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1. Programme strategy: main challenges and policy responses

Reference: points (a)(iii), (iv), (v) and (ix) Article 22(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR)

Cyprus, a front line MS in the Eastern Mediterranean route has been faced with disproportionate migratory pressure for the past 5 years. The increase in arrivals continued in 2019 through 2022 and currently CY has the highest number of arrivals per capita in the EU. Despite the overall decrease in arrivals to the EU, in CY from 2014 until the first trimester of 2020 new arrivals raised dramatically and reached 34000 compared to 14440 in the previous 5 years.

Over 81% of the overall influx come directly from Turkey or through the areas not under the effective control of the RoC. The vast majority of irregular flows are not a result of search and rescue mission but a result of irregular crossings through the buffer zone “Green Line” which is not a border. The percentage of Syrian nationals as prima facie persons in need of protection account for over 26% of the overall migratory influx. At the end of 2021 13235 new applicants were registered in CY. In the first 7 months of 2022 13818 applicants were added, with DR Cong being the top nationality and Nigeria, Syria, Pakistan and Bangladesh being the top 5. The percentage of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of inter. protection corresponds to 5% of the population of CY leading to major demographic change in certain areas of the island as well as adding to the ghettoization of urban areas.

The recent influx of refugees from Ukraine has led to the activation of Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of March 4 2022 by the Ministerial Council on March 22nd as well as art. 20 of the Cyprus Refugee Law which incorporates the Temporary Protection Directive 2001/55/EC. Between March 4 and May 9 a total of 12142 Ukrainian nationals have arrived in CY with 10093 registering for temporary protection.

A Memorandum of Understanding was agreed on 18/2/22 between the RoC and the EC, the EUAA, the EBCGA and Europol on the implementation of the EU-Cyprus Action Plan for Migration Management. Its main objectives are to enhance capacities on first reception, improve on material reception conditions and reception capacity based on a comprehensive national reception strategy, implement timely and effective asylum procedures, improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the return system and establish a comprehensive national integration strategy. Under the mandate of the MoU and renewed Action Plan dedicated communication and coordination structures have been developed for the distribution of tasks between EU and CY authorities. These include the OCP Steering Group composed from representatives of COM, EU Agencies and CY authorities to oversee the overall implementation of the Action Plan. A relevant Working Group on Returns has been set up, to observe and evaluate the effectiveness of CY efforts. Also the Working Group on First Reception Centre, initially established in 12/2019, continues to follow developments in upgrading Pournara First Reception Centre and the implementation of agreed SOPs.

Asylum

Asylum procedures in CY are in a constant process of alignment with EU acquis. National strategy centers on prompt examination and management of the back log of applications for inter. protection and effective reception and housing of applicants for inter. protection.

In view of a comprehensive management of migration flows, the MoU and relevant Action Plan address a number of recommendations and additionally the Council of Ministers adopted in 03/2020 a number of measures positively affecting the RoCs asylum, reception and return policy.

Still country wide challenges remain some of which have been identified in the updated Migration Action Plan.

The main challenges identified by CY authorities and EU partners and for which investments are to be made are:

- Effective and timely implementation of asylum procedures

- The full and timely implementation of endorsed SOPs
- Improvement of data management system(s)
- Developing a broad Reception System, increasing reception capacity
- Developing a comprehensive reception strategy with clear and concrete objectives
- Effective inter-agency cooperation and clear responsibilities especially in relation to vulnerable groups
- Effective and well-functioning management structure/organigram and staff enhancement of the Asylum Service (AS), Social Welfare Services (SWS), Law Office of the Republic and International Protection Administrative Court (IPAC).
- Improve access to information for asylum seekers pertaining to their rights and obligations, incl. legal and reception procedures.

CY has no plans to address the external dimension of CEAS.

From the national challenges described above AMIF will specifically contribute to the following:

- Support of reception capacity i.e. support of the operation of Kofinou Centre, the existing Nicosia UAMs Centre, the newly constructed under AMIF TF Union Action for MS under pressure Reception Centre for applicants of international protection and pre-removal detention centre at Limnes, as well as a potential housing option with priority given to vulnerable groups.
- Effective and well-functioning management structures for relevant authorities throughout the reception/asylum system. AMIFs contribution will center on supporting relevant authorities- AS, SWS, Law Office and IPAC- with the acquisition of additional personnel for the timely processing of applications throughout the asylum process
- Improve information exchange through the continued upgrade of CAS database. AMIFs contribution will focus on supporting the second phase of the upgrade of the Electronic Database of the Asylum Service

Legal Migration and Integration

For **legal migration**, persisting migratory pressure together with limited recruitments due to the economic crisis, has put the admin. capacity of the Civil Registry and Migration Department (CRMD) under severe pressure resulting in backlog and delays that negatively impact services provided to TCNs. The processing period for residence permits applications has steadily increased and in some cases marked a delay of 14 months. The main challenge identified is staff shortages at the CRMD.

For integration, as well as ensuring the successful **integration** of already residing non EU nationals, CY has to enable the integration of newly arriving migrants, a difficult task given the continuously increasing number of arrivals. Asylum seekers now make up approx. 5% of the population placing extensive burden on the RoCs resources and leading to demographic changes in certain areas of CY. Integration efforts will be targeted mostly to migrants with a high recognition percentage and those who have been granted legal residence, without of course excluding those who are in the early stages of the migration process. In the renewed Migration Action Plan, the need to establish and implement an effective and comprehensive integration strategy including the establishment of a timeline for the implementation of concrete actions, has been identified. In PP 2014-2020 a new National Action Plan on Integration of TCNs was developed with a view to constitute the main national strategy document on integration. The preliminary findings of the Action Plan on Integration indicate the main challenges as:

- Limited access to housing
- High unemployment rates amongst migrants
- Limited accessibility to services due to language barriers and insufficient training of staff
- Limited educational and language programmes which need to expand in quantity and nature as to respond to the increasing demand
- Lack of awareness in host society

Based on the above the National Action Plan proposed a series of measures identifying national and EU funding sources for their implementation, incl. AMIF. Their implementation along with the subsequent monitoring, evaluation and update of its proposed strategy/actions poses an additional challenge.

- Access to labor market through use of profiling tools, language and work programmes
- Awareness campaigns for host society
- Support through counselling services, awareness of rights, accessibility of services
- Enhanced coordination between relevant state authorities

In PP 2021-2027 CY aims to draft its national integration strategy in line with the EU Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027 and its overarching migration strategy which focuses on tackling irregular migration, voluntary returns and cooperation with third countries. If no alternative source of funding (eg. TSI) is available, the drafting and monitoring for the new strategy may be funded under AMIF.

Next to the national integration strategy a new national Action Plan on Integration for 2023-2025 will be drafted to be prepared in house by the CRMD and Ministry of Interior with the cooperation of the Advisory Board on Integration of Migrants and will update the draft National Action Plan on Integration 2020-2022.

From the above national challenges AMIF will contribute to:

- Upgrading the administrative capacity of the CRMD
- Integration measures by local communities/NGOs, incl. screening, profiling, counselling etc.
- Preparatory actions to facilitate access to the labor market
- Measures targeting the education sector/ language courses
- Update, monitoring and evaluation of the national integration strategy/ Action Plan

Returns

Despite the significant increase of returns operated by CY in 2022 as a result of the creation of the National Returns Office the rate remains disproportional against the exponential growth of migratory influx. The main challenges inhibiting **returns** and in a sustainable manner are:

- Effective and timely implementation of asylum procedures (see policy area of Asylum)
- Staff shortages at the CRMD and Aliens and Immigration Unit (AIU) of CY Police, as well as equipment for the AIU
- Swift return decisions for TCNs whose claims for international protection or legal stay have been rejected or reached to an end
- Improving the effectiveness and scope of AVRER programmes
- Using already existing readmission tools, EU agreements and other arrangements in place (eg. bilateral readmission agreement and implemented protocol agreement with Lebanon), expanding new bilateral agreements with countries of interest like India, additional implemented protocols with countries already having agreements with EU, eg. Pakistan
- Using the opportunities offered by the EBCGA including the development of RECAMAS
- Increase detention capacity specifically through the establishment of the pre-removal detention Centre at Limnes
- Establishment of effective returns mechanism

The above challenges have also been identified in COMs report following a fact-finding mission on the mapping of the return system (29-31/10/2019) and in the updated Migration Action Plan for CY. These findings are also reflected in the Scheval on returns.

Considering the above findings the Ministry of Interior agreed on an operational action plan with Frontex

as well as SOPs on Returns with the EC.

A key aspect of the above is the establishment of the National Returns Office which has been operating within the Ministry of Interior since 2022 and is staffed by personnel from all state departments involved in the returns process (CRMD, AIU, AS and also linked to the State Legal Service).

Its aim is to effectively coordinate services, address problems and bureaucracy and improve the procedures followed at all stages of the returns so as to make them efficient and effective.

The aim in the coming period is to strengthen the AVRR sector as well as the use of the JRS.

Several actions included in the NP address the recommendations of the return Scheval and the renewed Migration Action Plan. Specifically, from the above national challenges AMIF will contribute to the following:

- Implementation of AVRR programme in all stages of the management of irregular migration incl. at first reception and detention facilities
- Removal/return operations
- Independent monitoring of forced returns
- Support and improvement of Mennoya Detention Centre (MDC)
- Support of the newly constructed Limnes pre-removal detention centre
- Pilot projects on effective alternatives to detention
- Enhancement of the administrative capacity of the authorities responsible for return

Solidarity

Solidarity and fair responsibility sharing are essential for the effective management of disproportionate migratory pressures faced by front line MS such as CY.

An important development is the launch of the Solidarity Platform mechanism by the EU. Following Solidarity Platform Meetings, in an act of solidarity to Mediterranean MS due to the increased migratory pressures they are facing a number of MS have made pledges for the relocation of a number of applicants for international protection.

Germany, France, Bulgaria and Romania expressed their intention to relocate a number of applicants for international protection from CY, with Portugal also expressing such an intention. Missions from Germany and France are currently planned with missions from Romania and Bulgaria to follow.

It is clarified that relocations under the Solidarity Platform will not be funded through AMIF. Still funding has been allocated to a possible relocation programme under AMIF, should the need arise during the P.P.

Main challenge

- Implementation of future bilateral agreements between CY and EU 27+ for voluntary relocation programs from Cyprus to the EU 27+.

AMIF contribution

- Supporting the AS in establishing contacts with EU countries for the relocation of applicants with high percentage of recognition or vulnerabilities, approx. 30 – 40 persons for each relocation programme i.e Romania, Finland and others.

EU acquis

CY has no pending matter on the implementation of EU acquis in the area of migration apart from a minor amendment of the Refugee legislation regarding the full incorporation of the EU Pilot 9870/2021 which introduces the requirement to seek advice from a health professional as to whether the applicant for international protection is fit to participate in a personal interview. The amendment is currently under review by the House of Representative and is expected to be ratified soon.

Regarding the Migration Action Plan, CY authorities are taking every step to implement as many actions

included therein with emphasis to ones funded by AMIF. One of the first priorities is the construction of Limnes Reception Centre for applicants of international protection and pre-removal detention centre which will contribute to the smoother processing of procedures. Also a masterplan regarding the upgrading of Pournara FRC has been produced, implemented in stages, initially funded from national funds.

For the acceleration of examination procedures of applications, significant amendments of the legislation and relevant regulations have taken place with concrete results expected. Amendments have also been made to judicial regulations so that the competent Courts are able to speed up their procedures and facilitate the fast conclusion of the examination process.

As for integration, CY aims to draft its national integration strategy in line with the EU Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027 as explained above in Legal Migration and Integration section.

Country specific recommendations

In terms of Scheval recommendations the following actions included in the Action Plan to remedy the deficiencies identified in the 2020 Scheval in the field of Returns are foreseen to be funded under AMIF:

- Reinforcing the capacity of the authorities responsible for return
- Ensure sufficient capacity in specialized detention facilities to avoid resorting to police detention centres
- Enhance the capacity of the forced return monitoring mechanism for effective monitoring of all phases of forced return operations

Future Scheval recommendations with financial implications will be prioritized under AMIF.

Organisational Framework

Based on lessons learnt from PPs 2007-2013 and 2014-2020, the European Funds Unit of the Ministry of Interior as the Managing Authority (MA) for all 3 Home Affairs Funds, has identified monitoring/reporting/control procedures and their related provisions from the Common Provisions Regulation in correlation with increased funding as challenging for both the MA and the beneficiaries. For beneficiaries of the Fund that are public bodies in particular, delays were observed in the implementation of projects or timely use of funding due to delays in procurement and decision-making procedures, shortages in staff, changes in policy priorities and COVID-19 pandemic, together with the need to reduce existing administrative burden (e.g. number of audit controls). For non-public body beneficiaries, weaknesses were observed in the accomplishment of indicators/deliverables and the timely submission of reports. So far the MA is addressing these challenges through: the development of a customized electronic data system for the MA and the beneficiaries (currently in the design phase by the contractor), new sampling methodology on controls (incl. on-the-spot visits), revised risk assessment tool, application of simplified cost options (unit costs, lump sums, flat rates). In terms of governance, the MA uses a manual of procedures and has participated in CAF evaluation for the identification of strengths and gaps while it aims to improve internal decision making procedures through the new data system.

