



AN ROINN DLÉ AGUS CIRT AGUS COMHIONANNAIS
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY



NATIONAL PROGRAMME AMIF

(as officially adopted by the Commission on 21st March 2016)

NATIONAL PROGRAMME AMIF

IDENTIFICATION OF THE DESIGNATED AUTHORITIES

Competent authorities responsible for the management and control systems

Authority	Name of the authority	Head of the authority	Address	E-mail address	Date of designation	Activities delegated
Responsible authority	Funds Unit, Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration, Department of Justice and Equality	John Hurley	6-7 Hanover Street	jxhurley@justice.ie		
Audit authority	Internal Audit Unit, Department of Justice and Equality	Walter Johnston	51 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2	wjohnston@justice.ie		

Management and control system

A management and control system similar to that of the ERF and EIF s will be established. However, on this occasion, the Responsible Authority (RA) will be the Funds Unit of the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration (OPMI) rather than the Office as a whole. The existing Audit Authority (AA) in respect of the Solid Funds will continue in this role. Two Delegated Authorities are being appointed. The Repatriation Unit of the Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) will be a Delegated Authority in respect of all return actions. The Repatriation Unit is the RA for the European Return Fund (RF). Another Delegated Authority will be appointed to carry out certain functions similar to those discharged by the Delegated Authority for the ERF/ EIF.

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary

Under the AMIF, Ireland intends to continue the work done with the assistance of the SOLID Funds and improve its effectiveness where possible. There will continue to be strong support for the efforts of non-Government actors, including migrant and ethnic led organizations, in assisting applicants for and beneficiaries of international protection and in promoting the integration of TCNs.

In the area of Asylum, the aim is to improve the protection process, in particular by introducing a single procedure for applications for recognition as a refugee and applications for subsidiary protection. This will shorten the overall process and reduce the time applicants spend in the direct provision system in which most asylum seekers are accommodated.

Training in the operation of the new procedure, the improvement of the legal services provided to applicants and enhancement of our capacity to produce statistics are among the priorities for assistance from the Fund.

A Working Group has reported in June 2015 on improvements to the protection process, including direct provision and supports to asylum seekers. The Working Group was chaired by a retired High Court Judge and its membership was drawn from bodies involved in the international protection area including UNHCR and non-governmental organisations.

A range of reception and integration measures will also be supported, as appropriate, for applicants and beneficiaries of international protection with specific assistance for vulnerable persons.

Resettlement will be greatly increased from an average of less than 50 per year in 2010-2013 and 96 in 2014 to 297 in 2015, 223 in 2016, 858 in 2017 and 200 per year thereafter. Assistance from the Fund will be availed of for such measures as selection missions, information and assistance upon arrival and support for host communities.

An updated comprehensive integration strategy is being prepared . It will be finalised later in 2015. The strategy will apply to the integration of TCNs.

A range of integration priorities are identified for assistance from the Fund. These include measures to promote contact and dialogue between TCNs and the host community and acceptance of TCNs by that community, language training, anti-racism measures, measures to introduce TCNs to Irish society and civil and cultural life and measures focusing on vulnerable persons.

Strengthening the capacity of public and civil society bodies to provide services to TCNs in a culturally-appropriate manner, promoting the exchange of experience and best practice and building the capacity of beneficiaries will also be addressed with assistance from the Fund.

The Immigration and Residence Bill will introduce a more streamlined procedure for the return of TCNs who are unlawfully present in the State.

It is also planned to continue voluntary returns, to increase the range of voluntary return programmes available and to promote the voluntary return option as the preferred alternative to enforced returns. It is planned to carry out enforced returns as appropriate in order to protect the integrity of the asylum and immigration systems.

Priorities for assistance from the Fund include voluntary return including of vulnerable persons and the provision of counseling and reintegration grants, campaigns highlighting the benefits of voluntary return, training of staff to ensure smooth and effective return procedures, enforced returns, cooperation with third countries in order to facilitate return, and participation in joint return operations with other Member States.

Ireland has opted in to Council Decisions (EU) 2015/1523 and 2015/1601 relating to relocation. Under the former Decision, 600 persons will be relocated and, under the latter, 2,022 will be. The Government has established the Irish Refugee Protection Programme for this purpose. On arrival, persons will be offered accommodation in Emergency Reception

and Orientation Centres for the limited period of time necessary to determine their application for protection.

Assistance from the Fund will be availed of for such measures as information and assistance upon arrival and support for host communities.

The financing plan of the programme provides that 28.3% of the national allocation will be spent on Asylum, 27.9% on Integration, 25.5% on Return, 7.7% on Solidarity and 10.6% on technical assistance.

2. BASELINE SITUATION IN THE MEMBER STATE

Summary of the current state of play as of December 2013 in the Member State for the fields relevant to the Fund

Description of the baseline situation:

Population

The population of the State in April 2011 was 4,525,281. Of these, 544,357 were non- Irish, of which 157,593 were third-country nationals (TCNs), amounting to 29% of the non- Irish population and 3.5% of the population of the State.

An estimate by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) for April 2015 indicates that TCNs constituted 33.5% of the non-Irish population and 4.2% of the population of the State.

It is estimated by the CSO that there was a gross inflow 25,500 TCNs in the year ended April 2014 and 30,400 in the year ended April 2015.

Reception and asylum systems and procedures

Under the Refugee Act 1996, two independent offices consider applications for refugee status and appeals against negative decisions and make recommendations to the Minister for Justice and Equality (the “Minister”). These are the Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner (ORAC) and the Refugee Appeals Tribunal (RAT).

