific characteristic of the action requiring the technical competence and a high degree of specialization 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 report 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 for action shall be evaluated on the basis of the following selection criteria:

- Financial capacity - Applicants must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the period during which the action is being carried out and to participate in its funding.
- Operational capacity - Applicants 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 for an action shall be evaluated on the basis of relevance, quality, cost-effectiveness and European added value of the proposed action.

Indicative timetable and indicative amount

Reference	Date	Amount
HOME/2015/AMIF/AG/ECRE	Q2 2015	100.000 €

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

90 %

1.2.3 Direct award of action grant for UNHCR to support Greece in the clearance of the pending asylum cases at second instance (“backlog”)

LEGAL BASIS

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

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Following the initiation of infringement proceedings by the Commission against Greece for failure to comply with the EU asylum *acquis* and the condemning judgments of the European Court of Human Rights² and of the European Court of Justice³, Greece has committed to reform its asylum and migration policies by adopting a national Action Plan which envisages measures aiming at addressing the urgent deficiencies. In the context of the expiration of the implementation of the revised Greek Action Plan on Asylum and Migration in December 2014, the Commission monitors the examination of appeals against asylum

²http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/execution/Source/Documents/Docs_exec/H-Exec%282014%294_M.S.S._en.pdf.

³<http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?jsessionid=9ea7d0f130deacfa54b477874d31bad68c3b47d33363.e34KaxiLc3eQc40LaxqMbN4Ob30Me0?text=&docid=117187&pageIndex=0&doclang=en&mode=lst&dir=&occ=first&part=1&cid=498465>, points 86 and 89 in particular

decisions which have been pending since 2000 (backlog). Greece committed on 7 November 2014 to clear the above mentioned pending cases by December 2016.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 RAP

The actions implemented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) aim at safeguarding the agreed concept; in particular, addressing all procedural and administrative dysfunctions in an effective manner and facilitating the work of the Appeal Committees by prioritising all pending cases.

The indicative maximum duration of this action shall be 12 months.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

The grant will be awarded without a call for proposals following an invitation from the Commission to the UNHCR in line with the objectives for 2015, in accordance with the provisions of the Article 128 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) N° 966/2012 of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and to article 190(1) (f) of its Rules of Application (Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) N° 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012).

The direct award is justified by the specific characteristic of the action requiring the technical competence and high degree of specialisation of UNHCR. UNHCR has supported the reform of the Greek asylum-system from its outset and has a role, in national law, to participate in the asylum-procedure at appeal stage. In this context, UNHCR proposes, for nomination by the Greek Minister for Public Order and Citizen Protection, one of three members of the appeal committees.

Selection criteria

The verification of the financial and operational capacity shall not apply to International Organisations in accordance with Article 131 (3) of the Financial Regulation.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals for an action shall be evaluated on the basis of relevance, quality, cost-effectiveness and European added value of the proposed action.

Indicative timetable and indicative amount

Reference	Date	Amount
HOME/2015/AMIF/AG/UNHCR/EL	Q3 2015	1.000.000 €

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

95 %

1.2.4 Direct award of action grant for a consortium led by Italy's Ministry of 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

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

As foreseen in the 2005 Communication on Regional Protection Programmes (RPPs), EU should provide, through such programmes, support to actions aiming at enhancing the capacity of third countries 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 includes also a development dimension, such programmes have been renamed RDPPs (Regional Development and Protection Programmes).

The Council Conclusions on the Global Approach to Mobility and Migration (GAMM) of May 2012, also stressed the importance of measures assisting third countries in becoming robust providers of effective protection in accordance with international law, and the contribution of RDPP to offsetting negative impacts and supporting positive impacts in local communities. In this context, it is important to recall that improved safety, and availability and access to means for self-reliance can avert secondary movements and are an important precursor to a durable solution.

