

Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021- 2027

Questions and Answers – version 1

An information session was held by the Managing Authority at Servizzi Ewropej f'Malta, Valletta on Tuesday 28th November, during which various questions and answers were raised on the open call for applications (AMIF – Asylum – Call No. 8) launched on 17th October 2023. A summary of the list of Q&A delivered throughout the sessions can be found below:

Q: Is the total budget allocation of EUR 164,000 (EU+MT), as presented under this call the maximum amount available?

A: The amount included in the programme is tentative and it is at the discretion of the Project Selection Committee to determine the amount to be allocated to successfully applicants. Ultimately, it depends on the estimated budget of the received project proposals since if it is viable then the budget might change.

Q: For the purpose of this application form, shall the 7% flat rate on capacity (staff costs) be taken into consideration?

A: Yes, currently a 7% flat rate on staff costs expenses shall be taken into consideration for this application submissions. Studies on such rate are still ongoing and in the future such rate can be subject to a revision following results of the studies. In addition, the 7% flat rate shall also encompass any promotional material (visibility items) procured throughout the project implementation, which do not form part of a project activity for e.g. visibility stickers as these shall no longer be considered as direct eligible costs. Such expenses shall be factored in the same 7% flat rate allocated for 'Indirect Costs'.

Remark: During the presentation, the Managing Authority clarified that in section 2.3 *Project Implementation Status* of the application form the state of play of any form of procurement shall be included in the same table. Hence, the procurement table is not only limited to tenders, as erroneously indicated in the application form.

Q: With reference to section 2.3 – 'Project Implementation Status' of the application form, since the projects have not yet commenced, should the state of play be marked as zero?

A: It depends on the status of each procurement, for example if market research has already been carried out, then it is important that this table reflects that status. Additionally, in line with the eligibility criteria, the projects' state of readiness will be further assessed and allocated marks which may increase the possibility of ranking high.

Q: With reference to section Subcontracting – Work Packages shall this be financed from in the Indirect Costs too?

A: The 7% flat rate includes the administrative costs for implementing the project only. According to the national eligibility rules, salaries tied to project coordination, project supervision and/or project administration (personnel engaged to coordinate/supervise/administer the project in its entirety) shall no longer be considered as direct eligible costs. Hence, any consultancy fees required throughout implementation will not fall part of the same 7% but rather be considered as direct eligible costs.

Q: Since the indicators are defined in the regulation and programme, what will the project evaluators assessment be on such matter?

A: Even though the application form already includes the predefined indicators as stipulated in the Programme, it is important for applicants to identify the numbers that are being quantified against each indicator. The Project Selection Committee will review the methods of quantification and verification applied to the quantified indicators.

Q: Will the activities be considered as deliverables during an audit fieldwork or only the indicators will be audited?

A: All project activities/deliverables will be subject to audit in addition to the indicators. This also extends to any promotional activities financed through indirect costs.

Q: For reporting purposes, shall the participants' data be gathered in the same as is requested in the European Social Fund (ESF)?

A: Although not as, the AMIF Regulation and indicator definitions as stipulated by the European Commission request additional participant information for reporting purposes. The type of information that shall be requested is already included in the 'Guidance Notes on Indicators' that were issued with this call.

Q: Is the list of intervention codes to be listed in the work packages indicated in the AMIF regulation?

A: Yes, the applicant shall select the most suitable codes that describe the respective work packages from the list indicated in tables 2 and 3 of the AMIF Regulation – Annex VI for this specific call. With regards to table 3, the indicated codes reflect the type of expenditure that will be paid through the project. In this case, the call can either support projects that contribute towards codes 001 or 003. However, with respect to the latter which enables the possibility for actions to be financed at a higher co-financing rate (the contribution from the Union budget may be increased to 90 % of the total eligible expenditure for actions listed in Annex IV) the application form needs to specify how the actions contribute to the priorities defined in Annex IV of the AMIF Regulation.

Q: Do the codes represent individual packages or multiple ones?

A: It is recommended that each work package is linked with one code as otherwise it will be difficult to determine the financials associated with different codes.

Q: Can more than one code be applicable for the same activity?

A: Yes, but one has to make sure that the activity specifically lists down all of the specific codes that are associated with it. One must bear in mind, that the more codes there are the more the financials linked with that specific activity need to be split according to the allocated code.

Q: Can the MA indicate the timeframe post-application of when the potential applicants can receive information about the outcome?

A: The project selection committee is already evaluating previous application forms and will continue to proceed evaluating project proposals in future. The project evaluation shall continue to review applications as early as next year, and the outcome depends on the amount of project proposals received.

Q: If a project is successful for award, but its implementation has not yet started, can financial costs be claimed retrospective?

A: The AMIF Regulation entered into force retrospectively, from 1st January 2021 which denotes the start date of the Programme. Hence, any costs incurred from this date onwards till 31st December 2029 shall be deemed as eligible expenditure as long as actions are not completed by the time the Grant Agreement is signed.

Q: For the Simplified Cost Options (SCO) approach, more so for 'Staff Costs' related to project implementation, how shall the applicant include such activity in the budget?

A: In the application form, the applicant shall include their workings and costings. Should the application be successful, the necessary budget modifications reflecting SCOs shall be applied.

Q: Since the implementation period covers from 1st January 2021 till 31st December 2029 and certain activities might have already commenced, what happens in instances when visibility was not showing on such items? Shall these still be considered eligible for funding?

A: Expenses which do not have any form of visibility are not eligible for funding.

Q: If an applicant submits an application form but by the time of award, the funds have been exhausted, will the application be withdrawn, or can the MA reissue the call for applications?

A: In case the allocated budget of the call is absorbed, following PSC evaluation, the MA might consider allocating additional funds from other Programmes depending on the demand of that action, increase the budget of the call or keep the application of a reserve list.

Q& A following SEM – Servizi Ewropej f' Malta Presentation

All participants were invited to contact SEM via info.sem@gov.mt to discuss any potential questions and ideas about the application.

Q: Since SEM can assist with the application form, what is the timeframe to notify for assistance?

A: Since the deadline of this call is approaching, i.e. 18th December 2023, there is not sufficient time for SEM to provide its full service but rather to provide comments or required amendments to the

application form. It is optimal that the applicant approach SEM for any assistance at least six (6) weeks prior to the application deadline. In this regard, prospective applicants were invited to contact SEM at the earliest should they wish to receive assistance for this call.



**Co-funded by
the European Union**