



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

## **Call for proposals**

Call for proposals on assistance, support and integration of third  
country national victims of trafficking in human beings  
(AMIF-2024-TF2-AG-THB)

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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
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## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

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## 0. Introduction

This is a call for proposals for EU **action grants** in the field of trafficking in human beings under the **Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)**.

The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in:

- Regulation 2018/1046 ([EU Financial Regulation](#))
- the basic act (AMIF Regulation [2021/1147](#))<sup>1</sup>.

The call is launched in accordance with the 2023-2025 Thematic Facility Work Programme<sup>2</sup> and will be managed by the **European Commission, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME)**.

The call covers the **topic**: AMIF-2024-TF2-AG-THB-01 **Assistance, support and integration of third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings**.

We invite you to read the **call documentation** carefully, and in particular this Call Document, the Model Grant Agreement, the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual](#) and the [EU Grants AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

- the [Call Document](#) outlines the:
  - background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected results and impact (sections 1 and 2)
  - timetable and available budget (sections 3 and 4)
  - admissibility and eligibility conditions (including mandatory documents; sections 5 and 6)
  - criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (section 7)
  - evaluation and award procedure (section 8)
  - award criteria (section 9)
  - legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements (section 10)
- the [Online Manual](#) outlines the:
  - procedures to register and submit proposals online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal')
  - recommendations for the preparation of the application
- the [AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement](#) contains:
  - detailed annotations on all the provisions in the Grant Agreement you will have to sign in order to obtain the grant (*including cost eligibility, payment schedule, accessory obligations, etc*).

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (OJ L 251, 15.7.2021, p. 1-47).

<sup>2</sup> Commission Implementing Decision C(2022) 8340 final of 23.11.2022 on the financing of components of the Thematic Facility under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and adoption of the Work Programme for 2023, 2024 and 2025 as last modified by the [5<sup>th</sup> substantial amendment](#).

## 1. Background

The EU has in place a solid legal and policy framework to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings, and to protect the victims of this crime. The EU Anti-trafficking Directive (Directive 2011/36/EU)<sup>3</sup> sets forth robust and detailed provisions on victim protection, assistance, and support, as well as on prevention and on the criminal justice response to the crime. On the one hand, it establishes a number of criminal offences, and aims to close the impunity gap. On the other, it adopts a victim-centred and human rights-based approach, incorporating a gender-specific and child-rights approach, recognising that women, men, and children are often trafficked for different purposes.

According to the latest available data, in 2022, over 10 000 victims were registered in the European Union (EU)<sup>4</sup>. However, the actual number of victims of trafficking is likely to be significantly higher, as many victims remain undetected. 63% of the victims were women, 37% were male. 85% were adults, 15% were children. 41% of the victims were trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation and 41% for the purpose of labour exploitation. Other forms of exploitation, including exploitation of criminal activities and forced begging, make up the remaining 18%.

Trafficking in human beings is often committed across borders. 37% of the victims were EU citizens, 63% were third-country nationals. This is a substantial change in comparison to past data collections when the majority of the registered victims were EU citizens. In 2022, the main non-EU countries of origin were Nigeria, Ukraine, Morocco, Bangladesh, Colombia, Brazil, Pakistan, China, the Philippines, and Thailand. The Western Balkans and the Middle East and North Africa region remain the main areas of transit. The global and regional migratory situation heightens the risks of trafficking. Some third-country national victims of trafficking are smuggled to the EU for the purpose of being trafficked by organised crime groups or networks which operate across borders. The debts incurred to finance their travel to the EU make them particularly vulnerable. Others are trafficked along their journey towards the EU. Some victims reach the EU via regular migration pathways, sometimes pursuing apparently legitimate job offers, and then fall into the hands of traffickers after their arrival in the EU. Children in migration, especially unaccompanied minors, are particularly vulnerable, and specific safeguards should be put in place to ensure that their rights are respected throughout the relevant procedures.

The [EU Strategy on combatting trafficking in human beings \(2021-2025\)](#)<sup>5</sup> emphasises that third-country national victims of trafficking face additional difficulties, including barriers to identification. The situation of the victims requires specific consideration, as victims can become accessible to traffickers and be exposed to risks of being re-trafficked.

Protecting, supporting and empowering victims of trafficking, especially women and children is a priority under the EU Strategy. Ensuring adequate protection, assistance and support to victims remains a challenge. Moreover, opportunities for the victims to rebuild their lives remain limited, as integration and rehabilitation programmes need to be further developed, including with durable solutions such as inclusion into the labour market. This call supports transnational measures aimed at enhancing the identification, protection, assistance, support and integration of victims of trafficking in the host country, taking into account their specific needs, vulnerabilities and circumstances. Proposals under this call should take into account, and explain their

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<sup>3</sup> Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA, OJ L 101, 15.4.2011, as amended (2022/0426(COD)).

<sup>4</sup> [10 093 registered victims of human trafficking in 2022 - Eurostat \(europa.eu\)](#).

<sup>5</sup> COM(2021) 171, 14.4.2021.

relevance in relation to, the priorities and key actions of the [EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings \(2021-2025\)](#), the [Common Anti-Trafficking Plan to address the risks of trafficking in human beings and support potential victims among those fleeing the war in Ukraine](#), and other relevant policy initiatives, including the [New Pact on Migration and Asylum](#), the [EU Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027](#) and the [Renewed Action Plan against Migrant Smuggling 2021-2025](#).

