



BRIEFING FOR MEMBERS: EU-FUNDING FOR MIGRATION & INTEGRATION

The purpose of this briefing:

There is ongoing request by members for information on how their work in the area of migration and integration can be supported through EU-funding. The work on this topic is becoming more and more important, and the need for financial support by the EU increases. This paper aims to give a brief introduction about EU-funding and what to expect from it in general, and an overview of funding instruments that can be useful to access financial support for members' work in the area of integration and migration.

EU-Funding – what to expect, and what not?

There are certain basic rules to know when it comes to EU-funding in order to avoid misunderstandings, false perceptions and wrong expectations. Once the nature of EU-funding is understood it can be a valuable source for financial support and great projects can be implemented in order to support your work on migration and integration.

Calls for proposals

The call for proposals document is at the centre for each application. This document describes exactly what the EU expects from a project in terms of objectives, activities and outcomes, but also in terms of policy. The calls usually refer to documents that set the political framework for a project, it explains which organisations can apply, it sets the timeline, the money available, the co-funding rate, how many partners are necessary, when to hand in an application, and any other formal criteria. For any further questions, there is also an e-mail address to send further requests for clarification; also, feel free to get in touch with our Policy, Projects and Research Officer Florian at florian.tuder@eurodiaconia.org in case you have any questions. Reading calls for proposals as carefully as possible is crucial for the success of an application.

Eligibility

Before writing dozens of pages for a project application, organisations need to make sure that they are eligible to apply. The *call for proposals document* always contains a list of legal entities that are eligible. Often diaconal organisations or other NGOs are eligible. Sometimes e.g. only public authorities are eligible. Or a public authority needs to be the lead partner/main applicant and diaconal organisations can only be a co-applicant – or they are not eligible at all.

Project Management

Handing in a project application asking for EU support means a lot of work which often is underestimated. In order to avoid frustration or last minute stress, make sure you set yourself a reasonable and feasible timeframe and save enough resources in order to set-up an application. Never wait until the last minute of the application deadline, plan ahead, prepare as much as possible as early as possible. Eurodiaconia offers a funding calendar for its members which contains all known application deadlines for calls for proposals on an EU-level, also for calls that are not open for applications yet. This can help to prepare applications well ahead of time. Please get in touch with Florian at florian.tuder@eurodiaconia.org to find out more about the calendar.



Co-Financing Rule

The co-financing rule is central: the EU does not grant 100% funding for projects. Its contribution is understood as financial support and depending on the programme, the applicant has to contribute between 25% - 5% of the project costs by their own resources or through other (non-EU) funds. This condition is crucial when setting up a project budget – the applicants need to have in mind that a part of the project costs need to be found elsewhere.

Project Partners & EU added value

Usually, EU projects require several, international project partners (a *consortium*) depending on the funding programme and the project. Involving partners in different countries contributes to make the project *European*. When setting up a project this can be a crucial factor to agree with the project partners on the design of the project and to make sure all partners are eligible and capable of implementing an EU-project. Also, if a *non-EU country* wants to be part of an *EU-funded* project it needs to show in the application that there is no organisation / no other EU member state that could perform the planned activities better than the non-EU actor.

Also, the project partners need to show that their project offers an *EU-added value*. That means it has to show why this project is truly and EU-project and why it is more relevant for the EU than other projects. Here, applicants need to have in mind that the EU is a political institution with its political agenda and through financing projects it wants to see its political agenda being implemented. If a project idea contradicts the views of the EU or if it is not in line with its current political priorities, it will not receive funding.

Shared or Direct Management

There is a big variety of EU-funds available, which are managed in different ways. Some are managed *directly* by the European Commission, i.e. an application for funding will be assessed directly in Brussels by the European Commission (e.g. the “Rights, Equality & Citizenship Programme” or the “EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation, EaSI”). The management of other funds is *shared*, i.e. the European Commission distributes money to its agencies or national managing authorities in the member states which distribute the money on a national level. Applications are not assessed in Brussels, but in the member states (e.g. “European Social Fund” or “Erasmus+”). This is important to know where you need to look for funding opportunities: is it the websites of the European Commission or the websites of national agencies.

