



Annual General Conference 2018
Belgrade, 7-9 November 2018
Plenary room

Workshop 1 - EU Funding for Asylum, Migration and Integration - Past and Future
11.30 - 13.30

Facilitators

Daphné Bouteillet-Paquet, Senior Legal Officer, ECRE
Annabelle Roig-Granjon, Senior Adviser, UNHCR

Key Note Speaker

Rachel Westerby, Consultant

Background

In order to respond to the unprecedented migratory developments in Europe in 2015/16, ECRE and UNHCR have joined forces through a strategic partnership to develop and promote discussions on the possible options for the future of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). The partnership has included research on the EU's Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).

AMIF aims to contribute, through financial assistance, to the efficient management of migration flows and to the implementation and development of a common EU approach to asylum and migration. AMIF reflects efforts to simplify and streamline the implementation of the EU budget in the area of home affairs, since it replaces three separate funding programmes that operated during the 2007-13 period.

In 2018, ECRE and UNHCR produced a joint research report entitled "Follow the Money – Assessing the use of AMIF funding at national level". The report provided a critical analysis of the AMIF national programmes, with the following specific objectives:

- support the assessment of AMIF national programming due to be undertaken in the 2018 mid-term review;
- make recommendations for better management and use of AMIF funds during the remainder of the AMIF multiannual funding period; and
- provide input to assist the EC, MS and partners to develop European asylum, migration and integration funding instruments post-2020.

In 2019, ECRE and UNHCR will produce a follow up to their research. The objective of the report "Follow the Money – Phase II" will be to map and assess the implementation of AMIF funds distributed through the National Programmes. The scope of the research will also include implementation of the emergency measures and provide some detailed information on the situation in a selection of EU countries.

It will use the evidence from the interim evaluation of the AMIF, which took place in the second half of 2017, including the national AMIF interim evaluation reports prepared by the EU countries on the implementation of their national programmes and the EC's own evaluations.

Further, ECRE and UNHCR have published a detailed analysis of the relevant funding instrument

proposals that will replace or complement the current AMIF in the context of the new Multi Annual Financial Framework (MFF) of the EU for the period 2021-2027. Both organizations have developed their own advocacy and commissioned an expert paper that includes recommendations for use during the negotiation process.

Objectives

The objectives of the workshop are twofold:

1. To inform AGC participants of the state of play of the implementation of the Asylum, Migration and Integration Funds at national level, with a particular focus on emergency assistance, and get input on the second phase of the Follow the Money Report;
2. To present the new architectures of the funds (AMF and EFS+) and discuss opportunities for advocacy on the legislative proposals with a specific focus on integration of beneficiaries of international protection and access to funds for civil society organisations

These topics will be discussed through the lens of the practical experience of AGC participants in their national context and, where possible, to get a better understanding of national policies and Member States' practices. This will allow participants to share their assessment of the prospective changes to the architecture of the EU funds, as well as develop ideas for advocacy.

Agenda

- 11.30 – 11.40 Welcome address and short introduction
Daphné Bouteillet-Paquet, ECRE
Annabelle Roig-Granjon, UNHCR
- 11.40 – 12.10 Presentation of the draft ECRE/UNHCR report “Follow the Money – Assessing the use of AMIF funding at national level – Phase II”, Rachel Westerby, consultant
- Short introduction to the AMIF, the interim evaluation and Follow The Money II methodology.
 - Comparative overview of implementation in 25 participating Member States (including emergency assistance).
 - Preliminary findings:
 - Common challenges affecting national AMIF implementation.
 - Positive and negative impacts of national AMIF implementation.
 - Presentation of four detailed case studies.
 - Draft conclusions and recommendations for 2019-20 (Member States and EC).
- 12.10 – 12.45 Exchange with the participants
- Indicative guiding questions for discussion:
1. What has been the added value of the AMIF, at national and/or European level?
 2. Has the AMIF had any negative impacts? How could they have been limited or avoided?

3. Do the challenges we have identified for national AMIF implementation mirror your experiences at national and/or European level? Please provide any specific examples.
4. Which of the four case study Member States most closely reflects AMIF implementation in your national context, and why?
5. Based on the findings we have presented, are our conclusions and recommendations the right ones? What would you add and/or change?

12.45 -13.30 The Way Forward: Critical Analysis of the legislative proposal on the Asylum Migration Fund and ESF+,
Daphné Bouteillet-Paquet, ECRE
Annabelle Roig-Granjon, UNHCR

Indicative guiding questions for discussion:

1. Shifting Refugee Inclusion from AMF to ESF+ - What are the risks and how can they be mitigated?
2. How can we advocate for better access to EU funds for civil society organisations and local actors? Improvement of the Partnership Principle?