



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL JUSTICE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY
Directorate B
Unit B/4: Financial support: Immigration and Asylum

**EUROPEAN FUND
FOR THE INTEGRATION
OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS
2007-2013**

COMMUNITY ACTIONS
CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2009

1. INTRODUCTION

The European Commission is providing through the Community Actions of the European Fund for Integration for third-country nationals financial support for actions promoting the integration in the EU Member States of people who are not citizens of the EU.

The purpose of this notice is to invite proposals for Community Actions covered by the Integration Fund Work Programme 2009, which was adopted on 15 October 2009.

The call for proposals will be open to national, regional and local authorities, Non Governmental Organisations, public or private bodies (including university departments, research centres) registered in any of the 26 Member States participating in the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (EU Member States except Denmark), as well as international organisations. The call for proposals is open to organisations working on a non profit basis and with proven experience and expertise in the fields covered, taking into account their respective competences.

Actions should be implemented through the coordination of a partnership. Since these actions are trans-national, they must include partners from at least **FIVE different Member States**. Projects must be submitted by a legal person, i.e. the co-ordinator, who carries out the project with at least **FOUR other distinct and independent legal persons** established in different Member States.

Actions may include partners and participants from **Denmark and third countries**, but the costs for their participation may not be covered by the Union contribution and must be financed entirely by non-Union resources.

The amount of grant per project cannot exceed **80,00%** of the total eligible costs. Union funding per project will not exceed **750.000 €** nor be less than **200.000 €**

The Community actions should:

- Have a clear transnational objective;
- Ensure that activities are designed, developed and implemented in co-operation with different integration stakeholders, such as Member states administrations, regional and/or municipal authorities, private actors, social partners, civil society, academics (including study centres, research networks, etc.);
- Ensure relevant participation of immigrants;
- Ensure EU visibility.

2. PRIORITIES, SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES AND ELIGIBLE ACTIONS FOR 2009

On the basis of the policy context and general objectives described in the annual work programme of the Community actions 2009, the following **three priorities** and relative **specific objectives** will be pursued in 2009.

Priority 1: Gather public and migrant perceptions and develop a more comprehensive understanding of the integration processes
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Specific objectives:

- Promote knowledge and understanding of contributions that migrants make to European societies and the benefits of legal migration.
- Enhance the capacity of media to reflect the increasing diversity in the European societies and foster understanding of immigration and integration stories and processes.
- Involve the population as a whole in the managing of an increasingly diverse society, directly engaging third-country nationals and their associations in the exchange with host societies on different integration aspects, such as common values, the understanding of diverse cultures and the inter-religious dialogue.
- Encourage immigrants to be active participants in the day-to-day life of European societies giving them meaningful opportunities to play an active role and generating competences to take part in mainstreaming organisations and debates.
- Improve the capacity of public institutions to adjust to migration-related diversity, removing structural barriers against the empowerment of immigrants and strengthening intercultural competences.
- Encourage interaction between immigrants and the host population, including volunteering or mentoring schemes and measures to combat racism, xenophobia and discrimination to enhance the mutual accommodation process, in synergy with the work carried out by the Fundamental Rights Agency.

Eligible actions:

- Qualitative research and surveys to assess public perception of migration
- Surveys directly involving third-country nationals to assess migrants' needs and capacity of public intervention to met them.
- Analysis of the capacity of media to reflect diversity in society and promotion of the role of media to enhance mutual understanding within diverse societies.
- Training courses and activities on diversity management, cultural mediation and antidiscrimination policies targeting professionals, such as journalists and media operators or staff working in institutions dealing with migration-related issues (hospitals, schools, public services, legal aid, one stop-shops, etc).
- Production of documentaries, videos, spots, to promote a more comprehensive understanding of integration problems and challenges taking place in cities and local contexts.
- Projects encouraging the creation of consultative bodies and networks which primarily involve migrants associations.
- Transnational networks and dialogue platforms to exchange knowledge, information on cultural challenges/values/inter-religious related aspects, in particular at the local level.
- Pilot projects encouraging immigrants to be active participants in the day-to-day life of European societies in particular in urban areas and local contexts.