Other relevant documents published by the European Commission and EU Agencies should also be considered in the proposals, in particular:

- European Commission, [Fourth Report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings](#) (2022)
- European Commission, [Statistics and trends in trafficking in human being in the European Union in 2019-2020](#) (2022)
- Decision by the European Parliament, 1st reading, [2022/0426\(COD\) Amending Directive 2011/36 Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims](#) (2024)
- European Commission, [Evaluation of Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combatting trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims](#) (2022)
- Europol, [European Migrant Smuggling Centre 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Report](#) (2022)
- Europol, [European Union Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment](#) (2021)
- Eurojust, [Report on Trafficking in Human Beings: Best practice and issues in judicial cooperation](#) (2021)
- JHA Agencies, [Joint report of the JHA agencies' network on the identification and protection of victims of human trafficking](#) (2021)
- European Commission, [Study on Reviewing the Functioning of Member States' National and Transnational Referral Mechanisms](#) (2020)
- European Commission, [Study on the economic, social and human costs of trafficking in human beings within the EU](#) (2020)
- European Union Asylum Agency, [Asylum Report](#) (2023)

## **2. Objectives – Scope – Activities – Expected impact – Additional considerations**

### Objectives

This call aims at strengthening the actions of relevant stakeholders in the context of the implementation of the revised Anti-trafficking Directive<sup>6</sup> and the Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings 2021-2025<sup>7</sup>, in particular, in relation to victims.

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<sup>6</sup> Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA, OJ L 101, 15.4.2011, as amended (2022/0426(COD)).

<sup>7</sup> COM(2021) 171, 14.4.2021.

The call is expected to contribute to enhanced identification, assistance, support and integration of third-country national victims<sup>8</sup> of trafficking in human beings, addressing the challenges identified in the Commission's Fourth Report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings and in trends observed through the EU-wide data collection. The specific objectives of this call are to:

- facilitate the prevention of labour exploitation of third-country nationals, as well as awareness raising, including in third countries on the risks of labour exploitation and fake job offers;
- facilitate the prevention of sexual exploitation of third-country nationals, as well as awareness raising, including in third countries on the risks of trafficking in human beings, taking into account the online dimension of the crime;
- raise awareness on the demand that fosters trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour and sexual exploitation;
- facilitate the early identification of third-country national victims trafficked for the purpose of labour exploitation, including in the context of labour inspections and through cooperation with the private sector;
- facilitate the identification of third-country national victims of trafficking, especially children<sup>9</sup>, trafficked for the purpose of exploitation of criminal activities;
- provide specialised assistance and support, including in specialised facilities/shelters, to third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings for all exploitative purposes, considering their specific needs<sup>10</sup>, such as age, sex, and the physical and psychological consequences of the form/s of exploitation they have been subjected to;
- with the contribution of the above, facilitate durable solutions for:
  - the integration of third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings in the host society, which take into account the individual needs of the victims and aimed at preventing re-trafficking; or
  - the safe and sustainable voluntary return of third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings, which build upon appropriate risk assessments and prevent their re-trafficking.

### Scope - Activities

The Commission seeks to finance proposals with tangible and concrete deliverables focusing on the following activities:

- initiatives for setting up and improving transnational multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary coordination, especially related to identification. These initiatives should facilitate exchanges of experiences and best practices among relevant actors, such as law enforcement, judiciary, migration and asylum

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<sup>8</sup> A person is considered to be a victim of trafficking in human beings when the crime against them fulfils the constituent elements of trafficking in human beings, as defined in Article 2 of the Anti-trafficking Directive. Article 11 of the Anti-trafficking Directive introduces the 'reasonable-grounds indication' for believing that the person might have been subjected to trafficking in human beings.

<sup>9</sup> According to Article 2(6) of the Anti-trafficking Directive, "child" is defined as "any person below 18 years of age".

<sup>10</sup> According to Article 11(7) of the Anti-trafficking Directive, this includes victims who have special needs because they are pregnant or as a consequence of their health, a disability, a mental or psychological disorder, or a serious form of psychological, physical or sexual violence they have suffered.

authorities, social workers, labour inspectors, border guards, civil society organisations and other services, or international organisations. These may include:

- capacity building and sharing of best practices for the identification of victims, including those trafficked for the purpose of labour exploitation or for the exploitation of criminal activities, with specific attention to children and other vulnerable groups;
  - creating safe environments for victims of trafficking in human beings with the aim of: i) fostering cooperation with relevant authorities in relation to the offence of which they were victims; ii) avoiding exposure to secondary victimisation, intimidation or retaliation in the context of criminal proceedings;
  - specialised training to officers and all practitioners likely to enter in contact with victims of trafficking in human beings, including those trafficked for the purpose of labour exploitation and exploitation of criminal activities. Such training should be provided in a gender-sensitive and child-rights-based manner and should be adapted to the needs of victims of trafficking in human beings who are migrants;
- initiatives aimed at improving the prevention of trafficking in human beings, in particular for the purpose of labour and sexual exploitation. These initiatives may include awareness raising campaigns, including in cooperation with third countries:
    - on the risks of trafficking in human beings for third-country nationals;
    - aiming to reduce the demand that fosters trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation, both in the EU and in third countries;
  - initiatives aimed at improving the referral of victims of trafficking for all exploitative purposes to protection, assistance and support services, taking into account the personal circumstances and specific needs of victims, notably those related to health, psychological and legal services. This may include measures to improve the functioning of national and transnational referral mechanisms, both within the EU and with non-EU countries;
  - initiatives aimed at enhancing the provision of specialised assistance and support services, including in specialised facilities/shelters. These could include cooperation and exchange of best practices among existing shelters from different Member States, in particular, in relation to the provision of assistance and support to victims of trafficking in human beings including those trafficked for the purpose of labour exploitation and for forced criminality;
  - transnational measures facilitating the integration of victims via access to, among others, education, language and vocational training, apprenticeship programmes, job placement services, skills enhancement, workplace training and mentoring, entrepreneurship training, community-led and peer-mentoring programmes involving victims of trafficking. This should include sharing and exchanging experiences, information, knowledge and best practices concerning the integration of third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings;
  - initiatives aimed at improving cross-border cooperation on concrete cases, such as in the context of transfer of third-country national victims to the Member State where they first arrived, or the safe and voluntary return of victims to their non-EU country of origin. This can be facilitated by national and transnational referral mechanisms, as well as by relevant authorities and



