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Background note

Funds that can be used to support actions targeting migration

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On 5 November 2015, the CPMR General Assembly adopted a policy position on migration management that asks for a better recognition of the role of the Regions in the management of the migration crisis as well as more funds in order to address the challenges they are currently facing. In this position, the CPMR impresses upon the European Commission to anticipate the redirection of the currently unspent funds (2007-2013 European solidarity programmes, Neighbourhood Instrument) towards priorities of the Migration Agenda. It also urges the European Parliament to request an increased funding allocation for Migration and to ask for a direct access of Regions to the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund. As a matter of fact, most EU funds targeting migration are managed by Member States and cannot be directly used by Regions. This note aims to provide general information about the EU funds supporting the actions targeting asylum seekers and refugees in order to help optimise their use.

There are three main types of EU funds aiming at providing support to asylum seekers and refugees: the European Social Fund (ESF), the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) and the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF). The AMIF is specifically designed for asylum seekers and refugees whereas the ESF and the FEAD have a broader scope. The AMIF and the FEAD can be managed exclusively by Member States. The ESF's managing authority can be a regional authority (depending on national provisions).

➤ **European Social Fund (ESF)**

According to Regulation N°1304/2013, the ESF's main mission is to improve the employment opportunities of the workers living in the Union. This was translated into four Thematic Objectives (TO8: Employment and Labour Mobility; TO9: Social Inclusion, Poverty and Discrimination; TO10: Education and Training; TO11: Institutional Capacity and Administration) divided into 19 investment priorities, which are all mentioned in Article 3 of Regulation N°1304/2013.

As stated in considering 6 of Regulation N°1304/2013, asylum seekers and refugees are eligible under the ESF: "attention should be paid to the participation of those seeking asylum and refugees". There are three cases in which ESF support can be granted to asylum seekers and refugees:

- When legally able to participate in the labour market (for those having applied for international protection, they must be granted access to the labour market no later than 9 months from the date when they apply);
- For vocational training actions;
- Under the ESF education priority: access to education must be granted to asylum seekers and refugees' children or minors at any time for so long as an expulsion measure has been taken.

Examples of support under the ESF:

- Support to asylum seekers legally able to participate in the labour market under TO9 (investment priorities **1**: active inclusion; **2**: integration of marginalised communities; **3**: combating all forms of discrimination): this can take the form of specific training, such as language classes, counselling, etc.
- Other general measures that do not specifically target asylum seekers or refugees: Employment (TO8), Education and Training (TO10) and support to reinforce the capacity of public administration

and stakeholders providing support to asylum seekers (under TO11 or Technical Assistance for stakeholders).

Regions can benefit from the ESF to carry out actions targeting asylum seekers and refugees if stated in their operational programmes. The amount dedicated to asylum seekers and refugees is determined by the managing authority, in accordance with the actions targeting asylum seekers and refugees. These data can be found in the [ESF operational programmes for the programming period 2014-2020](#).

➤ **Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)**

The Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived was established by Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 (FEAD Regulation) with the specific objective to alleviate the worst forms of poverty in the EU such as homelessness, child poverty and food deprivation and in this way contribute to eradicating poverty in the Union in line with the Europe 2020 strategy. The budget of FEAD amounts to approximately €3.8 billion for the 2014–2020 period¹. The co-financing rate is 85%. Asylum seekers and refugees are not explicitly targeted and must be mentioned in the operational programme to be eligible.

This fund is managed by Member States. The Commission approves the national programmes for 2014-2020, on the basis of which national authorities take the individual decisions leading to the delivery of the assistance through partner organisations (public bodies or non-governmental organisations selected by national authorities).

The FEAD can take the following forms:

1. Food and/or basic material assistance operational programme (OP I), which provides food support and/or other types of material assistance (basic consumer goods of a limited value for the personal use of the recipients);
2. Social inclusion operational programme (OP II), which finances social inclusion activities outside active labour market measures.

Asylum seekers could benefit both from food (food packages or meals) and/or basic material assistance (basic consumer goods of a limited value and for the personal use of the most deprived, e.g. clothing, footwear, hygiene goods, school material, sleeping bags) in the case of OP I or from social inclusion activities (e.g. bringing recipients to other existing services, language courses, civic orientation operations - information on conditions, rights and obligations-, basic language support and training, health promotion activities) under OP II.

➤ **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)**

AMIF is a fund specifically designed to support the integration of third country nationals for the programming period 2014-2020, with a total budget of EUR 3.137 billion. It aims at strengthening and developing all aspects of the Common European Asylum System, by supporting actions which can relate to the different stages of the asylum procedure and to the different aspects of the asylum policies (reception conditions, asylum procedure). Particular attention is paid to the needs of beneficiaries of international protection (who have been included in the scope of the AMIF, which was not the case under the EIF, as they were covered under ERF) and vulnerable groups of migrants (unaccompanied minors, women, youth and children, the elderly, etc.).