- Elaboration of indicators targeting the capacity of public institutions of different Member States and the media to adjust to migration-related diversity, as well as policies analysis and operative conclusions and recommendations to pull down structural barriers against the empowerment of immigrants.
- Promotion of activities such as celebration days, festivals, events on migration and diversity, information campaigns and television and radio programmes addressing migration-related issues, in particular taking place at the local level.
- Awareness raising campaigns and dialogue platforms on values, in particular promoting the European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Priority 2: Promote integration measures targeting young population and addressing specific gender issues

Specific objectives:

- Address immigrant children and young generations of third-country nationals' specific integration challenges and needs.
- Promote knowledge and understanding of education issues of immigrant children, sharing experiences on language classes and tuition, initiatives promoting respect for diversity in the educational environment and support for teachers and parents.
- Enhance an evidence-based approach for making decisions in the best interest of immigrant children's education
- Promoting the role of women in the process of integration, as well as that of their families and children.
- Enhance information and prevention of discrimination against immigrant women and promote their autonomy in society, their training on employment opportunities, knowledge of their rights and their participation in public life.
- Explore the links between family reunification legislation and integration of third country nationals

Eligible actions:

- Comparative research and peer reviews to share learning and best practices on assessments and recognition of prior learning, incentives and outreach to parents.
- Production of documentaries, videos, spots on the interaction between young generations of migrants and the young native population taking place in urban areas and local contexts to compare experiences and promote mutual understanding.
- Creation of a web multimedia space of experiences targeting in particular young generations of migrants where different experiences and good practices could be shared and exchanged and networking among young generation of third-country nationals in different Member States could be developed, as well as learning among operators in this sectors.
- Innovative projects involving immigrant children and youth and elaborate policy recommendations addressed at European, national, regional and local authorities and stakeholders.
- Awareness raising and information campaigns actively involving women.
- Comparative research and peer reviews to exchange best practices on prevention and fight against discrimination of immigrant women.
- Innovative projects to promote women autonomy in society, including training courses on employment opportunities, knowledge of their rights and their participation in public life, and

elaborate policy recommendations addressed at European, national, regional and local authorities and stakeholders.

- Comparative research and peer review on family reunion legislation, policies and issues at stake in different Member States to explore links with integration.

Priority 3: Promote the role of civil society organisations and the local authorities in shaping integration strategies

Specific objectives:

- Improve the role of consultative bodies and the representation of civil society organisations in defining, implementing and evaluating immigrants' integration policies.
- Enhance the effectiveness of dialogue platforms to have an impact on decision-making processes.
- Promote knowledge and understanding of integration processes taking place at the local level
- Enhance the exchange of information among relevant stakeholders responsible for integration measures at the regional and local level.

Eligible actions:

- Transnational networks of civil society organisations, including migrant communities associations, directly involving third-country nationals in dialogue platforms and exchange processes.
- Production of documentaries, videos, spots on the interaction taking place in urban areas and local contexts to compare experiences and promote mutual understanding.
- Transnational dialogue platforms to exchange views on successful methods to exchange and sharing learning on integration processes, including 'inter-active markets' of integration projects.
- Comparative research and peer review on the role of civil society and migrants organisations in the elaboration and implementation of integration legislations and policies.
- Developing indicators, benchmarking and evaluation methodologies to assess specific integration measures implemented at the local and regional level.

3. EXPECTED RESULTS

Selected proposals must have foreseen and described expected results that could fall within one of the following categories:

- Knowledge and understanding of contributions that migrants make to European societies and the benefits of legal migration promoted.
- Capacity of media to reflect the increasing diversity in the European societies fostered.
- Participation of third-country nationals, including in particular women, increased.
- Training programmes developed.
- Immigrant children and young generations of third-country nationals' integration improved.
- Immigrants' integration indicators developed and improved.
- Databases created.
- Knowledge of specific integration related issues enhanced.
- Knowledge of good practices and their transferability in other contexts improved.

- Good practices, new schemes and tools on third-country nationals' integration also to be linked with the European Website on Integration tested.
- Integration of third-country nationals as a dynamic, two-way process of mutual accommodation by all immigrants and citizens of Member States enhanced.
- Frequent interaction between immigrants and Member States' citizens promoted.
- Number and groups of immigrants involved in the formulation of integration policies and in consultative bodies or fora of participation in the local life increased.
- Comparative research and studies carried out (including at regional and local level where relevant).
- Number of innovative pilot projects implemented increased.
- Increased number of good practices identified and shared.
- New integration models identified, developed and diffused.
- Trans-national networks and dialogue platforms involving immigrants and stakeholders supported.
- Empowerment of immigrants promoted.
- Multi-stakeholder co-operation, such as between governmental and civil society actors promoted.
- Understanding of immigration and integration issues across the EU increased.
- Integration of immigrant children and young generations of third-country nationals improved.
- Immigrant women's integration facilitated.

4. TARGET GROUP OF PROJECTS

The target population is third-country nationals legally residing in the EU Member States.