The setting up of an enlarged Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) in North Africa is one of the priority actions of the Task Force Mediterranean. It was further called for in the European Council Conclusions of June 2014, the Justice and Home Affairs Council Conclusions of October 2014, and the European Council Conclusions of April 2015. The European Agenda on Migration, adopted on 13 May 2015, translated these political guidelines into one of the key immediate actions. EU assistance to interested third countries through Regional Development and Protection Programmes builds on the recognized need to address existing gaps in international protection and asylum problems through a comprehensive approach.

Through this AWP support will therefore be provided to the development of an RDPP in North Africa (Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and Algeria when possible); with the possibility of rolling out some activities in other countries (e.g. Niger or Mauritania) depending on the changing migratory flow in Africa.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 RAP

Funding will target those actions that are not directly oriented towards development and have a direct impact in the EU, including support to resettlement activities. The following activities will be covered:

- establishment, development and improvement of an effective Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedure (including registration), including a legal/policy and institutional framework in order to help host countries better manage the migration implications of refugee situations (building on UNHCR activities);
- establishment, enlargement and improvement of reception conditions in host countries;
- training in protection issues for those dealing with refugees and migrants;

- information campaigns to migrants and potential asylum-seekers;
- encouragement and support to resettlement commitments by EU Member States and other resettlement countries;
- voluntary return and support to returnees from the countries of transit to the countries of origin in full respect of the principle of non-refoulement;
- support for the integration of recognised refugees;
- provision of assistance to rescued migrants and refugees, as well as provision of assistance to potential asylum-seekers and migrants to prevent them from becoming victims of human trafficking and smuggling.

Where possible, complementary funding may be provided to support other actions relevant to the RDPP, notably funding from EU external cooperation instruments supporting development oriented actions.

The indicative maximum duration of this action shall be 36 months.

Governance and control structure

A RDPP Steering Group will be set up for the action, chaired by Italy’s Ministry of Interior and comprising representatives from the European Commission, EEAS, a certain number of participating EU MS as well as UNHCR and IOM where relevant. The exact composition of the Steering Group will be determined through consultations during the inception phase of the RDPP. Italy’s Ministry of Interior will ensure the secretariat of the steering group and provide technical support/assistance when necessary. The Steering Group will provide the overall strategic guidance for the implementation of the action, adopt and whenever necessary revise its action priorities, as well as examine and approve each concrete action to be funded under the RDPP. Due attention will be paid to the necessity to ensure coherence and coordination with other initiatives supporting the RDPP/GAMM. The RDPP Steering Group will meet quarterly.

Further details on the functioning of the RDPP will be laid down in the grant agreement.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

This action grant will be awarded directly without call for proposals following an invitation to Italy’s Ministry of Interior (Department of Civil Liberties and Migration) to submit a proposal, in accordance with the provisions of article 128 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) N° 966/2012 of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and to article 190(1) (f) of its Rules of Application (Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) N° 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012). Italy’s Ministry of Interior will implement the action at the head of a consortium composed by the relevant public authorities from Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Malta, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom, as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

The direct award of this action grant is justified by the specific characteristics of the action, requiring technical competence and a high degree of specialization which only the above-mentioned implementing public authorities and international organisations possess.

Selection criteria

The verification of the financial and operational capacity shall not apply to public bodies and

international organisations, in accordance with Article 131 (3) of the Financial Regulation.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals for an action shall be evaluated on the basis of relevance, quality, cost-effectiveness and European added value of the proposed action.

Indicative timetable and indicative amount

Reference	Date	Amount
HOME/2015/AMIF/AG/RDPP/NA	Q3 2015	10.000.000 €

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

90%

1.2.5 Direct award of action grant for a consortium led by the Netherlands' 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 a Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) in the Horn of Africa

LEGAL BASIS

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

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

As foreseen in the 2005 Communication on Regional Protection Programmes (RPPs), EU should provide, through such programmes, support to actions aiming at enhancing the capacity of third countries 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 includes also a development dimension, such programmes have been renamed RDPPs (Regional Development and Protection Programmes).