Under Regulations made by the Minister, ORAC is responsible for investigating and making recommendations to the Minister on applications for subsidiary protection. An appeal against a negative recommendation lies to the RAT.

ORAC also has the function of investigating applications by refugees for family reunification

Numbers of refugee applications have been as follows: 2,103 in 2015 (January-August); 1,448 in 2014; 946 in 2013; 956 in 2012; 1,290 in 2011. Positive recommendations on refugee status have been as follows: 93 in 2015 (January-August); 132 in 2014; 128 in 2013; 67 in 2012; and 61 in 2011.

At the end of December 2014, there were 743 applications outstanding in ORAC, of which 727 were less than 12 months old.

From November 2013, when ORAC assumed responsibility for examining subsidiary protection applications including the backlog in INIS, which was previously responsible, to end 2014, 833 reports were completed and 256 of these recommended the grant of protection. 977 applications were still pending at end 2014.

Prior to November 2013, numbers of subsidiary protection applications received were: 1,769 in 2010; 949 in 2011; 488 in 2012; and 467 in 2013. Applications granted in the same period were: 4 in 2010; 17 in 2011; 37 in 2012; and 31 in 2013.

Median processing time in 2014 in prioritized refugee status applications was 4.4 weeks in ORAC. For other cases, it was 15.3 weeks. For subsidiary protection applications, the median time from date of interview to date of report in ORAC was 51 working days.

In 2014, the RAT decided 173 refugee status appeals following an oral hearing and set aside 80 ORAC recommendations. The respective figures in previous years were: 455 and 50 in

2013; 446 and 45 in 2012; and 872 and 63 in 2011. There were 1,297 live appeals at the end of 2014 compared with 661 at the end of 2013.

The median length of time taken by the RAT to complete substantive appeals was approximately 49 weeks in 2014. This was an increase from the 2013 figure of 18 weeks.

At the start of 2014, the RAT had 6 ordinary members. A further 12 were appointed during the course of the year. The fall in the number of appeals dealt with and the increase in processing time was due to the need to fully train the new members.

The Reception and Integration Agency (RIA) arranges accommodation for asylum seekers and works with other bodies to co-ordinate the delivery of other services for them. At end-July 2015, there were 35 centres with a total capacity of 5,367.

RIA monitors the operation of accommodation centres on an on-going basis; co-ordinates the provision of services at the centres; and provides training and support to management.

There is rigorous assessment of prospective accommodation to ensure that statutory and contractual requirements are observed.

Residents of accommodation centres receive a weekly payment of €19.10 per adult and €9.60 per child and benefits such as exceptional needs payments; they qualify for certain benefits and rights (e.g. primary and secondary education and health) on the same basis as the general population.

RIA operates a child protection policy based on the Health Service Executive's Children First national guidelines for the protection and welfare of children.

The Refugee Legal Service (RLS) is a specialised office established by the Legal Aid Board to provide confidential and independent legal services to persons applying for asylum in Ireland.

Protection applicants are not detained.

Common European Asylum System

In accordance with the provisions of Protocol No. 21 annexed to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, Ireland is not bound to participate in EU instruments in this area but may opt-in to any it wishes to. While Ireland has opted-in to all the Phase One instruments with the exception of the Reception Conditions Directive, it has not opted in to the core Phase Two instruments with the exception of the recast EURODAC Regulation and the Dublin III Regulation. It has opted-in to the EASO Regulation and the AMIF Regulation.

Resettlement and relocation

Ireland has participated in the UNHCR Resettlement Programme since 2000. A Government decision in 2005 set a maximum quota of 200 persons per year.

Numbers resettled have been as follows: 2005 – 115; 2006 – 184; 2007 – 114; 2008 – 101; 2009 – 192; 2010 – 20; 2011 – 45; 2012 – 49; 2013 – 76; and 2014 – 96.

Ireland relocated 40 persons from Malta between 2007 and 2013.

The decision on the country of origin/country of refuge of the persons to be resettled is taken by the Minister in consultation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and appropriate Government Departments and agencies.

Cases are selected following a selection mission or on a dossier from UNHCR.

Pre-departure medical screening is done by the IOM.

New arrivals undergo medical screening, are linked to various services and receive general orientation/training to prepare them for independent living. Children under the age of 18 participate in an induction programme to prepare them for entry into mainstream education.

Resettled persons are accommodated temporarily by RIA before being provided with their own dwelling.

A language and training programme is put in place for a period of more than a year post-arrival.

OPMI continues to monitor and support the programme for up to 18 months post arrival.

Legal migration

The principal legislation governing the entry and residence of TCNs in the State is the Aliens Act, 1935 and Orders made under it.

The provisional 2014 year-end estimates of non-EEA nationals with permission to remain in the State is approximately 95,000, compared to 107,000 at the end of 2013 and approximately 121,000 at the end of 2012. The majority of persons with permission to remain in the State are here for work, family or study purposes. (Source: INIS statistics)

As regards economic developments, real GDP passed its pre-crisis peak in 2014. The level of GDP per person passed its pre-crisis peak in Q 2, 2015. Real GDP grew by 5.2% in 2014 and is forecast to grow by 6.2% in 2015, 4.3% in 2016, and 3.2% per annum thereafter to 2020.

Employment grew by 1.8% in 2014 and is forecast to grow by 2.8% in 2015, 2.4% in 2016 and 1.8% per annum thereafter to 2020. The unemployment rate was 11.3% in 2014 and is expected to average 9.5% in 2015 and 8.3% in 2016. Thereafter, it is expected to decline to 6.4% in 2020. (Source of economic data: Budget 2016 Economic and Fiscal Outlook, Department of Finance)

From these figures which illustrate economic and employment growth and declining unemployment, it may be inferred that immigration of TCNs, will continue in the coming years.

