

EPIM Call for Concept Notes:

‘Shaping Fair and Effective Migration Systems’

Thematic Fund on Migration and Detention

Guidelines for the submission of a concept note

1. Context

Fuelled by a perceived sense of unprecedented and unsustainable pressure and the rise of a crisis narrative at EU and national level, the aim for ‘**migration control**’ has become a cornerstone of EU and national migration policy.

Deterrence and enforcement have become key policy drivers to reduce irregularity. This Call for Proposals is focused on addressing two specific manifestations of a deterrence and enforcement-based migration control approach, which hamper effective responses to irregularity:

- The **emergence of new forms of (*de facto*) detention**, both inside and outside the EU territory, which are often characterised by a lack of transparency and adequate procedural safeguards. Factors including lack of access to legal advice, medical care and information hamper effective status resolution as a way to address irregularity.
- A continuing **lack of alternative pathways for status resolution** at national level. Undocumented migrants have limited options to resolve their status and face an increased risk of arbitrary detention, including in cases where they cannot be returned.

2. Focus and objectives

Through this Call for Concept Notes, EPIM aims to support civil society organisations in **shaping fair and effective migration systems by promoting humane and sustainable responses to irregularity**. Concept notes should address the two following objectives, linked to at least one of the two above-mentioned trends:

- 1) Identify and challenge current gaps, which hamper fair and effective status resolution
- 2) Frame and promote alternative approaches to ensuring fair and effective status resolution

3. Eligible project proposals

1. EPIM will only consider concept notes which are based on a partnership with at least one other CSO operating at national and/or EU-level. The involvement of other types of actors, such as international organisations, academic institutions and/or public bodies is optional. Potential modifications to the composition of project consortia may be discussed with shortlisted applicants, based on identified synergies and opportunities.
2. The lead applicant should be a civil society organisation based in an EU Member State (including the UK). Partners can be based in third countries, as long as their activities relate to addressing the drivers and manifestations of EU migration control.

3. Concept notes should identify and seek to address at least one of the outlined manifestations connected to deterrence and enforcement-based migration control. Projects which are aimed at addressing (de facto) detention can focus on detention contexts inside and/or outside Europe.
4. EPIM will only consider concept notes which are focused on advocacy. Activities related to training, research, monitoring, litigation, campaigning and mobilisation can be part of the project if directly linked to the advocacy strategy.
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 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.
8. 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): Concept notes should clearly explain how they will contribute to achieve the outlined objectives. Objectives of all concept notes must be broken down to a realistic and tangible set of outcomes to be achieved within the proposed timeframe.
- **Strategic partnership**: Concept notes should clearly outline the composition of the proposed consortium and explain the role and relevance of each envisaged partner.
- **Target geography**: Applicants should make a clear case for the relevance of addressing (a) specific deterrence and enforcement-based migration control manifestation(s) in the envisaged national context(s), both with regards to the severity of current gaps and with regards to political opportunities at national/regional level for shifting underlying policy drivers.
- **Strategic advocacy**: Concept notes should clearly indicate how applicants envisage to not only identify gaps, but also how they will effectively frame and promote alternative approaches by outlining pathways for constructive collaboration with and/or enhanced accountability of institutional stakeholders at national and EU level, including EU agencies such as FRONTEX and EASO. Short-, medium- and long-term advocacy objectives should be defined.
- **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. The project should have a duration of at least 24 months.

6. Budget

Concept notes do not need to be accompanied by a budget proposal. Shortlisted consortia will be invited to submit a budget proposal for **up to 200,000 EUR**.

7. How to apply

The application process consists of a two-step process:

Step 1: Applicants are invited to submit Concept Notes by **11 October 2019**. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to submit full project proposals by early December.

Step 2: Site visits will be carried out to meet with shortlisted candidates in late November and early December. Based on the site visits and full project proposals, the Selection Committee will make a final selection in mid-December. Grant decisions will be made known, and grant agreements signed, in the second half of December and early January. Projects can start as of **January 2020**.

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

30 July 2019	Launch of Call for Proposals
11 October 2019	Deadline for submission of concept notes
Mid-November 2019	First selection round
Late November/early December 2019	Site visits to shortlisted candidates
6 December 2019	Shortlisted candidates submit full project proposals
Mid-December 2019	EPIM makes a final selection
2nd half of December 2019	Communication of grant decisions, amendments to project proposal (as appropriate) and signing of grant agreement
January 2020	Start of project