The Council Conclusions on the Global Approach to Mobility and Migration (GAMM) of May 2012, also stressed the importance of measures assisting third countries in becoming robust providers of effective protection in accordance with international law, and the contribution of RDPP to offsetting negative impacts and supporting positive impacts in local communities. In this context, it is important to recall that improved safety, and availability and access to means for self-reliance can avert secondary movements and are an important precursor to a durable solution.

The setting up of an enlarged Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) in the Horn of Africa is one of the priority actions of the Task Force Mediterranean. It was further called for in the European Council Conclusions of June 2014, the Justice and Home Affairs Council Conclusions of October 2014, and the European Council Conclusions of April 2015. The European Agenda on Migration, adopted on 13 May 2015, translated these political guidelines into one of the key immediate actions. EU assistance to interested third countries through Regional Development and Protection Programmes builds on the recognized need to address existing gaps in international protection and asylum problems through a comprehensive approach, including efforts to increase resettlement as a durable

solution, including with the support of UNHCR.

Through this AWP support will therefore be provided to the development of an RDPP in the Horn of Africa (focus on Ethiopia, Kenya, and, if possible Sudan, South Sudan).

Description of the activities to be funded by the grant awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 RAP

Funding will target those actions that are not directly oriented towards development and have a direct impact in the EU, including support to resettlement activities. The following activities will be covered:

- establishment, development and improvement of an effective Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedure (including registration), including a legal/policy and institutional framework in order to help host countries better manage the migration implications of refugee situations (building on UNHCR activities);
- establishment, enlargement and improvement of reception conditions in host countries;
- training in protection issues for those dealing with refugees and migrants;
- information campaigns to migrants and potential asylum-seekers;
- encouragement and support to resettlement commitments by EU Member States and other resettlement countries;
- voluntary return and support to returnees from the countries of transit to the countries of origin in full respect of the principle of non-refoulement;
- support for the integration of recognised refugees;
- provision of assistance to rescued migrants and refugees, as well as provision of assistance to potential asylum-seekers and migrants to prevent them from becoming victims of human trafficking and smuggling.

Where possible, complementary funding may be provided to support other actions relevant to the RDPP, notably funding from EU external cooperation instruments supporting development oriented actions.

The indicative maximum duration of this action shall be 36 months.

Governance and control structure

A RDPP Steering Group will be set up for the action, chaired by the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs and comprising representatives from the European Commission, EEAS, a certain number of participating EU MS as well as UNHCR and IOM where relevant. The exact composition of the Steering Group will be determined through consultations during the inception phase of the RDPP. The Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs will ensure the secretariat of the steering group and provide technical support/assistance when necessary. The Steering Group will provide the overall strategic guidance for the implementation of the action, adopt and whenever necessary revise its action priorities, as well as examine and approve each concrete action to be funded under the RDPP. Due attention will be paid to the necessity to ensure coherence and coordination with other initiatives supporting the RDPP/GAMM. The RDPP Steering Group will meet quarterly.

Further details on the functioning of the RDPP will be laid down in the grant agreement.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

This action grant will be awarded directly without call for proposals following an invitation to the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs to submit a proposal, in accordance with the provisions of article 128 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) N° 966/2012 of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and to article 190(1) (f) of its Rules of Application (Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) N° 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012). The Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs will implement the action at the head of a consortium composed by the relevant public authorities from the Czech Republic, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta and United Kingdom, as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

The direct award of this action grant is justified by the specific characteristics of the action, requiring technical competence and a high degree of specialization which only the above-mentioned implementing public authorities and international organisations possess.

Selection criteria

The verification of the financial and operational capacity shall not apply to public bodies and international organisations, in accordance with Article 131 (3) of the Financial Regulation.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals for an action shall be evaluated on the basis of relevance, quality, cost-effectiveness and European added value of the proposed action.

