

European Programme for Integration and Migration
2012 Call for Proposals
Information sheet

Introduction

The European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM) seeks to support projects by non-governmental organisations and registered charities active on migration and integration issues. EPIM will provide grants for a period of one to three years with budgets ranging from €50,000 to €300,000. In addition, it will promote grantees' networking and capacity-building efforts. Successful projects should set out to influence EU policies and their national implementation in one of three defined focus areas: asylum seekers; undocumented migrants; and equality, integration and social inclusion of vulnerable migrants. This document provides full information concerning eligibility as well as the grant application and selection process.

About EPIM

EPIM is a collaborative initiative of grant-making foundations from a variety of European countries. Created by a group of foundations in 2005 as an activity of the Network of European Foundations (NEF), EPIM is a joint funding initiative amongst the following: The Atlantic Philanthropies, Barrow Cadbury Trust, Compagnia di San Paolo, The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, Fondation Bernheim, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, King Baudouin Foundation, Fundación "la Caixa", Robert Bosch Stiftung, Oak Foundation and Open Society Foundations.

EPIM Mission Statement

EPIM supports and strengthens NGOs active on migration and integration issues at the European level in order to:

- Uphold and defend the European commitment to Universal Human Rights and social justice, to ensure the dignity of all people in the European Union;
- Promote a pragmatic approach to European and national policies on migration and integration; and
- Influence, through a grants programme, EU policies and their national implementation in the three focus areas (see below).

Focus areas

Proposals will be considered for funding in the following three focus areas:

1. *Asylum seekers*
 - To ensure that European Asylum Policy improves standards and ensures due process and fair determination procedures for all those seeking protection; and/or
 - To ensure that immigrant detention is used only as a tool of last resort.
2. *Undocumented Migrants*
 - To protect those undocumented migrants who are at risk of destitution and exploitation, including through access to justice and essential services that guarantee human dignity.
3. *Equality, integration and social inclusion of vulnerable¹ migrants*
 - To promote the social inclusion of those migrants at greatest risk of marginalisation; and/or
 - To promote their economic empowerment, civic participation and social responsibility – both through targeted programmes and through their inclusion in mainstream social policies.

¹ "Vulnerable" here means at risk of marginalisation, and includes refugees.

Context and rationale

While there is a long standing tradition of policy making in the immigration and asylum field at national level in Europe, the European Union itself entered this field only in the past decade. Understanding and engaging with the EU policy-making sphere has therefore become increasingly vital for NGOs to be effective. Strengthening the advocacy capacities of NGOs at a European level is a key goal for EPIM which aims to facilitate civil society in its role as a counterbalance to official institutions through:

- Enabling national NGOs to bring their knowledge and best practices to the EU level;
- Encouraging national NGOs to partner across the EU in order to build effective coalitions for advocacy and to learn from each other;
- Assisting pan-European NGOs or projects to take advantage of national experiences to seek out and develop European solutions to core challenges.

EPIM believes that it is the productive interplay between civil society, represented here by NGO projects, and the official institutions, that will bring the most positive results possible. Its earlier experiences with funding in this area demonstrates that NGO-input can assist the EU in developing more progressive and open approaches to these challenges.

EPIM 2012 – 2015 Grant and Capacity-building Programmes

This programme will provide grants and capacity building programmes to selected recipients (“grantees”).

EPIM is looking to support projects for a period of one to three years with budgets ranging from €50,000 to €300,000. EPIM will support project costs, including contribution to core costs such as salaries or rent where applicable.

Grantees will be required to be engaged in EPIM’s capacity building initiatives including participating in two dedicated workshops per year. There will also be additional funding available for grantees to engage in Joint Learning Initiatives (such as NGO exchanges, coaching or training), thus providing an opportunity to further develop knowledge and skills within and between the grantee organisations.

In addition, grantees will be expected to work with the EPIM Secretariat and a team of external evaluators who will be responsible for developing an overall strategic learning and reporting process.