In Q2, 2015, the CSO estimates there were 162,900 TCNs aged 15 years and over in the State. Of these, 94,000 were in the labour force of which 82,900 were employed. The TCN

unemployment rate was, therefore, 11.7%. The overall unemployment rate was 9.7%. The figures for Q4, 2013 were: number of TCNs aged 15 and over – 153,600; number in the labour force – 95,2008; number unemployed – 80,100; TCN unemployment rate – 15.9%; overall unemployment rate – 11.8%.

Integration

Responsibility for the integration of TCNs in Irish society is assigned by Government Order to the Minister. However, integration is also the responsibility of all Government Departments and public bodies in their appropriate sphere with the OPMI having the role of leading and coordinating work in the area.

The broad principles to apply to the integration of TCNs were set out in Migration Nation ([http://www.integration.ie/website/omi/omiwebv6.nsf/page/AXBN-7SQDF91044205-en/\\$File/Migration%20Nation.pdf](http://www.integration.ie/website/omi/omiwebv6.nsf/page/AXBN-7SQDF91044205-en/$File/Migration%20Nation.pdf)) in 2008. Because of the turnaround in the State's economic fortunes which followed shortly afterwards, a number of the measures envisaged in that document did not take place.

However, funding of over €15 million has been delivered by OPMI to various national organisations and local authorities to promote immigrant integration from 2008 to 2014.

Integration strategies have been adopted by a number of public services, namely the arts, education, the Garda Síochána (Police), health and a number of local authorities.

Return

A person whose removal is contemplated is given an opportunity to make written representations to the Minister on the matter. Any representations are examined having regard to the factors set out by law. The prohibition of refoulement is also respected.

Persons facing the possibility of deportation can seek voluntary return as can persons who have yet to receive a decision on protection or residency.

A person, subject to a deportation order is required to present themselves on a specified date and time in order to make arrangements for their removal. Any person who fails to do this can be arrested and detained pending deportation.

Measures implemented and results achieved under the SOLID Funds

Under the European Fund for the Integration of TCNs (EIF), the most significant activities were in the areas of civic orientation and actions to promote contact and dialogue. Impressive results were achieved for participation of Irish staff and citizens (7,076), non-Irish nationals (4,035) and other indirect beneficiaries (1,768) in activities promoting dialogue. Over 18,000 TCNs participated in activities such as drop-in centres, themed information events, outreach services, language training and intercultural and interfaith dialogue. (source is the Evaluation Report submitted to the Commission for the period covered by the Annual Programmes 2007-2010).

Under the European Refugee Fund (ERF), most actions concerned support in the area of social assistance, with the provision of drop-in centres and outreach support being particularly successful in their uptake.

Information provision, inter-cultural themes, especially cultural and sporting activities supporting integration, all performed strongly. Service provider capacity building also received substantial focus.

Around 58% of projects related to reception, 37% to integration and 5% to resettlement. (source is the Evaluation Report submitted to the Commission for the period covered by the Annual Programmes 2008-2010).

The most recent call for applications under the EIF and ERF took place in August-September 2013 and the selected projects address broadly similar issues to those covered following previous calls.

Under the European Return Fund, 456 enforced returns took place and 1,005 voluntary returns. 762 persons availed of reintegration assistance under the Fund.

National resources available

The national resources available for actions carried out by or on behalf of the Department of Justice and Equality or organisations under its aegis will be provided in the Estimates of the Department as approved by Parliament from year to year. In 2016, the allocation to the OPMI will be €3.052 million from which some national matching funding can be made available,

usually for resettlement projects. INIS has a non-pay budget for 2016 of €28.118 million and from this will come the national matching funding for return actions.

In the case of other beneficiaries, the matching funding will generally be sourced by those bodies.

Current needs and challenges

While the current framework for the processing of protection applications is fair, it is inefficient and needs reform. The Working Group on improvements to the protection process, including direct provision and support to asylum seekers, which reported in June 2015, identified as the single most important issue that had to be resolved the length of time that many of those in the system had to wait before their cases were finally determined. The Working Group made recommendations in this regard. All the recommendations of the Group are being considered by the relevant Departments and Agencies

A single application procedure for the investigation of all grounds for protection or residency will be introduced. This will shorten the process. There will be a need for training so that the new procedure operates satisfactorily.

Ireland has opted in to Council Decisions (EU) 2015/1523 and 2015/1601. Under the former Decision, 600 will be relocated and, under the latter, 2,022 will be. The Government has established the Irish Refugee Protection Programme for this purpose. On arrival in Ireland, persons will be offered accommodation in Emergency Reception and Orientation Centres for the limited period of time necessary to determine their application for protection.

There is a need to review Ireland's approach to the integration of TCNs, and to develop a new strategy in the area as the most recent statement of strategy dates from 2008. To that end, work is being done on a strategy which will be finalised later in 2015.

Increasing numbers of applications for international protection, increased resettlement, the introduction of relocation, and ongoing and, perhaps, increased immigration of TCNs give rise to a need for a range of measures appropriate to each category which can be supported by the Fund.

3. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

Specific objective	1 - Asylum
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A single procedure for protection applications will be introduced. The procedure will also cover non-protection grounds on which permission to remain may be granted because applicants continue to reside in direct provision and the overall effect of the change will be to reduce the length of time the person will stay in the Direct provision system. The legislation to do this (the International Protection Bill) is expected to be enacted by the end of 2015. The Bill also provides for the establishment of an independent International Protection Appeals Tribunal (IPAT). The new procedure will significantly streamline and speed up the processing of protection applications and will reduce the length of time that persons spend in the direct provision system. Existing best practice will be embedded in the new regime.