Indicative timetable and indicative amount

Reference	Date	Amount
HOME/2015/AMIF/AG/RDPP/HA	Q3 2015	5.000.000 €

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

90%

1.3. Procurement

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2015 amounts to 1.645.177 €

Within the indicative budgetary envelope and in addition to the specific items mentioned below, information and communication activities⁴ with a view to further strengthen information on European issues in the asylum policy areas covered by this Fund, conferences, seminars may be held and studies, evaluation and impact assessments may be undertaken as far as they are needed in order to prepare, or accompany new legislation or to respond to policy changes in the area of asylum.

LEGAL BASIS

⁴ It is not foreseen at this stage that the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund contributes financially to corporate communication in 2015 in accordance with article 20(2)(c) of the Regulation establishing the Fund. However, this is without prejudice to the fact that it shall do so in this or in future exercises, as agreed by the Commission in the Communication SEC(2013) 486 final of 23.9.2013.

Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged and indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure

- 1) Conformity assessment Asylum Procedures Directive - Q3 2015
- 2) Study on legal avenues from third countries to seek asylum in the EU: Q4 2015
- 3) Conformity assessment Reception Conditions Directive – Q3 2015
- 4) Study on mutual recognition and on transfer of international protection – Q4 2015
- 5) Eurobarometer on attitudes towards migrants – Q3 2015

Type of contract and type of procurement

5 specific service contracts based on existing framework contracts

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME.

2. BUDGET LINE 18 03 01 02: SUPPORTING LEGAL MIGRATION TO THE UNION AND PROMOTING THE EFFECTIVE INTEGRATION OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS AND ENHANCING FAIR AND EFFECTIVE RETURN STRATEGIES

2.1. Introduction

On the basis of the objective of **supporting legal migration to the Union and promoting the effective integration of third-country nationals and enhancing fair and effective return strategies** covered by this budget line, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for year 2015 as follows:

Direct management	
- for grants (2.2):	14.250.000 €
- for procurement (2.3):	2.967.765 €
TOTAL:	17.217.765 €

2.2. Grants

2.2.1. Call for proposals to support transnational projects in the area of integration

LEGAL BASIS

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

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Priority 1 – Initiatives fostering the integration of migrant women

Migrant women often suffer from lower integration rates than migrant men, as they face additional discriminations and challenges in their access to, for instance, education/the labour market etc. in the receiving country.

The objective is to:

- share knowledge and experiences of actions to support migrant women, in particular beneficiaries of international protection, in their language learning, access to accommodation, access to health care adapted to their particular needs and access to

vocational training and targeted assistance in seeking employment.

- contribute to building capacity in countries and sectors where measures targeting women, in particular beneficiaries of international protection, are still lacking, aiming to minimise their isolation and limitations to their participation in local life.

Priority 2 - Initiatives to facilitate the access to employment and to foster integration in the work place

Labour market integration is a key factor for successful integration into the receiving society. For newly arrived migrants, access to employment is often one of the first steps towards successful integration. On the other hand, for those migrants being in employment, the work place is one of the most prominent environments for integration. Employers have a fundamental role to play in promoting the integration of migrants and thereby in realising the benefits of migration. More generally, employers can also play a role as advocates of migrants' contributions to the local economy and stimulate a more positive discourse around migrants contributing to their better integration.

The objective is to:

- foster knowledge about successful initiatives facilitating the inclusion of recently arrived migrants, especially beneficiaries of international protection, into employment;
- bring out examples of successful involvement of the employers in integration initiatives,
- bring out examples of and contribute to the role migrants entrepreneurs can play to foster integration,
- stimulate methods for engaging with employers in the integration process, and ensure that a better integration is reached in the work place through the promotion and effective management of diversity.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