Overview on EU funding possibilities

The following EU funding programmes are targeted to a big variety of different actions in different fields, they also can be useful to support actions regarding migrants and refugees:

1. Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)

The fund promotes efficient management of migration flows and the implementation, strengthening and development of a common EU approach to asylum, migration and integration. Through four strands it focusses on the areas of (1) Asylum, (2) Legal migration and integration, (3) Return, and (4) Solidarity. Supported action can relate to different stages of the asylum procedure and to particular aspects. Particular attention is paid to vulnerable groups like e.g. unaccompanied minors, women, and young people. The fund can support a variety of activities regarding education & training, housing & infrastructure, material assistance, health & social care, social inclusion & integration, and public administration & governance. The majority of the fund is implemented through shared management, i.e. agencies in EU member states are the first point of contact. [This map](#) shows which countries are implementing the fund and where to find the national managing authorities responsible for the distribution of the funds. Some calls for proposals are also managed directly by the European Commission and can be found [here](#). The co-finance rates vary between 75%-90%. Please find more information about the AMIF [here](#).



MEMBER EXAMPLE: AMIF

Finland:
Helsinki Deaconess Institute

[Vamos for young asylum seekers](#)

Project Funding: The project is co-funded through the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).

Project aim: Facilitate the integration and improve the quality of life of young asylum seekers (16 to 29 years old).

Project description: The project develops a new rehabilitative service for activation of young asylum seekers. The primary challenge is the concern of passivity for asylum seekers who have passed the age of compulsory education. The service is targeted for 16 to 29-year-olds who are waiting for their residence permit decision in Helsinki, Vantaa and Espoo. The aim of the project is to better the quality of life and capacity of the beneficiaries.

The estimated result of the project is that 100 young people have participated in psycho-educative group activities, their activity and sense of agency has improved, they have started new hobbies and have made friends with people of Finnish background. Due to the project, the ability of the target group to utilize Finnish integration services has improved. The approach used in the project has also been documented and scaled nationally.

2. European Social Fund (ESF):

The fund aims at improving employment opportunities of workers living in Europe and to integrate disadvantaged people by investing in skills, employment and social services. Asylum seekers and refugees can be considered as eligible group in three cases: (1) When they are legally able to participate in the labour market, (2) for vocational training actions, and (3) for actions concerning the education of their children. A variety of activities can be supported e.g. in the areas of Employment & Labour Market Integration, Education & Training, Health & Social Care, Rights & Freedom, or Social Inclusion & Integration. The ESF is implemented according to the shared management mode. [This map](#) shows which countries are implementing the fund and where to find the national managing authorities responsible for the distribution of the funds. Co-finance rates vary between 50%-85%. Please find more information about the ESF [here](#).

3. Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived (FEAD)

The fund aims at alleviating the worst forms of poverty in the EU such as homelessness, child poverty and food deprivation. Support is mainly given through the provision of food, clothing and other essential items for personal use, e.g. shoes, soap and shampoo. This needs to go hand in hand with social inclusion measures, such as guidance and support to help people out of poverty.

The group of people to be targeted is identified at the national level, therefore, the eligibility of asylum seekers depends on the way Member States define the type of assistance and who may benefit from this fund. Member States also decide about the duration of funding. [This map](#) shows which countries are implementing the fund and where to find the national managing authorities responsible for the distribution of the funds. Please find more information about the FEAD [here](#).

4. Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)

The programme aims at promoting a high level of quality and sustainable employment while guaranteeing adequate social protection, combating social exclusion, unemployment, and discrimination. It wants to improve working conditions and equality between men and women. Target groups can be also asylum seekers, refugees and migrants (with or without access to the labour market).

Two strands are crucial to support them: "Progress" (supports the development of EU social policies, and international dialogue to develop innovation and solutions for real needs), "Microfinance & Social Entrepreneurship" aims at increasing access to microfinance for vulnerable groups to support them setting up micro- or social enterprises.

The Progress axis of EaSI is managed directly by the European Commission publishing [current calls for proposals](#). The microfinance axis can be accessed through financial intermediaries in [participating countries](#). Please find more information about the EaSI [here](#).

5. Programme for education, training, youth and sport (ERASMUS+):

The programme aims at improving education, training and non-formal learning for young people in order to become more competitive on the labour market. Special attention is given to beneficiaries from disadvantaged backgrounds, incl. migrants and refugees. Transnational actions fostering social inclusion,



MEMBER EXAMPLE: ESF

Czech Republic: Diaconia ECCB

[Project DOMA Opportunities for migrants](#)

Project funding: The project is co-funded in the regions by the European Social Fund (ESF) and in Prague through the HEKS (Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen Schweiz) and KHK (Kirchen helfen Kirchen). So far it is only targeting recognized refugees (asylum or subsidiary protection), but it will be extended to all migrants, independently of their legal status.

Project aim: The project aims at supporting the integration of refugees into the Czech society and local communities. Through different activities Czechs and refugees are invited to meet and establish personal relationships, thus reducing barriers and fears of the 'other'.

