



## EPIM Call for Proposals

### Sub-fund on long-term prospects and protection of children and youth on the move in Europe

Migration is at the top of Europe's agenda in response to the high numbers of arrivals in the past years, especially arrivals of children and youth. The treatment of these new arrivals is one of the key challenges to be faced by European societies. While such children and youth merit particular concern, many EU Member States continue to struggle to provide even the most elementary forms of protection. For example, as the immediate emergencies are slowly beginning to be addressed, the **protection chains** – between different countries but also different services – and the **long-term prospects of children and youth** who are staying in Europe remain underdeveloped. This has dramatic consequences not only for those children and youth but for European societies at large.

**One in three new arrivals using the Central and Eastern Mediterranean migration routes are children**, many of whom are traveling alone, unaccompanied or separated from their families. Importantly, a large number of arriving migrants are of any age where they will soon be expected to be able to live independently. The danger here is that without a suitable transition from late teen age to early adulthood, many of these individuals might 'fall through the cracks' of society at a particularly vulnerable time. Finally, many migrant children arriving in Europe are of school age, but may not have regularly attended school for several years. These children are further **falling behind their peers every day**, and their lack of access to education hinders their ability to successfully integrate/become fully included in their new communities.

Regardless of their status, accompanied by family or not, **investing now in the potential of these children and youth is vital for their future and the future of European societies**. Letting this chance pass by has consequences that may also result in potentially high economic and social costs to our societies.

Efforts need to be made jointly, in countries of arrival, transit and destination, as well as in cooperation with countries of origin. EU-level policy making and funding is rapidly evolving at this time, which is why advocacy at EU level is vital. Civil society organisations have been at the forefront of supporting those arriving and are deeply involved for many years defending the rights of children and youth. Their **input from the 'front lines' is needed to advise EU-level policy making**. Given the fast-paced political debate on the issue and rapid policy-making with little consultation with stakeholders, the expertise of civil society has been underused and their efforts under-resourced.

At the same time, **'children and youth' and 'migration'** are often still treated as separate areas of specialisation – this is the case for EU-level policy making but also for the advocacy efforts of civil society organisations. Not all civil society organisations working on child rights issues have experience working on issues around migration and asylum, and those working in migration have not always been experts in the nuances surrounding children's rights. There is increasing recognition for the **need to bridge the existing expertise in both sectors** in order to advocate together for the provision of adequate solutions for children and youth in migration.

The 'Sub-fund on long-term prospects and protection of children and youth on the move in Europe' of the European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM) consequently seeks to address many of these challenges and will **support civil society organisations' projects at EU level which both form strong partnerships that:**

- **Strengthen the collaboration among a diverse set of stakeholders** in the child's rights and migration areas to establish a joint understanding of priorities and to initiate joint action;

and/or

- **Create and emphasise linkages between national- and EU-level advocacy as well as across Member States** with effective communication channels to detect and highlight challenges of implementation as well as promising policy in Member States;

and/or

- **Promote promising practices in Member States** to be adapted and scaled up in other local or national contexts, e.g. regarding guardianship, child supportive multi-dimensional services, child participation or empowerment;

**and** advocate for (one or more of) the following **objectives** to be addressed at EU level:

- **The level of protection** and access to rights and services is **not determined by** the formal **legal status of the child or youth**;
- A **protection chain** is completed for children and youth from the country of origin, on the route to and at the point of arrival in Europe;
- **Family unity is protected** and quality of care is ensured to provide incentives for unaccompanied and separated children and youth **to stay in protected spaces**;
- EU funding is allocated to **encourage the provision of long-term perspectives** for children and youth in Europe.

The projects can run for a timeframe of up to 24 months starting in late 2016 or early 2017. Projects can be proposed for a **grant of up to 150,000 EUR** to be awarded under this call for proposals.

All organisations eligible for EPIM funding are invited to submit a proposal for a project **by 21 November 2016**. Organisations eligible for EPIM funding with projects meeting the selection criteria will be invited to a meeting with EPIM before their application is submitted to the EPIM Selection Committee for decision by late November 2016.

If you consider applying for EPIM funding in response to this call for proposal, please use our online application system to submit a proposal. To access the application form, please visit the website <https://applications.nef-europe.org/> and click on the tab 'Login/Register'. We encourage you to consult the following documents before applying:

**DOC 1:** Guidelines for the submission of a proposal

**DOC 2:** Frequently Asked Questions

Please refer any questions you might have to the EPIM Senior Programme Manager, Sarah Sommer, at [sarah.sommer@epim.info](mailto:sarah.sommer@epim.info).



The [European Programme for Integration and Migration \(EPIM\)](#) is a collaborative funding initiative of foundations from a variety of countries that supports civil society organisations' work on migration and integration. The Programme is hosted by the Network of European Foundations (NEF).