

Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021- 2027 Questions and Answers – version 1

An information session was held by the Managing Authority (MA) in collaboration with Servizzi Ewropej f' Malta (SEM), on Wednesday, 4th June 2025 regarding the open call for applications (TCNs, Education & Support – Call No. 16). Below are the key questions and answers discussed during the session:

Q. Given that the first funding priority focuses on '*reducing language barriers in schools to support the integration of children*', does this call exclusively target children or are adult third-country nationals (TCNs) also considered an eligible target group?

A. While this specific funding priority focuses on children, the call also addresses three (3) additional funding priorities. The eligibility of adults as a target group depends on how the application is written and how the proposed activities are interlinked with the other funding priorities of the call. It is important to note that the AMIF supports early integration measures, which refer to the first months following a TCNs arrival in Malta. It is recommended to read the Operational Programme, and to accurately get familiar with the Call details, which explain what actions can be financed.

Q. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) need to be registered as a Voluntary Organisation (VO) under this call?

A. NGOs must be registered as VOs to be eligible for funding under programmes such as AMIF. This requirement ensures that organisations meet the legal and administrative standards set by the Office of the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (OCVO). As part of the Project Selection Committee (PSC) process, determining the eligibility of applicants also includes due diligence checks on the applicant organisation to ensure compliance (excluding government entities). These checks include verifying whether the organisation holds a valid VO number and has submitted its most recent audited accounts, in order to assess compliance. The Managing Authority (MA) is also responsible for monitoring continued compliance throughout the duration of the project implementation. Given that the audit returns to the VO Commissioner are due in June, and the call closes in July (meaning that the compliance exercise might still not be completed at the VO), the MA suggests prospective beneficiaries to submit also any correspondence which evidences the submission of the audited accounts to the VO Commissioner.

Q. Does the AMIF Malta Programme provide further details to help understand the context of the funding priorities?

A. Yes, the AMIF Programme includes additional information on the expected results, which helps clarify the context and objectives of the funding priorities.

Q. What is being meant by ‘early-integration support measures’? Does this refer to the age of the TCNs or the timing of their arrival?

- A. The term ‘early integration support measures’ refers to essential services provided to TCNs, shortly after their arrival in Malta. Based on recent communication with the European Commission, ‘early integration’ generally refers to the first six (6) months of a TCN’s stay. However, it is important to note that TCNs who have been in the country for longer than six (6) months but have not yet accessed such support may still be considered eligible. On the other hand, long-term integration is covered by operations under the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+).

Q. Should indirect costs be included in the application form?

- A. Yes, indirect costs must be included in the application form, in line with the threshold table provided in the ‘*Eligibility Guidance Notes*’ document published with the call.

Q. What types of expenses can be covered under indirect costs?

- A. Indirect costs, also known as overheads, are the ongoing expenses incurred by an organisation that are not directly attributed to a specific activity but without which a project cannot be implemented. These may include, but are not limited to, project management and administration, publicity and dissemination activities, electricity, rent, and other related expenses. An awareness campaign may be considered eligible for funding when it is identified as a main implementation step for reaching a specific objective and/or contributing to a project’s output and results.

Staff costs related to project coordination, supervision, and/or implementation are no longer considered direct eligible costs, in accordance with the 2021–2027 National Eligibility Rules. This change reflects a strategic decision by the Managing Authorities to reduce the number of irregularities previously associated with such costs. On the other hand, roles such as researchers, mediators, tutors, psychologists, and occupational therapists are considered direct eligible costs.

Prospective applicants are invited to refer to the Eligibility Rules of the EU Funds in Malta. These can be accessed through the following link:

https://fondi.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2021_2027_National-Eligibility-Rules.pdf

Q. What happens if a work package is deemed ineligible? Will the entire project be rejected?

- A. No, in such cases, the Project Selection Committee (PSC) will request the beneficiary to remove only the specific ineligible work package from the project.

Q. Who qualifies as an ‘eligible beneficiary’ (target group) under this call?

- A. In the context of this call, an eligible beneficiary is defined with reference to Specific Objective 2, which allows the inclusion of a wide range of target groups. The focus is not limited to asylum seekers but also extends to TCNs. To be considered eligible, both TCNs and asylum seekers must be documented, regardless of their mode of entry. During project implementation and verification, an identifier for each beneficiary must be provided to the MA.

Q. Is the partnership section within the project application form mandatory?

- A. No, partnering with another organisation is not mandatory, however it is encouraged as it can enhance the project's impact and implementation.

Q. What is being meant by 'non-profit principle'?

- A. Applicant organisations must declare that the proposed project will adhere to the non-profit principle, which is a mandatory eligibility criterion under this call. It is important to note that this call is not intended for private companies. Eligible applicants include government departments, public entities, international organisations, social partners, non-governmental and voluntary organisations working in the field of migration.

Q. Should partner organisations and other project stakeholders be identified at the application stage, or can this information be provided later during the project?

- A. No, this information should be provided as part of the submitted application.

Q. What is the deadline for project implementation?

- A. The proposed action must be completed within the implementation period of the AMIF Programme, which concludes on 31 December 2029. However, due to the administrative processes required for programme closure, it is recommended that all project activities are finalised by January 2029.

Q. At what stage shall the proof of co-financing be submitted?

- A. Proof of co-financing must be submitted at application stage.

Q. If an application is rejected, will the applicant be informed about which criteria were not met?

- A. Yes, all rejection letters issued by the MA clearly indicate which aspects of the application were not fulfilled, whether they relate to eligibility or selection criteria.

Q. What criteria are used to determine whether VAT is an eligible cost?

- A. VAT is not considered an eligible cost if the applicant is able to recover it from the VAT Department. Applicants must indicate VAT related costs in the appropriate sections of the application form, clearly attributing them to the relevant project activities.

Q. Does the term ‘integration’ refer specifically to integration into Maltese society, or does it also include European integration? For example, if an activity is delivered online and based in Malta, but accessible to EU citizens, would that still be considered integration?

A. Integration is a two-way process, which may involve TCNs, EU citizens and the local population. While the focus is on integration within the local (Maltese) context, this does not exclude participation or access by EU citizens from other Member States, particularly in the case of online activities.

Q. Will the PowerPoint presentations be e-mailed to the attendees?

A. All the presentations will be shared online on the fondi.eu and SEM respective websites, which can be accessed through the following links:

- <https://fondi.eu/what-funding-is-available/education-tcns-support-2/>
- <https://sem.gov.mt/latest-updates/events/information-session-strengthening-and-developing-legal-migration>