The operational procedures and the training of personnel to implement the single procedure will be put in place following enactment of the legislation.

A Working Group was established in October 2014 to report to Government on improvements to the protection process, including direct provision and supports to asylum seekers. The terms of reference of the Working Group asked it to recommend to the Government what improvements should be made to the direct provision and protection process and to the various supports provided for protection applicants, and, specifically to indicate what actions could be taken in the short and longer term which are directed towards (i) improving existing arrangements in the processing of protection applications, (ii) showing greater respect for the dignity of persons in the system and improving their quality of life by enhancing the support and services currently available. The Working Group was chaired by a retired High Court Judge and its membership was drawn from a range of interests in the international protection area including UNHCR, non-governmental organisations, academia and relevant Government Departments and Offices. The final report of the Working Group was submitted to the Minister for Justice and Equality on 23 June 2015 and published on 30 June 2015. It makes 173 recommendations which are now being considered by the relevant Government Departments and Agencies.

Some of the recommendations of the Working Group may be suitable for funding under this Programme and this will be further looked at when the Government has fully considered the recommendations in the Report.

Reception measures will be implemented for applicants and beneficiaries of international protection and resettled persons. Integration-related measures, combined with reception

activities, will be implemented for beneficiaries of international protection and resettled persons.

In the years 2010 to 2014, because of financial constraints, numbers resettled have fallen short of the annual maximum of 200 set by the Government in 2005. It is proposed to radically increase the numbers resettled to approximately 2,074 in the period to 2020.

National objective	1 - Reception/asylum
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Priorities for assistance from the Fund for this purpose will include the following;

- Training programmes for the new IPAT members and caseworkers at first instance in relation to the new single procedure. The desired outcome is that the asylum determination process functions optimally;;
- Improvement of the services provided to applicants through, for example, the provision of early legal advice. The desired outcome is the improved operation of the determination process;
- Cooperation with UNHCR and availing of its expertise in the development of the single procedure. The desired outcome is that the asylum determination process functions optimally;
- The provision of material aid and support, including specific assistance for vulnerable persons, within the meaning of the recast Reception Conditions Directive including in the following areas:
 - health and psychological care, for example for victims of torture or sexual violence;
 - outreach support to the residents of direct provision centres providing information, training and support or drop-in centres for the same purposes;
 - translation and interpretation; and
 - education, training, including language training, and other initiatives which are consistent with the status of the person concerned;
 - measures to deal with the specific needs of unaccompanied minors including in the education system.

The desired outcome of these measures is that the target groups receive assistance in the areas in which they need support;

- Upgrade of the Irish National Automated Fingerprint System in order to implement the recast Eurodac Regulation;
- Measures recommended by the Working Group on improvements to the protection process that are approved by Government. Among the recommendations of the Working Group are ones related to the integration of residents of direct provision centres. The desired outcome identified in the Policy Dialogue of improved prospects for the social integration of asylum seekers will be addressed in this context;
- Actions to support family reunification for beneficiaries of international protection;
- Integration-related measures, combined with reception measures, in respect of beneficiaries of international protection and resettled persons. Examples would be targeted education initiatives to help resettled persons who left school early or whose education was interrupted; and life skills, personal development, and leadership programmes. The desired outcome will be that this target group are better equipped to succeed in Ireland.

National objective	2 - Evaluation
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Priorities for assistance from the Fund for this purpose will include the following;

- Enhancement of our capacity to produce statistics on the protection system, including for the purposes of Eurostat, EASO and UNHCR, by, for example, engaging professional support for this purpose;
- Research into the Irish resettlement programme focusing on the eventual outcome for persons admitted since 2000 and examining the resettlement model used and its successes and failures with a view to seeing what could be done better. It is envisaged that the research will contribute to the better implementation of the EU Resettlement Programme in Ireland.

National objective	3 - Resettlement
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Priorities for assistance from the Fund for this purpose will include the following;

- Selection missions to carry out interviews and conduct medical and security screening;
- Pre departure health assessment and medical treatment, pre departure material provisions, pre departure information and integration measures and travel arrangements, including the provision of medical escort services;
- Information and assistance upon arrival or shortly thereafter, including interpretation services;

- Support for receiving communities during the first year post-arrival in the community;
- Actions for family reunification purposes for persons being resettled in Ireland.

Specific action	1 - Transit centres
Specific action	2 - Access to asylum
Specific objective	2 - Integration/legal migration

Ireland's legal migration strategy over the coming years will focus on a number of strands. Firstly, Ireland will continue its efforts to attract highly skilled workers to contribute to our economic development. There is already a very generous immigration regime for such persons and in recent years the effort has been on streamlining the administrative processes for bringing such people to Ireland, including faster processing and greater flexibility. This will continue as will the successful operation of the EU researchers scheme and programmes aimed at entrepreneurs and investors. Secondly, substantial reform is being carried out on international student migration to raise quality standards and tackle abuses. Thirdly, an ongoing civilianisation programme will aim to deliver enhanced customer service to all migrants.

The Immigration and Residence Bill will overhaul Ireland's immigration laws providing for both codification of the disparate legislative instruments and also the setting out in much greater and transparent details the processes for applying for visas, entry and residence, including long term residence.

The Programme of the Government which took office in 2011 contains a commitment to promote policies which integrate minority ethnic groups in Ireland and which promote social inclusion, equality, diversity and the participation of immigrants in the economic, social, political and cultural life of their communities.

