



GOVERNMENT
OF MALTA



Calls for Proposals
2021-2027

Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (2021-2027)
To contribute to countering irregular migration, enhancing effective, safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as to promote and contribute to effective initial reintegration in third countries

Guidance Notes on Indicators

Project Proposals under Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund

(Call 6)

Specific Objective 3

Return



Co-funded by
the European Union

Indicators Overview, Definition and Guidance Document

Overview

In line with monitoring and evaluation obligations established by Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR) and Regulation (EU) 2021/1147, the Programme for Malta for the period -2021-2027 – *Asylum Migration and Integration Fund*, is based on a number of output and result indicators which are to be reached by the years 2024 (milestones) and 2029 (target year).

What are indicators and why are they needed?

Simply put, indicators are a tool to measure:

- the progress experienced by a project (henceforth referred to as ‘operation’) during the course of its implementation;
- the final achievements and deliverables produced by an operation following its full implementation.

Indicators are an integral part of the Managing Authority’s (MA) monitoring process and reflect the evolving implementation that is taking place vis-à-vis the respective operations. Monitoring of outputs and direct results allows the MA to observe whether the intended effects of the Programme are being delivered, whether outcomes are being achieved and whether implementation is on track.

Within the context of EU funds, there are both output and result indicators. Output and result indicators are set for each, and every Specific Objective (SO) listed in the Programme. Output and result indicators are defined as follows:

- Output indicators relate to operations supported. An output is what is directly produced/supplied through the implementation of an operation. On the basis of Article 2(13) of the CPR, an output indicator refers to an indicator which measures the specific deliverables of the operation.
- Result indicators aim to track progress relevant to the objectives of the programme. Result indicators track changes sought which might be brought about by an operation. In line with Article 2(14) of the CPR, a result indicator refers to an indicator which measures the effects of the operations supported, with particular reference to the direct addressees, population targeted or users of infrastructure.

Every operation is obliged by the EU Regulations to achieve a number of output indicators, and to contribute to the Programme’s result indicators. In this context, applicants must ensure that the project has clearly identifiable and measurable targets that contribute to a minimum of one output indicator or one result indicator. The indicators are set in the Programme under the respective SO relative to the Call for Project Proposals.

Output Indicators

As previously defined, output indicators quantify the direct deliverables that can be measured following the implementation of a specific operation. Output indicators quantify what is produced directly from the operation, such as number of participants in training activities. Collectively, all the operations financed under a specific SO contribute to the attainment of the Programme's (output) indicator targets. The methodology for all common output indicators was established at EU level.

Steps to be considered by Applicants when choosing the output indicator/s for their operations during the planning:

1. Choose the output indicator/s that best matches the operation's expected outcome and deliverables. The indicator/s to be assigned to the operation will depend on the aims and objectives of the respective operation, and how such aims fit into the Programme. Each indicator has a code, a name, a measurement unit, a milestone and a target. If the operation does not fit with any of the output indicators under the SO being targeted by this Call, the operation is probably not suitable for EU funding since it does not fit the objectives that the Programme wishes to achieve.
2. Take time to establish realistic targets that can be achieved as part of the milestone targets (end 2024) and upon full project implementation and/or by the end of year 2029. It is advisable that applicants neither 'over' nor 'under' set their indicator targets. Over-setting may create a situation where an operation does not reach its committed targets. On the other hand, under-setting will give a poor indication of the actual added value to be created by the operation, which may in certain cases affect the scores achieved by the operation during the Project Selection Committee. When setting milestone (2024) targets, consider a timeline to map out the expected stage of implementation of the operation by the end of the year 2024, creating a contingency for potential delays that may be experienced by then. Based on the expected stage of implementation by the end of 2024, the operation should commit to a partial indicator value, achievable by the end of 2024. This value will be a fraction of the overall value to be achieved by the end of the operation/end of 2029. The target value to be achieved at the end of the year 2029 will therefore include, in cumulative form, the milestone already achieved in 2024. Documenting the methodology used to calculate the target setting will prove useful during the operation's implementation. Applicants are encouraged to include this information in the Application Form, under the relevant Indicator section.
3. Ensure that the output indicators being chosen are calculated using the measurement unit established within the Programme. The indicator code and indicator name cannot be modified.
4. Elaborate a clear and detailed methodology which will be adopted during the course of the operation's implementation to calculate the progress of the output indicator. Indeed, whilst the project will commit towards a target to be reached by 2024 and later, by the end of the operation and/or by the end of the 2029, data on the progress of the output indicator/s will be reported to the MA in a staggered approach during the course of the operation's implementation. Due to reporting requirements set by the European Commission,

