



**CPMR
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**CONFERENCE DES REGIONS PERIPHERIQUES MARITIMES D'EUROPE
CONFERENCE OF PERIPHERAL MARITIME REGIONS OF EUROPE**

6, rue Saint-Martin, 35700 RENNES - FR
Tel. : + 33 (0)2 99 35 40 50 - Fax : + 33 (0)2 99 35 09 19
Email : secretariat@crpm.org – web : www.crpm.org

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FUNDS THAT CAN BE USED TO SUPPORT ACTIONS TARGETING MIGRATION

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. However, as a matter of fact, most EU funds targeting migration are managed by Member States and cannot be directly used by Regions. In its position, the CPMR 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. This message was reiterated during a meeting between the President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, and Rena Dourou, Governor of Attica Region on 12 April 2016. On this occasion, Eleni Marianou, Secretary General of the CPMR stressed the fact that Regions can facilitate the effective use of EU funds dedicated to the management of the migration crisis, such as AMIF and the new Emergency Assistance instrument, and can coordinate effectively the activities on the ground within their territories working hand in hand with NGOs to organise and deliver the solutions needed.

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.

The main types of EU funds aiming at providing support to asylum seekers and refugees are the European Social Fund (ESF), the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD), the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and also the European Regional Development Fund. 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). Reflecting the increasing importance of Migration within the EU agenda more programmes, such as Horizon2020, Creative Europe, Europe for Citizens etc. are also meant to address migration priorities.

➤ 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

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).

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.

The CPMR has already joined as a partner two project proposals under AMIF:

- **Project on integration of migrants in the labour market through matching market needs and migrants' competences and promoting diversity management at workplace**
Submitted under the EU AMIF call by OPZZ Poland, in partnership with University of Thessaly, Foundation Antonio Bustamante (Madrid region), Educational Sport foundation, MAGENTAConsultoria Projects, Veneto region, House of used books, CPMR, Secretariat for Equality, Citizenship and Migration (Catalonia region), Formag EOOD (Burgas region), SAS Guimel (Bordeaux region), Vocational Training Centre (North Aegean region).
- **Project on comparison of integration services for migrants in social & health systems at regional & national level in order to capitalize and transfer good practices**
Submitted under an AMIF call of the Italian Ministry of Interior by Emergency Ong Onlus, in partnership with region of Sicily (special office for migration and health department), COPPEM, CPMR, Andalusia, U.CO.II, World Health Organization.

➤ **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. Ministers dealing with funds and urban matters are due to meet in an informal council at the end of November to discuss further. The [first Call for Proposals Urban Innovative Actions](#) was finally launched on 15 December 2015 and closed on 31 March 2016.

[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

² 60 Cross border – Interreg 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).

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/fr/policy/cooperation/european-territorial/outside-the-eu/

the 80% of their resources on a maximum of 4 Thematic Objectives among 11 EU priorities (among which 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.
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 February 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	€36.6m + €6.5m (national resources)
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	€3.9 m + €700,000 (national resources)
Estonia	€10 156 577	€7 100 000	€8m + €1.4m (national resources)
Finland	€23 488 777	€20 000 000	€22.5m + €4m (national resources)
France	€265 565 577	€443 000 000	€499m + €88m (national resources)
Germany	€208 416 877	€70 000 000	€78.9m + €13.9m (national resources)
Greece	€259 348 877	€249 300 000	€280m + €50m (national resources)
Hungary	€23 713 477	€83 300 000	€93.8m + €16.6m (national resources)
Ireland	€19 519 077	€20 200 000	€22.7m + €4m (national resources)
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	€4m + €696,119 (national resources)
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	€176.9m + €31.2m (national resources)
Romania	€21 915 877	€391 300 000	€441m + €75m (national resources)
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	€563.4m + €99.4m (national resources)
Sweden	€118 536 877	€7 000 000	€7.8m + €1.2m (national resources)
United Kingdom	€370 425 577	€3 500 000	€3.9m + €700,000 (national resources)

Member States with CPMR members

Member States without CPMR members

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 Source: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1089&newsId=2184&furtherNews=yes>

➤ Other funding opportunities

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. The objective is to give support to important methodological and subnational projects for the gathering of such key data.

