



**10<sup>th</sup> European Forum on the rights of the child**  
**29-30 November 2016**  
**The protection of children in migration**

10 September 2016

**Background paper –**  
**EU funding to protect children in migration**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

This document summarises recent and current EU funding on children in migration.

1. The relevant actions set out in the 10 February 2016 Commission Communication on the state of play of implementation of the priority actions under the European Agenda on Migration are underway and include targeted funding for the protection of children in migration. For example, under the Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme, funding has been directed towards the protection of children in migration, including a direct grant (EUR 3.5 million) to IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR and Save the Children<sup>1</sup>, and a call for proposals (EUR 3 million) for action grants for projects on guardianship and foster-care was opened in September 2016.<sup>2</sup>
2. The funds available under Greece's AMIF and ISF national programmes (EUR 294.5 million from the AMIF and EUR 214.7 million from the ISF) will support the establishment and operation of reception places for unaccompanied minors and other vulnerable groups, which is amongst the programmes' priorities. Under the AMIF national programme, funding will also be allocated to support the establishment of a guardianship system as well as access to education, in particular for children.

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<sup>1</sup> This direct grant of EUR 3.5 million aims to complement general EU funding with a targeted action aimed at strengthening and accompanying capacity building of national authorities and ensure a child protection focus for children in migration. [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/programmes-2014-2020/files/rec\\_awp\\_2016/rec\\_awp\\_2016\\_annex\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants1/programmes-2014-2020/files/rec_awp_2016/rec_awp_2016_annex_en.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> The call for proposals aims to support capacity-building in protection of children systems for children in migration specifically for guardianship and family-based care for unaccompanied children. <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/rec/topics/20053-rec-rchi-prof-ag-2016.html>

3. On top of the funding available under the national programmes, significant emergency assistance (EUR 353 million) under the same funds has been allocated for actions in Greece, either directly to the Greek authorities or to international organisations and EU agencies. Such emergency assistance includes targeted funding to cater for the needs of children in migration. For example, child protection, adequate accommodation for unaccompanied minors and education activities are the main activities included under the AMIF emergency assistance grants awarded to the IOM (EUR 13 million) and the UNHCR (EUR 30 million). Furthermore, under a recent grant awarded to the Greek Reception and Identification Service (RIS) (EUR 7.2 million), specialised staff will be recruited, among others, specifically for the surveillance of unaccompanied minors and care provision of infants, whether accompanied by families or not, in the hotspots in the islands of the Eastern Aegean. Finally, under the EUR 80 million relocation accommodation scheme, the UNHCR supports the relocation process (information, referrals, and equipment) and will establish 20,000 reception places, relevant also for children in migration.
4. Substantial funding regarding the reception of unaccompanied minors is provided by Italy's national programme under the AMIF. Under this programme, the competent Italian authorities have recently allocated EUR 51 million to the operation of 1,000 reception places for unaccompanied minors. A second call for proposals foreseeing EUR 111 million for the creation and operation of 2,000 reception places under the same programme has been launched. The projects to be funded will be selected in the near future by the competent Italian authorities. In addition to the funding under the national programme, the Commission allocated in 2015 almost EUR 12 million to Italy under the emergency assistance scheme of the AMIF. This grant enabled Italy and the partner organisations of the action (IOM, UNHCR, Italian Red Cross, Save the Children and the Association of Italian Municipalities) to create and operate more than 600 reception places for unaccompanied minors. The involvement of the partners ensured an integrated and child specific approach and the lessons learnt were taken as a basis for the two recent calls for proposals.
5. In addition, the Emergency Support Instrument (EUR 300 million in 2016, total of EUR 700 million in 2018) targets children among other vulnerable groups in its provision of lifesaving assistance in Greece and other Member States, including food, shelter, water, medicine, protection and other basic necessities. In April 2016, in the first allocation of EUR 83 million, a total of EUR 14.5 million was allocated to child protection activities in Greece, including provision of psychosocial support, child-friendly spaces, non-formal education, case management systems, family tracing and emergency shelters for unaccompanied minors. A further allocation is planned, including a component on education in emergencies, recognising the importance of formal and non-formal education in the well-being, protection and integration of children.
6. The European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds), in particular the ESF and the ERDF, which operate under the shared management principle can support measures for the effective integration of migrants and refugees, including providing financial and other support

to non-governmental organisations representing unaccompanied migrant children and to encourage local authorities to work in partnership with them.

7. In this context, Member States can also make use of the Fund for Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) (EUR 3.8 billion for 2014–2020), which provides food and/or basic material assistance and finances social inclusion activities targeting the most deprived, including children irrespective of their residence status.
8. Moreover, both the ESF and the ERDF may be used for the integration of migrants, including migrant children, in the context of general social inclusion and education measures – examples include investments in social, health, education, housing, childcare, etc). The ESI Funds' total allocation for inclusive growth priorities for the 2014-2020 programming period is EUR 44.4 billion. Furthermore, the ERDF can, on a case-by-case basis support emergency measures (e.g. hotspot and reception centres infrastructure developments). If reprogramming is necessary, there is scope for flexibility.
9. The integration of migrants and refugees is one of the 12 priority themes of the EU Urban Agenda. In relation to this, a thematic partnership for the integration of migrants and refugees has been set up, where cities across the EU, Members States and the Commission are involved. The objective of the partnership for the integration of migrants and refugees is to manage the integration of incoming migrants and refugees (extra-EU) and to provide a framework for their inclusion. This will cover: housing, integration, provision of public services, social inclusion, education and labour market measures. An action plan to implement the objectives of partnership is under preparation, and may include measures that are relevant for unaccompanied minors.