There is a need to review Ireland's approach to the integration of TCNs to ensure that the policy fulfils that commitment and to develop a new comprehensive integration strategy.

An updated integration strategy will be prepared and it is expected that a draft will be sent to stakeholders for their observations during the autumn with a view to the strategy being published as soon as possible thereafter. The strategy will have regard to this programme and be fully consistent with it.

During the process of developing the strategy, the following areas have been identified as being of paramount importance:

- The maintenance of and support for a welcoming and inclusive society where difference is valued;
- A commitment to ensuring fairness and equal treatment for all regardless of ethnicity or background;
- Access to equal opportunities for all;
- The removal of barriers to the personal, economic and social development of legally resident TCNs;
- Ensuring Ireland’s strategy for TCN integration is responsive to local, national and international developments;
- Ensuring, in so far as is practicable, that TCNs and their representative groups can contribute to policy and service development at an appropriate level.

National objective	1 - Legal migration
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No actions are planned under this objective.

National objective	2 - Integration
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Priorities for assistance from the Fund for this purpose will include the following;

- Actions that promote mutual understanding between the host community and TCNs, cultural awareness and the acceptance of TCNs in Irish society and that combat racism. Examples are intercultural/interfaith dialogue, anti-racism and other measures in workplaces and schools, training of front line staff in these subjects, and coverage of them in the media. The desired outcome will be good mutual understanding between TCNs and the host community, an appreciation of the benefits that legal migration of TCNs brings to Ireland, and the prevention of racism;

- Language training with a view to improving prospects for employment and social interaction;
- Other measures focusing on education, personal development, and preparatory actions to facilitate access to the labour market or self-employment and measures to combat discrimination and exploitation. Examples are courses to familiarize TCNs with the Irish labour market, preparing CVs and for interviews and for mainstream vocational training. The desired outcome will be more TCNs who are economically active and greater participation by TCNs in communities and society;
 - Actions introducing TCNs to Irish society and enabling them to adapt to it, to inform them about their rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, and obligations, to participate in civil and cultural life and sports and to share the values enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Examples are the provision of materials on these subjects in different languages as required. The desired outcome is that TCNs can participate fully in society;
- Actions which inform TCNs about the system of government and encourage their participation. An example would be campaigns to register TCN voters. The desired outcome is that TCNs avail of their political rights and that they understand how to influence policy making;
- Actions focused on vulnerable and socially-excluded persons e.g. activities to benefit TCNs who are low-paid, have literacy difficulties etc. The desired outcome is to improve the position of such persons and facilitate their integration in society.
- Additional integration-related measures in respect of beneficiaries of international protection and resettled persons e.g. targeted education initiatives to help those who left school early; and life skills and personal development programmes. The desired outcome will be that this target group are better equipped to succeed in Ireland;

The above actions may include immediate relatives (as defined in the basic act) of TCNs to the extent that it is necessary for the effective implementation of the actions.

National objective	3 - Capacity
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Priorities for assistance from the Fund for this purpose will include the following;

- Actions strengthening the capacity of public and civil society bodies in providing services in a culturally-appropriate manner, through for example the training of frontline staff, and in the language of the service user where necessary;
- Promoting the exchange of experiences and best practices, cooperation and networking in relation to integration by Irish authorities and bodies in Ireland and other Member States. The desired outcome is that relevant bodies in Ireland learn from experience elsewhere;
- Capacity building of recipients of funding under this Programme including through exchanges of experience and best practices, and networking. The desired outcome is that the learning from operating projects is captured for future reference.

Specific action	3 - Joint initiatives
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Specific action	4 - Unaccompanied minors
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Specific action	8 - Legal migration
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Specific objective	3 - Return
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The Immigration and Residence Bill will introduce a more streamlined procedure for the removal of TCNs who are unlawfully present in the State.

It is planned to continue voluntary returns, to increase the range of voluntary return programmes available and to promote the voluntary return option as the preferred alternative to enforced returns.

It is also planned to continue carry out enforced returns as appropriate in order to protect the integrity of the asylum and immigration systems.

National objective	1 - Accompanying measures
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Priorities for assistance from the Fund for this purpose will include the following;

- Training of staff to ensure smooth and effective return procedures, including their management and implementation. Staff must also be kept up to date with developments in the area of returns arising from changes in legislation or the consequences of court decisions or otherwise. Training is required both for the staff of the Repatriation Division and the members of the Garda National Immigration Bureau who effect enforced returns.

National objective	2 - Return measures
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Priorities for assistance from the Fund for this purpose will include the following;

- Voluntary return operations including counselling and reintegration grants;
- Enforced returns including measures necessary for the preparation of return operations;
- Cooperation with the consular authorities and immigration services of third countries with a view to obtaining travel documents, facilitating repatriation and ensuring readmission;
- Develop campaigns, including online, highlighting the benefits of voluntary return;
- Information and awareness raising activities promoting a sustainable return process;
- Inclusion in voluntary return measures of vulnerable persons such as unaccompanied minor asylum seekers or victims of trafficking, who wish to return to their home countries.

National objective	3 - Cooperation
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Priorities for assistance from the Fund for this purpose will include the following;

- Participation in joint return operations with other Member States, particularly the UK.

Specific action	5 - Joint return
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EURINT

Description of the action

The EURINT Network is a platform where expertise and knowledge about strategic and operational cooperation with third countries in the area of return is shared between the participating EU/ EER MS Institutions (EUMSI's) and Frontex.

Main objective

Increase the commitment of third countries towards return and improve the operational cooperation among EU MS and EU agencies as well as the sharing of best practices in the area of identification of migrants and implementation of joint return operations.