Beneficiaries are to expect a biannual reporting of the indicators, as a minimum. It is important that the methodology chosen to calculate and/or source the indicator/s is readily available or can be made available at the Beneficiary's own expense, as and whenever requested by the MA or other entities involved in the implementation or auditing of EU funds.

5. Lastly, identify the supporting documentation that will be provided to the MA and other entities working on monitoring and evaluation of EU funds during the course of implementation. Any indicator that is reported to the MA needs to be backed up by supporting documentation. Such documentation provides evidence of the indicator value reached (whether partially or in whole). Indicators reported without the necessary supporting documentation will not be considered by the MA during the implementation phase and Beneficiaries risk loss of funds and/or other repercussions. It is therefore imperative that documentation is available or can be made available at the Beneficiary's own expense and is to accompany each indicator reported.

Applicants are to note that Steps 1 to 5 are to be followed for the indicator chosen. The indicator needs to have a clear and separate methodology explaining its target setting; methodology detailing its achievement during the course of implementation; and the supporting documentation to be provided as proof of the indicator value being reported.

Result Indicators

Result indicators measure the direct impact/change resulting from the interventions being funded through the Programme vis-à-vis the national context. Whilst output indicators are a measure of what was 'created' as a direct result of the intervention, result indicators focus more on the overall effects of the operations. Result indicators therefore tend to measure broader and more macro issues, such as the number of returnees who were removed. Similar to output indicators, the methodology for all result indicators was established at EU level.

Result indicators are therefore similarly linked to the implementation of operations and are to be achieved by the end of the operation and/or by the end of the 2029. Applications need to identify one result indicator as part of the project Application Form. To this end, Steps 1 to 5, that have been presented in the section 'output indicators' apply equally to the result indicators, with the following exceptions:

- a. Unlike output indicators, result indicators do not include milestone (2024) targets. Step 2 therefore is only applicable for the 2029 target setting.
- b. Result indicators include a reference year. The baseline is set at zero since result indicators have to always be linked to the support of the Fund and therefore contextual information about the situation prior to the Programme is not relevant. The methodology for result indicators has been prescribed by MA in line with the European Commission's Indicator Fiches. However, beneficiaries are instructed to provide an explanation of the methodology used to determine the calculations to measure their indicator achievements.

Depending on the indicator and its methodology, the achieved values for result indicators will be collected either:

1) during implementation; 2) upon completion of the operation; or 3) within 12 months after the completion of the operation.

Understanding the Indicator Targets Set in the Programme

Whilst each respective operation will be expected to contribute to an output or a result indicator/s on an individual basis, the Programme indicator targets reflect the cumulative target to be achieved by the various operations financed under a particular SO. For both output and result indicators, the MA thus aggregates the indicator values achieved by each operation in order to then achieve the Programme’s targets.

In this regard, Beneficiaries have a collective responsibility in ensuring that the committed targets for their respective operations are achieved, for Malta to successfully reach the Programme’s indicator targets.

List of Indicators by relevant Specific Objective

(Applicants are expected to choose at least one output indicator or result indicator from the following list. Target values are at Programme level, i.e., each operation needs to contribute a fraction of that target. Exceptions apply in instances where only one operation is to be funded under a SO, in which case the operation will be expected to meet the full OP target).