civil society organisations involved in identification, protection, assistance and support.

Proposals should be targeted and should not try to cover all activities listed above.

Proposals should take into account the online aspect of trafficking and the increasing use of the digital space in the recruitment and exploitation of victims. The proposals can include actions addressing these challenges and improving the use of new technology not only to identify victims but also to provide assistance and support services online, when appropriate.

Activities such as background research and the mapping of existing materials should be very minor components of the proposals and where they are included a solid justification is needed, unless clearly indicated otherwise. As this call does not aim to enhance the capacity to collect, analyse and disseminate detailed data and statistics, the scope of data collection should be limited to the sole purpose of justifying the need for the foreseen actions and presenting the expected impact of the project.

Proposals should include all the following components:

1. tailored communication strategy defining:
  - the target audience and its segmentation (gender, age, education, profession, etc.);
  - the geographical scope (which country/region and which part of that country in particular);
  - the key messages to be used throughout the period of implementation of the activities and the key visual elements;
  - the communication channels to be used depending on the target audience, ensuring a mix of traditional and social media;
  - alternative communication tools where appropriate, such as theatre plays, community-led debates, school visits, testimonials, involvement of celebrities etc.;
2. monitoring and evaluation plan including:
  - key performance indicators (KPIs), both qualitative and quantitative, with baseline and targets to be used to monitor the implementation and to assess the result of the project, as well as measure the outputs and results of the project against programme performance indicators included in Annex VIII, Regulation (EU) 2021/1147, in particular as regards the Specific Objectives in Article 3(2)(a), (b) and (c);
  - KPIs should relate to the identification, assistance, support and integration of third-country national victims of trafficking.
  - lessons learnt and good practices for future actions;
3. strategy for the sustainability of the activities, particularly by engaging with national authorities and civil society throughout the action, with a view to sharing know-how and best practices, raising awareness and building ownership.

### Expected impact

Proposals should have a concrete operational impact on the identification, assistance, support of third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings, be it in the context of integration or safe return.

Proposals should focus on contributing to the achievement of at least one but ideally more of the following outcomes:

- improved identification, protection, assistance, support and integration of third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings, including in the context of labour inspections and in the fight against organised crime, taking in particular into account children and other vulnerable groups, and high-risk sectors and high-risk environments;
- improved transnational cooperation between local and regional authorities and civil society for the identification, integration, as well as voluntary and safe return of third-country national victims of trafficking and for finding durable solutions for particularly vulnerable victims of trafficking in human beings, including children;
- improved identification, protection, assistance and support to victims through stronger consideration of the online dimension of trafficking in human beings;
- developing practical approaches, tools, and guidelines, where relevant and appropriate, by building on results of past projects.

### Additional considerations applicable to this call

- Proposals should demonstrate how a comprehensive, victim-centred, human rights-based approach will be adopted, concretely presenting the gender-specific and child-sensitive elements of the implementation at all stages (from project design in line with the EU legal and policy framework via the different project activities and in the final outcome and/or impact as relevant).
- All proposals relevant to children are expected to respect the child's right to participate and be aligned with Article 24 of the Charter, relevant EU law and the UN Convention on the rights of the child and describe how they will contribute to the implementation of the 10 principles for integrated child protection systems. The child's right to be heard, as set out in UNCRC Article 12 and General Comment No 12, must be an integral part of project activities.
- Child protection/safeguarding policy: If a project involves direct contact with children, all applicants need to provide their child protection/safeguarding policy. Each partner working directly with children must provide its own child protection policy. The quality of the child safeguarding/protection policy of applicants will be assessed under the quality award criterion.
- The European Commission welcomes proposals that include cooperation with, and involvement of, local and regional authorities, law enforcement, civil society organisations and social partners.
- The European Commission welcomes proposals that, where relevant, involve victims of trafficking in human beings in the design and the implementation of the project.
- The European Commission welcomes proposals that involve applicants from more EU Member States than the minimum number identified in the eligibility criteria, as long as they are relevant for the design of the action.

### 3. Available budget

The available call budget is **EUR 6 000 000**.

The European Commission reserves the right not to award all available funds or to redistribute them between the call topics, depending on the proposals received and the results of the evaluation.

### 4. Timetable and deadlines

Timetable and deadlines (indicative)	
Call opening:	21 May 2024
<u>Deadline for submission:</u>	<u>21 August 2024 – 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)</u>
Evaluation:	August-October 2024
Information on evaluation results:	October-November 2024 <sup>11</sup>
GA signature:	December 2024

### 5. Admissibility and documents

Proposals must be submitted before the **call deadline** (see *timetable section 4*).