Third-country nationals who are on the territory of a third country and who are complying with specific pre-departure measures and/or conditions set out in national law including those relating to the ability to integrate in the society of this Member State fall also within the scope of the Decision establishing the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals.

Asylum seekers, refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection are not covered by the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals as they fall under the European Refugee Fund.

5. ACHIEVING COMPLEMENTARY

To ensure the consistency of the Union's response to the integration of third-country nationals, actions financed under the Fund should be specific and complementary to actions financed under the European Refugee Fund and the structural funds, in particular the European Social Fund.

6. AMOUNT OF GRANTS AND FINANCIAL PROVISION

The budget available under this Call for proposals is **4.580.000 €**

Amount of the grant

- Union funding per project will not exceed **750.000 €** nor be less than **200.000 €**
- The amount of grant per project cannot exceed **80,00%** of the total eligible costs.

The co-financing of an action under this call for proposals shall be exclusive of any other financing by another programme financed by the budget of the European Union.

Where the application concerns grants for an action for which the amount exceeds EUR 500.000, an audit report produced by an approved external auditor shall be submitted. That report shall certify the accounts for the last financial year available. In case of agreements linking the Commission and a number of beneficiaries/partners, the threshold shall apply to each of them. The obligation to submit an audit report shall not apply to public bodies and international organisations.

The Commission will determine the amounts of financial assistance to be awarded, based on the available budget. If the amount awarded by the Commission is less than the amount requested by the applicant, it is up to the latter to find the additional amount or to reduce the total cost of the project without reducing the objectives or the content.

The necessary co-financing by the applicant, by potential partners and/or by other third parties will be confirmed before any grant agreement with the Commission is signed.

The partners will have to sign a mandate to the applicant considered as coordinator before the grant agreement with the Commission is signed.

Should the project be selected for support, a grant agreement will be signed between the selected beneficiary and the European Commission. This agreement is a standard agreement, and its terms and conditions may not be altered or subject to negotiation.

If the successful applicant is an international organisation, the model Contribution Agreement with an international organisation or any other contract template agreed between the international organisation concerned and the European Commission will be used instead of the standard grant agreement provided that the international organisation in question offers the guarantees provided for in article 53d (1) of the Financial Regulation.

Checks and audits

Checks and audits will be carried out in accordance with the relevant Articles of the grant agreement.

Recipients are required have available all original documents, including accounting and tax documents, or, in duly substantiated exceptional cases, certified copies of original documents relating to the agreements for a period of five years from the date of payment of the balance of amounts payable. Upon request these documents must be made available to the Commission.

The European Court of Auditors and the European Anti-fraud Office (OLAF) will have the same audit powers, and in particular the same rights of access, as the Commission.

7. PROJECT DURATION AND START DATES

Maximum project duration should be **18 months**.

All projects shall have begun by **31 December 2010**.

An action that starts before a grant is awarded or signed, is entirely at the risk of the participants. The Commission contribution and the eligible cost date are only known once the agreement is signed.

A grant may be awarded for an action which has already started only where the applicant can demonstrate the need to start the action before the grant agreement is signed. In such cases, expenditure eligible for financing may not have been incurred prior to the date of submission of the grant request, following publication of the call. No grant may be awarded retrospectively for actions already completed.

8. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

The applicant organisation and the partners (if applicable) involved in the project must not be in one of the situations listed in article 93 and 94 of Council Regulation No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002¹ on the Financial Regulation applicable to the budget of the European Union.

Effective, proportionate and dissuasive administrative and financial penalties may be applied in the event of incorrect statements.

The Commission will exclude a proposal from the eligibility, selection and award procedure if the applicant organisation or one of the partners involved in the project:

(a) is bankrupt or is being wound up, is having its affairs administered by the court, has entered into an arrangement with creditors, has suspended business activities, is the subject of proceedings concerning those matters or is in an analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulation;

(b) has been convicted of an offence concerning his/her professional conduct by a judgement which has the force of *res judicata*;

(c) has been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the Commission can justify;

(d) has not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which it is established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;

(e) has been the subject of a judgement which has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;

(f) is currently subject to an administrative penalty referred to in Article 96(1) of the Financial Regulation;

(g) is subject to a conflict of interest;

¹ OJ L 248, 16.09.2002, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Council Regulation No 1995/2006 of 19 December 2006 (OJ L 390, 30.12.2006, p. 1)

(h) is guilty of serious misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the authorising department as a condition of participation in the contract procedure or fail to supply this information.

9. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

If the proposal does not meet **all** the following requirements, the proposal will not be considered eligible and will not be further evaluated.

