

Funding for asylum and migration inside the European Union: how to ensure compliance with fundamental rights?

Public roundtable

25 April 2023 | 09:00 – 12:00

Fondation Universitaire, Rue d'Egmont 11, Brussels

In-person

Concept note:

Under the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027, the “horizontal enabling conditions” clarify that compliance with fundamental rights is a precondition to qualify for EU funding at national level. Member States and managing authorities of EU funds covered by the Common Provisions Regulation have the duty to effectively apply the Charter of fundamental rights at all stages of the budget cycle, from the inception to the implementation of EU programmes at national level.

As the main EU instruments financing activities in support of asylum seekers, protection beneficiaries, and undocumented migrants, but also border management and security actions, the European Social Fund + and, for the first time, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, Border Monitoring and Visa Instrument, and Internal Security Fund, should be implemented in a way that ensures full conditionality of EU projects to fundamental rights.

While the Member States have the primary responsibility to implement the horizontal enabling conditions in their national plans, the European Commission plays a key role in ensuring that the rules are respected in a meaningful manner. The current MFF also outlines a more mainstreamed approach to the partnership principle, which prescribes that all relevant stakeholders, including civil society and fundamental rights bodies, should be all involved in the management of EU funds at national level, with a role also in monitoring fundamental rights breaches.

The European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) and the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) are convening a public roundtable to discuss the responsibilities, roles and opportunities for the most relevant players to contribute to the accountability of EU-funded actions and compliance with fundamental rights.

Objectives:

- Clarify rules and obligations of the implementation of the horizontal enabling conditions related to fundamental rights in EU funding programmes supporting activities for asylum and migration; and take stock of their implementation in the approved national programmes;
- Discuss roles of policymakers and implementing actors in the application of the horizontal enabling conditions, including opportunities for civil society organisations in identifying risks of fundamental rights violations;
- Provide a platform for discussion on existing fundamental rights conditionality on EU funds among the relevant stakeholders.

09:00	Registration and welcome coffee
09:30	Opening remarks <i>Michele Levoy, PICUM Director</i>
09:45	Panel discussion Funding for asylum and migration inside the European Union: how to ensure compliance with fundamental rights? <i>Speakers:</i> <i>Chiara Catelli, ECRE/PICUM</i> <i>Andor Urmos, Bridge EU</i> <i>Magdalena Irzycka, Federal Public Service Interior, Belgium</i> <i>Moderator: Juliana Santos Wahlgren, European Anti-Poverty Network</i>
11:30	Conclusion