

Call for Proposals by the European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM)

A Future for Migrant Children and Youth in Greece

Guidelines for the submission of a proposal

1. Introduction

In 2016-2018, the “Never Alone” Fund of European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM) has offered funding through an open call for proposals to civil society organisations (CSOs) who were “Supporting unaccompanied and separated children and youth in Greece”. Since then, the situation for children and youth on the move has changed, however, only improved for a few of them. At the same time, children and youth are still newly arriving – with and without their family. Their future will be determined by every step taken once they enter the country – either with the aim to stay in Greece or to move on to a different country.

Through a new call for proposals, supported by EPIM’s Never Alone Fund and the [John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation](#), EPIM aims to **contribute to building strong child protection systems relying on quality alternative care approaches that foster the inclusion of children and youth on the move in Greece.**

Building up on previous work, EPIM now invites interested organisations to submit a proposal for a project in partnership which would aim to **strengthen and scale quality alternative care models and/or to support youth in the transition to autonomy and adulthood** with a focus on access to formal education, vocational training, and the labour market. EPIM will support (a) project(s) for **two years** (2019-2021) with a maximum budget of 160,000 EUR.

Additional to this call for proposals, EPIM will provide support to civil society organisations in Greece through:

- dedicated capacity development interventions, including trainings and learning grants, identifying and addressing capacity development needs and interests of grantee organisation(s) and other actors;
- exchange opportunities and knowledge support to organisations on topics of relevance; and
- Pan-European exchanges opportunities, such as conferences and learning grants, with the aim to connect actors across various countries who work on similar issues to share good practices and develop recommendations.

This document provides for relevant background information to organisations interested in applying.

About Never Alone and EPIM

“[Never Alone – Building our future with children and youth arriving in Europe](#)” is a collaborative fund led by the [European Programme for Integration and Migration \(EPIM\)](#) focusing on Greece, Italy, Germany, and Belgium as well as EU-level. EPIM is a collaborative funding initiative of grant-making foundations, hosted in the Network of European Foundations (NEF) in Brussels.

About our approach to quality alternative care

According to the [UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children](#), no child should be placed in alternative care unless necessity has been ascertained through full assessment and deemed in their best interest (“**necessity principle**”) and a range of quality alternative care settings are made available so that each child may be cared for somewhere suitable to meet their individual needs, circumstances and wishes (“**suitability principle**”).

EPIM refers to quality alternative care as opposed to care settings that are not built around the needs of the child and display characteristics typical of institutional culture (depersonalisation, rigidity of routine, block treatment, social distance, dependence, and lack of accountability).

Beneficiaries of these arrangements can be children and youth with or without their families, regardless of their status.

A number of key criteria determine whether an approach is considered quality alternative care, measured on *how* care is being provided (independent of the setting). These key criteria are as follows:

- **Individualised:** A range of tailored, personalised care options is provided to meet the individual needs, circumstances, best interests, and wishes of children and youth.
- **Community-based:** Accommodation and services allow for direct interactions with local communities and prevent the separation of families. All services address and include the communities they are based in and foster relationship-building between newcomers and longstanding members of the communities.
- **Holistic:** A holistic and multidisciplinary approach to care is adopted to ensure a comprehensive and integrated approach that recognises different aspects of children and youth’ lives, including their physical, social, emotional and psychological well-being.
- **Safe:** Child safeguarding guidelines in line with the [International Child Safeguarding Standards](#) are established and monitored, contributing to ensure a safe, trusting and caring environment of dignity and respect.
- **Empowering:** The agency of the individual should be at the heart of the service, respected through meaningful engagement. The full and meaningful participation of children and youth at all stages is recognised and established within a supportive and enabling environment.

Suitable settings for quality alternative care need to make the criteria outline above feasible and can be, for example:

- Family-based (e.g., foster family care) and family-like care
- (Semi-) autonomous living arrangements in the community
- Co-housing in the community (e.g., apartment-sharing for youth who have turned 18)

The following settings are considered to be never suitable for quality alternative care because above-mentioned criteria cannot be fulfilled:

- Large-scale residential institutions (more than 20 inhabitants)
- Detention (including closed reception centres)
- Camps

2. Focus and objectives of the call for proposals

Projects under this call for proposals aim to contribute to building strong child protection systems relying on quality alternative care approaches (see section 1 on p.2 for the definition) that foster the inclusion of children and youth on the move in Greece.