- Knowledge sharing and capacity building on integration measures targeting migrant women.
- Building capacity in countries and sectors where measures targeting migrant women are still lacking, aiming to minimise their isolation and limitations to their participation in local life.
- Implementing concrete initiatives fostering the integration of migrant women, including women beneficiaries of international protection, in the receiving society (through training, educational and recreational activities, vocational training, help to access to the labour market, anti-discrimination projects and cultural initiatives).
- Implementing concrete initiatives aimed at facilitating the access to employment of migrants and, in particular, beneficiaries of international protection.
- Exchange of experiences of initiatives involving employers in integration efforts, for example through training, mentor projects, start-up support programmes, diversity management or promotion of integration in the work place. Such initiatives can involve employers (including public administrations), social partners, migrant organisations and other relevant stakeholders.
- Development of methodologies for multi-stakeholder cooperation in addressing diversity and integration issues at the work place.

The indicative maximum duration of activities shall be 24 months.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

In order to be eligible for a grant the applicant and co-applicants must:

- a) be legal persons;
- b) be established in an EU Member State participating in the AMIF instrument. International organisations may be established outside of the EU Member States participating in the instrument;
- c) be a public body or an entity working on a non-profit basis or an international organisation. Union agencies cannot submit applications nor be co-applicants ;
- d) for projects targeting priority 2, for-profit organisations can only participate as co-applicants and not as coordinators. Their participation must be strictly on a non-profit basis;
- e) applications must be transnational involving a partnership composed of at least four distinct organisations from at least four different EU Member States participating in the AMIF;
- f) the requested grant amount cannot be lower than 350.000 EUR and cannot exceed 650.000 EUR.

Selection criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 202 of the Rules of Application, proposals for action shall 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 during which the action is being carried out and to participate in its funding.
- Operational capacity - Applicants and co-applicants must have the professional resources, competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed action.
- The verification of the financial and operational capacity shall not apply to public bodies and International Organisations, in accordance with Article 131 (3) of the Financial Regulation.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals for an action shall be evaluated on the basis of relevance, quality, cost-effectiveness and European added value of the proposed action.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Indicative timetable and indicative amount

Reference	Date	Amount
HOME/2015/AMIF/AG/INTE	Q2 2015	5.250.000 €

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

90%

2.2.2. Call for proposals to support actions in the area of monitoring of forced return

LEGAL BASIS

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

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Support the effective implementation of the Return Directive⁵, most particularly its problematic provisions for the Member States such as Article 8(6). This provision foresees that Member States have to set up a monitoring system of forced return.

Voluntary return is the preferred option for returning irregularly staying third country nationals. However member States authorities will not always be able to avoid the use of forced return. It is of paramount importance that in case enforced returns have to be used, dignified procedures fully respecting the fundamental rights of the third country nationals are guaranteed. The monitoring system foreseen in Article 8(6) of the Return Directive is a key element in that respect.

The Forced Return Monitoring (FReM) project funded under the 2012 Return Fund Community Actions has created the necessary foundation for a possible pool of monitors. Through a series of consultations and workshops the framework for a European Pool of forced return monitors, the guidelines and monitoring tools were created. Furthermore terms of reference for monitors were elaborated and a first set of monitors were selected. Finally training modules were drafted and a training programme was implemented and first pilot life-like monitoring operations were conducted in the frame of the training of the monitors.

The objective is to:

- create a European pool of forced return monitors available to the countries in need of implementing a forced return monitoring system and to FRONTEX;
- establish harmonised rules and support especially those Member States that have not yet managed to build well-functioning monitoring systems.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

Support to the creation of the necessary structures for a fully operational pool of monitors in a real life scenario, including selection and training of monitors, the necessary administrative structures to be used by all interested Member States and by FRONTEX to monitor Member States national forced return operations and joint return operations coordinated by FRONTEX.

After the project phase the pool of monitors system shall become a permanent structure fully financed by fees and contributions of participating Member States.

The indicative maximum duration of activities shall be 24 months.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

In order to be eligible for a grant the applicant and co-applicants must:

- a) be legal persons;

⁵ Directive 2008/115/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning illegally staying third-country nationals (OJ L 348, 24.12.2008, p. 98).