Role of the participating MS

Ireland will participate in the activities of the EURINT-Network in the following ways:

Designate one NCP that participates in the SGC's and operates as communication-hub towards the competent national services that need to be included in the events organized by the network;

- Participate in the third country oriented Third Country Working Groups, by delegating the right experts to this working groups, holding decisive power to agree on common actions and strategies;
- Participate in the workshops for field-practitioners;

Specific action	6 - Joint reintegration
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Specific action	7 - Joint family unity and unaccompanied minor reintegration
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Specific objective	4 - Solidarity
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Ireland has opted in to Council Decisions (EU) 2015/1523 and 2015/1601 relating to relocation. Under the former Decision, 600 persons will be relocated and, under the latter, it is expected that 2,022 will be relocated. The Government has established the Irish Refugee Protection Programme for this purpose.

As part of the relocation process, a full security check will be carried out by Ireland. There will also be an opportunity to take individuals’ preferences and wider suitability, such as language skills and cultural ties, into account before a decision is made on whether to relocate them to Ireland.

The people relocated will have their applications for protection examined in Ireland. On arrival, persons will be offered accommodation in Emergency Reception and Orientation Centres for the limited period of time necessary to determine their application for protection.

National objective	1 - Relocation
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Priorities for assistance from the Fund for this purpose will include the following:

- Medical and security screening of persons proposed for relocation;
- Pre departure health assessment and medical treatment, pre departure material provisions, pre departure information and integration measures and travel arrangements, including the provision of medical escort services;
- Information and assistance upon arrival or shortly thereafter, including interpretation services;
- Support for receiving communities during the first year post-arrival in the community;

INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

Specific Objective	NO/SA	Main action	Name of action	Start of planning phase	Start of implementation phase	Start of closing phase
SO1 - Asylum	NO1 - Reception/asylum	1	Training for the single procedure	2015	2015	2022
SO1 - Asylum	NO1 - Reception/asylum	2	Material aid and support	2015	2016	2022
SO1 - Asylum	NO2 - Evaluation	1	Enhancement of capacity to produce statistics	2015	2015	2022
SO1 - Asylum	NO2 - Evaluation	2	Research onto the Irish resettlement programme	2016	2016	2018
SO1 - Asylum	NO3 - Resettlement	1	Selection missions	2015	2016	2022
SO1 - Asylum	NO3 - Resettlement	2	Pre-departure measures	2015	2016	2022
SO1 - Asylum	NO3 - Resettlement	3	Information and assistance upon arrival	2016	2016	2022
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO2 - Integration	1	Language training	2015	2016	2022
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO2 - Integration	2	Actions relating to meaningful contact and constructive dialogue etc.	2015	2016	2022
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO2 - Integration	3	Civic orientation actions	2015	2016	2022
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO3 - Capacity	1	Capacity building of public and civil society bodies	2015	2016	2022
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO3 - Capacity	2	Exchange of experience and best practice	2015	2016	2022
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO3 - Capacity	3	Capacity building of beneficiaries	2018	2018	2022
SO3 - Return	NO1 - Accompanying measures	1	Staff training	2015	2015	2022
SO3 - Return	NO2 - Return measures	1	Voluntary return	2015	2015	2022
SO3 - Return	NO2 - Return measures	2	Enforced return	2015	2015	2022
SO3 - Return	NO2 - Return measures	3	Cooperation with authorities of third countries	2015	2015	2022
SO3 - Return	NO3 - Cooperation	1	Cooperation with authorities of third countries	2015	2015	2022
SO4 - Solidarity	NO1 - Relocation	1	Medical screening	2015	2015	2017
SO4 - Solidarity	NO1 - Relocation	2	Pre-Departure measures	2015	2015	2017
SO4 - Solidarity	NO1 - Relocation	3	information and assistance on arrival	2015	2015	2017

4. SPECIAL CASES

4.1 Resettlement

Justification of the number of persons to be resettled

In response to the Commission Recommendation of 8 June, 2015 on a European Resettlement Scheme, Ireland committed to resettling 300 persons in 2015-2016 additional to the 220 it was already planning to resettle. A Government decision of 9 June, 2015 approved the increased numbers. This figure of 520 is included in the Conclusions of 20 July 2015 of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council. In the first pledging period, 316 will be resettled and the aforementioned 520 in the second.

Pledging plan

Vulnerable groups and Common Union resettlement priorities (Lump Sum 10 000€ per person resettled)	2014-2015	2016-2017	2018-2020
Persons having medical needs that can be addressed only through resettlement	38	40	
Refugees in Eastern Africa/Great Lakes	7		
Refugees from Iraq in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan	41	80	
Syrian refugees in the region	230	400	
Total union priorities	316	520	
Grand total	316	520	

4.2 Transfer & relocation

	From	To	2014-2015	2016-2017	2018-2020
Transfer	Greece	Ireland	0	0	
Transfer	Italy	Ireland	0	0	
Relocation (2015/1523)	Greece	Ireland	0	240	
Relocation (2015/1523)	Italy	Ireland	0	360	
Relocation (2015/1601)	Greece	Ireland	0	849	