Proposals must be submitted **electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the Topic page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Proposals (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided *inside* the Submission System (⚠ NOT the documents available on the Topic page – they are only for information).

Proposals must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents:

- Application Form Part A – contains administrative information about the participants (future coordinator, beneficiaries and affiliated entities) and the summarised budget for the project (*to be filled in directly online*)
- Application Form Part B – contains the technical description of the project (*to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded*)
- Application Form Part C – contains the project’s contribution to EU programme key performance indicators (*to be filled in directly online*)
- **mandatory annexes and supporting documents** (*to be uploaded*):
  - detailed budget table: not applicable
  - CVs of core project team: not applicable

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<sup>11</sup> In the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the Commission cannot provide any information on the outcome of the call for proposals before the official announcement of the results.

- activity reports of last year: not applicable
- list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years, not limited to EU-funded projects): template available in Part B but to be **submitted as a separate annex**<sup>12</sup>.

At proposal submission, you will have to confirm that you have the **mandate to act** for all applicants. Moreover, you will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that the participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (especially eligibility, financial and operational capacity, exclusion, etc). Before signing the grant, each beneficiary and affiliated entity will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour (DoH). Proposals without full support will be rejected.

Your application must be **readable, accessible and printable**.

Proposals are limited to maximum **50 pages** (Part B without annexes). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

You may be asked at a later stage for further documents (*for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc*).

 For more information about the submission process (including IT aspects), consult the [Online Manual](#).

## 6. Eligibility

### *Eligible participants (eligible countries)*

In order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
  - EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs)), excluding Denmark<sup>13</sup>
  - non-EU countries<sup>14</sup>:
    - countries associated to the AMIF ([associated countries](#)) or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature

Beneficiaries and affiliated entities must register in the [Participant Register](#) — before submitting the proposal — and will have to be validated by the Central Validation Service (REA Validation). For the validation, they will be requested to upload documents showing legal status and origin.

Other entities may participate in other consortium roles, such as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions etc. (*see section 13*).

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<sup>12</sup> The list of previous projects is a mandatory annex. In case this annex is not uploaded, the application will be considered inadmissible and will not be assessed.

<sup>13</sup> In accordance with Articles 1 and 2 of Protocol No 22 on the position of Denmark, annexed to the TEU and to the TFEU, Denmark is not taking part in the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 and is not bound by it or subject to its application.

<sup>14</sup> A non-EU country is a country, which is not an EU Member State.

### Specific cases

Natural persons — Natural persons are NOT eligible (with the exception of self-employed persons, i.e., sole traders, where the company does not have legal personality separate from that of the natural person).

International organisations — International organisations are eligible. The rules on eligible countries do not apply to them. International organisations can participate as beneficiaries, regardless of their geographical location. However, being based in an eligible country does not contribute to the fulfilment of the minimum number of eligible countries required in the eligibility criteria related to the consortium composition.

Entities without legal personality — Entities which do not have legal personality under their national law may exceptionally participate, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf, and offer guarantees for the protection of the EU financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons<sup>15</sup>.

EU bodies — EU bodies cannot be part of the consortium.

Associations and interest groupings — Entities composed of members may participate as 'sole beneficiaries' or 'beneficiaries without legal personality'<sup>16</sup>. ⚠ Please note that if the action will be implemented by the members, they should also participate (either as beneficiaries or as affiliated entities, otherwise their costs will NOT be eligible).

Countries currently negotiating association agreements — Beneficiaries from countries with ongoing negotiations (*see list above*) may participate in the call and can sign grants if the negotiations are concluded before grant signature (with retroactive effect, if provided in the agreement).

EU restrictive measures — Special rules apply for certain entities (*e.g. entities subject to [EU restrictive measures](#) under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)*<sup>17</sup> and entities covered by Commission Guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#)<sup>18</sup>). Such entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

 For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

### [Impact of the Council Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/2506 of 15 December 2022 on measures for the protection of the Union Budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary](#)

Following the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506, as of 16th December 2022, no legal commitments (including the grant agreement itself as well as subcontracts, purchase contracts, financial support to third parties etc.) can be signed with Hungarian public interest trusts established under Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain.

<sup>15</sup> See Article 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

<sup>16</sup> For the definitions, see Articles 187(2) and 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

<sup>17</sup> Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the [EU Sanctions Map](#).

<sup>18</sup> Commission guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#) on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp. 9-11).

Affected entities may continue to apply to calls for proposals. However, in case the Council measures are not lifted, such entities are not eligible to participate in any funded role (beneficiaries, affiliated entities, subcontractors, recipients of financial support to third parties). In this case, co-applicants will be invited to remove or replace that entity and/or to change its status into associated partner. Tasks and budget may be redistributed accordingly.

#### Consortium composition

Proposals must be submitted by:

- minimum three applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) from three different participating Member States
- the following entities can NOT apply as coordinator:
  - profit making entities
  - international organisations<sup>19</sup>
- the following entities can NOT apply as beneficiaries / affiliated entities / associated partners:
  - profit making entities

#### Eligible activities

Eligible activities are the ones set out in section 2 above.

Financial support to third parties is not allowed.

#### Other important considerations

The following types of activities are not considered as eligible or relevant for funding under this call and thus will not be funded:

- duplication of previously funded projects;
- projects requiring operating grants for setting up or maintaining networks.