- a) The grant application and the annexes must have been submitted by the deadline set for the call through Priamos (on-line application tool);
- b) The applicant and its partners must be national, regional and local authorities, Non Governmental Organisations, public or private bodies (including university departments, research centres) as well as international organisations. The call for proposals is open only to organisations working on a **non profit basis**.
- c) The applicant and its partners must be registered in any of the 26 Member States participating in the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (EU Member States except Denmark). This is not applicable for international organisations.
- d) Proposals must be composed of partners from at least **FIVE Member States** involved in the European Integration Fund (the Member State where the applicant is registered counts for the compliance with the minimum number of Member States involved);
- e) The partnership must be composed of at least **FIVE distinct and independent organisations** (the coordinator plus its partners);
- f) Respect the ceiling on the percentage contribution and maximum and minimum grant amount set out in section 6 above;
- g) Respect the maximum project duration (18 months);
- h) The grant application must have been submitted on the forms supplied by the European Commission;
- i) Contain **all** the elements and documents defined in the application form (including annexes and documents requested by the checklist included in the application form). If a document appearing on the checklist is either unavailable or not relevant, please say so and give the reason why;

Proposals will be declared ineligible if they do not respect one of the above criteria.

10. SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Applicants must have the capacity to finance the proposed activities properly. The analysis of this capacity will be done on the basis of the signed financial statements ("annual accounts") for the last available financial year that the applicants must provide. This is not applicable for public bodies and international organisations.

2. Applicants together with their partners must have the operational (technical and management) capacity to complete the action to be supported. In particular the organisations must demonstrate their knowledge and experience in the domain of immigration and integration by attaching their annual report and a list of previous related projects in the domain.

Proposals that meet the eligibility and the selection criteria will be further evaluated using the award criteria

11. AWARD CRITERIA

Among the projects which fulfil the exclusion, eligibility and selection criteria, the Commission will select the proposals achieving the highest score following evaluation according to the award criteria set out below, taking into account the funds available:

1. The extent to which the proposed action is relevant to the priorities for 2009 defined in section 2 above (max 10 points);
2. The transnational dimension including the number of countries covered by the project and the novel nature of the action compared to the practice in the relevant Member States (max 20 points);
3. The clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives, the appropriateness and feasibility of the approach, methodology, activities, organisation and timeframe (max 25 points);
4. The usefulness of the expected results, their dissemination, lessons learned, acquired know-how (max 20 points);
5. The sustainability of the project and/or its results after termination of the EIF grant (where relevant) or measures proposed to ensure adequate follow-up of project outputs. Follow-up may not consist only in conferences and/or website dissemination (max 10 points);
6. The adequacy of the forecast budget: value for money (max 15 points).

To qualify for award, the proposed action must obtain **at least 60 points** out of a possible maximum of 100 points

12. FURTHER INFORMATION.

Potential applicants are invited to read Commission documents on the integration of third-country nationals:

- The Integration Fund Council Decision 2007/435/EC;
- The Integration Fund Community Actions Work Programme for the year 2009;
- Communication from the Commission "A Common Agenda for Integration: Framework for the Integration of third-country nationals in the European Union" (COM(2005) 389 final);
- The Common Basic Principles;
- Handbooks on Integration for policy-makers and practitioners;

Potential applicants are invited to read Commission documents related to this call for proposals:

- The Guide for applicants;
- The standard Grant Agreement for an action;
- The lists and descriptions of INTI Preparatory Actions financed in 2003, 2004 and 2005 and 2006, 2007 and 2008;
- The evaluation of the INTI programme (prepared by an external consultant)

These documents can be found on the following web-sites:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/integration/funding_integration_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/2004_2007/inti/funding_inti_en.htm

Contact at the European Commission

The Commission service responsible for implementing the Integration Fund is Unit B4 of Directorate-General JLS – Justice, Freedom and Security.

European Commission
DG Justice, Freedom and Security
DG JLS /B4 – Integration Fund Community Actions
LX 46 2/055,
BE-1049 Brussels.
Fax (32.2)298 03 06
E-mail: JLS-INTEGRATION-FUND@ec.europa.eu

All applicants will be informed of the Commission's decision concerning their grant application as soon as possible. It is envisaged that the Commission will complete its selection procedures in July 2010.

13. DATA PROTECTION.

The grant applications will be processed by computer. All personal data (such as names, addresses, CVs, etc.) will be processed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2000 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data². Your replies to the questions in this form are necessary in order to assess your grant application and they will be processed solely for that purpose by the department responsible for the Community grant programme concerned. On request, you may be sent personal data and correct or complete them. For any question relating to these data, please contact the Commission department to which the form must be returned. Beneficiaries may lodge a complaint against the processing of their personal data with the European Data Protection Supervisor at any time.

