

EPIM Call for Concept Notes:

‘Shaping Fair and Effective Migration Systems’

Context

Over the past years, the EU and its Member States have been placing an increasing emphasis on reducing irregular migration. Whilst the number of migrant arrivals has decreased compared to 2015-2016, EU and national policy-making continue to be influenced by a crisis narrative, fueled by the perception of unsustainable pressure and focused on re-establishing a sense of control over migration flows.

The aim to shape effective migration systems and to reduce irregularity can be pursued in different ways. Nonetheless, the need for ‘migration control’ has so far been primarily interpreted through the lens of deterrence and enforcement.

This Call for Proposals is focused on addressing two specific manifestations of a deterrence and enforcement-based migration control approach, which hamper humane and sustainable 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 on rights hamper fair and 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.

De facto detention refers to the deprivation of liberty stemming through physical impossibility to leave a place or move, which is not subject to a formal detention order. De facto detention can take place in different contexts, including hotspots, airport transit zones and pre-removal centres.

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 manifestations:

- 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

This Call for Proposals invites CSOs operating either at national or at EU level to propose a project consortium with other CSOs, international organisations, academic institutions and/or public bodies operating at national and/or EU level in order to address the manifestations and objectives mentioned above. Proposed consortia can include partnerships with CSOs operating in third countries which are affected by EU migration control efforts.

EPIM will review all concept notes and compile a shortlist. Potential modifications to the composition of project consortia may be discussed with shortlisted applicants, based on identified synergies and opportunities. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a full project proposal with a project budget of 200,000 EUR. The selected project should run for a timeframe of at least **24 months**, starting in January 2020.

How to apply

Civil society organisations from all EU Member States can apply online for this Call for Concept Notes. Organisations based in other countries cannot be lead applicants but can be involved as partners in a proposed consortium.

Project proposals can be submitted until **11 October 2019**, accompanied by the following documents:

- 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 Concept Notes, 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 concept note ([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.