Projects should take into account the results of projects supported by other EU funding programmes. The complementarities must be described in the project proposals (Part B of the Application Form).

Projects should comply with EU policy interests and priorities (*such as environment, social, security, industrial and trade policy, etc*).

#### Duration

Projects must have a maximum 24 months (extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment).

#### Maximum Grant Amount

The grant amount must range between minimum EUR 500 000 and maximum EUR 1 000 000.

A beneficiary must bear a budget.

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<sup>19</sup> The term "international organisations" is used as defined in Article 156 of the FR (Euratom 2018/1046).

### Ethics

Projects must comply with:

- highest ethical standards
- EU values based on Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union and Article 21 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and
- other applicable EU, international and national law.

Applications should pay appropriate attention to the effects of the project on individual rights and freedoms, and indicate the measures taken to limit or remedy such effects.

Applicants must show in their application that they respect ethical principles and EU values based on Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union and Article 21 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Projects involving ethics issues may be made subject to specific ethics rules.

### Overview eligibility conditions

<b>Consortium composition – Minimum number of</b>	
Entities	3
Member States participating in AMIF*	3
<b>Consortium composition – Participation of non-profit organisations (public and private bodies) as</b>	
Coordinators	Yes
Beneficiaries	Yes
<b>Consortium composition – Participation of International Organisations as</b>	
Coordinators	No
Beneficiaries	Yes
<b>Consortium composition – Participation of for-profit organisations as</b>	
Coordinators	No
Beneficiaries	No
<b>Maximum duration of projects in months</b>	
Maximum	24
<b>Minimum and maximum EU Grant amount per project (Requested EU contribution)</b>	
Minimum (EUR)	500 000
Maximum (EUR)	1 000 000

(\*) The rules on eligible countries do not apply to International Organisations. International organisations can participate as beneficiaries, regardless of their geographical location. However, being based in an eligible country does not contribute to the fulfilment of the minimum number of eligible countries required in the eligibility criteria related to the consortium composition.

## 7. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

### Financial capacity

Applicants must have **stable and sufficient resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all these projects.

The financial capacity check will be carried out on the basis of the documents you will be requested to upload in the [Participant Register](#) during grant preparation (*e.g. profit and loss account and balance sheet, business plan, audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year, etc*). The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators, but will also take into account other aspects, such as dependency on EU funding and deficit and revenue in previous years.

The check will normally be done for all beneficiaries, except:

- public bodies (entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organisations
- if the individual requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000.

If needed, it may also be done for affiliated entities.

If we consider that your financial capacity is not satisfactory, we may require:

- further information
- an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibility for all beneficiaries or joint and several liability of affiliated entities (*see below, section 10*)
- prefinancing paid in instalments
- (one or more) prefinancing guarantees (*see below, section 10*)

or

- propose no prefinancing
- request that you are replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

 For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

### Operational capacity

Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications** and **resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share (including sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature).

This capacity will be assessed together with the 'Quality' award criterion, on the basis of the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain it by the time the task implementation starts.

If the evaluation of the award criterion is positive, the applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity.

Applicants will have to show their capacity via the following information:



- general profiles (qualifications and experiences) of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the project
- description of the consortium participants
- list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years).

Additional supporting documents may be requested, if needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant.

Public bodies, Member State organisations and international organisations are exempted from the operational capacity check.

### Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate<sup>20</sup>:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- guilty of grave professional misconduct<sup>21</sup> (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No [2988/95](#) (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).

Applicants will also be refused if it turns out that<sup>22</sup>:

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<sup>20</sup> See Articles 136 and 141 of EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

<sup>21</sup> Professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition, violation of IPR, attempting to influence decision-making processes or obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain advantage.

<sup>22</sup> See Article 141 EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

- during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information
- they were previously involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

## 8. Evaluation and award procedure

The proposals will have to follow a **two-step evaluation procedure**.

For all eligible applications, in the first step, there will be a pre-selection on the basis of the Relevance award criterion only. In the second step, the successful proposals will be assessed against the full set of award criteria.


An **evaluation committee** (assisted by independent outside experts) will assess all applications. Proposals will first be checked for formal requirements (admissibility, and eligibility, *see sections 5 and 6*). Proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated (for each topic) against the operational capacity and award criteria (*see sections 7 and 9*) and then ranked according to their scores.

For proposals with the same score (within a topic or budget envelope) a **priority order** will be determined according to the following approach:

Successively for every group of *ex aequo* proposals, starting with the highest scored group, and continuing in descending order:

- 1) The *ex aequo* proposals within the same topic will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the award criterion 'Relevance'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Impact'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Quality'.
- 2) If this does not allow to determine the priority, a further prioritisation can be done by considering the overall project portfolio and the creation of positive synergies between projects, or other factors related to the objectives of the call.
- 3) After that, the remainder of the available call budget will be used to fund projects across the different topics in order to ensure a balanced spread of the geographical and thematic coverage and while respecting to the maximum possible extent the order of merit based on the evaluation of the award criteria.

All proposals will be informed about the evaluation result (**evaluation result letter**). Successful proposals will be invited for grant preparation; the other ones will be put on the reserve list or rejected.

 No commitment for funding — Invitation to grant preparation does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding. We will still need to make various legal checks before grant award: *legal entity validation, financial capacity, exclusion check, etc.*

**Grant preparation** will involve a dialogue in order to fine-tune technical or financial aspects of the project and may require extra information from your side. It may also include adjustments to the proposal to address recommendations of the evaluation committee or other concerns. Compliance will be a pre-condition for signing the grant.