Procedure of allocation of the fund: Member States must submit their national programme. Once approved by the European Commission, it is up to the national central authority in charge of managing the funds to distribute the funding according to agreed priorities. In order to do so, Member States can designate delegated authorities. Finally, the National Authority manages and distributes the funds to the national, regional and local levels, as determined by the national level and depending on the country-specific situation.

¹ The amount allocated per Member States can be found in Table 2 “Allocation per Member State of the AMIF and the FEAD for the programming period 2014-2020” (see below).

➤ **European Regional Development Fund 2014-2020 and Territorial Cooperation**

There are also financing opportunities from the ERDF 2014-2020 programming period. During the meeting of the CPMR Task Force on Migration Management on 4 November 2015, Eleni Paleologou, Deputy Head of Unit from the European Commission DG REGIO, announced that an Urban Innovative Actions programme with an overall budget of €371 million would be launched by the end of the year and would include the topic of migration. The call would be addressed to cities of more than 50 000 inhabitants, but there would be possibilities for collaboration in smaller towns. She added that the Urban Agenda is being prepared in collaboration with all DGs for 2016. The idea is to have partnerships with an [open method of coordination](#) between cities and DGs to put together funding on specific issues. One of the chosen topics is the inclusion of migrants and refugees.

[EU Territorial Cooperation](#) (ETC. Interreg V in the period 2014-20) funded mainly by the ERDF might represent another opportunity in the near future for actions dealing with migration management and mostly socio-economic integration (as it is known, regions together with other key territorial players, are among the main beneficiaries of these programmes). Some of the programmes of cross-border and transnational cooperation in particular (e.g. in the Mediterranean) are being adapted to these new urgent needs. For this reason, the CPMR will monitor their evolution in order to clarify to its members the modalities of cooperation and the type of actions that will be eligible for funding.

The current programming period of Interreg has a budget of EUR 10.1 billion euro, over 100 cooperation programmes² and its budget also includes the ERDF allocation for Member States to participate in EU external border cooperation programmes supported by other instruments (Instrument for Pre-Accession and European Neighbourhood Instrument). The programmes have to concentrate at least 80% of their resources on a maximum of 4 Thematic Objectives among 11 EU priorities (including employment & mobility, social inclusion, better education & training).

➤ **Cases in which the funds can be used at different stages**

Timeline/Status of the persons	AMIF	FEAD	ESF
Arrival in the EU	Examples: Material aid (food, clothing, accommodation, assistance at the border), education, training, support services, health and psychological care, language training, social assistance, help with administrative/judicial formalities, counselling on asylum procedure, legal assistance.	Food assistance, basic material assistance.	-
Applicants for international protection and having no access to the labour market yet	Same as above + access to integration measures (training and preparatory actions to facilitate access to the labour market), advice on housing administrative and legal matters, self-empowerment, dialogue with receiving society, promoting equality, capacity building of beneficiaries (NGOs, etc.).	Food assistance, basic material assistance, social inclusion actions.	Vocational training in case the national rules so provide , education for children + equipment necessary to implement the above measure.

² 60 Cross border – Interrg V-A programmes for EU internal borders (6.6 billion euros); 12 IPA and 16 ENI CBC programmes; 15 Transnational – Interreg V-B programmes (2.1 billion euros); 3 interregional networking programmes: URBACT III, Interact III and ESPON (500 million euros).

Applicants for international protection having access to the labour market	Same as above	Food assistance, basic material assistance, social inclusion actions.	General access to ESF support (including equipment necessary to implement these measures). Examples: training, education, coaching, counselling activities.
Beneficiaries of international protection (with automatic access to the labour market)	Same as above	Food assistance, basic material assistance, social inclusion actions.	General access to ESF support (including equipment necessary to implement these measures). Examples: training, education, coaching, counselling activities.

➤ Allocation per Member State of the AMIF and the FEAD for the programming period 2014-2020

