

EPIM Call for Proposals:

‘Unlocking Alternatives. Piloting new pathways to migrant case resolution’

Thematic Fund on Migration and Detention *Guidelines for the submission of a project proposal*

1. Introduction

Fuelled by a perceived sense of unprecedented and unsustainable pressure, a growing anti-migrant rhetoric in the public sphere, and the rise of a ‘migration crisis’ narrative at EU and national level, the aim for **coercion-based ‘migration control’** has become a cornerstone of EU and national migration policy.

Deterrence, the prevention of absconding and secondary movement, and achieving higher return rates have become key objectives to reduce irregularity. They have culminated in policies and practices which have **introduced new forms of confinement, increased the number of migrants in detention and culminated in longer detention periods.**

Against this background, EPIM’s Thematic Fund on Migration and Detention aims to support civil society organisations in **reducing the growing reliance on immigration detention** as a standard tool to ‘manage migration flows’, and to challenge the underlying assumption that coercion and enforcement are the only viable means to address irregularity.

In its first phase (2016-2018), EPIM supported the promotion of [engagement-based Alternatives to Detention](#) by supporting pilot projects to conduct case management and national advocacy in different European countries. Through the [ATD Network](#), pilot implementers engaged in peer learning and contributed to regional advocacy.

In light of new political momentum around ATD, EPIM’s Thematic Fund on Migration and Detention seeks to build on progress made during the first phase. EPIM invites applicants to submit proposals for **engagement-based ATD pilot projects** which enable the collection of additional evidence for the effectiveness of Alternatives to Detention and coercion-based control measures and contribute to the upscaling and mainstreaming of engagement-based ATD into national migration systems. In this context, mainstreaming entails that engagement-based ATD are recognised and applied by governments, in close cooperation with civil society, as a standard tool for managing migration cases as opposed to traditional, coercion-based detention measures.

2. Focus and objectives

EPIM’s Thematic Fund on Migration and Detention is aimed at supporting civil society organisations in ensuring that migrants who are subject to European migration systems have access to **fair, transparent and efficient procedures to resolve their migration case**, so that detention is reduced to a tool of last resort applied only when it can be demonstrated to be legitimate, proportionate and necessary.

In order to support civil society organisations in encouraging EU and national policy-makers to shift their focus from coercion-based migration control (returns, detention, deterrence) towards **solution-focused systems aimed at less irregularity**, this Call for Proposals aims to support civil society organisations projects to:

- **Develop their capacity and expertise to implement case management** and become key actors in the promotion of case management-based ATD vis-à-vis authorities, other CSOs and the general public;
- **Generate new qualitative and quantitative data** regarding the effectiveness of case management-based ATD, and contribute to advocacy and communications at regional level through the ATD Network;
- **Constructively engage authorities and other relevant stakeholders** through solution-based advocacy and promote the wider use of case management-based ATD in national migration systems in order to reduce irregularity on an effective, non-coercive basis.

3. Eligible project proposals

1. EPIM will only consider projects which follow an engagement-based case management approach.
2. Only a combination of service provision with advocacy and communications-focused activities will be supported.
3. The project should be implemented in an EU Member State (including the UK).
4. Applications for stand-alone trainings and conferences, or individual academic study/research/travel are not eligible.
5. Funds cannot be provided for physical capital projects.
6. English is the working language of EPIM. Only well-presented and clear applications in English will be accepted. Furthermore, the organisation's staff communicating with the EPIM Secretariat and representing the grantees in EPIM's capacity and network development programmes will be expected to work in English.
7. The currency of the budget proposals must be established in Euros.

4. Selection criteria

Eligible applications will be reviewed on the basis of the criteria outlined below:

- **Alignment with the key objectives of the call for proposals** (see section 2): Project proposals must clearly explain how they will contribute to achieve these objectives. Objectives of all project proposals must be broken down to a realistic and tangible set of outcomes to be achieved within the proposed timeframe.
- **Target geography:** Applicants should make a clear case for the relevance of developing an ATD pilot in their national context, both with regards to the prevalence of detention and with regards to political opportunities for building constructive links with authorities in the promotion of ATD.
- **Case management methodology:** Applicants should demonstrate a solid understanding of case management and outline a clear methodology for applying case management in a holistic way, which systematically works towards case resolution.
- **Solutions-based advocacy:** Applicants should clearly outline how they envisage to embed their case management approach in a broader advocacy strategy aimed at decreasing the government's reliance on detention. Concept notes should indicate how applicants envisage to build and strengthen partnerships with authorities and other stakeholders, and how these can contribute to

ensuring that the piloted approach is taken up, scaled and/or mainstreamed in local or national contexts.