Project description: The project is carried out in cooperation with congregations of ECCB and Prague. The congregations provide the space for activities with migrants & members of the local communities, of whom some are also engaged as volunteers in the project. The coordinators organise each month one or two activities, which take place in the premises of the congregations. These activities can be creative workshops, cooking, sport & cultural events or debates, depending on the interests of the participants, both migrants & Czechs.

radicalisation prevention and recognition of qualifications are eligible and encouraged. The programme is managed either through shared or direct management and applicants can respond to specific or general calls for proposals. Deadlines and further comprehensive information can be found in the [Erasmus+ programme guide](#), a list of national managing authorities can be found [here](#). Please find more information about the Erasmus+ programme [here](#).

6. EU Health Programme

The programme aims at promoting smart, sustainable and inclusive economy promoting growth for all by investing in the health of the people, to prevent diseases and improve access to better and safer healthcare. Regarding migrants it specifically supports first aid actions and investment in health to reduce inequalities and to fight social exclusion; this can include health assessments, health education, mental health treatment, improved health care access etc. The programme is managed directly by the European Commission on the basis of [annual work programmes](#) through [calls for proposals](#). The co-financing rate varies between 60%-80%. Please find more information about the EU Health Programme [here](#).

7. Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC)

The programme aims at promoting and protecting the equality and the rights of persons as enshrined in the Treaty of the European Union, the Charter of Fundamental Rights and international human rights conventions. In this regard the programme supports exchanges of good practices, awareness raising campaigns, one-stop-shops for newly arrived migrants but also capacity building and training of professionals, mutual learning, training tools, language trainings etc. The programme is managed by the European Commission directly, [calls for proposals](#) are published on a regular basis. The co-financing rate is about 80%. Please find more information about the REC [here](#).

8. Programme for history, diversity and participation (Europe for Citizens):

The programme 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. Applications for projects dealing with the fight against the stigmatisation of migrants & refugees and fostering a mutual process of intercultural dialogue are encouraged.

The programme is managed directly by the European Commission which publishes all [current calls for proposals](#) and the [annual work programme 2017](#) (the work programme for 2018 is expected in December 2017)). Please find out more about the Europe for Citizens programme [here](#).



MEMBER EXAMPLE: FEAD

**Denmark:
Kirkens Korshaer**

Kompasset

Project funding: The project is co-funded by the Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived (FEAD).

Project aim: Kompasset is a day shelter for unregistered homeless migrants (EU citizens and Third Country Nationals (TCNs)) and aims at relieving the distress of those homeless migrants, by providing necessities and a community, care & respect. It also seeks to prevent marginalization & social disruption, by strengthening the individual's resilience and find solutions for individual situation. Since its opening the project has reached 900 homeless individuals, of which 28 % are TCNs.

Project description: Most users are mobile EU citizens & TCNs with temporary or permanent residence permits in other EU countries, who are not allowed to enter the labour market. The day shelter includes a variety of services: day rest, showers, laundry, lockers, storage of IDs and valuables, food, some activities, and individual counselling. For TCNs the projects main focus is to provide accurate information about their rights. They receive support to cover basic needs and assistance in access to emergency health care.

9. Justice Programme

The programme aims at further developing a European area of justice based on mutual recognition and mutual trust. That means that the programme supports projects that e.g. facilitate proper access to justice for citizens and businesses. It also supports actions related to the protection of the rights of victims of crimes and transnational juridical cooperation to improve mutual knowledge and understanding of juridical systems and thus mutual trust. Exchange of good practices, awareness-raising campaigns, information materials/tool, as well as capacity-building and training for staff, language training on legal terminology are some of the actions supported by the fund. The programme is managed directly by the European Commission which publishes [current calls for proposals](#). The co-financing rate varies between 80%-90%. Please find more information about the Justice programme [here](#).

10. Programme for the support to the culture and audio-visual sectors (Creative Europe)

The programme aims at safeguarding Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity, the product of cross-cultural interaction and migration. It supports cultural, cross-sectorial projects fostering social integration and mutual cultural awareness and understanding. Projects can help migrants to socialise and express themselves and to understand European culture and values.

The programme is managed directly by the European Commission, based on an [annual work programme calls for proposals](#) are published on a regular basis. Please find out more about the Creative Europe programme [here](#).

11. European Regional Development Fund (ERDF):

The fund aims at infrastructural developments, on structural, medium and long-term measures by redressing regional imbalances in the EU. The ERDF can support social, health, education, housing and childcare infrastructure. Three thematic objectives are especially relevant for the support of migrants: (1) promoting employment, (2) promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and discrimination, and (3) investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning.