If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter). Please

note that notifications which have not been opened within 10 days after sending are considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from opening/access (see also [Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions](#)). Please also be aware that for complaints submitted electronically, there may be character limitations.

## 9. Award criteria

The **award criteria** for this call are as follows:

- **Relevance:** clarity and consistency of the objectives and scope of the project seen against the objectives and expected impact/outcomes (if applicable) as identified in section 2; contribution to the relevant EU strategic documents and/or action plans and legislative context; previous results in the field; European/trans-national dimension (30 points)
- **Quality:** logical links between the identified problems, needs and solutions proposed; methodology for implementing the project (concept and methodology, timetable, monitoring and evaluation); expertise and quality of the consortium and project teams; management structures and procedures; risks and risk management; feasibility of the project within the proposed time frame; cost effectiveness and best value for money (50 points)
- **Impact:** expected short-term and long-term impact of results on target groups/general public; degree of ambition and innovation; appropriate communication strategy, including visibility of EU funding; appropriate dissemination strategy for ensuring sustainability and long-term impact; sustainability of results after EU funding ends; replicability/usability/potential for amplification of the results (20 points).

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Relevance	21	30
Quality	n/a	50
Impact	n/a	20
<b>Overall (pass) scores</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

Maximum points: 100 points.

Individual thresholds for the criterion 'Relevance': 21/30 points.

Overall threshold: 70 points.

Proposals that pass the individual threshold for the criterion 'Relevance' AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding — within the limits of the available call budget. Other proposals will be rejected.

## 10. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements

If you pass evaluation, your project will be invited for grant preparation, where you will be asked to prepare the Grant Agreement together with the EU Project Officer.

This Grant Agreement will set the framework for your grant and its terms and conditions, in particular concerning deliverables, reporting and payments.

The Model Grant Agreement that will be used (and all other relevant templates and guidance documents) can be found on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

### Starting date and project duration

The project starting date and duration will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 1*). Normally the starting date will be after grant signature. Retroactive application can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons but never earlier than the proposal submission date.

Maximum project duration: 24 months (extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment).

### KPIs, milestones and deliverables

In Part C of the application to be filled in online, project proposals should provide key performance indicators (KPIs), both qualitative and quantitative, with baseline and targets to be used to monitor the implementation and to assess the result of the project, as well as measure the outputs and results of the project against programme performance indicators, relevant to the action, included in Annex VIII of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147, in particular as regards the Specific Objectives stated in Article 3.

The milestones and deliverables for each project will be managed through the Portal Grant Management System and will be reflected in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement.

The following deliverables will be mandatory for all projects:

- a mid-term progress report.

### Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount

The grant parameters (*maximum grant amount, funding rate, total eligible costs, etc*) will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 3 and art 5*).

Maximum grant amount: *see section 6 above*. The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

The grant will be a budget-based mixed actual cost grant (actual costs, with unit cost and flat-rate elements). This means that it will reimburse ONLY certain types of costs (eligible costs) and costs that were *actually* incurred for your project (NOT the *budgeted* costs). For unit costs and flat-rates, you can charge the amounts calculated as explained in the Grant Agreement (*see art 6 and Annex 2 and 2a*).

The costs will be reimbursed at the funding rate fixed in the Grant Agreement (**90%**).

Grants may NOT produce a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). For-profit organisations must declare their revenues and, if there is a profit, we will deduct it from the final grant amount (*see art 22.3*).

Moreover, please be aware that the final grant amount may be reduced in case of non-compliance with the Grant Agreement (*e.g. improper implementation, breach of obligations, etc*).

### Budget categories and cost eligibility rules


The budget categories and cost eligibility rules are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 3, art 6 and Annex 2*).

*Budget categories for this call:*

- A. Personnel costs
  - A.1 Employees, A.2 Natural persons under direct contract, A.3 Seconded persons
  - A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries
  - A.5 Volunteers
- B. Subcontracting costs
- C. Purchase costs
  - C.1 Travel and subsistence
  - C.2 Equipment
  - C.3 Other goods, works and services
- D. Other cost categories - *not applicable*
- E. Indirect costs

*Specific cost eligibility conditions for this call:*

- personnel costs:
  - SME owner/natural person unit cost<sup>23</sup>: Yes
  - volunteers unit cost<sup>24</sup>: Yes (without indirect costs)
- travel and subsistence unit cost<sup>25</sup>: Yes
- equipment costs: depreciation
- other cost categories:
  - costs for financial support to third parties: No
- indirect cost flat-rate: 7% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs and exempted specific cost categories, if any)
- VAT: non-deductible VAT is eligible (but please note that since 2013 VAT paid by beneficiaries that are public bodies acting as public authority is NOT eligible)
- divers:
  - in-kind contributions for free are allowed, but cost-neutral, i.e. cannot be declared as cost

 **Volunteers costs** — Volunteers costs are not a classic cost category. There are no costs because volunteers work for free, but they may nonetheless be added to the budget in the form of a pre-fixed unit cost (per volunteer) and thus allow you to benefit from the volunteers' work for the grant (by increasing the amount of reimbursement up to 100% of the normal costs, i.e. cost categories other than

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<sup>23</sup> Commission [Decision](#) of 20 October 2020 authorising the use of unit costs for the personnel costs of the owners of small and medium-sized enterprises and beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary for the work carried out by themselves under an action or work programme (C(2020)7715).