Projects submitted by groups of civil society organisations (CSOs) under this call for proposals should aim at pursuing (at least one of) the following two objectives:

- **Strengthen and scale quality alternative care models** that offer individualised, holistic, participatory and community-based support to children and youth. Through this, EPIM seeks to establish good practice, evidence gathering, and solution-based advocacy contributing to end institutionalisation and detention of children and youth.
- **Supporting youth in the transition to autonomy and adulthood** with a focus on access to formal education, vocational training, and/or the labour market.

Advocacy and sustainability

When talking about **advocacy**, we refer to working together or towards relevant actors (authorities, policy-makers, CSOs, communities, etc.) with the aim to systematically address or change an issue of concern at a wider policy or practice level.

In the concrete case addressed in this call for proposals, there is a need for smaller scale practice to reach scale at a systematic level, meaning that alternative practices are becoming part of the **mainstream** system and with that **sustainable**.

In this context, **piloting** is understood as testing an approach that has not yet been used or not adequately used in Greece thus far. **Evidence-gathering** could mean assessing the impact of services delivered or collecting data on a significant issue identified.

Advocacy for scaling and systemising is understood as concretising recommendations based on before-mentioned work to support integrating developed standards into the wider system (e.g. for monitoring by public authorities; to be applied by other service providers) or (re-) directing public and private funding to tested practice which promises impact (e.g. by establishing new/different funding criteria).

3. Eligible applicants

- 1) Applicants must be charities or non-profit organisations registered in Greece and should be established at least one year prior to application.
- 2) The organisation must be non-profit and not operate nor have been created with the ultimate aim to generate personal profit. Although they may have paid staff and may engage in revenue-generating activities they do not distribute profits to their members nor to their board. Where revenue-generating activities are undertaken, these should not represent the purpose of the NGO but should be solely a means to support its mission and values.
- 3) The organisation must have some degree of formal or institutional existence, unlike informal or ad-hoc groups, involving formal statutes or other governing documents defining their mission, objectives and scope.
- 4) While an organisation may be involved in more than one project application as a partner, it can only make one application for project funding under this call for proposals as project coordinator. The organisation that leads the application will be considered as the project coordinator.

- 5) There is no explicit cap regarding the percentage of an organisation's total income that the project budget can represent. Nevertheless, the organisation's capacity to absorb the grant successfully as well as general governance issues concerning organisational sustainability will be taken into account. There are however no specific organisational size criteria.

In case of doubt, before submitting a proposal, you may contact the EPIM Secretariat to confirm the eligibility of your organisation (see section 11).

4. Eligible proposals

The following criteria are a requirement for applications to be considered:

- 1) Applications must be **aligned with the focus and objective(s) of the call for proposals** (see section 2).
- 2) Applications must be **partnerships** of at least two civil society organisations (service providers, advocates). Partners need to have a substantial role in the projects and be provided with the space to meaningfully collaborate.
- 3) Applications must include a combination of a **(pilot) project** that has been developed and proven impactful in the best interest of the child or youth, **with advocacy activities**. Activities to be considered include: service delivery, gathering and assessing evidence for the impact of piloted services, advocacy to scale and systemise approaches that have been developed, and capacity development interventions.
- 4) Projects should be implemented in Greece and can be implemented both, on the **mainland as well as on the islands**. Specificities about the different contexts should be considered in the project design.
- 5) Applications for stand-alone trainings and conferences, or individual academic study/research/travel are not eligible.
- 6) Funds cannot be provided for physical capital projects.
- 7) English is the working language of EPIM. Only 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.
- 8) The currency of the budget proposals must be established in Euros.