Complementarities and synergies

Complementarities are ensured since CY has the same MA for all 3 Home Affairs Funds. Home Affairs Funds are also part of the Cypriot Partnership Agreement and complementarities with other relevant Funds are described therein and Section 6 of the Programme.

2. Specific Objectives & Technical Assistance

Reference: Article 22(2) and (4) CPR

Selected	Specific objective or Technical assistance	Type of action
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. CEAS	Regular actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. CEAS	Specific actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. CEAS	Annex IV actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. CEAS	Operating support
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. CEAS	Emergency assistance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Legal migration and integration	Regular actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Legal migration and integration	Specific actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2. Legal migration and integration	Annex IV actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Legal migration and integration	Operating support
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Legal migration and integration	Emergency assistance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Return	Regular actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Return	Specific actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Return	Annex IV actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Return	Operating support
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Return	Emergency assistance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Solidarity	Regular actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Solidarity	Specific actions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. Solidarity	Annex IV actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Solidarity	Operating support
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Solidarity	Emergency assistance
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Solidarity	Resettlement and humanitarian admission
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Solidarity	International protection (Transfer in)
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Solidarity	International protection (Transfer out)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	TA.37. Technical assistance - not linked to costs (Art. 37 CPR)	

2.1. Specific objective: 1. CEAS

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

Baseline situation

CY remains the top receiving EU MS regarding first time asylum applications in proportion to its population for the 5th consecutive year. By the end of 12/2020 approx. 7000 new applicants were registered in CY, with Syrians being the number one nationality in asylum applications. Though in 2020 due largely to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic applications decreased to 7094, there was a marked increase in 2021 with applications reaching 13235, whereas by July 2022 13818 applications were lodged. In all, from 2015 to 2021 51505 new asylum applications were submitted, a 487% increase. For 2020 pending cases reached 18995 and for 2021 18808, the main nationality being Syrian. As regards withdrawn applications, for 2021 they reached 1877. First instance decisions in 2020 rose to 3373 (Refugee status=147, subsidiary=1496, rejected=1730) and to 12236 in 2021 (Refugee status=291, subsidiary=1983, rejected=9962). At second or higher instance in 2018 refugee status was granted to 5 persons and to 15 in 2019 marking a +200% increase with the main nationality being Palestine. Rejections were issued for 465 persons in 2018 and 750 in 2019, an increase of +61% with the main nationality being Bangladeshi (29%). In 2020 and 2021 1730 and 9962 rejections were issued respectively.

With regards to recent developments in **Ukraine**, between 14/03 and 09/05 2022 a total of 12142 Ukrainian nationals have arrived in CY and in the same period 10093 Ukrainians have registered for temporary protection. Ukrainian nationals who are eligible to register for temporary protection can do so either via an online application or at district immigration offices. To date a total of 4344 applications have been lodged online, 558 in offices in Nicosia, 1135 in Larnaca, 412 in Famagusta, 2719 Limassol and 1291 in Paphos.

The **SWS** provided material reception conditions in 2020 to 6273 households and up to 12/2021 to 8131 households, representing a major increase from previous years. The total number of current cases of applicants of international protection in the SWS reached 11684 until 08/2021. The budget devoted for their support increased to €25.521.000 in 2020 and €35.00.000 in 2021. In 2020 a total amount of €3.352.862 was spent by the SWS to cover accommodation costs in hotel units for approx. 750 persons.

Major increases are seen in the numbers of UAMs arriving in CY. While in 2015 new cases of UAMs were 114, in 2020 they reached 314 and in 2021 to 659 new cases. Up to July 2022 new cases reached 497 and total number of UAMs to 920.

The SWS has responded to these increasing needs by obtaining support through the EMAS project (ref. code HOME/2019/AMIF/AG/EMAS/0111). Through the project the SWS recruited additional personnel (42 Social Services Officers and 24 Institutional Officers) for handling cases of UAMs and applicants of international protection.

EUAA has been providing special support to CY from 2014 to 2018 through the signature first of a Special Support Plan and then an Operating Plan. The EUAA and CY on 13/12/2021 agreed on a Multiannual Operating Plan 2022-2024 with an implementation period until 31/12/2024 under which the following measures will be supported:

Measure CY 1: Support to Asylum

Measure CY 2: Support to Reception

Measure CY 3: Cross cutting support

Lastly the EUAA supports CY authorities in implementing transfers exercises as and if requested and in the case of pledges being offered to CY from other MS. On 24/12/2022, the Russian invasion of Ukraine led to a nationwide humanitarian emergency. The resulting influx of refugees to the EU led to Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4/3/2022, where Art.3 par.2 stipulates that the EUAA should provide operational support to MS that have requested assistance to help them cope with the situation, including for the purposes of applying the aforementioned Decision. In CY, the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382 of 4/3/2022 was activated by Ministerial Decision on the 22/3/2022, and the article 20 of the Cyprus Refugee Laws which incorporates the Temporary Protection Directive 2001/55/EC. Against this backdrop on 13/04/2022 CY authorities requested support from the EUAA for the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive in CY via a letter addressed to the Executive Director of the EUAA. Following this the EUAA Executive Director on May 6th responded to the request confirming EUAA capacity to support with the allocation of new resources as needed.

There is one **Reception and Accommodation Centre** near the village of **Kofinou**. The Centre is equidistant from the 3 largest towns in the areas under the effective control of the RoC and has been reconstructed to increase its capacity to accommodate up to 450-500 persons. Those who cannot be accommodated at the Centre are supported by the **SWS**. Presently 374 asylum seekers are living in the centre (families, singles). The average number of residents in 2019 was 227 persons per month.

A **reception centre for emergency accommodation** was created under ERF in Pournaras and became operational in 09/2014. Due to the disproportionate number of arrivals under ISF-Borders EMAS (ref. code HOME/2017/ISFB/AG/EMAS/0077), it was transformed to a First Reception Center (FRC) with enlarged capacity for a period of days according to agreed Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's). Fingerprinting, testing for transmitted diseases (incl. COVID-19), the submission of applications for international protection and counselling on voluntary return programmes are offered. The SOP's for new arrivals begin 7 days after their entrance in the Centre, as a measure of quarantine period for the COVID-19 pandemic and rapid tests are conducted according to procedure. A Specific Action was awarded under ISF-Borders, since the EMAS project was completed in July 2020 and there was need for further assistance in order for competent authorities to continue their activities at the Centre. In addition EUAA, Frontex and Europol have been supporting the AS in managing the migratory influx at the Centre (screening, registration, info provision etc.).

For UAMs, SWS operate **2 State Homes** for girls. The operation of **2 homes** for boys has been assigned to an NGO, out of which one is the Nicosia UAMs Centre that has been funded under AMIF throughout the 2014-2020 PP and will continue to be funded under AMIF during the 2021-2027 PP. The total capacity of the 4 homes is 130 places, though needs far exceed their capacity. The SWS have also developed a semi-independent living programme for UAMs aged 16+, part of which has been assigned to IOM and operates with state funding. The program began to be fully implemented in 2019 with approx. 22 minors participating. There are also 3 structures with a capacity of 28 persons operating as semi-independent living structures operated by an NGO. Also, a semi-independent living and transition to adulthood programme has been assigned to IOM consisting of 3 structures with a capacity of 46 persons with an option of expanding the programme to 150 persons. In April 2022 the SWS following public procurement procedures secured 100 new accommodation places for UAMs in the framework of a semi-independent living programme. A pilot foster programme for finding and training prospective foster families for UAMs implemented by an NGO was also funded under AMIF. The SWS continues to operate the programme, which is now covered by state funds (Grants in Aid scheme), with the NGO. In 2019 114 UAMs were placed in foster families. The SWS is also planning to establish a new Accommodation Centre of UAMs with a capacity of 120-150 persons through public procurement procedures. It is clarified that currently, the Nicosia UAMs Centre is the only UAMs structure planned to be supported through AMIF. The rest of the structures described above are funded through national or other sources. Increasing reception capacity for UAMs is not currently envisioned to be addressed through AMIF as it is currently addressed through national funds and CY's Resilience and Recovery Plan (2021-2026). However the MA

is communicating with and is aware of recent efforts by the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare for the establishment of additional centres for UAMs. The possibility of supporting the operational costs a new centre under AMIF will be explored in the near future

The continuous migratory influx has necessitated the enhancement of the **Asylum Service (AS)** with additional staff. The AS further to the action already implemented under the 2014-2020 NP and in line with the recommendations of the Migration Action Plan for Cyprus has received support through EMAS (ref. code HOME/2019/AMIF/AG/EMAS/0115) for the employment of additional staff. The project has received 2 extensions in its implementation period and will end in November 2022. Recently Parliament has approved a new structure of the AS which consists of additional upper and lower-level AS officers, incl. the position of a Director of the Asylum Service (total 33 positions).

Since September 2019, a sub-section for asylum cases has been established within the **Law Office of the Republic**. The Law Office has received support through EMAS (ref. code HOME/2019/AMIF/AG/EMAS/0122) to address urgent needs in staff, office space and equipment in an effort to handle the radical increase of asylum cases pending or expected to be filed before the IPAC. It is estimated that 70%-80% of the applications rejected by the AS end up before the **International Protection Administrative Court (IPAC)**. The number of rejections until 08/2021 has reached 7700 in total. By the end of the year appeals are expected to surpass 9000.

Following the Council of Ministers March 2020 decision, a new whole legal framework has been introduced which includes four bills. The first bill was passed on 05.09.2020 amending the Constitution which allows the legislature to shorten the time limits for recourses brought before the Court. The House of Parliament on 18.09.2020 has passed three more bills amending asylum and immigration laws. The aim of the whole package is to manage migration flows in a more effective manner and to reach a final decision on asylum applications in a shorter period of time.

The latest development concerns the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreed between the RoC and the European Commission, the EUAA the EBCGA and Europol on the implementation of the EU-Cyprus Action Plan for Migration Management and referenced in Section 1.

For asylum specifically, the Action Plan aims to enhance capacities at first reception, achieve an overall improvement in material reception conditions based on a comprehensive national reception strategy and implement timely and effective asylum procedures.

Main challenges

Under SO Asylum, and taking into account the amount allocated to CY under AMIF, the following challenges already outlined under Section 1 will be addressed:

- Improvement of information exchange, incl. by interconnecting and upgrading national IT databases and interconnecting with EU databases (i.e Eurodac)
- Supporting reception capacity, incl. the operation of Kofinou, of Limnes Reception Centre for applicants of international protection after its construction, the Nicosia UAMs centre, and implementing a possible housing option for vulnerable persons
- Staff shortages within the AS, the Law Office of the Republic (asylum at first and second instance), the IPAC and SWS

Proposed interventions and possible actions

Taking into account the Migration Action Plan for CY, the recommendations from the programming fiche, the input received by the various stakeholders as well as the impact that the implementation of both the policy measures adopted by the Council of Ministers in March 2020 and the recently passed bills will have on the policy area of asylum, the following actions are to be implemented:

Annex II (1)(a)

1. Interconnecting and upgrading national IT databases and interconnecting with EU databases (i.e. Eurodac). This is a continuation of the action included in EMAS (ref. code HOME/2019/AMIF/AG/EMAS/0115) and will address the implementation of the second phase of the upgrade of CAS database, which will include upgrading relevant fields pertaining to reception needs, and interconnecting the system with other EU databases (Eurodac, ETIAS, EES).
2. Continuing support received from EMAS for the Law Office of the Republic and providing support to IPAC for the recruitment of extra staff. After EMAS is completed, the Law Office will reevaluate staff needs and propose a new project under AMIF. Both projects aim to effectively address the backlog of asylum cases pending before the Court. Since the abolishment of the Reviewing Authority of Refugees a great number of rejected asylum seekers apply to the IPAC for review as the only second instance body responsible to review the first instance decisions of the AS.

