

UNLOCKING ALTERNATIVES

PILOTING NEW PATHWAYS TO MIGRANT CASE RESOLUTION

a Call for Proposals by EPIM



Over the past years, the EU and its Member States have been placing an increasing emphasis on policy objectives such as deterrence, preventing secondary movement and boosting return rates as part of a coercion-based 'migration control' approach. Aimed at reducing the number of irregular migrants in Europe, they have functioned as drivers for the increased detention of migrants both in a reception and return context.

At the same time, there is growing recognition that traditional, **coercion-based approaches are not effective**. As detention measures often fail to incentivise migrants to comply with migration procedures, immigration detention is neither efficient nor cost-effective as a means to boost case resolution rates and reduce irregularity. Moreover, detention always puts the health and well-being of migrants at serious risk.

A new window of opportunity has therefore arisen for Alternatives to Detention (ATD) which do not rely on the restriction of liberty, but on **voluntary engagement through case management**. [Evidence](#) shows that engagement-based ATD can create beneficial outcomes both for governments and migrants themselves, by providing a more (cost-)effective and humane pathway for managing and resolving migration cases. As such, they are key for developing a credible alternative to the current, coercion-based 'migration control' framework that drives detention.

Against this background, EPIM has supported the [ATD Network](#) and [three ATD pilots in Bulgaria, Cyprus and Poland in 2016-2018](#). With this Call for Proposals, EPIM wishes to build on progress made and scale the implementation of case management-based ATD pilots in Europe by supporting Civil Society organisations at national level 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.

Case management is a social work approach aimed at increasing individual migrants' ability to work towards case resolution, by helping them to stabilise in the community and supporting them to explore all options available.

It involves a **case manager**, who is not a decision-maker and provides a link between the individual, the authorities and the community. The case manager ensures that the individual has access to information about the immigration process and can engage fully, and that the government has up-to-date and relevant information about the person.

Case resolution is focused on finding a permanent or temporary migration outcome. It can draw from a range of solutions, including status regularisation and various visa and departure options.

More information on engagement-based ATD and its key components can be found in the International Detention Coalition's revised handbook '[There Are Alternatives](#)'.

How to apply

Organisations from all EU Member States can apply online for this Call for Proposals. Projects can run for a timeframe of at least **24 months**, starting in May 2019 (in the case of organisations currently funded by EPIM for an ATD pilot project) or June 2019 (in the case of other organisations).

Projects can be proposed for a grant of up to 120,000 EUR. Project proposals can be submitted until **4 April 2019**, accompanied by the following documents:

- **Project Budget Proposal** in Excel format;
- The lead organisation's **financial statements** for the past two years (2017 and 2018 audited, if available);
- The lead organisation's **total operating budget for 2019**, including income and expenses.

If you consider applying for EPIM funding in response to this Call for Proposals, please use our online application system to submit a proposal and the accompanying documents. To access the application form, please visit the website <https://nef-europe.optimytool.com/en/> and click on the tab 'Submit an Application'. We encourage you to consult the Guidelines for the submission of a project proposal (DOC 1) and the Frequently Asked Questions (DOC 2) before applying.

Contact

Please refer any questions you might have to EPIM Programme Officer, Stephan Burger, at stephan.burger@epim.info.