	From	To	2014-2015	2016-2017	2018-2020
Relocation (2015/1601)	Italy	Ireland	0	263	

5. COMMON INDICATORS AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC INDICATORS

Specific objective	1 - Asylum			
Indicator	Unit of measure	Baseline value	Target value	Source of data
C1 - Number of target group persons provided with assistance through projects in the field of reception and asylum systems supported under this Fund	Number	0.00	8,000.00	Project reporting
C2.1 - Capacity (i.e. number of places) of new reception accommodation infrastructure set up in line with the minimum requirements for reception conditions set out in the EU acquis and of existing reception accommodation infrastructure improved in line with the same requirements as a result of the projects supported under this Fund	Number	0.00	0.00	Project reporting
C2.2 - The percentage in the total reception accommodation capacity	%	0.00	0.00	Project reporting
C3.1 - Number of persons trained in asylum-related topics with the assistance of the Fund	Number	0.00	75.00	Project reporting
C3.2 - That number as a percentage of the total number of staff trained in those topics	%	0.00	40.00	Project reporting
C4 - Number of country of origin information products and fact-finding missions conducted with the assistance of the Fund	Number	0.00	1.00	Project reporting
C5 - Number of projects supported under this Fund to develop, monitor and evaluate asylum policies in Member States	Number	0.00	1.00	Project reporting
C6 - Number of persons resettled with support of this Fund	Number	0.00	2,074.00	Authority in charge of transferring the persons

Specific objective	2 - Integration/legal migration			
Indicator	Unit of measure	Baseline value	Target value	Source of data
C1 - Number of target group persons who participated in pre-departure measures supported under this Fund	Number	0.00	0.00	Project reporting
C2 - Number of target group persons assisted by this Fund through integration measures in the framework of national, local and regional strategies	Number	0.00	20,000.00	Project reporting
C3 - Number of local, regional and national policy frameworks/measures/tools in place for the integration of third country nationals and involving civil society, migrant communities as well as all other relevant stakeholders, as a result of the measures supported under this	Number	0.00	5.00	Project reporting

Specific objective	2 - Integration/legal migration			
Indicator	Unit of measure	Baseline value	Target value	Source of data
Fund				
C4 - Number of cooperation projects with other Member States on integration of third-country nationals supported under this Fund	Number	0.00	1.00	Project reporting
C5 - Number of projects supported under this Fund to develop, monitor and evaluate integration policies in Member States	Number	0.00	1.00	Project reporting

Specific objective	3 - Return			
Indicator	Unit of measure	Baseline value	Target value	Source of data
C1 - Number of persons trained on return-related topics with the assistance of the Fund	Number	0.00	60.00	Project reporting
C2 - Number of returnees who received pre or post return reintegration assistance co-financed by the Fund	Number	0.00	1,100.00	Project reporting
C3 - Number of returnees whose return was co-financed by the Fund, persons who returned voluntarily	Number	0.00	1,600.00	Project reporting
C4 - Number of returnees whose return was co-financed by the Fund, persons who were removed	Number	0.00	400.00	Project reporting
C5 - Number of monitored removal operations co-financed by the Fund	Number	0.00	4.00	Project reporting
C6 - Number of projects supported under the Fund to develop, monitor and evaluate return policies in Member States	Number	0.00	6.00	Project reporting

Specific objective	4 - Solidarity			
Indicator	Unit of measure	Baseline value	Target value	Source of data
C1 - Number of applicants transferred from one Member State to another with support of this Fund	Number	0.00	2,622.00	Authority in charge of relocation
C2 - Number of cooperation projects with other Member States on enhancing solidarity and responsibility sharing between the Member States supported under this Fund	Number	0.00	1.00	Project reporting

6. FRAMEWORK FOR PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME BY THE MEMBER STATE

6.1 Partnership involvement in the preparation of the programme

Inputs were received from the INIS, which is a branch of the Department of Justice and Equality, particularly as regards returns for which it is responsible and from ORAC. Within OPMI, we took on board points that have emerged from the work on drawing up a new immigrant integration strategy.

The Department of Education and Skills was consulted both in regard to the education system and because a unit of the Department is the managing authority for the ESF.

The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, which is responsible for funding community development, was also consulted.

Regard was had to a Position Paper from a number of NGOs, namely, the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, Cross Care Migrant Project, NASC Immigrant Centre, Irish Refugee Council and Cultúr in preparing the first draft of the Programme. This Position Paper was developed following a meeting between the NGOs and the Director General, DG HOME.

A partnership has been established in accordance with Article 12 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014. The following were invited and agreed to participate: County and City Managers' Association (representing senior local government management), International Organisation for Migration, UNHCR, Migrant Rights Centre, Immigrant Council of Ireland, Cultúr, Nasc Immigrant Centre, Crosscare Migrant Project, New Communities Partnership, Doras Luimni, Irish Refugee Council (all of which are NGOs active in the immigration and/or asylum fields, except for IOM and UNHCR), and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (social partner).

A draft of the programme was sent to the members of the partnership and written observations were received from many of the members. A meeting was held with most of the members on 16 July and some other members were met separately. A further draft was prepared taking account of the views received and a meeting was held on 22 October. Some further observations were received on the draft and regard has been had to these.

6.2 Monitoring Committee

A monitoring committee will be established and membership will be open to members of the partnership and the managing authority of the ESF. Subject to the provisions of Regulation

(EU) No 514/2014, the committee will consider the annual implementation reports and the evaluation reports and will meet as often as necessary to discharge these functions. The committee will also receive reports produced under the monitoring and evaluation framework and meetings can be called to discuss these as necessary. It will operate at an aggregate rather than at a project level in order to avoid possible conflicts of interest. The committee may also receive and consider reports of systems audits by the audit authority. The views of the monitoring committee will be taken into account by the responsible and delegated authorities.

6.3 Common monitoring and evaluation framework

It is intended that the monitoring and evaluation function will be located in the delegated authority (not the returns delegated authority). It is not the intention to outsource the monitoring and evaluation function.