Country	AMIF ³	FEAD	
		Allocation 2014-2020 as stated in Regulation (EU) No 223/2014 ⁴	Allocation 2014-2020 as approved by the European Commission in December 2014/January 2015 ⁵
Austria	€64 533 977	€16 000 000	€18,03m + €3.18m (national resources)
Belgium	€89 250 977	€65 500 000	€73.8m + €14.3m (national resources)
Bulgaria	€10 006 777	€93 000 000	€104.8m + €15m (national resources)
Croatia	€17 133 800	€32 500 000	
Cyprus	€32 308 677	€3 500 000	€3,9m + €700.000 (national resources)
Czech Republic	€26 185 177	€20 700 000	€23,3m + €4m (national resources)
Denmark	s.o.	€3 500 000	
Estonia	€10 156 577	€7 100 000	€8m + €1.4m (national resources)
Finland	€23 488 777	€20 000 000	
France	€265 565 577	€443 000 000	€499m + €88m (national resources)
Germany	€208 416 877	€70 000 000	
Greece	€259 348 877	€249 300 000	
Hungary	€23 713 477	€83 300 000	€93,8m + €16,6m (national resources)
Ireland	€19 519 077	€20 200 000	
Italy	€310 355 777	€595 000 000	€670m + €118m (national resources)
Latvia	€13 751 777	€36 400 000	€41m + €7.2m (national resources)
Lithuania	€9 632 277	€68 500 000	€77m + €13m (national resources)
Luxembourg	€7 160 577	€3 500 000	
Malta	€17 178 877	€3 500 000	€4m + €600.000 (national resources)
Netherlands	€94 419 077	€3 500 000	€3.9m + €700 000 (national resources)
Poland	€63 410 477	€420 000 000	€473.36m + €83.5m (national resources)
Portugal	€32 776 377	€157 000 000	
Romania	€21 915 877	€391 300 000	€441m + €75m (national resources)

³ Source: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32014R0516>.

⁴ Source: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2014:072:0001:0041:EN:PDF>.

⁵ Sources: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=2162&furtherNews=yes> and <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=fr&catId=1089&newsId=2171&furtherNews=yes>

Slovakia	€10 980 477	€48 900 000	€55,1m + €7,7m (national resources)
Slovenia	€14 725 477	€18 200 000	€20.5m + €3.6m (national resources)
Spain	€257 101 877	€499 900 000	
Sweden	€118 536 877	€7 000 000	
United Kingdom	€370 425 577	€3 500 000	

Member States with CPMR members

Member States without CPMR members

- **Other funding opportunities** (to be developed).

I. H2020

The [work programme 2016-17](#) (October 2015) includes some specific mentions to calls for research actions on migration issues. The societal challenge 6 addresses key challenges of radicalization and migration and is complementary to societal challenge 7 on secure societies.

Some calls as “Engaging together globally” will tackle directly migration issues.

II. EUROSTAT

The 2015 work programme includes a call for collection of data useful for subnational statistics with the objective of giving support to important methodological projects and subnational projects for the gathering of key data ([data collection for sub-national statistics](#); page 3. Max budget 800 000 euros. Co-funding rate 70%. Apparently, this call is still not opened for the moment but is forecast. It could be an opportunity for actions like MIPEX-R).

III. EUROPEAN INSTRUMENT FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY (to be completed)

In November 2015 the EU Commission presented the [review of the ENP Policy](#). Among the key elements underlined by the High Representative Mogherini and Commissioner Hahn it was stressed that it will help to address the root causes of migration.

The new ENP is supposed to mobilise efforts to support inclusive economic and social development; creating job opportunities for youth will be among key measures of economic stabilisation. There will be a new focus on stepping up work with partners countries in the security sector, mainly in the areas of conflict-prevention, counter-terrorism and anti-radicalisation policies. Safe and legal mobility on the one hand and tackling irregular migration, human trafficking and smuggling on the other are further priorities.

This review is being discussed at the Member State level.

The [EU Neighborhood Instrument](#) (ENI) is the main funding instrument of the ENP with 15.4 billion euros funds (including the 16 partners countries covered by the ENP).

- **Open and forecast calls interesting for the CPMR and its members or other key stakeholders on their territories** (examples/to be completed).

I. [AMIF Call for projects on Integration](#) (HOME/2015/AMIF/AG/INTE)

The call aims at funding transnational projects to foster integration of third country nationals in the MS of the EU. Projects should build onto results of previous projects and must address either priority 1 “Foster integration of migrant women” or 2 “Facilitate the access to work and foster integration in the work place”

or both priorities at the same time and be designed to achieve one or several outcomes defined under each of the two priorities.

Status: opened (deadline 29/2/2016) / Projects are supposed to start in the last quarter of 2016

Budget : 5.250.000 euros AMIF (cofounding max 90% of eligible costs).

Duration of projects: max 24 months.

Size of projects 350.000 – 650.000 euros of EU co-funding for transnational consortia.

Eligible beneficiaries: public bodies, non profit entities, international organizations established in EU MS participating in AMIF.

II. H2020 “Engaging together globally” calls on migration issues

Within the Work programme 2016-17:

1. An integrated approach to migration and development and
2. EU Policy coherence and migration.

III. To be updated (including ETC/ IPA Programmes/ESPON calls opportunities for Studies on trends/scenarios on migration including the neighborhood countries)