Annex II (1)(b)

1. Support of the accommodation capacity as regards Kofinou centre. This is a continuation of the operational expenses of the centre which were supported throughout the 2014-2020 P.P.
2. Support of the accommodation capacity as regards the Nicosia UAMs Centre. This refers to one of the 2 UAMs state homes for boys and is a continuation of the action implemented under the 2014-2020 P.P. and a vital contribution to the existing housing structures operated by SWS and described above.
3. Supporting the operation and upgrading of Limnes Reception Centre for applicants of international protection. The centre is expected to house applicants of international protection until a decision has been reached on their application. In the new Centre residents will be allowed to enter and exit at will, though some reasonable rules will be introduced, such as restricted entry-exits from late evening to morning hours. Such rules will respect applicable human rights having in mind primarily the safety of the residents as well as the safety of the local population. Throughout the project implementation process, standards, criteria, etc relating to the design, construction and operation of the Center will be studied and applied. To this end, existing studies/standards of EUAA will be used and the Center is expected to be fully in line with EU and EUAA guidelines and requirements. Plans for the centre include the establishment of a safe zone for vulnerable groups, thereby increasing reception capacity for vulnerable persons.
4. Implementation of a possible housing project with priority given to housing for vulnerable groups. The implementation period as well as the final form of the project will be determined with the finalization of the Reception Strategy. Currently, the first draft of the Reception Strategy has been prepared and will be evaluated by the Ministry of Interior, in close cooperation with all other competent authorities. Given the fact that housing actions and as well as those concerning vulnerable groups are included in the Reception Strategy, it is not possible to provide more precise details at the moment. The action has been included as a possible project under AMIF pending the finalization of the Reception Strategy.

Annex VII-Eligible actions for operating support

1. The **Asylum Service (AS)** is the competent authority to examine applications for international protection at first instance. This is a continuation of support received through the 2014-2020 NP and from EMAS on the enhancement of the administrative capacity of the AS, with the aim of efficiently managing and reducing the existing backlog of asylum applications. After both actions are completed, the AS will

reevaluate staff needs and propose a new single project under AMIF. Additional asylum personnel will be placed on site at the Examination Centre next to Pournaras and the different Immigration Departments of the Police where asylum applications are registered.

2. The **Social Welfare Services (SWS)** are responsible for the provision of social welfare services to applicants and beneficiaries of international protection. Social Services Officers are responsible for examining applications for material reception conditions submitted by applicants for international protection and prepare the monthly allowances for basic needs, electricity, water supply, petty cash expenses and rent to asylum seekers who cannot be accommodated at a Reception Centre. They carry out visits to ensure applicants' place of residence and assess their living conditions, taking action when those conditions are unsatisfactory or there are instances of homelessness. They provide emergency financial assistance to newly arrived asylum seekers referred to SWS to cover their basic needs. Where an applicant is a UAM, the Director of the SWS acts as Guardian and representative of UAMs during the asylum procedure and takes all necessary measures under the relevant legislation on the minor's behalf and on his best interest incl. in respect of the asylum procedure. Following the support received from EMAS, Social Services Officers (Guardians) and Institutional Officers will be needed to support the operation of existing shelters/programmes for UAMs and new structures/ programmes that will be established in the future. There is also a continued need for Social Services Officers responsible for examining the applications made by asylum seekers for material reception conditions, who will also assess the specific needs of vulnerable asylum seekers and provide guidance/ social support. Social Services Officers and Institutional Officers have been placed on site at Pournara and Kofinou in order to handle the needs of UAMs/vulnerable persons and asylum seekers. After EMAS is completed, the SWS will reevaluate staff needs and propose a new project under AMIF.

Expected contribution

- Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of asylum procedures and reception conditions, including for UAMs/vulnerable persons
- Improving information exchange between different governmental stakeholders
- Enhancing the capacity of the AS, the SWS, the Law Office and IPAC as to improve asylum procedures, tackle the backlog at first and second instance, improve access to material reception conditions and support the needs of UAMs/vulnerable persons

The proposed actions aim to ensure efficient management of refugee flows to CY in accordance with the EU acquis. These interventions are planned so that they are applicable in cases of emergency situations or force majeure that may put the already overburdened asylum and reception system in CY under significant strain. At the same time, the proposed actions ensure that the fundamental rights of applicants for international protection are fully respected according to the relevant EU legal framework on asylum.

Funding for the implementation of actions under SO 1 will take the form of grants.

2.1. Specific objective 1. CEAS

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 1: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
O.1.1	Number of participants supported	number	57,000	170,000
O.1.1.1	of which number of participants who received legal assistance	number	0	0
O.1.1.2	of which number of participants benefiting from other types of support, including information and assistance throughout the asylum procedure	number	56,940	169,820
O.1.1.3	of which number of vulnerable participants assisted	number	60	180
O.1.2	Number of participants in training activities	number	0	0
O.1.3	Number of newly created places in reception infrastructure in line with Union acquis	number	0	0
O.1.3.1	of which number of newly created places for unaccompanied minors	number	0	0
O.1.4	Number of renovated/refurbished places in reception infrastructure in line with Union acquis	number	1,045	1,045
O.1.4.1	of which number of renovated/refurbished places for unaccompanied minors	number	45	45

2.1. Specific objective 1. CEAS

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 2: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
R.1.5	Number of participants who consider the training useful for their work	number	0	share	2021	0	number	Asylum Service	Please see attached Performance Framework
R.1.6	Number of participants who report three months after the training activity that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training	number	0	share	2021	0	number	Asylum Service	Please see attached Performance Framework
R.1.7	Number of persons placed in alternatives to detention	number	0	number	2021	0	number	Asylum Service	Please see attached Performance Framework
R.1.7.1	of which number of unaccompanied minors placed in alternatives to detention	number	0	number	2021	0	number	Asylum Service	Please see attached Performance Framework
R.1.7.2	of which number of families placed in alternatives to detention	number	0	number	2021	0	number	Asylum Service	Please see attached Performance Framework

2.1. Specific objective 1. CEAS

2.1.3. Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Reference: Article 22(5) CPR; and Article 16(12) AMIF Regulation, Article 13(12) ISF Regulation or Article 13(18) BMVI Regulation

Table 3: Indicative breakdown

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	001.Reception conditions	11,850,404.68
Intervention field	002.Asylum procedures	6,580,000.00
Intervention field	003.Implementation of the Union acquis	0.00
Intervention field	004.Children in migration	2,820,000.00
Intervention field	005.Persons with special reception and procedural needs	0.00
Intervention field	006.Union resettlement programmes or national resettlement and humanitarian admission schemes (Annex III, point 2(g))	0.00
Intervention field	007.Operating support	6,663,390.00

2.1. Specific objective: 2. Legal migration and integration

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

Baseline situation

According to Eurostat, the population of the areas under the effective control of the Republic was 896,007 in 1st of January 2021. From the total population 81,5% are CY nationals, 10,8% are EU citizens living in another Member State and 7,7% are non EU nationals (69,120). In 2020 25,861 immigrated to the Republic out of which, 53% (13,704) were non EU citizens.

For 2018 CY issued a total of 20,990 first residence permits out of which 4,535 were issued for refugees and subsidiary protection (2,291), subsidiary protection (27) and other reasons (2,216). For 2019 CY issued a total of 23,327 first residence permits out of which 4,428 residence permits were issued for refugees and subsidiary protection (2,019), humanitarian protection (8) and other reasons (2,401). For 2020 CY issued a total of 16,910 first residence permits out of which 3,906 residence permits were issued for refugees and subsidiary protection (1,641), humanitarian protection (11) and other reasons (2,254).

For 2021, CY issued a total of 22,190 first residence permits for work, family, education and other reasons. Specifically for 2021, 9,800 first residence permits were issued for work, 3,024 for family reasons, 3,281 for education reasons and 6,085 residence permits were issued for refugees and subsidiary protection (3204), humanitarian protection (7) and other reasons (2,874). The valid residence permits at the end of 2021 amounted to 93.922 and the total long term permits amounted to 29,477.

In 2020, 2074 foreign citizens acquired Cypriot citizenship, 86% of which were non-EU nationals.

For **victims of trafficking** in particular, and under the requirements of Law 60(I)/2014, Cyprus has developed a National Referral Mechanism as a way to map the appropriate procedures and coordinate the role and responsibilities of government services and NGO's involved in the process of recognizing and assisting victims. According to the anti-trafficking Law [60(I)/2014 (Article 44)], if a person or service believes or has reasonable suspicion that any person may be a victim of trafficking, he/she refers the potential victim to the Social Welfare Services. Social Welfare Services Officers provide potential victims with information and notify the Police anti-trafficking unit (OoCTHB), who is responsible for the official identification of trafficking victims. All victims or potential victims of trafficking receive immediate support and assistance, including housing if it's required. The Social Welfare Services (SWS) as the relevant authority, are tasked with providing basic information and support to the victim in view of their physical, psychological and social rehabilitation. This means ensuring adequate housing, access to healthcare services, educational/training services and access to the labour market. For female victims of trafficking, the SWS operate a specialized state shelter where victims may stay for one month or longer, as appropriate, for a reflection period. The shelter has a capacity of up to 15 persons.

The **CRMD** is the competent authority for the Aliens and Migration Law in the field of legal migration, including its implementation. In 2018, 51% (37,561) of the residence permits for TCNs were issued in the central offices of CRMD. Only 7% (4,793) were issued by the **Aliens and Immigration Unit (AIU)** district offices in Famagusta, 12% (8,520) by the AIU district offices in Larnaca, 13% (9,223) by the AIU district offices in Paphos and 18% (13,479) by the AIU district offices in Limassol. Conversely in 2019, 50% (40,958) of the residence permits for TCNs were issued in the central offices of CRMD. Only 7% (5,760) were issued by the Aliens and Immigration Unit (AIU) district offices in Famagusta, 12% (9,592) by the AIU district offices in Larnaca, 15% (12,161) by the AIU district offices in Paphos and 17% (14,148) by the AIU district offices in Limassol. The volume of applications in the central offices is very

high both in numbers and in proportion compared to other Districts, creating backlog and causing delays which in turn affect TCNs. It should be noted that due to the 2013 financial crisis and the moratorium placed on recruitments in the public sector, the CRMD has been understaffed. The situation further exacerbated as a result of the exponential growth of migratory influx to Cyprus, since the Department in addition to its other activities, is the competent authority for both issuing residence permits for persons granted international protection and for the return of persons, whose asylum application has been rejected. Hence, the CRMD further to the action implemented under the 2014-2020 National Programme, has received additional support through EMAS for the employment of additional staff (ref. code HOME/2019/AMIF/AG/EMAS/0115).

The CRMD has also a prominent role in the Consultative Body for the Integration of Migrants, the body responsible for monitoring the implementation of the National Action Plan on Integration and for the formation of the relevant policy and measures pertaining to the integration of third country nationals in Cyprus. More specifically, the Consultative Body operating under the supervision of the Ministry of Interior, is comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport and Youth, the Ministry of Health, the Ombudsman's Office, the main employers' associations and trade union organizations, the Unions of Cyprus Municipalities and of Cyprus Communities, as well as representatives from NGO's related to migration and integration.

Moreover, project "Building structures for intercultural integration in Cyprus" is being carried out by the Council of Europe with funding from the European Union, via its Structural Reform Support Programme, and in co-operation with the European Commission's DG for Structural Reform Support and Cyprus' Civil Registry and Migration Department. Through the project five regional intercultural networks around main Cyprus' cities are established, empowering local authorities, NGOs, and migrant organisations to be part of the integration process. Moreover, the regional intercultural networks will draft their own integration policy at a regional level. Next to the regional intercultural networks, a multi-level coordination mechanism between local, regional and national authorities on integration policies will be designed.

Cyprus intends to implement a new project "Enhancing structures for intercultural integration in Cyprus", which will build upon the results and outcomes of the existing project. The main activities of the new project will be:

- Further support the operation and the activities of the five regional intercultural networks, one in each district (Nicosia, Paphos, Limassol, Larnaca, Famagusta)
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the regional Intercultural Strategy, using the methodological tool for monitoring regional integration activities.
- Re-analyse by the end of the project (2025) the situation in each district, using the Intercultural Index and compare the results with the initial analysis, conducted in 2022
- Establish the multi-level coordination mechanism on integration policies for the Republic of Cyprus.

If no other alternative source of funding (e.g. TSI) is available, the project may be funded under AMIF National Programme.

A comprehensive **National Action Plan on Integration 2020-2022** was drafted under PP 2014-2020 which identified national and EU funding sources for the implementation of integration actions. Cyprus' final draft of the National Action Plan on Integration 2020-2022 was finalized by the end of 2020. The Action Plan was approved by the inter-ministerial Advisory Board on Integration of Migration, however it was never submitted to and approved by the Council of Ministers. Although the Action Plan was never officially adopted by the Council of Ministers, many (new) actions included in the Plan (e.g. regional intercultural networks and regional integration plans, summer schools for Greek language learning etc.), were/are implemented, due to the fact that it was largely based in actions proposed by the competent national authorities. Furthermore, the draft National Action Plan on Integration 2020-2022 will be the basis, upon which the **new Action Plan 2023-2025** will be drafted.