<sup>24</sup> Commission [Decision](#) of 10 April 2019 authorising the use of unit costs for declaring personnel costs for the work carried out by volunteers under an action or a work programme (C(2019)2646).

<sup>25</sup> Commission [Decision](#) of 12 January 2021 authorising the use of unit costs for travel, accommodation and subsistence costs under an action or work programme under the 2021-2027 multi-annual financial framework (C(2021)35).

volunteers). More information is available in the [AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement, art 6.2.A.5](#).

### Reporting and payment arrangements

The reporting and payment arrangements are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4 and art 21 and 22*).


After grant signature, you will normally receive a **prefinancing** to start working on the project (float of normally **80%** of the maximum grant amount; exceptionally less or no prefinancing). The prefinancing will be paid 30 days from entry into force/financial guarantee (if required) – whichever is the latest.

There will be no **interim payments**.

In addition, you will be expected to submit one or more progress reports not linked to payments.

**Payment of the balance:** At the end of the project, we will calculate your final grant amount. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, we will ask you (your coordinator) to pay back the difference (recovery).

All payments will be made to the coordinator.

 Please be aware that payments will be automatically lowered if one of your consortium members has outstanding debts towards the EU (granting authority or other EU bodies). Such debts will be offset by us – in line with the conditions set out in the Grant Agreement (see *art 22*).

Please also note that you are responsible for keeping records on all the work done and the costs declared.

### Prefinancing guarantees

If a prefinancing guarantee is required, it will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4*). The amount will be set during grant preparation and it will normally be equal or lower than the prefinancing for your grant.

The guarantee should be in euro and issued by an approved bank/financial institution established in an EU Member State. If you are established in a non-EU country and would like to provide a guarantee from a bank/financial institution in your country, please contact us (this may be exceptionally accepted, if it offers equivalent security).

Amounts blocked in bank accounts will NOT be accepted as financial guarantees.

Prefinancing guarantees are formally NOT linked to individual consortium members, which means that you are free to organise how to provide the guarantee amount (*by one or several beneficiaries, for the overall amount or several guarantees for partial amounts, by the beneficiary concerned or by another beneficiary, etc*). It is however important that the requested amount is covered and that the guarantee(s) are sent to us in time to make the prefinancing (scanned copy via Portal AND original by post).

If agreed with us, the bank guarantee may be replaced by a guarantee from a third party.

The guarantee will be released at the end of the grant, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Grant Agreement.

### Certificates

Depending on the type of action, size of grant amount and type of beneficiaries, you may be requested to submit different certificates. The types, schedules and thresholds for each certificate are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4 and art 24*).

### Liability regime for recoveries

The liability regime for recoveries will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet point 4.4 and art 22*).

For beneficiaries, it is limited joint and several liability with individual ceilings – *each beneficiary up to their maximum grant amount*.

In addition, the granting authority may require joint and several liability of affiliated entities (with their beneficiary).

### Provisions concerning the project implementation

Security rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 13 and Annex 5)*

Ethics rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 14 and Annex 5)*

IPR rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 16 and Annex 5):*

- rights of use on results: Yes

Communication, dissemination and visibility of funding: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 17 and Annex 5):*

- additional communication and dissemination activities: Yes
- limited communication and visibility to protect persons involved: No

Specific rules for carrying out the action: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 18 and Annex 5):*

- EU restrictive measures: Yes
- durability: No
- specific rules for humanitarian actions: No
- specific rules for blending operations: No

### Other specificities

n/a

### Non-compliance and breach of contract

The Grant Agreement (chapter 5) provides for the measures we may take in case of breach of contract (and other non-compliance issues).



For more information, see [AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

## **11. How to submit an application**

All proposals must be submitted directly online via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.



Submission is a **2-step process**:

a) **create a user account and register your organisation**

To use the Submission System (the only way to apply), all participants need to [create an EU Login user account](#).

Once you have an EU Login account, you can [register your organisation](#) in the Participant Register. When your registration is finalised, you will receive a 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

b) **submit the proposal**

Access the Electronic Submission System via the Topic page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section (or, for calls sent by invitation to submit a proposal, through the link provided in the invitation letter).

Submit your proposal in 3 parts, as follows:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator, beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners) and the summarised budget for the proposal. Fill it in directly online
- Part B (description of the action) covers the technical content of the proposal. Download the mandatory word template from the Submission System, fill it in and upload it as a PDF file
- Annexes (*see section 5*). Upload them as PDF file (single or multiple depending on the slots). Excel upload is sometimes possible, depending on the file type.

The proposal must keep to the **page limits** (*see section 5*); excess pages will be disregarded.

Documents must be uploaded to the **right category** in the Submission System otherwise the proposal might be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The proposal must be submitted **before the call deadline** (*see section 4*). After this deadline, the system is closed and proposals can no longer be submitted.

Once the proposal is submitted, you will receive a **confirmation e-mail** (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the [IT Helpdesk webform](#), explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Details on processes and procedures are described in the [Online Manual](#). The Online Manual also contains the links to FAQs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System.

## 12. Help

As far as possible, ***please try to find the answers you need yourself***, in this and the other documentation (we have limited resources for handling direct enquiries):

- [Online Manual](#)
- FAQs on the Topic page (for call-specific questions in open calls; not applicable for actions by invitation)



- [Portal FAQ](#) (for general questions).