- b) be established in an EU Member State participating in the AMIF instrument. International organisations may be established outside of the EU Member States participating in the instrument;
- c) be a public body or an entity working on a non-profit basis or an international organisation. Union agencies cannot submit applications nor be co-applicants ;
- d) applications must be transnational involving a partnership composed of at least four distinct organisations from at least four different EU Member States participating in the AMIF;
- e) the requested grant amount cannot exceed 1.000.000 EUR.

Selection criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 202 of the Rules of Application, proposals for action shall 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 during which the action is being carried out and to participate in its funding.
- Operational capacity - Applicants and co-applicants must have the professional resources, competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed action.
- The verification of the financial and operational capacity shall not apply to public bodies and International Organisations, in accordance with Article 131 (3) of the Financial Regulation.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals for an action shall be evaluated on the basis of the relevance, quality, cost-effectiveness and European added value of the proposed action.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Indicative timetable and indicative amount

Reference	Date	Amount
HOME/2015/AMIF/AG/FRTM	Q3 2015	1.000.000 €

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

90%

2.2.3. Call for proposals to support transnational actions addressing trafficking in human beings, in particular the integration and the safe and sustainable return of victims of trafficking in human beings

LEGAL BASIS

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

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

Priorities will be in line with the approach of Directive 2011/36/EU and the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of THB 2012-2016, taking also in consideration the recently published mid-term report on the implementation of such EU strategy, in particular with regards to the assistance and provision for durable solutions for victims of trafficking.

Support to actions will focus on the following topics:

- 1) Initiatives aiming at enabling the integration in the host society of victims of trafficking in human beings.
- 2) Initiatives aiming at promoting the safe and sustainable voluntary return to their countries of origin of victims of trafficking in human beings, including actions to minimize risks of re-trafficking and re-victimisation.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

The protection of and assistance to victims of trafficking in human beings is one of the pillars of the Directive 2011/36/EU and of the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of THB 2012-2016. Measures aiming at supporting the integration in the host EU MS or the safe and sustainable voluntary return to the countries of origin of the victims of trafficking are essential in implementing the legal and policy commitments in this context.

Funding through this call for proposals will therefore focus on transnational initiatives aiming at:

- 1) addressing the special challenges and the specific needs, in terms of integration, of victims of trafficking, including support during procedures before national authorities, legal and medical assistance (including psychological support), psychosocial support, accommodation, as well as other measures aiming at facilitating their integration in the host society, such as education and vocational training.
- 2) providing tailored assistance and support to victims of human trafficking prior to and after their voluntary return, in order to ensure that their return is safe not risking re-trafficking, in full respect of their fundamental rights, including: legal assistance, counselling and information on the options available in their country of origin; medical assistance, psychosocial support; lodging; education, vocational training and apprenticeship programmes, and other services such as job placement, income-generating activities, as well as specialized family or dependant support.

The indicative maximum duration of activities shall be 24 months.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

In order to be eligible for a grant the applicant and co-applicants must:

- a) be legal persons;
- b) be established in an EU Member State participating in the AMIF instrument. International organisations may be established outside of the EU Member States participating in the instrument; In duly justified cases where their participation is necessary to achieve the objectives of the programme, entities established in third countries may participate but only as co-applicant. The countries will be specified in the call for proposals;
- c) be a public body or an entity working on a non-profit basis or an international organisation. Union agencies cannot submit applications nor be co-applicants;
- d) applications must be transnational involving a partnership composed of at least two distinct

organisations from at least two different EU Member States participating in the AMIF;
e) the requested grant amount cannot be lower than 200.000 EUR and cannot exceed 500.000 EUR.