Integration measures were/are currently being implemented mainly through the AMIF 2014-2020 National Programme. These measures included:

- Pre-departure measures
- Integration measures by local communities NGO's
- Preparatory actions to facilitate actions to the labour market
- Integration measures by the public educational system
- Raising awareness in the receiving society
- Measures implementing the Action Plan
- Upgrading of the administrative capacity
- Training of civil servants social partner employers other relevant partners dealing with integration related issues
- Cooperation with other countries in regards to integration issues

As a result, more than 150,000 TCNs were supported through the Fund through various activities implemented under the above measures between the years 2017-2019. Furthermore, 588 teachers and education staff received training in 2018 on the skills needed to manage diversity and for the reinforcement of Greek language learning and multilingualism.

The latest development concerns the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreed between the RoC and the European Commission, the EUAA the EBCGA and Europol on the implementation of the EU-Cyprus Action Plan for Migration Management referenced in Section 1.

For integration specifically, the Action Plan aims to establish and implement a comprehensive and effective integration strategy for TCNs, including vulnerable groups and beneficiaries of international protection.

Main challenges

Under the Specific Objective of legal migration/integration and taking into account the amount allocated to the Republic under AMIF, the following actions already outlined under Section 1, will be addressed:

- Staff shortages within the CRMD.
- Update the national integration plan and draft a national integration strategy, building on what was drafted under the 2014-2020 Programming Period. The strategy also includes a timeline for the implementation of concrete actions.
- Facilitate access to the labour market and improve access to supporting services.
- Ensuring adequate awareness of the educational programmes already in place which will be improved and further enhanced.

Proposed interventions and possible actions

Taking into account the recommendations from the programming fiche, the actions proposed in the Migration Action Plan for Cyprus, the measures proposed under the current draft of the National Action

Plan on integration and the input received by the various stakeholders the following actions are to be implemented:

Annex II (2)(a)

1. Improvement of the administrative capacity of the CRMD. This will include the continuation of the action already implemented under the 2014-2020 National Programme as well as the support received through EMAS, in terms of staff. After both actions are completed, CRMD will reevaluate the staff needs and propose a new single project under NP, to cover the staff needs in legal migration sections.

In addition, the action will entail the issuing of eRP cards as well as the issuing of passports and travel documents for recognised refugees and other eligible TCNs, the improvement of customer service facilities in order to accelerate procedures, the possible upgrade of the webpage of CRMD in order to facilitate the application procedure for applicants and the issuing of residence permits, the support to the sections of the Department that face backlog with revision of procedures and the upgrade of equipment if deemed necessary,

2. Updating, monitoring and evaluating the National Action Plan on Integration. Draft a national integration strategy in general and monitor and evaluate it by supporting the operation of the regional intercultural networks and the multi-level coordination mechanism on integration policies for the RoC. It is expected that the new Action Plan will be prepared in house by the CRMD and Ministry of Interior, with the cooperation of the Advisory Board on Integration of Migrants and will update the draft National Action Plan on Integration 2020-2022.

Annex II (2)(b)

1. Integration measures targeting the education sector. The Greek language courses for adults and minors as well as mediation services in schools implemented under the 2014-2020 Programming Period will be continued. The Ministry of Education has been consulted and is in the process of identifying needs and gaps which will not be addressed by other resources, national/EU or otherwise, so that actions under AMIF will act in a complementary manner to other measures/ actions implemented for migrant students (adults and minors).

2. Preparatory actions to facilitate access to the labour market including profiling and assessment of skills with the aid of the EU Skills Profile Tool for TCNs. This may be implemented as a standalone project or included as a sub-action in integration programmes implemented by local authorities/NGOs. The best course of action will be determined after consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Under Annex IV-Actions eligible for higher co-financing in line with Articles 12(2) and 13(7) the following will be supported:

1. Integration measures by local authorities/ NGOs: Such as, migrant info-centres which will be enhanced, creation of regional integration councils, improve access to services, provision of guidance/counselling, social and psychological support, capacity building, provision of child care and supporting services to TCN families. These actions are envisioned to be broad in scope so that projects implemented under those actions may address various challenges/issues pertaining to the integration of TCNs. This follows practices already implemented in the 2014-2020 PP and which were found to be successful, where for example integration programmes by local authorities or Migrant InfoCentres projects offered a variety of services and support to TCNs according to their needs. In other words, successful actions implemented under the 2014-2020 Programming Period will be continued and upgraded to meet emerging needs, as well as actions proposed in the National Action Plan on Integration.

2. Integration measures for victims of trafficking in human beings. The social rehabilitation services to the female victims of trafficking of the state shelter will be provided by a group of dedicated professionals based on an assessment of the individual needs of the victim, including a person centered supporting program through education and training (e.g Greek lessons, social skills, access to work), assistance in finding permanent residence, support for repatriation, procedures for reconnection with their family and their social environment and counselling guidance/support to these victims for a period of 3-6 months after their exit from the shelter.

Expected contribution:

- Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of integration policies for legally residing migrants, through the enhancement of the administrative capacity of the CRMD
- Updated integration strategy
- Effective integration of TCNs in the local community, including through strengthening the involvement of local, regional authorities and NGOs

It should be noted that funding for the implementation of actions under SO2 will take the form of grants. No operating support will be triggered for SO2.

2.1. Specific objective 2. Legal migration and integration

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 1: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
O.2.1	Number of participants in pre-departure measures	number	0	0
O.2.2	Number of local and regional authorities supported to implement integration measures	number	0	0
O.2.3	Number of participants supported	number	78,000	182,000
O.2.3.1	of which number of participants in a language course	number	2,150	5,050
O.2.3.2	of which number of participants in a civic orientation course	number	0	0
O.2.3.3	of which number of participants who received personal professional guidance	number	0	0
O.2.4	Number of information packages and campaigns to raise awareness of legal migration channels to the Union	number	0	0
O.2.5	Number of participants receiving information and/or assistance to apply for family reunification	number	0	0
O.2.6	Number of participants benefitting from mobility schemes	number	0	0
O.2.7	Number of integration projects where local and regional authorities are the beneficiary	number	7	19

2.1. Specific objective 2. Legal migration and integration

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 2: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
R.2.8	Number of participants in language courses who have improved their proficiency level in the host-country language upon leaving the language course by at least one level in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages or national equivalent	number	0	share	2021	2,525	number	Implementing bodies, services providers	Please see attached Performance Framework
R.2.9	Number of participants who report that the activity was helpful for their integration	number	0	share	2021	112,230	number	Implementing bodies, services providers	Please see attached Performance Framework
R.2.10	Number of participants who applied for their qualification or skills acquired in a third country to be recognised / assessed	number	0	number	2021	0	number	N/A	Please see attached Performance Framework
R.2.11	Number of participants who applied for a long-term residence status	number	0	number	2021	0	number	N/A	Please see attached Performance Framework

2.1. Specific objective 2. Legal migration and integration

2.1.3. Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Reference: Article 22(5) CPR; and Article 16(12) AMIF Regulation, Article 13(12) ISF Regulation or Article 13(18) BMVI Regulation

Table 3: Indicative breakdown

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	001.Development of integration strategies	0.00
Intervention field	002.Victims of trafficking in human beings	427,500.00
Intervention field	003.Integration measures – information and orientation, one stop shops	1,369,391.06
Intervention field	004.Integration measures – language training	1,369,391.06
Intervention field	005.Integration measures – civics and other training	1,369,391.06
Intervention field	006.Integration measures – Introduction, participation, exchanges host society	1,369,391.06
Intervention field	007.Integration measures – basic needs	0.00
Intervention field	008.Pre-departure measures	0.00
Intervention field	009.Mobility schemes	0.00
Intervention field	010.Acquisition of legal residence	4,700,000.00
Intervention field	011.Vulnerable persons, including unaccompanied minors	0.00
Intervention field	012.Operating support	0.00

2.1. Specific objective: 3. Return

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

Baseline situation

Irregular migrants in Cyprus are TCNs who have entered illegally mainly directly from Turkey or through the areas not under the effective control of the RoC, or who overstayed or abused a permit to stay/work.

Based on latest data persons that could be returned are mostly from Congo, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Vietnam, Egypt, Georgia, Cameroon and Nigeria.

In 2018 and 2019, 755 (343 and 412 respectively) irregular migrants entered through the areas under the effective control of the RoC and 11,470 (2018=4,235 2019=7,235) irregular migrants entered through areas not under the effective control of the RoC.

In 2020 until 2022, 31704 irregular migrants entered through areas not under the effective control of the RoC, namely the Green Line.

The CRMD is the competent authority for the legislation regarding returns and the **Aliens and Immigration Unit (AIU)** of the Cyprus Police for the enforcement of the return decisions. In 2018, 1,595 persons were ordered to leave and 730 persons returned to their country (46%). In 2019 1,300 persons were ordered to leave and 455 persons were returned to their country (35%).

Forced returns reached 528 in 2018 and 284 in 2019. Facilitated returns reached 167 in 2018 and 118 in 2019.

Voluntary returns which are implemented by IOM Cyprus under AMIF, reached 150 for 2018 and 173 for 2019.

The third countries with the most forced returnees in 2018 and 2019 were Georgia (113 and 83), India (52 and 30), Ukraine (63 and 15), Russia (46 and 21) and Vietnam (39 and 19).

Overall and according to the latest official statistics, 1272 persons were returned in 2020, 2320 persons were returned in 2021 and 4099 persons were returned in 2022 (until September 16th).

In line with the relevant provisions of Directive 2008/115/EC, a forced return monitoring mechanism supervised by the Ombudsman's Office has been established under AMIF where 212 forced returns were successfully monitored until 2022.

CY maintains one **Detention Centre for prohibited migrants in Mennoyia (MDC)**, partially funded under the European External Borders Fund and operates since 28/01/2013. The MDC is a department of the AIU staffed by police and medical personnel as well as a cleaning crew. It has a capacity of 128 adult detainees (96 male and 32 female). Its facilities meet both the Council of Europe and UN standards on detention conditions. Although the centre has improved detention conditions it requires further support for its operational costs. It is be noted that a portion of the operational costs of the MDC has been financed under AMIF 2014-2020.

Considering the need to effectively manage the returns of migrants who do not have any legal right to remain in the RoC, following the decision of the Council of Ministers, a pre-removal detention Center

situated next to Limnes Reception Centre for applicants of international protection with a capacity of approximately 800 beds will be established. This will serve applicants who have received a final negative decision on their asylum application and consequently enter the return procedure.

The persisting influx of migratory flows and subsequent pressure it creates on the relevant government departments, has required the enhancement of the CRMD with additional staff, including in the area of returns. The CRMD further to the action already implemented under the 2014-2020 NP, has received support through EMAS (ref. code HOME/2019/AMIF/AG/EMAS/0115) for the employment of additional staff in view of establishing a dedicated Return Department with the aim of stepping-up returns and in a sustainable manner.

In line with the Migration Action Plan, the connection to the Frontex Application Returns (FAR) has been established, granting CY the possibility to benefit from Frontex support for return operations as well as to existing EU e-platforms for the submission of readmission requests to specific third countries such as Georgia, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Further, and at the initiative of COM, a pilot exercise on the prioritisation of low recognition asylum rate nationalities was implemented, where Cypriot authorities were assisted in the fast tracking and prioritisation of Georgian nationals. As a result 107 Georgian nationals were repatriated in the first and largest voluntary return flight coordinated by Frontex from CY so far. Two more flights were organised for the same nationality, also coordinated by Frontex, where 283 persons were effectively repatriated to Georgia. Additionally in 2021 and 2022 the Cypriot authorities have prioritized the return of Pakistani, Congolese, Bangladesh and Indian nationals. To this end CY has participated in a number of joint flights in cooperation with Greece, Germany and Belgium for the return of Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Congolese nationals respectively and is planning a series of national return flights for Indian nationals in the coming period.

Also a multilateral working group on returns has been established with the participation of representatives from DG HOME, Frontex, the Ministry of Interior, the National Returns Office, the CRMD and AIU with the aim of exchanging views, solve issues and overcome any obstacles that might come up through the returns process, with significant results thus far.

The Ministry of Interior has additionally agreed an operational action plan with Frontex, as well as SOPs on Returns with the EC, in view of sustainably increasing returns and ensure a swift and harmonized application of the law and practices in place.

The CRMD is having ongoing discussions with Frontex for the deployment of staff (mainly return counsellors), developing/implementing RECAMAS, Joint/National Return Operations (flights), pre-return/identification missions etc.

FRONTEX has deployed 4 persons as FAR specialists, 8 persons as counsellors and 4 persons as FRESOS. The FAR specialists arrange repatriation tickets through FAR for both deportees and voluntary returns on commercial flights. The counsellors conduct interviews with returnees with a view to their repatriation with or without a financial incentive. They identify possible obstacles and together with CRMD and Police officers they arrange their resolution. FRESOS participate in chartered flights. When there is no chartered flight, they assist the RoC in deportations and voluntary returns.