5. Selection criteria

In case the above-mentioned eligibility criteria for applicants (section 3) and for proposals (section 4) are met, applications will be reviewed on the basis of the criteria outlined below:

- **Quality Alternative Care:** Tested or promoted care models should be in line with above-mentioned criteria (see section 1 on p. 2 for the definition) for quality alternative care, hence: individualised, community-based, holistic, safe and empowering.
- **Autonomy:** Services for youth should integrate support that ultimately leads to the autonomy of individuals. Approaches would focus on the individual's stage of autonomy rather than the individual's age. Approaches would entail holistic support, rather than focusing on administrative and economic aspects of autonomy only.
- **Advocacy:** Projects should focus on scaling, mainstreaming and systemising good practices for children and youth on the move (see definition of "advocacy and sustainability" on p. 3). A clear advocacy strategy should be outlined accordingly.
- **Beneficiaries:** Projects should benefit all children and youth on the move, with or without family member(s) present in the country. The migration status of beneficiaries should not determine

their inclusion into relevant services. Specific target groups may be identified for specific purposes if exclusionary practice is avoided. The project should include an assessment of the range/number of beneficiaries impacted.

- **Whole-of-society approach:** Approaches should aim to create meaningful exchanges with the host society to build social relations/capital and mutual support. The project should seek to reconcile the interests of migrant populations with those of the rest of the community with the aim to achieve a high level of well-being for all community members.
- **Mental health:** Support of staff as well as children and youth regarding their mental health should be embedded in any care model applied or examined.
- **Collaboration:** Collaboration with local authorities and/or other CSOs beyond the project partners are strongly encouraged.
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** Clear outcome statements and key indicators for monitoring and evaluation of the project must be included. They should be 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 can unlock (co-)funding from public and/or private sources during and/or beyond the project timeframe. A clear pathway should be outlined which can ensure that projects do not have to be terminated once EPIM funding has come to an end. Projects should be cost-efficient.
- **Organisational capacities:** The applicant organisation and the project partners should have the capacity to conduct the activities proposed and the project should contribute towards strengthening the organisation itself.
- **Value/need for EPIM funding:** The need for private funding opposed to EU funding or other sources of funding should be demonstrated.

6. 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 maximum 24 months and can start from August or September 2019.

7. Budget

Projects may be proposed for **up to 160,000 EUR**. It may be that only one project is being funded by EPIM.

8. How to apply

Phase 1: If you consider applying for EPIM funding in response to this Call for Proposals and are eligible for funding, 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 Frequently Asked Questions (DOC 2) before applying.

Project proposals have to be submitted **by Monday 13 May (noon GMT +2)**, 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;
- Contact details for **two referees**.

Audited financial reports and statutes may be submitted in Greek if not available in English. In this case, please provide simplified balance sheets in English.

Phase 2: After a first selection process, EPIM will conduct site visits to shortlisted organisations with projects meeting the selection criteria. This will most likely take place during the **week of 24 June 2019**.

9. Review and decision-making

Phase 1: 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 can notify the applicant to complete the proposal by submitting the missing documents in due time.

Each application that meets the administrative and eligibility criteria shall be reviewed by two independent and impartial experts. The experts shall separately and independently score the project according to the Selection Criteria.

Phase 2: Decisions on the shortlisted organisations are the exclusive discretionary competence of the EPIM Selection Committee, made up of members of the Foundations involved in this Fund, based on the recommendations of the independent experts.

Based on the site visits to shortlisted organisations, the Selection Committee will make a final selection on the selected organisations. Applicants will be informed about the decision by email. In addition, all accepted applications will be announced on the EPIM website.

10. Timeline

13 May (noon GMT +2)	Deadline for applicants to submit a proposal
29 May 2019	Decision by the EPIM Selection Committee on shortlisted organisations
Week of 24 June	Site visits to shortlisted organisations
12 July 2019	Decision on grants made by the EPIM Selection Committee
August-September 2019	Projects start

11. Questions

A list of Frequently Asked Questions is attached (DOC 2).

For any other questions please refer to the [EPIM Secretariat](#) with any questions you might have. EPIM Programme Officer Fanny Georges (fanny.georges@epim.info) is coordinating this call for proposals.