Max budget is 800.000 euros and the Co-funding rate is 70%. This call is still not open. It could be an opportunity for actions as MIPEX-R.

III. EUROPEAN INSTRUMENT FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

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 partner countries covered by the ENP).

IV. CREATIVE EUROPE PROGRAMME

The [2016 work programme](#) was amended in February 2016 in order to add a new action to "support for refugees' integration". A specific call for proposals entitled "[support for refugees' integration](#)" was issued in March. The deadline for application to this call is 28 April 2016. It aims at supporting “cultural, audio-visual and cross-sectorial projects aiming at facilitating the integration of refugees in the European environment, enhancing mutual cultural understanding and fostering intercultural and inter-religious dialogue, tolerance and respect for other cultures.” The total budget for this call is €1.6 million (€100.000 to €200.000 per project). The maximum co-financing rate is 80% of total eligible costs.

V. INTERNAL SECURITY FUND

The [Internal Security Fund](#) (ISF) was set up for the period 2014-2020. The total budget is €3.8 billion. The [2016 work programme](#) is dedicated to “Support of border management and a common visa policy to facilitate legitimate travel.” The beneficiaries of this fund can be “state and federal authorities, local public bodies, non-governmental organisations and private and public law companies”. The amount earmarked for the 2016 work programme is €137,980,000. €132,980,000 will be dedicated to providing “financial assistance to address urgent and specific needs in the event of an emergency situation, resulting from an urgent and exceptional pressure where a large or disproportionate number of third country nationals cross or are expected to cross the external border of one or more Member States or any other duly substantiated situation requiring urgent action at external borders.” Co-financing rate can go up to 100% of eligible costs.

VI. EUROPE FOR CITIZENS

The [Europe for Citizens](#) programme was set up by the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency for the period 2014-2020. It “aims at contributing to citizens’ understanding of the EU and its history and diversity, improving conditions for civic and democratic participation and raising awareness of remembrance of common history and values”⁶. Action grants and operating grants⁷ are available under this programme. Eligible entities for this programme are public bodies or non-profit organisations. The 2016 work programme was allocated a total budget of approximately €23 million. Strand 2 (“Democratic engagement and civic participation”) of the 2016 budget cover actions targeting migration, namely: “Solidarity in times of crisis” and “Combating stigmatisation of “immigrants” and building counter narratives to foster intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding”⁸. The total budget for strand 2 is €17 million.

VII. MIPEX INITIATIVE AT REGIONAL LEVEL

The CPMR is planning to develop a project aiming at measuring the integration of migrants in regions, following the example of the [MIPEX project](#), which was developed at national level. The MIPEX project ran from November 2013 to June 2015. It was co-funded by the “Integration Fund” 2007-2013 (DG MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS), which was replaced by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) for the period 2014-2020. There are currently no ongoing calls under the AMIF.

- **Calls interesting for the CPMR and its members or other key stakeholders on their territories.**

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

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

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

The CPMR joined as a partner a project proposal which aims to facilitate the access of refugees to work and foster their integration at the work place.

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.

A call entitled “[The EU and the Global Challenge of Migration](#)” should be published in October 2016, with a deadline for submission on 2 February 2017.

III. Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance/ESPON calls - opportunities for Studies on trends/scenarios on migration including the neighbourhood countries)

There are currently no ongoing calls for these programmes. This sections shall be updated on a regular basis.

⁶ <http://www.eurodiaconia.org/2016/04/briefing-for-members-on-migration-and-eu-funding/>

⁷ http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens/strands/operating-grants_en

⁸ https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/sites/eacea-site/files/priorities_of_the_programme_for_2016_5.pdf