The ERDF is implemented according to the shared management mode. [Your national managing authority](#) is responsible for the distribution of the funds in your country or region, any calls for proposals will be published on their websites. Please find out more about the ERDF [here](#).

12. European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD):

The fund provides medium-term assistance (2-3 years) in housing, healthcare, education and employment in rural areas, also focussing on marginalised groups. Within its objective of



combating poverty and social exclusion in rural areas, the fund may contribute to empower migrants, facilitating their access to rural development measures, and promoting their integration in the local/rural economy and population.

The fund is implemented according to the shared management mode. [Your national managing authority](#) is responsible for the distribution of the funds in your country or region, any calls for proposals will be published on their websites. Please find out more about the EAFRD [here](#).

13. European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF):

The fund aims at contributing to social integration by providing professional training and education as well as start-up support so migrants could better integrate into the labour market or if they wish to become self-employed in the areas concerned by the fund. Further to that, the implementation of integrated local development strategies may also provide a wide range of services, including reception of asylum-seekers, not only within but also beyond the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

The fund is mostly implemented according to the shared management mode. [Your national managing authority](#) is responsible for the distribution of the funds in your country according to their [operational programmes](#), any calls for proposals will be published on their websites. Please find out more about the EMFF [here](#).

How can Eurodiaconia members benefit from these funds?

If you want to apply for a funding opportunity under one of the mentioned funds first things to check are the eligibility criteria (to be found in calls for proposals or regulations of each fund) and the submission deadline. If the formal criteria are met and the deadline leaves enough time to set up a project, you should think about the policy background of a call for proposals. What is it that the European Commission wants to fund? Does the project you have in mind match with the policy intention of the European Commission? And if there are discrepancies: How can you adapt your project idea in order to become attractive for the European Commission to fund it?

The Eurodiaconia secretariat will be happy to support you in thinking about the design of a project idea in order to increase the chances for funding. We will be also happy to assist you with the application, to give it a read and to make suggestions for improvement. The secretariat will also help you in looking for international project partners within the Eurodiaconia network in order to set up a solid project consortium.

Eurodiaconia monitors the developments and publications of calls and news regarding the funds and publishes developments on its homepage and sends out information to members via E-News. Please make sure to subscribe to our [funding newsletter & the funding alert](#) (which is sent out as soon as we discover a new call for proposals). We further encourage you to check out our [Eurodiaconia Funding Toolkit](#) to learn more about EU funding and project management, and about additional European (non-EU) funding opportunities (e.g. foundations).

If you have any projects financed by EU-funds you want to share with the Eurodiaconia membership, please get in touch with Florian at florian.tuder@eurodiaconia.org.

Key links and documents

- Eurodiaconia **EU-Funding tool kit**: <https://www.eurodiaconia.org/toolkit/>
- Eurodiaconia website section for **current calls for proposals**: <https://www.eurodiaconia.org/category/themes/funding/calls-for-project-proposals/>
- Eurodiaconia website section for **news on European Funding**: <https://www.eurodiaconia.org/category/themes/funding/funding-news/>



- Website of the **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund**: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/financing/fundings/migration-asylum-borders/asylum-migration-integration-fund/index_en.htm
- Website of the **European Social Fund**: <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/home.jsp>
- Website of the **Fund for European Aid to the most Deprived**: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1089>
- Website of the **EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)**: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1081>
- Website of the **Erasmus+** programme: http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en
- Website of the **European Health Programme**: https://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy_en
- Website of the **Rights, Equality & Citizenship Programme**: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/programmes-2014-2020/rec/index_en.htm
- Website of the **Europe for Citizens Programme**: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/europe-for-citizens_en
- Website of the **Justice Programme**: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/programmes-2014-2020/justice/index_en.htm
- Website of the **Creative Europe Programme**: <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/creative-europe/>
- Website of the **European Regional Development Fund**: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/erdf/
- Website of the **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development**: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-funding/funding-opportunities/index_en.htm
- Website of the **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund**: http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/cfp/emff/index_en.htm
- **A guide to EU Funding** (2017, available in all EU languages): <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/7d72330a-7020-11e7-b2f2-01aa75ed71a1>
- In-depth paper by the European Commission on **support to asylum seekers under ESF & FEAD**: <http://www.eurodiaconia.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/EMPL-20150925-ESF-FEAD-migrants-fr.pdf>
- A briefing by the European Parliament on **labour market integration of refugees in the light of EU-Funding**: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/570005/IPOL_BRI\(2016\)570005_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/570005/IPOL_BRI(2016)570005_EN.pdf)