Eligibility

1. Applicants must be registered charities or non-profit organisations in a European Union country.
2. Either Pan-European NGOs or national NGOs are suitable applicants as long as they demonstrate the value and rationale of engaging at European/transnational level as opposed to locally or nationally.

Note:

- In the case of national NGOs, the expected impact of the project should not be limited to the national level, and the project must include one or more partner(s) from other member states and/or at the EU level.
- In the case of pan-European NGOs and/or umbrella platforms, one or more member organisations and/or (external) partners must be included in their project.
- Projects that reach out to non-EU partners will also be considered.

3. While an organisation may be involved in more than one project application as a partner, it can only make one application for project funding under this Call for proposals as project coordinator. The organisation that leads the application will be considered as the project coordinator.
4. There is no explicit cap regarding the percentage of an NGO's total income that the project budget can represent. Nevertheless the NGO's capacity to absorb the grant successfully as well as general governance issues concerning organisational sustainability will be taken into account. There are however no specific criteria as regards the size of an organisation.
5. Funds cannot be provided for capital projects. Public interest litigation or access to direct legal advice may however qualify.
6. Direct service provision will only be eligible for funding if it has clear EU relevance and either provides evidence for an advocacy strategy or is a showcase of best practice. Co-funding will be required in this regard. A path to sustainability of the service provision beyond the project's lifetime should also be demonstrated.
7. Grants will be considered for projects with a strong research focus only when the research enhances an overall advocacy objective and these projects should outline a good dissemination and impact strategy.
8. English is the working language of EPIM. Only well-presented and clear applications in English will be accepted. Furthermore, NGO staff communicating with the EPIM secretariat and representing the grantees in EPIM's capacity building programmes will be expected to work in English.
9. The currency of the budget proposals must be established in Euros.
10. New applicants, as well as current and former EPIM grantees, are eligible to apply.

Selection criteria

EPIM will appoint a selection committee comprised of representatives from participating foundations, who will also be assisted by external experts. For the sake of neutrality, applicants should not lobby members of the selection committee. Preference will be given to projects that meet the essential criteria and some of the desirable criteria, outlined below:

Essential criteria

The project must:

- Aim to have a high impact on European policy or practice; proposals should be policy-relevant and demonstrate a strategic advocacy plan including appropriate activities to communicate with policy-makers.
- Endeavour to address urgent or contentious problems where there is a clear need for action.
- Include a strategy for evaluation.

Desirable criteria

The project should:

- Seek to mainstream migration and/or integration issues with links to other stakeholders including trade unions, local government, associations, etc.
- Engage in sharing good practice and in particular the transferability of best practices and experiences.
- Include migrant participation where possible.
- Have a well-defined media strategy.
- Demonstrate the sustainability of the impact of the project beyond the grant period.

How to apply

The application and selection process will take place in two steps.

1. Initial Application:

Applicants are invited to send the “EPIM 2012 Call for Proposals - Initial Application Form” and requested supporting documents to the EPIM secretariat by **1 March 2012**. This form can be downloaded from the EPIM website: www.epim.info .

2. Final Application

Applicants whose projects have been shortlisted will be invited in early April to submit a full application including additional supporting documents by **18 May 2012**. Final decisions will be made known in June 2012 and projects begin operations by September 2012. This form can be downloaded from the EPIM website.

All applications should be **sent by email**, with “EPIM 2012 Call for proposals - Application” in the subject line of the email, to the following email address: contact@epim.info. Applicants will receive an email acknowledging receipt of their application. While all applicants will be informed of the result of the call, unfortunately EPIM will not be able to provide individualised feedback on the process.

Timeline

19 January 2012	Publication of the 2012 Call for Proposals
1 March 2012	Deadline for initial applications
Early April 2012	Shortlisted applicants informed
18 May 2012	Deadline for final applications
June 2012	Successful grant applicants selected
By September 2012	Projects commence

Questions?

Please contact the EPIM secretariat (contact@epim.info) with any questions you may have on the grant application and selection process.

EUROPEAN PROGRAMME FOR INTEGRATION AND MIGRATION

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