Finally, there are also FRONTEX staff deployed at airports who are not part of the Returns Office but are under the Police Operations Office. They deal with the first line and second line at Larnaca and Paphos airports.

The latest development concerns the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreed between the RoC and

the European Commission, the EUAA the EBCGA and Europol on the implementation of the EU-Cyprus Action Plan for Migration Management and referenced in Section 1.

For returns specifically, the Action Plan aims to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the return system including through the establishment of SOP's and an IT return case management system, increased detention capacity, enhanced AVRR, and increased use of EU-level readmission tools and Frontex support.

Main challenges

Although there has been a significant increase of returns in the latest 2 years, due to high arrival numbers, the ratio of influx/returns has been comparatively disproportional. Specifically, under SO Returns and taking into account the amount allocated to CY under AMIF the following challenges will be addressed:

- Staff shortages within the CRMD and in the AIU, in terms of returns.
- Enhancing the outreach to potential beneficiaries on AVRR.
- Further stepping up returns and in a sustainable manner, by improving the systems and procedures in place in a structural manner.
- Development of a new, comprehensive National Return Case Management System (RECAMAS)
- Implementing actions for addressing the council recommendations following the Schengen evaluation on Return
- Increasing detention capacity

Proposed interventions and possible actions

Given the exponential growth of migratory influx to CY, and taking into account the recommendations from the programming fiche, the joint Migration Action Plan, the results of COMs fact-finding mission on the mapping of the return system, the input received by the various stakeholders, the findings of the Scheval on returns as well as the impact that the implementation of both the policy measures adopted by the Council of Ministers in March 2020 and the recently adopted bills will have on returns, a number of actions will be supported by AMIF. Hence, the following actions will be supported:

Annex II (3)(a)

1. Removal/Return operations. Taking into account that forced and non-assisted/facilitated returns are an integral part of the return policy, the aim is to continue and further improve the efficiency of the current forced return operations implemented by the CRMD and the AIU of the Cyprus Police, in accordance with the standards laid down in Union law. Only around 5% of the effective forced returns are carried out via Joint Return Operations, organized either by Frontex or other MS. The remaining 95%, whether escorted or not, are carried out with commercial flights. For about 35% of those flights, tickets are issued through Frontex's FAR platform. All remaining tickets will be issued by a local travel agency, after a public procurement procedure according to national law. The project will co-fund only return operations organised at national level without Frontex and only when Frontex cannot assist. Though CY is in the top 3 positions among Member States for FAR usage, CY with the assistance of FAR experts, is implementing every effort to participate in as many JRO's as possible and raise the portion of tickets issued by FAR.

2. Support and improvement of the Mennoyia Detention Centre, including its operational costs. This is a continuation of the action already included in the 2014-2020 National Programme.
3. Supporting the operation and upgrading of Limnes pre-removal detention Centre for applicants of international protection whose application for international protection has been either rejected secondary and are waiting for repatriation or have applied for repatriation after withdrawing their application for international protection. It is estimated the centre will host approximately 800 persons in the process of repatriation.
4. The AIU is issuing return decisions together with a negative decision on asylum. Therefore reinforcement of the AIU in terms of staff and equipment as to be able to effectively respond to the increased needs arising from stepping up returns and in a sustainable manner, is considered necessary.
5. Renewal of the ageing fleet of vehicles assigned to the Mennoyia Detention Centre (MDC) and other Departments, used for the transportation of returnees and other administrative needs throughout the return procedure.
6. Training on return issues. This action includes trainings on: legislation, issuance of return decisions, forced returns, voluntary returns, social/psychological awareness, code of conduct and good practices in the field across the EU, alternative measures to detention, i.e. regular monitoring until departure. The training will include: workshops, seminars, visits to other Member States, police academy training etc., addressed to all public officials involved in the returns procedure, with priority given to AIU officers.

Annex II (3)(b)

1. Independent and effective systems for monitoring forced return. In line with the relevant provisions of the Return Directive, the already established **forced return monitoring mechanism** supervised by the Ombudsman's Office will continue to be implemented, taking into account the experience acquired from the implementation of the project during the 2014-2020 Programming Period.

Annex II (3)(d)

1. Cooperation with third countries, including countering irregular migration and smuggling, mainly through the use of information and raising awareness campaigns that will be disseminated to both third countries and to migrants' societies in Cyprus. Regarding actions in third countries, the Returns Office of the Ministry of Interior, under the scope of the Returns Working Group, is in the process of planning a series of informational campaigns with the dissemination of material directly in third countries using social media as well as with the assistance of EU agencies, in order to emphasize and inform that Cyprus does not constitute a viable gateway to the EU and also to highlight the dangers of smuggling. Such a campaign has already begun to be implemented in Bangladesh and is expected to expand to other third countries, like Pakistan and sub-Saharan African countries. At the same time, the Returns Office is planning a domestic informational campaign concerning returns procedures, with the cooperation of third country embassies/ consulates based in CY for the most effective dissemination of information.

Annex IV- Actions eligible for higher co-financing in line with Articles 12(2) and 13(7)

1. Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration assistance programme. This a continuation of the

programme implemented during the 2014-2020 Programming Period. The renewed programme will be implemented by the CRMD and the Returns Office following their reinforcement with staff, and will include contributions from FRONTEX in terms of staff and expertise so as to effectively coordinate services, address problems and bureaucracy and improve the procedures followed at all stages of the returns in order to make them efficient and effective with the aim of significantly stepping up voluntary returns, improving the process of outreach to potential beneficiaries including at first reception and detention facilities and introducing both return counselling as well as targeted reintegration measures. More specifically, the programme is implemented with cash incentives for a number of countries of interest and includes the coverage of travel costs (e.g. airline tickets).

In addition, a major effort is being made to enhance the use of JRS and to this end a training workshop was recently held for all officials of all departments involved in the field of returns.

To maximize the impact of the programme counselling offices have been set up in First Reception and Hosting Centres, a website is being set up with informational material and online appointment feature, information campaigns are planned throughout the island and a contact line has been established with the majority of the embassies of countries of interest.

Cash incentives, coverage of travel costs and assistance in kind will be covered through AMIF, whereas counselling assistance and reintegration will be addressed through Frontex and its JRS programme respectively.

The possibility of outsourcing assisted voluntary returns specifically for vulnerable persons, as well as outsourcing information campaigns on return and reintegration programmes and having those projects funded through AMIF, is currently being considered and the Programme will be amended accordingly when a final decision is made.

2. Pilot projects on effective alternatives to detention, exploring new alternatives that could be effective for the type of irregular migration experienced in Cyprus taking into account that irregular migrants are often documented, have a job, financial means and a fixed abode. The pilot projects may include obligatory reporting at a police station periodically, use of electronic monitoring device, and case-management based alternatives. The implementation of alternatives to detention is expected to decrease the number of the detainees and act as a contingency measure, in case the detention capacity of Mennoya Detention Center is not sufficient enough.

Annex VII- Eligible actions for operating support

1. **The CRMD** is the competent authority for the legislation and its implementation, regarding returns. Improvement of the administrative capacity of the CRMD on returns. This is a continuation of the support received through the 2014-2020 National Programme and the support from EMAS (ref. code HOME/2019/AMIF/AG/EMAS/0115), on the enhancement of the administrative capacity of the CRMD for returns. The overall aim is to support the establishment/ operation of a dedicated Return Office and improve the return procedures in cooperation with the AIU, including the use of existing readmission tools and the issuance and use of the European Travel Document.

Furthermore, the EBCGA has provided support during the first step in the development of a new RECAMAS, which involved a gap analysis of the existing return case management system that will be conducted with the cooperation of EBCGA. After the completion of the RECAMAS gap analysis, made in cooperation with FRONTEX, CY has concluded there is a need to develop a separate IT-RECAMAS system which will be interconnected with the existing IT systems of CAS and CRMD and through which the competent authorities will manage and monitor all return and detention procedures. These next steps include first the business analysis and technical specifications for the IT-RECAMAS system and the its implementation. Both actions will be outsourced under the supervision of CRMD. CY has already requested FRONTEX to cover the costs of both these actions and their initial response has been positive.

In case FRONTEX cannot fund the development of the IT-RECAMAS, then costs may be covered by AMIF and/or national funds.

In terms of implementation of EU acquis, it is expected that any deficiencies will be addressed through the national Scheval Action Plan. As noted above, the return Scheval recommendations closely mirror those pointed out by the Migration Action Plan.

Expected contribution:

- Further improving the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the Return System, including link with Asylum
- Further stepping-up returns, and in a sustainable manner, especially assisted and voluntary returns
- Enhancing the capacity of the authorities responsible for return
- Increasing detention capacity

It should be noted that funding for the implementation of actions under SO 3 will take the form of grants.

2.1. Specific objective 3. Return

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 1: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
O.3.1	Number of participants in training activities	number	8	20
O.3.2	Number of equipment purchased, including number of ICT systems purchased / updated	number	10	22
O.3.3	Number of returnees who received re-integration assistance	number	810	1,890
O.3.4	Number of places in detention centres created	number	0	0
O.3.5	Number of places in detention centres refurbished/renovated	number	920	920

2.1. Specific objective 3. Return

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 2: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
R.3.6	Number of returnees voluntarily returned	number	0	number	2021	9,275	number	Civil Registry and Migration Department	Please see attached Performance Framework
R.3.7	Number of returnees who were removed	number	0	number	2021	3,885	number	Civil Registry and Migration Department	Please see attached Performance Framework
R.3.8	Number of returnees subject to alternatives to detention	number	0	number	2021	170	number	Civil Registry and Migration Department	Please see attached Performance Framework

2.1. Specific objective 3. Return

2.1.3. Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Reference: Article 22(5) CPR; and Article 16(12) AMIF Regulation, Article 13(12) ISF Regulation or Article 13(18) BMVI Regulation

Table 3: Indicative breakdown

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	001.Alternatives to detention	423,000.00
Intervention field	002.Reception/detention conditions	3,454,999.99
Intervention field	003.Return procedures	940,000.00
Intervention field	004.Assisted voluntary return	8,791,560.00
Intervention field	005.Reintegration assistance	0.00
Intervention field	006.Removal/Return operations	2,047,844.68
Intervention field	007.Forced-return monitoring system	122,200.00
Intervention field	008.Vulnerable persons/UAMs	0.00
Intervention field	009.Measures addressing incentives for irregular migration	0.00
Intervention field	010.Operating support	1,410,000.00

2.1. Specific objective: 4. Solidarity

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

Baseline situation

Cyprus informed the European Commission via a formal letter from the Minister of Interior addressed to Commissioner Avramopoulos on 6/02/2019 (ref. 4.02.010.010/5, 4.02.012.012/8), on its intention to be exempt from relocation and resettlement obligations due to the increased flows of applicants of international protection, which has placed a significant burden on its reception capacity. With migratory flows continuing unabated, Cyprus has no plans to implement any relocation (transfer in) or resettlement schemes in the foreseeable future.

During the 2014-2020 Programming Period, after the adoption of Regulation 2018/2000 amending Regulation 516/ 2014 as regards the recommitment of the remaining amounts committed to support the implementation of Council Decisions (EU) 2015/1523 and (EU) 2015/1601 or the allocation of those amounts to other actions under the national programmes, 20% of the unused funds for relocation were allocated to SO4 Solidarity to cover for relevant actions, within bilateral agreements between Member States for voluntary relocation programs.

Under the previous Programming Period one project has been implemented, addressing the relocation of thirty vulnerable asylum seekers from Cyprus to Finland.

The Asylum Service is the competent authority handling bilateral agreements with other Member States as well as organizing the relevant procedures for voluntary relocation, in collaboration with other competent authorities where needed (for example with the SWS in case of vulnerable persons or minors).

Latest developments concern the launching of the Solidarity Platform mechanism by the EU. In the scope of Solidarity Platform Meetings, a number of MS have made pledges for the relocation of a number of applicants for international protection from Mediterranean Member States, in an act of solidarity due to the increased migratory pressures the frontline MS are facing.

Germany, France, Bulgaria and Romania expressed their intention to relocate a number of applicants for international protection from Cyprus, with Portugal also expressing such an intention.

Missions from Germany and France visited Cyprus in August 2022 and appropriate office space was located at the premises of the Asylum Service, which meets the criteria of safety and confidentiality set by both delegations. The categories of potential applicants were also agreed (initially Syrian and Afghans), with EUAA and Asylum Service staff preparing the relevant lists which have already been shared with France and Germany. Interview missions will be taking place as of 10 of October 2022. The first mission will be from Germany (first phase will include 65 persons), with a 2-week mission by the French starting as from 17 October 2022. Additional missions for interviews of potential candidates for relocation will take place in November 2022.