Selection criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 202 of the Rules of Application, proposals for action shall 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 during which the action is being carried out and to participate in its funding.
- Operational capacity - Applicants and co-applicants must have the professional resources, competencies and qualifications required to complete the proposed action.
- The verification of the financial and operational capacity shall not apply to public bodies and International Organisations, in accordance with Article 131 (3) of the Financial Regulation.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals for an action shall be evaluated on the basis of relevance, quality, cost-effectiveness and European added value of the proposed action.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Indicative timetable and indicative amount

Reference	Date	Amount
HOME/2015/AMIF/AG/THB	Q3 2015	3.000.000 €

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

90%

2.2.4. Direct award of action grant to support a Readmission Capacity Building Facility

LEGAL BASIS

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

Priorities of the year, objectives pursued and expected results

The Readmission Capacity Building Facility (RCBF) will contribute to addressing the following priorities:

- The conclusion and implementation of readmission agreements with priority third countries is a cornerstone of the second pillar of the EU’s Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM), which aims to prevent and reduce irregular migration and THB.
- The report of the Taskforce Mediterranean includes the conclusion and implementation of readmission agreements with specific countries among the key activities to be carried out.

The Commission’s 2011 evaluation of EU Readmission Agreements (EURA) highlighted the need for the EU to provide financial assistance and capacity building to partner countries

concluding Readmission Agreements, as well as to ensure their good implementation.

Through this Readmission Capacity Building Facility (RCBF), managed by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), funding will be provided to third countries which have concluded or are expected to conclude a readmission agreement with the EU. The RCBF can also be accessed by countries with which the EU is seeking to improve cooperation on readmission.

The RCBF will focus on capacity building and will provide the EU with a funding mechanism that allows it to cater for urgent needs and react in a timely manner either in the framework of the implementation of existing EURA or of the negotiation of new ones. Considering the limited financial resources available, the broad range of issues to be addressed and the number of countries potentially needing financial assistance in this area, only such a flexible mechanism will allow the EU to rapidly adapt to changing circumstances and thus respond effectively to requests for assistance and needs assessed from partner countries either to prepare for or to ensure proper implementation of existing EURA.

Description of the activities to be funded by the grants awarded without a call for proposals on the basis of article 190 RAP

The RCBF will provide support in areas of intervention relevant to the successful preparation and implementation of EU readmission agreements, in full respect of the human rights and dignity of the potential returnees, such as: design of relevant national strategies, coordination mechanisms, institutional arrangements and legislative measures, identification procedures, interview techniques, issuance of travel documents, readmission of third-country nationals and stateless persons, reintegration efforts, improving statistics, and relevant measures for vulnerable groups such as unaccompanied migrant children and victims of human trafficking.

In order to achieve the objectives of the Facility, in particular the following activities should be financed in line with the priorities and needs of the partner countries concerned as related to readmission cooperation with the EU: (i) Needs assessments at institutional, legislative, policy and operational levels; (ii) Technical assistance through the deployment of experts (including from EU Member States); (iii) Development and implementation of training workshops and materials; (iv) Support to the establishment, improvement and monitoring of accommodation or reception infrastructure; (v) Provision of relevant equipment, notably if directly linked to the technical assistance and training (e.g. IT tools supporting readmission procedures); (vi) Support to the development of electronic systems to facilitate readmission case management; (vii) Post-arrival assistance and monitoring for returnees, including reintegration; (viii) Support to the development or strengthening of voluntary return and reintegration programmes for third-country nationals; (ix) Provision of legal aid and language assistance; (x) Organisation of expert meetings, study visits and conferences; (xi) Preparation of communication materials, studies, monitoring and evaluation; (xii) Exchange or visits of personnel.

Under the 2015 Annual Work Programme relevant support is planned to be provided as a priority to Pakistan, Cape Verde and Belarus, and in addition also to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Bangladesh, Morocco, Tunisia, Jordan, Ghana and Nigeria based on practical or political need. These priorities also take into account the Pilot initiative on return as announced at the JHA Council in June 2014.