Questions **received later than 7 calendar days before the deadline** for submitting applications will not be answered. In the interest of equal treatment of applicants, the Commission cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of applicants or actions.

Please also consult the Topic page regularly since publish call updates are published there.

### *Contact*

For individual questions on the Portal Submission System, please contact the [IT Helpdesk](#).

Non-IT related questions should be sent to the following email address:

[home-amif-union-actions@ec.europa.eu](mailto:home-amif-union-actions@ec.europa.eu).

Please indicate clearly the reference of the call and topic to which your question relates (*see cover page*).

## 13. Important



### IMPORTANT

- **Don't wait until the end** – Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute **technical problems**. Problems due to last minute submissions (*e.g. congestion, etc*) will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.
- **Consult** the Portal Topic page regularly. We will use it to publish updates and additional information on the call (call and topic updates).
- **Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System** – By submitting the application, all participants **accept** to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the [Portal Terms & Conditions](#).
- **Registration** – Before submitting the application, all beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners must be registered in the [Participant Register](#). The participant identification code (PIC) (one per participant) is mandatory for the Application Form.
- **Consortium roles** – When setting up your consortium, you should think of organisations that help you reach objectives and solve problems.

The roles should be attributed according to the level of participation in the project. Main participants should participate as **beneficiaries** or **affiliated entities**; other entities can participate as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions. **Associated partners** and third parties giving in-kind contributions should bear their own costs (they will not become formal recipients of EU funding). **Subcontracting** should normally constitute a limited part and must be performed by third parties (not by one of the beneficiaries/affiliated entities). Subcontracting going beyond 30% of the total eligible costs must be justified in the application.

- **Coordinator** – In multi-beneficiary grants, the beneficiaries participate as consortium (group of beneficiaries). They will have to choose a coordinator, who will take care of the project management and coordination and will represent the consortium towards the granting authority. In mono-beneficiary grants, the single beneficiary will automatically be coordinator.
- **Affiliated entities** – Applicants may participate with affiliated entities (i.e. entities linked to a beneficiary which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries, but do not sign the grant and therefore do not become beneficiaries themselves). They will get a part of the grant money and must therefore comply with all the call conditions and be validated (just like beneficiaries); but they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition (if any).
- **Associated partners** – Applicants may participate with associated partners (i.e. partner organisations which participate in the action but without the right to get grant money). They participate without funding and therefore do not need to be validated.
- **Consortium agreement** – For practical and legal reasons it is recommended to set up internal arrangements that allow you to deal with exceptional or unforeseen circumstances (in all cases, even if not mandatory under the Grant Agreement). The consortium agreement also gives you the possibility to redistribute the grant money according to your own consortium-internal principles and parameters (for instance, one beneficiary can reattribute its grant money to another beneficiary). The consortium agreement thus allows you to customise the EU grant to the needs inside your consortium and can also help to protect you in case of disputes.

- **Balanced project budget** — Grant applications must ensure a balanced project budget and sufficient other resources to implement the project successfully (*e.g. own contributions, income generated by the action, financial contributions from third parties, etc*). You may be requested to lower your estimated costs, if they are ineligible (including excessive).
- **No-profit rule** — Grants may NOT give a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). This will be checked by us at the end of the project.
- **No double funding** — There is a strict prohibition of double funding from the EU budget (except under EU Synergies actions). Outside such Synergies actions, any given action may receive only ONE grant from the EU budget and cost items may under NO circumstances declared to two different EU actions.
- **Completed/ongoing projects** — Proposals for projects that have already been completed will be rejected; proposals for projects that have already started will be assessed on a case-by-case basis (in this case, no costs can be reimbursed for activities that took place before the project starting date/proposal submission).
- **Combination with EU operating grants** — Combination with EU operating grants is possible, if the project remains outside the operating grant work programme and you make sure that cost items are clearly separated in your accounting and NOT declared twice (see [AGA – Annotated Model Grant Agreement, art 6.2.E](#)).
- **Multiple proposals** — Applicants may submit more than one proposal for *different* projects under the same call (and be awarded a funding for them).  
Organisations may participate in several proposals.  
BUT: if there are several proposals for *very similar* projects, only one application will be accepted and evaluated; the applicants will be asked to withdraw one of them (or it will be rejected).
- **Resubmission** — Proposals may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission.
- **Rejection** — By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in this this Call Document (and the documents it refers to). Proposals that do not comply with all the call conditions will be **rejected**. This applies also to applicants: All applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them doesn't, they must be replaced or the entire proposal will be rejected.
- **Cancellation** — There may be circumstances which may require the cancellation of the call. In this case, you will be informed via a call or topic update. Please note that cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.
- **Language** — You can submit your proposal in any official EU language (project abstract/summary should however always be in English). For reasons of efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English for the entire application. If you need the call documentation in another official EU language, please submit a request within 10 days after call publication (for the contact information, see *section 12*).

- **Transparency** — In accordance with Article 38 of the [EU Financial Regulation](#), information about EU grants awarded is published each year on the [Europa website](#).

This includes:

- beneficiary names
- beneficiary addresses
- the purpose for which the grant was awarded
- the maximum amount awarded.

The publication can exceptionally be waived (on reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that the disclosure could jeopardise your rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm your commercial interests.

- **Data protection** — The submission of a proposal under this call involves the collection, use and processing of personal data. This data will be processed in accordance with the applicable legal framework. It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your proposal, subsequent management of your grant and, if needed, programme monitoring, evaluation and communication. Details are explained in the [Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement](#).