By the end of 2022, 113 applicants are expected to be transferred to Germany and 150 to France. Additionally, 20 applicants will be transferred to Romania, while Bulgaria expressed the intention to relocate initially 50 applicants and two smaller transfers taking place before the end of the year.

In order to be more efficient concerning the relocation process, the task force for Relocation has been reinforced with three additional experts from the EUAA, three additional officers from the Asylum Service and three more colleagues from the Returns' Office of the Ministry of Interior. CY is currently in the process of installing the DubliNet and Eurodac system at the Returns' office in order to be able to make parallel procedures and be more effective.

Solidarity Platform relocations will not be funded through AMIF.

Main challenges

The main challenge needed to be addressed pertains to the very small number of voluntary relocation programs implemented. There is a need to enhance already existing bilateral agreements and establish new ones, with the scope of increasing voluntary relocation programs and thereby alleviating some of the migratory pressure Cyprus is experiencing.

Proposed interventions and possible actions

The following action will be supported:

Annex II (4) (b)

1. Voluntary relocation programs. This refers to the implementation of future bilateral agreements between Cyprus and EU 27+ for relocation programs from Cyprus to the EU 27+ in the framework of bilateral agreements. In this respect, the Asylum Service will be contacting a number of EU countries for relocating applicants with high percentage of recognition or vulnerabilities, around 30 – 40 persons for each relocation programme i.e Romania, Finland and others.

Expected contribution

- Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of voluntary relocation programs.

It should be noted that funding for the implementation of actions under SO 4 will take the form of grants. No operating support will be triggered for SO4.

2.1. Specific objective 4. Solidarity

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 1: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
O.4.1	Number of staff trained	number	0	0
O.4.2	Number of participants who received pre-departure support	number	0	0

2.1. Specific objective 4. Solidarity

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 2: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
R.4.3	Number of applicants for and beneficiaries of international protection transferred from one Member State to another	number	0	number	2021	220	number	Asylum Service	Please see attached Performance Framework
R.4.4	Number of persons resettled	number	0	number	2021	0	number	Asylum Service	Please see attached Performance Framework
R.4.5	Number of persons admitted through humanitarian admission	number	0	number	2021	0	number	Asylum Service	Please see attached Performance Framework

2.1. Specific objective 4. Solidarity

2.1.3. Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Reference: Article 22(5) CPR; and Article 16(12) AMIF Regulation, Article 13(12) ISF Regulation or Article 13(18) BMVI Regulation

Table 3: Indicative breakdown

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	001.Transfers to another Member State (relocation)	71,910.00
Intervention field	002.Support by a Member State to another Member State, including support provided to EASO	0.00
Intervention field	003.Resettlement (Article 19)	0.00
Intervention field	004.Humanitarian admission (Article 19)	0.00
Intervention field	005.Support, in terms of reception infrastructure, to another Member State	0.00
Intervention field	006.Operating support	0.00

2.2. Technical assistance: TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)

Reference: point (f) of Article 22(3), Article 36(5), Article 37, and Article 95 CPR

2.2.1. Description

The scope of Technical Assistance is to attain an effective and correct implementation of the programme through preparatory, management, monitoring, evaluation, information, and control actions of the financed interventions.

The implementation of the AMIF Programme shall thus be based on effective and efficient practices through clear and transparent processes that seek to reduce administrative burden, strengthen organisational capacity, and improve exchange of information and communication among the main stakeholders.

Additionally, the technical assistance addresses the need to adjust to national legislation in terms of security, data protection and fundamental rights.

Such assistance includes the provision of advice, expertise, research, analysis, training or other assistance in connection with, inter alia:

- Reinforcing systems and processes of management and coordination
- Enhancing administrative organization and operation of entities involved in the implementation of the interventions and actions
- Upgrading the managerial and delivery capacity of the beneficiaries of the Fund
- Completing necessary formal procedures in case and data handling in relation to the actions described above
- Analyzing the national legislation and reviewing of national laws aimed at ensuring compliance with international legal obligations or implementing E.U. laws and regulations
- Drafting non-legislative texts (such as circulars and guidelines) based on the documents and procedures of the Managing Authority.

Allocation of Technical Assistance and indicative Actions

Information & Communication (allocation 2%)

- Information Campaigns;
- Public events and visits (conferences);
- Commemorative plaques;
- Press releases;
- Leaflets, brochures, newsletters, and magazines;
- Web site for Migration & Home Affairs Funds (AMIF, BMVI, ISF);
- Participation of the Managing Authority in exhibitions and other national and international dissemination events;

Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control (allocation 5%)

- External Consultancy to support programming preparation and monitoring;
- Costs for the meetings of the Monitoring Committee for Migration and Home Affairs Funds;
- Costs for the on-spot-controls.
- Travel expenses linked to the implementation and monitoring of the Fund;

Evaluation and studies, data collection (allocation 15%)

- Studies (e.g., SCOs, development of OPS, impact of the programmes, best practices, establishment of new tools etc.);
- Actions relating to evaluations of programme such as the mid-term and ex-post evaluations;

Capacity building (allocation 78%)

- Fixed-term staff for the Managing Authority;
- Supplies for the operation of the Managing Authority;
- Purchase of equipment for the operation of the Managing Authority;
- Trainings/ seminars for the staff of the Managing Authority.

2.2. Technical assistance TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)

2.2.2. Indicative breakdown of technical assistance pursuant to Article 37 CPR

Table 4: Indicative breakdown

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	001.Information and communication	66,936.45
Intervention field	002.Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	167,341.12
Intervention field	003.Evaluation and studies, data collection	502,023.36
Intervention field	004.Capacity building	2,610,521.48

3. Financing plan

Reference: point (g) Article 22(3) CPR

3.1. Financial appropriations by year

Table 5: Financial appropriations per year

Allocation type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Initial allocation		7,783,246.00	10,965,648.00	10,979,159.00	11,030,648.00	10,094,709.00	8,273,786.00	59,127,196.00
Mid-term review								
Thematic facility WPI								
Thematic facility WPII								
Thematic facility WPIII								
Transfer (in)								
Transfer (out)								
Total		7,783,246.00	10,965,648.00	10,979,159.00	11,030,648.00	10,094,709.00	8,273,786.00	59,127,196.00

3.2. Total financial allocations

Table 6: Total financial allocations by fund and national contribution

Specific objective (SO)	Type of action	Basis for calculation Union support (total or public)	Union contribution (a)	National contribution (b)=(c)+(d)	Indicative breakdown of national contribution		Total (e)=(a)+(b)	Co-financing rate (f)=(a)/(e)
					Public (c)	Private (d)		
CEAS	Regular actions	Total	18,430,404.68	6,143,468.23	6,143,468.23	0.00	24,573,872.91	74.9999999898%
CEAS	Annex IV actions	Total	2,820,000.00	313,333.33	313,333.33	0.00	3,133,333.33	90.0000000957%
CEAS	Operating support	Total	6,663,390.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,663,390.00	100.0000000000%
Total CEAS			27,913,794.68	6,456,801.56	6,456,801.56	0.00	34,370,596.24	81.2141706390%
Legal migration and integration	Regular actions	Total	7,438,782.12	2,479,594.04	2,479,594.04	0.00	9,918,376.16	75.0000000000%
Legal migration and integration	Annex IV actions	Total	3,166,282.12	351,809.12	351,809.12	0.00	3,518,091.24	90.0000001137%
Total Legal migration and integration			10,605,064.24	2,831,403.16	2,831,403.16	0.00	13,436,467.40	78.9274734518%
Return	Regular actions	Total	6,565,044.67	2,188,348.22	2,188,348.22	0.00	8,753,392.89	75.0000000286%
Return	Annex IV actions	Total	9,214,560.00	1,023,840.00	1,023,840.00	0.00	10,238,400.00	90.0000000000%
Return	Operating support	Total	1,410,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,410,000.00	100.0000000000%
Total Return			17,189,604.67	3,212,188.22	3,212,188.22	0.00	20,401,792.89	84.2553630589%
Solidarity	Regular actions	Total	71,910.00	23,970.00	23,970.00	0.00	95,880.00	75.0000000000%
Solidarity	Annex IV actions	Total						
Total Solidarity			71,910.00	23,970.00	23,970.00	0.00	95,880.00	75.0000000000%
Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)			3,346,822.41				3,346,822.41	100.0000000000%
Grand total			59,127,196.00	12,524,362.94	12,524,362.94	0.00	71,651,558.94	82.5204599519%

3.3. Transfers

Table 7: Transfers between shared management funds¹

Transferring fund	Receiving fund						
	ISF	BMVI	ERDF	ESF+	CF	EMFAF	Total
AMIF							

¹Cumulative amounts for all transfers during programming period.

Table 8: Transfers to instruments under direct or indirect management¹

Instrument	Transfer Amount
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¹Cumulative amounts for all transfers during programming period.

4. Enabling conditions

Reference: point (i) of Article 22(3) CPR

Table 9: Horizontal enabling conditions

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
1. Effective monitoring mechanisms of the public procurement market	Yes	Monitoring mechanisms are in place that cover all public contracts and their procurement under the Funds in line with Union procurement legislation. That requirement includes: 1. Arrangements to ensure compilation of effective and reliable data on public procurement procedures above the Union thresholds in accordance with reporting obligations under Articles 83 and 84 of Directive 2014/24/EU and Articles 99 and 100 of Directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	Πληροφοριακό Σύστημα του Γενικού Λογιστηρίου E-procurement	Όλες οι πληροφορίες αναφορικά με τους Διαγωνισμούς Προσφορών (ονόματα αυτών που κέρδισαν την προσφορά, αριθμός αρχικών πλειοδοτών, αριθμός επιλεγμένων πλειοδοτών και αξία της σύμβασης), είναι διαθέσιμα στο ηλεκτρονικό σύστημα του Γενικού Λογιστηρίου για τις Δημόσιες Συμβάσεις (e-procurement).
		2. Arrangements to ensure the data cover at least the following elements: a. Quality and intensity of competition: names of winning bidder, number of initial bidders and contractual value; b. Information on final price after completion and on participation of SMEs as direct bidders, where national systems provide such information.	Yes	Πληροφοριακό Σύστημα του Γενικού Λογιστηρίου E-procurement	Πληροφορίες σχετικά με την τελική τιμή μετά την ολοκλήρωση του Διαγωνισμού, θα βρίσκονται διαθέσιμες στο Ηλεκτρονικό Σύστημα του Γενικού Λογιστηρίου για τις πληρωμές (ERP). Επίσης, είναι διαθέσιμες στο επί μέρους λογιστικό σύστημα της εκάστοτε υπηρεσίας που διεξήγαγε τον Διαγωνισμό και τη Σύμβαση. Όσον αφορά στην πληροφορία κατά πόσο μια ΜΜΕ συμμετέχει σε διαγωνισμό, καταγράφεται στο ηλεκτρονικό σύστημα των Δημοσίων Συμβάσεων (e-procurement), καθώς κατά την εισαγωγή της εταιρίας στο ηλεκτρονικό σύστημα, θα πρέπει να δηλώσει την οικονομική της οντότητά της και κατά πόσο είναι ΜΜΕ.