Actions supported through the RCBF will be directly implemented by IOM, in close cooperation with the competent authorities of interested EU Member States, and engaging relevant local governmental and civil society stakeholders.

A Facility Steering Group will be set up under the leadership of the European Commission, comprising representatives from EEAS and IOM. Its role will be in particular to identify

needs, select the countries/actions to be supported and to examine and approve concrete activities to be carried out by the RCBF, while taking into account relevant activities funded through other EU funds or by other donors.

The indicative maximum duration of this action shall be 24 months.

Essential eligibility, selection and award criteria

Eligibility criteria

This action grant will be awarded directly without call for proposals following an invitation to IOM to submit a proposal, in accordance with the provisions of article 128 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) N° 966/2012 of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and to article 190(1) (f) of its Rules of Application (Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) N° 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012).

The direct award of this action grant to IOM is justified by the specific characteristics of the action, which requires the technical competence and high degree of specialisation of IOM on readmission and reintegration issues. IOM is an international organisation with a specific mandate and broad range of expertise in the field of migration, and it already has a proven track record in managing EU funds in cooperation with third countries, including in the specific area of readmission and the type of action proposed.

Selection criteria

The verification of the financial and operational capacity shall not apply to International Organisations in accordance with Article 131 (3) of the Financial Regulation.

Award criteria

In accordance with Article 132 of the Financial Regulation and Article 203 of the Rules of Application, proposals for an action shall be evaluated on the basis of relevance, quality, cost-effectiveness and European added value of the proposed action.

Implementation

The action will be implemented directly by DG HOME

Indicative timetable and indicative amount

Reference	Date	Amount
HOME/2015/AMIF/AG/RCBF	Q3/Q4 2015	5.000.000 €

Maximum possible rate of co-financing of the eligible costs

95%

2.3. Procurement

The overall budgetary allocation reserved for procurement contracts in 2015 amounts to 2.967.765 €

Within the indicative budgetary envelope and in addition to the specific items mentioned below, information and communication activities⁶ with a view to further strengthen

⁶ It is not foreseen at this stage that the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund contributes financially to corporate communication in 2015 in accordance with article 20(2)(c) of the Regulation establishing the Fund. However, this is without prejudice to the fact that it shall do so in this or in future exercises, as agreed by the Commission in the Communication SEC(2013) 486 final of 23.9.2013.

information on European issues in the migration policy areas covered by this Fund, conferences, seminars may be held and studies, evaluation and impact assessments may be undertaken as far as they are needed in order to prepare, or accompany new legislation or to respond to policy changes in the area of migration, integration and return.

LEGAL BASIS

Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No 516/2014

Subject matter of the contracts envisaged and indicative timeframe for launching the procurement procedure

- 1) Horizontal study on impact of legal migration directives, including from the perspective of the migrant – Q3 2015
- 2) Support to the EU Immigration portal (EUIP) - Q2-Q4 2015
- 3) Support the work of the European Forum on asylum, migration and integration, in particular the organisation of the meetings of the forum - Q3 2015
- 4) Support the work of the Platform on labour migration, in particular organisation of a conference, expert meetings, their preparation and follow-up – Q3 2015
- 5) Support to the European website on integration (EWSI) – Q2-Q4 2015
- 6) Expert meeting to support the Immigration Liaison Officers Network (ILOs) – Q2 2015
- 7) Extension of the migration information campaign aiming at challenging the stereotypes and one-dimensional images of migrants and asylum seekers. – Q3 2015
- 8) Awareness Raising Activities on trafficking in human beings as stipulated in the EU Strategy – Q3 2015

Type of contract (*new FWC / direct contract / specific contract based on an existing FWC / contract renewal*) and type of procurement (*service/supply/works*)

14 specific service contracts under existing framework contracts

Implementation

The actions will be implemented directly by DG HOME, with the exception of actions 2) and 6), which will be implemented respectively through a cross delegation to DG DIGIT and a service level agreement with OPOCE.