- **Effective communication strategy:** Projects should be designed around a strong communications strategy, which applies from the very outset of the planning of the project and its implementation. Applicants should describe:
 - Who are the **audiences** that need to be reached and which of these can realistically be reached by the organisation(s)?
 - What is the core **message**? How can it be reframed to target different audiences?
 - Which communication **channels** can be used to reach these audiences? What type of content can be shared to achieve reaching the relevant audience?
 - Who can be partners/allies/spokespeople in our communications? Who among the **partners** is best placed to communicate on what?
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** A clear impact statement and key indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the project must be included. Outcomes should be targeted and linked to ongoing or upcoming legislative developments and political agendas or to concrete changes in practice.
- **Financial sustainability:** Co-funding from other sources (public or private) is desirable but not mandatory. All applicants should clearly outline how their advocacy and fundraising strategies aim to unlock (co-)funding from public and/or private sources during and/or beyond the project timeframe, in order to ensure that the implementation of engagement-based ATD is continued in their national context beyond the project timeframe.
- **Value/need for EPIM funding:** The need for private funding opposed to EU funding or other sources of funding should be demonstrated.

5. Duration of projects

The project begins after the signature of the project contract at a time agreed on with EPIM. Projects should have a duration of at least 24 months.

6. Budget

Projects may be proposed for **up to 120,000 EUR**.

7. How to apply

The application process consists of two stages: a concept note stage and a full proposal stage. The process is slightly different for organisations which are currently funded by EPIM for an ATD pilot project and for other organisations:

For organisations currently funded by EPIM for an ATD pilot project:

Applicants are invited to submit Concept Notes by **4 April 2019**. Site visits will be carried out in the second half of February/first half of March. The EPIM Selection Committee will review applications in mid-April. Selected candidates will be asked to submit full project proposals in the second half of April. Grant decisions will be made known, and grant agreements signed, by the end of April. Projects can start as of **May 2019**.

For other applicants:

Applicants are invited to submit Concept Notes by **4 April 2019**. The Selection Committee will review applications in mid-April. Site visits will be carried out to shortlisted candidates in the second half of

April/first half of May. Based on the site visits, the Selection Committee will make a final selection in mid-May. Selected candidates will be asked to submit full project proposals in the second half of May. Grant decisions will be made known, and grant agreements signed, by the end of May. Projects can start as of **June 2019**.

8. Review and decision-making

All submitted applications will be reviewed by EPIM for compliance with administrative and eligibility criteria. If an application does not include all required information or supporting documents, EPIM will notify the applicant to complete the proposal by submitting the missing documents in due time.

Each application that meets the administrative and eligibility criteria will be reviewed according to the Selection Criteria.

Decisions on grants are the exclusive discretionary competence of the EPIM Selection Committee, made up of members of the Foundations involved in the Thematic Fund. Applicants will be informed about the decision by email. In addition, all accepted applications will be announced on the EPIM website. Grantees may be asked to provide clarifications or to make amendments to their proposals before grant agreements are drafted and signed.

9. Questions

Please refer to the EPIM Secretariat with any questions you might have. EPIM Programme Officer [Stephan Burger](#) is coordinating this Call for Proposals.

10. Timeline

For organisations currently funded by EPIM for an ATD pilot project

15 February 2019	Launch of Call for Proposals
2nd half of February/1st half of March	Site visits
4 April 2019	Deadline for submission of concept notes
Mid-April 2019	EPIM reviews concept notes
2nd half of April 2019	Selected candidates submit full project proposals
End of April 2019	Communication of grant decisions, amendments to project proposals (as appropriate) and signing of grant agreements
May 2019	Project(s) start

For other applicants

15 February 2019	Launch of Call for Proposals
4 April 2019	Deadline for submission of concept notes
Mid-April 2019	EPIM reviews concept notes
2nd half of April/1st half of May 2019	Site visits to shortlisted candidates
Mid-May 2019	EPIM makes a final selection
2nd half of May 2019	Selected candidates submit full project proposals
End of May 2019	Communication of grant decisions, amendments to project proposals (as appropriate) and signing of grant agreements
June 2019	Project(s) start