If, at any stage of the administrative treatment of grant applications, the persons or entities concerned consider that they have been affected by an instance of maladministration, they may, irrespective of any other means of redress, make a complaint to the European Ombudsman in accordance with Article 195(1) of the EC Treaty and as provided by the Parliament Decision of 9 March 1994 on the regulations and general conditions governing the

² Official Journal L 8, 12.1.2001.

performance of the Ombudsman's duties published in Official Journal of the European Communities L 113 of 4 May 1994.

Grant applicants and persons who have powers of representation, decision-making or control over them, are informed that, should they be in one of the situations mentioned in:

- the Commission Decision of 16.12.2008 on the Early Warning System (EWS) for the use of authorising officers of the Commission and the executive agencies (OJ L 344, 20.12.2008, p. 125,

or

- the Commission Regulation of 17.12.2008 on the Central Exclusion Database – CED (OJ L 344, 20.12.2008, p. 12),

their personal details (name, given name if natural person, address, legal form and name and given name of the persons with powers of representation, decision-making or control, if legal person) may be registered in the EWS only or both in the EWS and CED, and communicated to the persons and entities listed in the above-mentioned Decision and Regulation, in relation to the award or the execution of a procurement contract or a grant agreement or a decision.

14. PRACTICAL INFORMATION ABOUT SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

14.1. Submission via Priamos

This call is managed via *Priamos*, a system for the submission of the applications, which requires applicants to fill in an on-line Grant Application form and to attach to it all required annexes.

In order to access the system applicants first need to register (this involves applicants providing some basic data about themselves and their organisations). It should be done as soon as a decision is taken to participate in this call. Subsequently, it shall receive a password to be used to access the system.

Applications must be submitted, in their entirety, through Priamos. **No applications (partial or entire) submitted on paper, fax or e-mail will be considered. Please note that although the PRIAMOS system is able to deal with a lot of applications at the same time, it is advisable NOT to wait until the last moment to register on the system and submit your application.**

If the applicant submits more than one version of the grant application form or any annex, only the latest version of such document(s) will be taken into consideration for the evaluation.

Applicants should make sure that all electronic files are readable and are not corrupted and that their applications are complete. In the case of multiple submissions (repeated submission of the same project proposal by the same applicant), only the latest submission will be considered (and therefore must be complete, i.e. contain all the elements mentioned in the check list of the application form).

No applications (partial or whole) sent by fax, e-mail, registered mail, courier service, hand delivery, or any other way will be considered. Following the conclusion of the selection

process, applicants placed sufficiently high on the merit list to be considered for a grant may be requested to provide a paper copy of the application (printed out at the moment of submitting it via the Priamos system) and the originals (signed and stamped wherever applicable) of all annexes required under the call for proposals. Failure to produce any of the aforesaid documents will lead to disqualification of the project proposal concerned.

Information and guidance on how to register and submit your application on Priamos can be found on http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/integration/funding_integration_en.htm.

14.2. Deadline for submitting applications

Applications have to be submitted electronically via the Priamos system by **3 March 2010, 14:00 CET**. The Priamos system will not accept any application after the deadline. Applications submitted after the deadline will be automatically rejected.

14.3. Content of Applications

Each proposal must include the documents mentioned in the check list of the application form.

Applicants must apply in one of the official EU languages. When possible, English or French should be used.

The details and the explanations concerning the annexes to be provided by the applicant are available in the guide for submitting a grant application form. The forms necessary for the grant application, its annexes, the "**Guide for submitting a Grant Application**" and the relevant links can be accessed from the European Integration Fund website at the following address: http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/integration/funding_integration_en.htm.

The Commission may contact applicants to request additional information at any time prior to taking its decision. Failures to respond to such requests by the deadline set may lead to disqualification of the application. Applicants must take the necessary steps to ensure that they can be contacted rapidly up to the end of the selection process. Where the Commission contacts an applicant, this does not in any way constitute or reflect a pre-selection of the proposal on the part of the Commission.

15. EX-POST PUBLICITY

Information on all grants signed in the course of a financial year will be published on the Internet site of the Union institutions. The information may also be published by any other appropriate medium, including the Official Journal of the European Union. The following will be published with the agreement of the beneficiary:

1. the name and address of the beneficiaries;
2. the subject of the grant;
3. the amount awarded and rate of funding of the total eligible costs of the operational work programme.

The European Commission may waive the above obligations if publication of the information could threaten the safety of the beneficiaries or harm their business interests. Beneficiaries of grants must clearly display acknowledgement of the support received from the EU.