There is already a monitoring and evaluation system in place for the EIF and ERF. This involves the gathering of data from projects through an online survey in which they detail their outputs and outcomes. These can then be aggregated to programme level. The adaptation of this system for the AMIF will be examined. On-the-spot checks will also be conducted.

Within the delegated authority, evaluation will be carried out by persons not involved in the management of the Programme.

Monitoring and evaluation reports will be shared with the monitoring committee and with the projects.

The monitoring and evaluation framework will inform us of progress in achieving the objectives of the Programme on an ongoing basis, the impact the Fund is having and the extent to which the different types of project contribute to the attainment of Programme objectives. It will also facilitate preparation of the interim and ex-post evaluation reports. In relation to the former report, the framework will contribute to the mid-term review and any decision on revising the Programme following this.

6.4 Partnership involvement in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national programme

It is proposed to have the same partners in these areas as in the preparation of the Programme if they wish to take part. It is recognized that some partners will not wish to participate in monitoring returns. Subject to this, the monitoring committee will effectively include the members of the partnership and, in this way, it will be open to the partners to participate in the functions referred to above.

6.5 Information and Publicity

The National Programme will be accessible on the website of the responsible and delegated authorities. The approval of the Programme will be publicised on the website of the responsible authority and by means of a press release. The list of actions supported by the Fund will be accessible on the website of the appropriate delegated authorities.

The obligations on beneficiaries under Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No.1048/2014 will be referred to in the grant agreements.

Guidelines will be published by the delegated authorities containing the information for potential beneficiaries referred to in that Delegated Regulation.

6.6 Coordination and complementarity with other instruments

There will be consultation with the unit in the Department of Education and Skills which is the managing authority for the ESF. The responsible authority is represented on the monitoring committee for the ESF and the ESF managing authority will be on the monitoring committee for this programme.

Possible overlaps with Structural Funds other than the ESF will be investigated and regular liaison maintained with the relevant competent authorities.

6.7 Beneficiaries

6.7.1 List of five main types of beneficiaries of the programme

Non-governmental organisations, local public bodies, State authorities, international public organisations and public law companies.

6.7.2 Direct award (if applicable)

Direct award is envisaged in the case of enforced returns which will be carried out by the national police force because only its members have the necessary legal powers. It will also

apply to actions that will be implemented by the bodies which are solely competent in the area such as many of the resettlement and relocation actions, training of staff, cooperation with UNHCR and availing of its expertise, upgrade of the Irish National Automated Fingerprint System, some measures recommended by the Working Group on improvements to the protection process, enhancement of the capacity to produce statistics on the protection system, research into the Irish resettlement programme, evaluation of the national integration strategy and other actions where the specific nature of the project or the technical or administrative competence of the relevant bodies leaves no other choice.

7. THE FINANCING PLAN OF THE PROGRAMME

Table 1: AMIF Financial plan

Specific objective / national objective / specific action	Total
SO1.NO1 Reception/asylum	3,570,000.00
SO1.NO2 Evaluation	450,000.00
SO1.NO3 Resettlement	1,500,000.00
TOTAL NO SO1 Asylum	5,520,000.00
SO1.SA1 Transit centres	
SO1.SA2 Access to asylum	
TOTAL SA SO1 Asylum	0.00
TOTAL SO1 Asylum	5,520,000.00
SO2.NO1 Legal migration	
SO2.NO2 Integration	5,085,000.00
SO2.NO3 Capacity	370,000.00
TOTAL NO SO2 Integration/legal migration	5,455,000.00
SO2.SA3 Joint initiatives	
SO2.SA4 Unaccompanied minors	
SO2.SA8 Legal migration	
TOTAL SA SO2 Integration/legal migration	0.00
TOTAL SO2 Integration/legal migration	5,455,000.00
SO3.NO1 Accompanying measures	275,000.00
SO3.NO2 Return measures	3,695,527.76
SO3.NO3 Cooperation	1,000,000.00
TOTAL NO SO3 Return	4,970,527.76
SO3.SA5 Joint return	
SO3.SA6 Joint reintegration	

SO3.SA7 Joint family unity and unaccompanied minor reintegration	
TOTAL SA SO3 Return	0.00
TOTAL SO3 Return	4,970,527.76
SO4.NO1 Relocation	1,500,000.00
TOTAL SO4 Solidarity	1,500,000.00
Technical assistance	2,073,549.24
TOTAL Special Cases	18,632,000.00
TOTAL	38,151,077.00

Table 2: Special case pledges

Special case pledges	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Resettlement total	1,580,000.00	1,580,000.00	2,600,000.00	2,600,000.00				8,360,000.00
Relocation (2015/1523) total	0.00	0.00	1,800,000.00	1,800,000.00				3,600,000.00
Relocation (2015/1601) total	0.00	0.00	3,336,000.00	3,336,000.00				6,672,000.00
Transfer total	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00
TOTAL	1,580,000.00	1,580,000.00	7,736,000.00	7,736,000.00				18,632,000.00

Table 3: Total Annual EU commitments (€)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
Asylum and solidarity	0.00	3,190,059.96	14,213,198.84	2,950,412.00	2,656,971.00	1,830,002.00	1,835,777.00	26,676,420.80
Integration and return	0.00	2,220,383.04	2,259,361.16	1,728,083.00	1,513,507.00	1,873,811.00	1,879,511.00	11,474,656.20
TOTAL	0.00	5,410,443.00	16,472,560.00	4,678,495.00	4,170,478.00	3,703,813.00	3,715,288.00	38,151,077.00

Justification for any deviation from the minimum shares set in the Specific Regulations

Documents

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
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