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
		3. Arrangements to ensure monitoring and analysis of the data by the competent national authorities in accordance with article 83 (2) of directive 2014/24/EU and article 99 (2) of directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	Πληροφοριακό Σύστημα του Γενικού Λογιστηρίου E-procurement	Όλες οι πληροφορίες μπορούν να εξαχθούν από το ηλεκτρονικό σύστημα των Δημοσίων Συμβάσεων (e-procurement) και είναι διαθέσιμες στο κοινό.
		4. Arrangements to make the results of the analysis available to the public in accordance with article 83 (3) of directive 2014/24/EU and article 99 (3) directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	Πληροφοριακό Σύστημα του Γενικού Λογιστηρίου E-procurement	Όλες οι πληροφορίες μπορούν να εξαχθούν από το ηλεκτρονικό σύστημα των Δημοσίων Συμβάσεων (e-procurement) και είναι διαθέσιμες στο κοινό.
		5. Arrangements to ensure that all information pointing to suspected bid-rigging situations is communicated to the competent national bodies in accordance with Article 83(2) of Directive 2014/24/EU and Article 99(2) of Directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	Νόμος 73(Ι)/2016 Άρθρο 83 (1) Εθνική Εταιρική Συμφωνία	Υπάρχει σε ισχύ υφιστάμενη Εταιρική Συμφωνία, η οποία καθορίζει μεταξύ άλλων το τρόπο ανταλλαγής δεδομένων σχετικά με τις προσφορές (collusion/bid rigging). Το Άρθρο 83, Παράγραφος 1 της Εθνικής Νομοθεσίας (Νόμος 73(Ι)/2016), περιλαμβάνει ειδικά μέτρα έναντι των αναθετουσών αρχών/οντοτήτων, σε περιπτώσεις παραπτώματος ή συστημικών σφαλμάτων κατά την εφαρμογή της νομοθεσίας περί δημοσίων συμβάσεων.
3. Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental	No	Effective mechanisms are in place to ensure compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ('the Charter') which include: 1. Arrangements to ensure compliance of	No		

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
Rights		the programmes supported by the Funds and their implementation with the relevant provisions of the Charter.			
		2. Reporting arrangements to the monitoring committee regarding cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the Charter and complaints regarding the Charter submitted in accordance with the arrangements made pursuant to Article 69(7).	No		
4. Implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC	Yes	<p>A national framework to ensure implementation of the UNCRPD is in place that includes:</p> <p>1. Objectives with measurable goals, data collection and monitoring mechanisms.</p>	Yes	<p>Ο περί της Σύμβασης για τα Δικαιώματα των Ατόμων με Αναπηρίες και περί Συναφών Θεμάτων (Κυρωτικός) Νόμος του 2011 (Ν. 8(III)/2011)</p> <p>Ευρωπαϊκή Στρατηγική για τα Δικαιώματα των Ατόμων με Αναπηρίες 2021-2030 (Brussels, 3.3.2021 COM(2021) 101 final)</p> <p>Πρώτη Εθνική Στρατηγική για την Αναπηρία 2018 – 2028, www.mlsi.gov.cy/dsid</p> <p>Τρίτο Εθνικό Σχέδιο Δράσης για την Αναπηρία 2021-2023</p> <p>Αναλυτικός Απολογισμός του Εθνικού Σχεδίου Δράσης για την Αναπηρία γνωστοποιείται για ενημέρωση του Υπ. Συμβουλίου.</p>	<p>Η ΚΔ έχει κυρώσει τη Σύμβαση του ΟΗΕ για τα Δικαιώματα των ΑμεΑ το 2011</p> <p>Στα πλαίσια της Σύμβασης και της Ευρ. Στρ. για τα Δικαιώματα των ΑμεΑ 2021-2030 η Κύπρος διαθέτει τη 10ετή Εθν Στρατ για την Αναπηρία 2018-2028 που συμπληρώνεται από 3ετή Σχ Δράσης Η Στρατηγική καθορίζει τους στόχους της Κύπρου σε 12 στρατηγικούς άξονες</p> <p>Το 3ο Σχ Δράσης 2021-2023 ικανοποιεί τις Συστάσεις του ΟΗΕ προς ΚΔ και επιδιώξει για νέα 3ετία της Παγκ Συμμαχίας για την Αναπηρία</p> <p>Οι μηχανισμοί παρακολούθη εφαρμογής της Σύμβασης περιλαμβάνουν</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Το ΤΚΕΑΑ ως Κεντρικό Σημείο - Το Παγκ Συμβούλιο για ΑμεΑ ως Συντον Μηχανισμό - Το Γραφείο Επιτρ Διοικ και Προστασίας Ανθρ Δικαιωμάτων ως Ανεξάρτητο Μηχανισμό

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					<p>Βάσει νόμου οι κρ. υπηρεσίες υποχρεούνται να διαβουλεύονται με την ΚΥΣΟΑ για πολιτικές που αφορούν ΑμεΑ. Η διαβούλευση γίνεται διά αλληλογραφίας, διμερών συναντήσεων σε επίπεδο Υπουργού ή Τμήματος, συμμετοχής σε ομάδες εργασίας ή επιτροπές, δημόσιας διαβούλευσης.</p> <p>Το Σχ Δράσης αξιολογείται ετησίως. Για κάθε δράση καταγράφεται αν υλοποιήθηκε πλήρως, μερικώς ή δεν υλοποιήθηκε, αιτία, διορθ μέτρα.</p> <p>Το Παγκ Συμβούλ για τα ΑμεΑ και το ΥΣ ενημερώνονται και παίρνονται αποφάσεις. Τα αποτελέσματα δημοσιεύονται.</p>
		<p>2. Arrangements to ensure that accessibility policy, legislation and standards are properly reflected in the preparation and implementation of the programmes.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Η νέα οδηγία του ΕΚ και του Συμβουλίου σχετικά με τις απαιτήσεις προσβασιμότητας για αγαθά και υπηρεσίες ημ. 17/4/2021 (νόμος για την προσβασιμότητα) βρίσκεται στο στάδιο ενσωμάτωσης στο εθνικό δίκαιο. Η ολοκλήρωση της αναμένεται τον Ιούνιο 2022.</p> <p>Το ΤΚΕΑΑ ετοίμασε το 1ο προσχέδιο του</p>	<p>Οι Δημ Αρχές, Υπουργεία, κρατ Υπηρεσίες και ΜΚΟ που συμμετέχουν στην εφαρμογή και παρακολούθηση της Στρ και του ΣΔ συμμετέχουν στη διαδικασία διαβούλευσης και καταρτισμού του Προγράμματος και στην Επ. Παρακολούθησης.</p> <p>Στο πλαίσιο του ΕΣ 4(η) θα προωθηθούν παρεμβάσεις ενεργού ένταξης στην αγορά</p>

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				<p>νομοσχεδίου μεταφοράς της Οδηγίας και συντονίζει τη διαβούλευση με τις αρμόδιες κρατικές υπηρεσίες</p>	<p>εργασίας ενώ στον ΕΣ 4(ια) θα προωθηθούν παρεμβάσεις παροχής φροντίδας, κοιν ενσωμάτωσης και υπηρεσιών υποστήριξης διαβίωσης στην κοινότητα Οι Οργανώσεις Αναπήρων συμμετέχουν στο σχεδιασμό των έργων και υλοποίηση τους</p> <p>Ο τομέας της προσβασιμότητας καλύπτει πολλούς τομείς (φυσικό και δομημένο περιβάλλον, μεταφορές, πληροφόρηση, αγαθά και υπηρεσίες) Οι ανάλογες δράσεις και έργα ελέγχονται όσον αφορά τη τήρηση των αρχών και προδιαγραφών προσβασιμότητας από τις αρμόδιες αρχές στα πλαίσια των οικείων νόμων και κανονισμών τους, όπως παρουσιάζονται συνοπτικά στην Έκθεση της Κύπρου για την Εφαρμογή της Σύμβασης ΟΗΕ για τα Δικαιώματα των ΑμεΑ και το Εθν ΣΔ για την Αναπηρία</p> <p>Τα κριτήρια επιλογής έργων θα υποβληθούν στην Επιτρ Παρακολούθησης για έγκριση, η οποία σε κάθε στάδιο θα ελέγχει τη συμβατότητα τους με το Νόμο για τη μη διάκριση και τη Σύμβαση ΟΗΕ για τα Δικαιώματα των ΑμεΑ</p>
		3. Reporting arrangements to the	Yes	Η εξειδίκευση των διαδικασιών του	Το ΤΚΕΑΑ θα συμμετάσχει στην Επ

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
		<p>monitoring committee regarding cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the UNCRPD and complaints regarding the UNCRPD submitted in accordance with the arrangements made pursuant to Article 69(7).</p>		<p>Συστήματος Διαχείρισης και Ελέγχου θα καταγραφεί σε χωριστές κατευθυντήριες γραμμές/ εγκυκλίους που θα εκδώσει η Διαχειριστική Αρχή.</p> <p>Με βάση το Άρθρο 69 του Κανονισμού Κοινών Διατάξεων (ΕΕ) 2021/1060 τα Κράτη Μέλη έχουν την υποχρέωση να ετοιμάσουν περιγραφή του Συστήματος Διαχείρισης και Ελέγχου (όχι αργότερα από τις 30 Ιουνίου 2023).</p>	<p>Παρακολούθησης και θα ενημερώνει τα μέλη για έργα/ ΣΧ που δεν συμμορφώνονται με τη Σύμβαση UNCRPD</p> <p>Ο Επίτροπος Διοικήσεως, ως Ανεξάρτητος Μηχανισμός Προώθησης, Προστασίας και Παρακολούθησης της Σύμβασης του ΟΗΕ για τα Δικαιώματα των ΑμεΑ έχει εξουσία, μεταξύ άλλων</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • να διεξάγει έρευνες • να συλλέγει στοιχεία • να εξετάζει είτε αυτεπάγγελτα, είτε μετά από παράπονα ή καταγγελίες περιπτώσεις μη εφαρμογής της Σύμβασης • να υποβάλλει εκθέσεις <p>Κάθε 6μηνο, το Γραφείο της Επιτρ Διοικήσεως και Ανθρωπ Δικαιωμάτων υποβάλλει έκθεση προς το ΥΣ με αναφορές σε όλες τις εκθέσεις και τοποθετήσεις της μετά από την εξέταση των παραπόνων που λαμβάνει</p> <p>Το ΥΣ ενημερώνεται ανά εξάμηνο, από τα αρμόδια Υπουργεία για τις διορθωτικές ενέργειες που λαμβάνουν προς συμμόρφωση με τις εισηγήσεις της Επιτροπής</p> <p>Οι συναντήσεις της Επ Παρακολούθησης πραγματοποιούνται 1 φορά το χρόνο Η Επιτροπή θα ενημερώνεται για τις περιπτώσεις χειρισμού παραπόνων που υποβλήθηκαν στο πλαίσιο υλοποίησης των</p>

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					<p>συγγραματοδ Προγραμμάτων, για περιπτώσεις παραβίασης της Σύμβασης καθώς και τυχόν διορθωτικά/ προληπτικά μέτρα που προτάθηκαν για αποφυγή παρόμοιων προβλημάτων στο μέλλον.</p>

5. Programme authorities

Reference: point (k) of Article 22(3) and Articles 71 and 84 CPR

Table 10: Programme authorities

Programme Authority	Name of the institution	Contact name	Position	Email
Managing authority	European Funds Unit, Ministry of Interior	Constantinos Kyprianou	Head of Unit	ckyprianou@moi.gov.cy
Audit authority	Internal Audit Service	Anna Zavou-Christoforou	Commissioner	commissioner@internalaudit.gov.cy
Body which receives payments from the Commission	Treasury of the Republic	Rea Georgiou	Accountant General	Accountant.general@treasury.gov.cy

6. Partnership

Reference: point (h) of Article 22(3) CPR

1. Partners for the AMIF

Partners of the AMIF, are relevant public bodies who hold a de jure responsibility to form and regulate the policy of CY regarding the areas covered by the AMIF. Relevant partners also include local authorities, NGOs, academic institutions, international organizations and any other body that may have an impact in the area of migration. The particular stakeholders have also been acting as partners during the previous PPs for the AMIF PP2014-2020.

2. Preparation of the Programme

So far the following public bodies have been consulted as the relevant partners for the preparation of the AMIF Programme:

- Aliens and Immigration Unit of the Police (returns),
- Law Office of the Republic (asylum and returns),
- Civil Registry and Migration Department (legal migration and returns),
- Asylum Service (asylum)
- Ministry of Health (asylum and returns)
- Ministry of Education (integration)
- Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance (asylum)
- Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare (asylum)
- Ombudsman Office (human rights)

On 01.11.2019 the MA sent to all partners registered as members of the AMIF and ISF PP 2014-2020 Monitoring Committees respectively, a notification as regards the start of procedures in drafting the new Programme for the PP 2021-2027 for all 3 Home Affairs Funds. More specifically, the MA provided partners with an overview of the steps that need to be taken in order to start reflecting on the needs and actions to be taken under the new Funds, based on the initial Commission's proposal as regards objectives and eligible actions. The information for all 3 Funds was disseminated to the members of both PP 2014-2020 Monitoring Committees, in order to address any possible responsibilities the partners might have for each of the new Funds. Together with the Commission's proposal, a template was also prepared with the basic information that the partners were required to fill in when presenting their needs and proposed actions addressing the particular needs (incl. estimated budget and timeframe where possible). The first round of written suggestions from the partners were received by the end of the year. These suggestions included a brief description of the suggested actions, estimated budget and expected results.

Beginning of 2020, the MA informed partners about the CY programming fiche as this was prepared by the Commission, which generated another round of proposed needs and actions to be included in the new Programme.

Although the first deadline for submitting the first unofficial draft Programme was by the end of April 2020, due to the measures taken to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, the coordination of the partners together with their expected contribution had been rendered extremely difficult. Therefore, CY opted to submit the first unofficial draft by the end of September 2020.

During the preparation stage, there have been bilateral meetings and communication with partners on their particular needs, pending the confirmation on the exact amount allocated to CY under the Fund. Once the amount became known, it enabled the MA to better streamline the budget appropriations to the needs deemed as priorities based on the current situation.