Specific Objective 3: Return					
Specific Objective	To contribute to countering irregular migration, enhancing effective, safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as to promote and contribute to effective initial reintegration in third countries				
Indicator type, Code & Name	Measurement Unit	Baseline Value (only for Result indicators)	Baseline Year (only for Result indicators)	Milestone (2024)(only for Output indicators)	Target (2029)
Output O.3.1 Number of participants in training	number	/	/	0	8

activities					
Output O.3.3 Number of returnees who received re-integration assistance	number	/	/	28	84
Result R.3.6 Number of returnees voluntarily returned	number	0	2021	0	130
Result R.3.7 Number of returnees who were removed	number	0	2021	0	966

Indicator Definitions and examples of supporting documentation

Output Indicators:

1. Number of participants in training activities: Participant means a natural person benefiting directly from an operation (project) without being responsible for initiating or both initiating and implementing the operation (project) as set out in Art. 2(40) CPR.

For the purpose of this indicator, a participant means persons who deal professionally with countering irregular migration and return and readmission in third countries ('staff'). A

participant may work for any type of body e.g. public administration, non-profit organisation etc. The indicator covers training on any topic relevant under this specific objective.

The methodology applied for calculating the milestones and targets is based on the number of officers engaged within the immigration unit.

Examples of supporting documentation to verify the fulfilment of this indicator (non-exhaustive list) include:

- Attendance Sheets
- Certificates
- Training Programme
- Other relevant documentation

2. Number of returnees who received reintegration assistance: For the purpose of this indicator, a returnee is a third country national that left the territory of a Member State and returned to a third country voluntarily or was removed. Reintegration assistance means support either cash, in kind, personalised support or combined, provided by a host country to a returnee, with the aim of helping the returnee to lead an independent life after return.

The methodology applied was based on the average number of returnees received per year who received reintegration assistance between 2016 and 2020. A further increase of 40% was factored in based on the increased annual percentage of migrants returned between 2019 and 2020.

In case of international organisations, management verifications shall be subject to Annex 22 of the AMIF Regulation, provided that the relevant prerequisites are fulfilled, in line with Article 154(4) and (7) of the Financial Regulation. Otherwise, the following supporting documentation (non-exhaustive list) to verify fulfilment of the indicator may be explored:

- Proof of reintegration assistance
- Boarding passes
- E-tickets

Result Indicators:

1. Number of returnees voluntarily returned: For the purpose of this indicator, Voluntary means a voluntary departure in compliance with the obligation to return within the time-limit fixed for that purpose in the return decision. For the purpose of this indicator, a returnee means a third country national who has left the territory of a Member State.

The methodology used to calculate the target is based on the annual average number of migrants returned through voluntary return between 2016 – 2020 with the support of EU funds. A further increase of 20% has been added in view of additional services offered to encourage voluntary return.

In case of international organisations, management verifications shall be subject to Annex 22 of the AMIF Regulation, provided that the relevant prerequisites are fulfilled, in line with Article 154(4) and (7) of the Financial Regulation. Otherwise, the following supporting documentation (non-exhaustive list) to verify fulfilment of the indicator may be explored:

- Boarding passes
- E-ticket
- Proof of payment for costs incurred in third countries
- Other relevant documentation

2. Number of returnees who were removed: For the purpose of this indicator, a returnee means a third country national who was removed. Removal means the enforcement of the obligation to return of illegally staying third country nationals, namely the physical transportation out of the EU Member State.

The methodology used to calculate the target is based on the annual average number of returnees who were removed between 2018 and 2020, on a roll out of measures over an estimated period of eight years.

Examples of supporting documentation to verify the attainment of this indicator (non-exhaustive list) may include:

- Removal orders and declaration of successful repatriation
- Proof of Payment
- Passport/travel documentation
- Other relevant documentation

Other Notes

When compiling and gathering data for the indicators, the necessary audit trail should always be in place. Applicants should note that failure to deliver on the agreed indicators could result in EU Funds being withdrawn and/or reimbursed in part or in whole by the Beneficiary.

For the purpose of data collection, data related with the above indicators should be segregated in the following groups:

Age:

- of which age < 18
- of which age between 18 and 60
- of which age > 60

Gender:

- of which male
- of which female
- of which non-binary