

The AMIF Partnership Principle: Recommendations on implementation

In May 2013, some organisations issued a Statement outlining the importance of the mandatory Partnership Principle in the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).¹

On 16 April 2014, the European Union (EU) adopted Regulation 516/2014 establishing AMIF, worth a total value of over 3.1 billion EUR for the next seven years (2014-2020) and including the establishment of a Partnership Principle at national level.

We, the undersigned organisations, welcome the introduction of this new simplified and flexible fund as well as the minimum threshold (20%) set to be spent in the areas of asylum and integration. Given the growing number of humanitarian crises around the world that impact migration and asylum flows into the EU, it is essential that adequate assistance is provided which includes reception and integration programmes for those arriving in Europe.

Civil society organisations, international organisations, social partners as well as regional and local authorities provide assistance and expertise to asylum seekers, refugees and migrants on a daily basis, and have an in-depth understanding of their needs as well as an understanding of the different programmes that are available at the national level. Given the important role these organisations play, we particularly welcome the inclusion of a mandatory Partnership Principle between Member States and relevant stakeholders including civil society organisations, as stated in Article 4 of Regulation 516/2014: *“For the purposes of the Fund, the partnership referred to in Article 12 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 shall include relevant international organisations, non-governmental organisations and social partners.”*²

The national AMIF programme determines the scope and priorities for actions for the next seven years. There will only be a possibility for adjustments, the scope of which is not yet known, during the mid-term review in 2018. Given the continuing economic, financial and social difficulties faced by the Member States, it is of the utmost importance that the right choices are made now so that the use of available resources is maximised.

It is thus vital that, in the context of the Partnership Principle, early consultation with actors involved in the delivery of assistance to asylum seekers, refugees and migrants is ensured at national level so that the AMIF can better target its resources to those priority areas where gaps and specific needs exist, and have been collectively identified.

Therefore our organisations are ready to engage with national authorities to discuss upcoming AMIF national programmes and their implementation, by means of a transparent and well defined use of the Partnership Principle.

We thus urge the European Union Member States and institutions to fully enact the AMIF Partnership Principle and recognize it as an efficient means to assist Member States in making effective use of the AMIF in accordance with our recommendations. The signatories of this Statement and their member organisations at national level stand ready to assist in order to give maximised effect to the AMIF Partnership Principle.

¹ <http://www.caritas.eu/sites/default/files/ngo-unhcrstatementonthepartnershipprincipleintheamf24may2013.pdf>

² <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014R0516&rid=1>

Recommendations

➤ **Early consultations and information sharing**

Civil society organisations, international organisations, social partners as well as asylum seekers, refugees and migrants should be involved at an early stage in both the design and the preparation of the national programmes as provided by Article 12.3 of Regulation 514/2014: *“The Member State shall involve the partnership in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national programmes.”*³

As the work on the national programme is advancing in Member States, it should be noted that a number of them have not yet consulted civil society and other actors, or have done so in a too limited manner. In addition, most Member States have not shared their multi-annual draft programmes for discussion. In order to uphold the true spirit and purpose of the partnership principle, we would recommend Member States to consult and involve civil society and other actors in the preparation of their national programmes without further delay. Partners should be informed about key developments in a timely manner and provided with enough time to analyse and comment on key preparatory documents. During the preparation phase of the national programmes, they should be involved in the analysis and identification of needs, the definition of priorities, the allocation of funding and the definition of specific indicators.

➤ **Agree on common standards on ways to implement the Partnership Principle**

To avoid divergent practices between European countries, our organisations recommend that the modus operandi of the Partnership Principle be further defined. We thus propose that consultations are held in each Member State in order to discuss how the Partnership will be functioning, given the national context. This could include, for example, setting a minimum threshold for civil society organisations and UNHCR involvement in all stages of the AMIF as well as agreeing on a deadline for each Member State to set up the partnership and on the frequency of its convening.

➤ **Implement the Partnership Principle at European level**

The Partnership Principle should also be implemented at the European level. This could take the form of bi-annual consultations between the European Commission and relevant civil society European partners working on asylum, migration and integration issues. The undersigned stand ready to meet and discuss this proposal with the European Commission in due course.

➤ **Ensure monitoring of implementation of the AMIF at regular intervals**

In order to ensure adequate monitoring of the implementation of the AMIF fund over the seven year period and following the adoption of national programmes, Monitoring Committees should be set-up to *“support the implementation of national programmes”*⁴ in accordance with Art 12.4 of the AMIF Regulation. We propose that the members of the partnership are part of the composition of the Monitoring Committee to ensure a comprehensive review of the use of the AMIF.

Brussels, 25 July 2014

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, this Statement is issued by ECRE, Rue Royale 146, 1000 Brussels and UNHCR, Rue Van Eyck 11b, 1050 Brussels. For any question, you can contact at ECRE: Laurent Aldenhoff at aldenhoff@ecre.org or tel. +32 (0)2 2343804 and at UNHCR: Annabelle Roig-Granjon at roig@unhcr.org or tel. + 32 (0)2 6275962.

³ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32014R0514&qid=1406189181871&from=EN>

⁴ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32014R0514&qid=1406189181871&from=EN>



caritas europa



ecre

European Council
on Refugees and Exiles



**Save the
Children®**



RED CROSS
EU OFFICE



JRS



PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
ON UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS



International Catholic
Migration Commission



ccme

churches' commission for migrants in europe