Social partners have also been consulted as regards the preparation of AMIF since all policy areas of the Fund receive assistance from stakeholders such as local authorities, NGOs and other relevant organizations. Similarly to public authorities, social partners were notified of the start of preparations for the new PP and were invited to fill in and submit the relevant template, proposing relevant actions under the AMIF, which were taken into consideration during the drafting of the Programme. These partners included but were not limited to:

- Local authorities
- International organizations
- NGOs in the area of migration
- Organizations promoting social inclusion
- Academic/ educational institutions

3. Implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Programme

A Monitoring Committee, as per art. 33-35 of the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) will be responsible for the monitoring of the implementation as well as the evaluation of the Programme. The Committee will meet at least once a year in order to examine the progress of the programme as well as approve any relevant issue that falls within its jurisdiction. Taking into account the nature of the Fund the MA intends to invite as members of the AMIF Committee the following bodies:

Members with a right to vote:

- Ministry of Interior;
- Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth
- Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Justice and Public Order
- Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare
- Asylum Service
- Immigration and Aliens Service
- Civil Registry and Migration Department
- Department of Labour
- Department of Environment
- Directorate General Growth (representative from Structural Funds and/or Cohesion Policy)
- European Social Fund Unit
- Union of Cyprus Municipalities
- Union of Cyprus Communities
- Cyprus Rectors' Conference

Members without the right to vote:

Public authorities/ broader public sector

1. DG for Migration and Home Funds
2. Internal Audit Authority (as the Auditing Authority of the Fund);
3. General Auditor of the Republic;

4. Treasury of the Republic;
5. State Health Services Organization
6. Citizens Commissioner Office
7. Ombudsman Office
8. Commissioner for Children's Rights
9. Commissioner for Gender Equality

Civic society organizations such as:

1. Pancyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council
2. Cyprus Confederation of Organizations of the Disabled
3. Cyprus Paraplegic Organization
4. Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies
5. Cyprus Refugee Council

Semi-governmental organizations

1. Youth board of Cyprus
2. Research and Innovation Foundation

International Organizations

1. International Organization for Migration
2. Cyprus Red Cross
3. UNHCR
4. Caritas Cyprus
5. Hope for Children

European Agencies

1. European Union Agency for Asylum
2. Frontex

Other organizations

1. Municipalities
2. NGOs in area of migration
3. Academic and Education Institutions
4. Private organizations
5. All beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries listed in the MA's database

The final format of the Monitoring Committee is pending approval from the Council of Ministers.

The Committee will be consulted, monitor the implementation of the programme and provide suggestions as well as approve all issues as stated in art. 35 of the CPR. During the meetings of the Committee, beneficiaries may also be invited to present their projects and the respective results. Prior to the meetings, the MA may hold a communication with potential beneficiaries listed in the MA's data base of list of

beneficiaries, requesting suggestions for further actions which could be discussed by the Committee. Clear documentation on the scope of each meeting will be provided by the MA prior and after the meeting, for better coordination and visibility, amongst others. In case of amendments to the Programme all members of the Committee will be notified and asked to provide their written suggestions and/or approval.

As part of the evaluation of the Programme, the independent evaluator may contact partners from the relevant committees or final beneficiaries of the projects, where necessary. The results of the evaluation and the evaluation report will be notified to the partners of the Monitoring Committee for approval as part of the monitoring process.

4. Complementarity

There is a constant effort to ensure complementarities and synergies of the Programme with other EU Funds which has begun during the PPs 2007-2013 and 2020-2014 and will be continuing throughout 2021-2027 even more so, since Home Affairs Funds are included in the Common Provisions Regulation (CPR) 2021-2027. These are described in the Partnership Agreement prepared by the Directorate General Growth (DGG) which is both the National Authority for the coordination of CPR Funds and the Managing Authority for the Programmes co-financed by the EU Cohesion Policy Funds (ESF+, ERDF and Cohesion Fund) and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) 2021-2027. As for BMVI and ISF, complementarities are ensured since CY has the same MA for all 3 Home Affairs Funds, thus facilitating coordination during implementation.

Through its Resilience and Recovery Plan (2021-2026), the RoC has included a specific investment under policy component 5.2 “Labour Market, Social Protection and Inclusion”, which aims to provide support for the provision of care and safeguarding the rights of UAMs. Through a new State Aid Scheme targeted at NGOs and Local Authorities, CY will support the establishment of 8 new Homes for hosting minors under the care of the Direction of Social Welfare Services, the majority of whom are expected to be UAMs. Increasing reception capacity for UAMs is not currently envisioned to be addressed through AMIF. However, the MA is communicating with and is aware of recent efforts by the Deputy Ministry of Social Welfare for the establishment of additional centres for UAMs. The possibility of supporting the new centres under AMIF will be explored in the near future.

Regarding CYs Cohesion Policy Programme ‘Thalia 2021-2027’ which contains an action for the integration of students with a migrant background into the education system (under specific objective: ESO4.5. “Improving the quality, inclusiveness, effectiveness and labour market relevance of education and training systems ...”), the MA is in regular communication and is consulting with the Ministry of Education, which is the relevant authority for the integration of migrant students in the education sector. The Ministry plans to identify needs and gaps which will not be addressed by other resources, national/EU or otherwise, so that actions under AMIF will act in a complementary manner to other measures/ actions implemented for migrant students (adults and minors), such as those included in Thalia 2021-2027.

Via its Structural Reform Support Programme, project “Building structures for intercultural integration in Cyprus” is being implemented by the Council of Europe in cooperation with DG for Structural Reform Support and the CRMD. CY intends to implement a new project under TSI, “Enhancing structures for intercultural integration in Cyprus”, which will build upon the work already accomplished in the first project. If no other alternative source of funding (e.g. TSI) is available, the project may be funded under AMIF Programme.

In order to best implement complementarities and synergies as well as ensure there is no overlap between actions implemented under each EU Fund and to more effectively use the available resources, the relevant competent authorities will continue to participate as members in the Monitoring Committees of the respective Programmes of each of the Funds and Programmes as well as arrange bilateral meetings for the examination of subjects of common interest. DGG has also developed a web portal, providing information to citizens and businesses for funding opportunities under EU Programmes and Funds or national funds. All these enable the coordination between Home Affairs Funds and other EU Funds and provide a constant overview regarding implementation and possible changes or further developments regarding EU

funding.

Apart from ensuring complementarities and synergies with other EU Funds in terms of operations, the MA is also in close cooperation with the relevant unit of the Treasury of the RoC, which is the Certifying Authority for the Programmes co-financed by the EU Cohesion Policy Funds as regards their experience with the Common Provisions Regulation, electronic data exchange system and their overall experience from the previous programming periods.

7. Communication and visibility

Reference: point (j) of Article 22(3) CPR

The MA has already appointed a communication officer who has been planning the communication strategy for the PP.

The objectives of the communication policy were formed based on research (e.g., Eurobarometer 2020) and on the experience gained during PP 2014-20. As a result CY objectives are the following:

1. Promotion of the role and solidarity shown by the EU on immigration and asylum matters, as well as internal security, protection of external borders and visa policy. The goal is to enhance the recognition and positive attitude of Cypriots towards both the target group (TCNs) & the EU.
2. Ensure maximum transparency in the management & implementation of the program and increase awareness & confidence in the opportunities provided by the EU.
3. Inform the general public about the actions & results of the program.
4. Immediate and timely information of potential beneficiaries about funding opportunities provided by the program and procedures for accessing it. The aim is to increase competition in terms of the number of potential beneficiaries and of proposals for new projects submitted.
5. Immediate and timely information & support of beneficiaries during the projects' implementation in terms of communication and promotion of the results & the projects' impact, ensuring compliance with regulatory framework obligations.

It is noted that a public opinion survey is taking place at the moment. The results will serve as the base on which the communication goals for the PP, as well as the tools to be used will be finalized.

Target audiences

1. The **general public** (people of all ages & education level) as the main target group, and **media outlets** (media & opinion makers), in order to achieve the first 3 communication objectives.
2. The **potential beneficiaries**, both individuals / small and medium-sized enterprises & public / local authorities, in order to achieve the 4th communication objective.
3. The **final beneficiaries**, in order to achieve the 5th communication objective.
4. The **academia** (public & private institutions). On one hand educational institutions are a potential final beneficiary. On the other hand informing the youth will help in the long term to achieve the first 3 communication objectives.

Communication channels

Based mainly on the results of the Eurobarometer 2020 the following channels, given in order of priority, will be used:

1. The **Internet**, the most easily accessible communication channel throughout the day and one with infinite possibilities and lower costs. In particular, the program's website, the MAs social media (Fb, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr) & various informative websites will be used.

It is noted that a website Portal providing access to all programmes of CY will be created under the supervision of the communication coordinator. The Portal will include information on the programs as well as a link to the programs' websites.

The Internet will enable the approach of younger people. This will have both short-term and long-term results in terms of achieving the first three communication objectives.

1. **Television**, the main source of information of Cypriots of all ages (production of TV spots, mainly in the context of the calls for proposals).

2. The **press**, a communication channel used by people of all educational levels and by older people. Among others, at least three interviews of the Head of the MA (at the beginning, middle & end of the PP), as well as reportages published on websites & press releases on the start or at completion of important projects.
3. The **radio**, a widely used source of information in CY (production of radio spots).
4. Organization of **events** (some concerning all the three programs, AMIF, ISF, BMVI) where the general public will be able to participate (e.g., seminars for potential beneficiaries, presentations at higher education institutions, events for the presentation of the managing authority's work, some in collaboration with other funds & managing authorities).
5. Publication of a **newsletter** per year, which will include information on the implementation of the programs (AMIF, ISF, BMVI), as well as presentation of important projects.

Planned budget

0.1% of the program's budget.

Monitoring and evaluation

A **public opinion survey** is being conducted at the moment. Its results will serve as a reference point for the next surveys, conducted in the middle and at the end of the PP, in order to determine whether the communication strategy will have achieved the expected results.

In addition, the following **indicators** will be adopted (indicative reference):

Outputs:

- Website traffic: 20% increase
- Number of posts & followers / impressions / views on social media: 4 posts per week on social media, 1200-1700 followers/ impressions/ views
- Number & frequency of TV spots: 2-3 TV spots during PP
- Number of interviews, reportage, press releases: 4 interviews, 7 reportages, 3 press releases during the PP
- Number & frequency of radio spots: 7 radio spots during PP
- Number of newsletters published: 1 newsletter per year

Results:

- Website's conversion rate (number of downloads, registrations, bouncing rate, login time)
- Engagement in social media (shares, likes, clickthroughs, comments, hashtag reports).

Impact (Based on the results of the public opinion surveys):

- Program recognition & EU contribution
- Positive view of the program & the EU contribution

8. Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

Reference: Articles 94 and 95 CPR

Intended use of Articles 94 and 95 CPR	Yes	No
From the adoption, the programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates under the priority according to Article 94 CPR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
From the adoption, the programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs according to Article 95 CPR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Appendix 1: Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates

A. Summary of the main elements

Specific objective	Estimated proportion of the total financial allocation within the specific objective to which the SCO will be applied in %	Type(s) of operation covered		Indicator triggering reimbursement (2)		Unit of measurement for the indicator triggering reimbursement	Type of SCO (standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates)	Amount (in EUR) or percentage (in case of flat rates) of the SCO
		Code(1)	Description	Code(2)	Description			

(1) This refers to the code in Annex VI of the AMIF, BMVI and ISF Regulations

(2) This refers to the code of a common indicator, if applicable

Appendix 1: Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates

B. Details by type of operation

C. Calculation of the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates

1. Source of data used to calculate the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates (who produced, collected and recorded the data, where the data is stored, cut-off dates, validation, etc.)

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2. Please specify why the proposed method and calculation based on Article 94(2) CPR is relevant to the type of operation.

3. Please specify how the calculations were made, in particular including any assumptions made in terms of quality or quantities. Where relevant, statistical evidence and benchmarks should be used and, if requested, provided in a format that is usable by the Commission.

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4. Please explain how you have ensured that only eligible expenditure was included in the calculation of the standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate.

5. Assessment of the audit authority(ies) of the calculation methodology and amounts and the arrangements to ensure the verification, quality, collection and storage of data.

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Appendix 2: Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs

A. Summary of the main elements

Specific objective	The amount covered by the financing not linked to costs	Type(s) of operation covered		Conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission	Indicators		Unit of measurement for the conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission	Envisaged type of reimbursement method used to reimburse the beneficiary(ies)
		Code(1)	Description		Code(2)	Description		

(1) Refers to the code in Annex VI of the AMIF, BMVI and ISF Regulations.

(2) Refers to the code of a common indicator, if applicable.

B. Details by type of operation

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent by
Programme snapshot 2021CY65AMPR001 1.2	Snapshot of data before send	24 Nov 2022		Ares(2022)8121096	Programme snapshot 2021CY65AMPR001 1.2 - Machine Translated Programme_snapshot_2021CY65AMPR001_1.2_en.pdf Programme_snapshot_2021CY65AMPR001_1.2_el.pdf	24 Nov 2022	Kyprianou, Constantinos