

**FAQs about Specific Actions under Thematic Facility Work Programmes AMIF, BMVI, ISF 2023-2025**

❖ **AMIF/2023/SA/1.2.1 MS under pressure AMIF Lot 1**

Topic classification	Questions	Reply
<b>Duration of projects</b>	What will be the duration of the project?	<p>In absence of any requirements for the project duration in the call, the project duration is decided by the Member State.</p> <p>The applicable period for project funding is the AMIF Fund period, as stated in Article 1 of the AMIF Regulation (1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027).</p> <p>As explained before, activities are eligible from 1 January 2021 if the respective intervention codes are included in the initially approved version of the AMIF programme, or as from the date of submission by the Member State of its request of the amendment of that programme if this is not the case.</p> <p>Moreover, pay attention to Article 63 of the CPR for eligibility of expenditure in general and the limitations on operations that are physically completed or fully implemented referred to in Article 63(6) CPR.</p>
<b>Eligibility of costs</b>	<p>The Social Welfare Services, currently provide an amount every month for childcare for the children who are placed in foster families or in semi-independent living programs. Could this cost be included in the call, covering the cost for new placements?</p> <p>In addition to the recruitment of staff for case management (i.e., social services workers), does the project covers the recruitment of staff, such as cleaners, staff for the registry department etc? In addition, could the project cover the purchase of equipment for the staff, such as desks, computers, chairs, as well as travel expenses?</p>	<p>According to section 3.2.4 on minimum requirements for proposals for lot 1, Member States are invited to launch initiatives to make <i>structural improvements</i> at national level, taking into account shortcomings identified in the national reception systems for unaccompanied minors and for the protection of children. Section 3.4 identifies the two priorities of this specific action and refers to the introduction or creation of <i>additional</i> capacity for either accommodation or national guardianship and child protection systems.</p> <p>This means that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• proposals should explain how their activities are embedded in a national strategy and thus contribute to capacity building at national level for child protection systems (see point 3.2.4) and be of medium- or long-term nature (section 3.3.2).</li> <li>• proposals should demonstrate in their needs assessment (section 3.3.3.) why certain activities would need to be financed under this logic (such as monthly allowance schemes or facility staff) and not</li> </ul>

		<p>any of the example activities listed under objectives 1 and 2 of section 3.4.</p> <p>Hence, the needs assessment should justify how the proposed activities and the related cost address a notable/continuous increase of pressure in your MS's reception and child protection system that requires EU funding. Also, since the proposal will be assessed on complementarity under the criterion of quality, a reasoning should be provided why such costs cannot be covered from your AMIF programme (or how they complement activities in your AMIF programme).</p> <p>Bearing in mind the above, costs covering any <i>new</i> placements, as you describe, could be considered to fall within the scope of the call if inherent to the project and if they address the additional burden resulting from the continuous migratory pressure in your Member State.</p> <p>Equally, the scope of the call does not exclude costs such as cleaners, administrative staff or equipment if these costs are an inherent part of the costs of the project / reception facility and relate to the additional support for the unaccompanied minors according to section 3.4 of the call.</p> <p>Travel expenses may be eligible in case they enable guardians to adequately perform their role vis-à-vis the unaccompanied children, for instance as part of the external support to guardians under objective 2.</p>
<b>Operational costs</b>	Could you please clarify if the call can cover the operational costs for the operation of a Centre for Unaccompanied minors which will host approximately 120 unaccompanied minors?	No, this is not eligible.
<b>Financial management of specific actions</b>	1. As the type of funding being granted is considered an extension of the national programme, can you please confirm whether there is any type of pre-financing involved for the implementation of such actions. We understand that there isn't. How are the funds channelled through the MS after approval?	<p>1. Please see sections 2 and 5 in the call on how specific actions are governed. Successful proposals for specific actions are added to the Member State's programme and treated like any other project under shared management. For more information on the financial management of a programme, please contact the Managing Authority for the AMIF programme. The Managing Authority has an important role in explaining to interested beneficiaries the applicable rules and specificities of the programme in general as well as for the specific actions, and to guide and help them apply for a specific action. The Managing Authority is the contact point for (potential) beneficiaries and responsible to review questions of them before sending to the Commission.</p> <p>2. Under Lot 1, a Member State can propose one application only. One application can contain different work packages, indeed. DG HOME can</p>

	<p>2. Can we include different work packages in the same Lot but that concern different regions, for instance different Autonomous Communities?</p> <p>3. What is the earliest starting date of such actions and eligibility of costs. Can we retroactively fund projects that do comply with all the requirements mentioned in this Call? Is the period of execution 2021-2027?</p>	<p>propose to fund either one or multiple work packages, each one within the ceilings mentioned in section 3.1.1. of the call. Work packages can contain different priorities/topics/stages of the proposal and must be interconnected as explained in section 4.1. of the call (work packages that are part of a proposal should be clearly inter-connected and contribute to the achievement of the objective(s) of the proposal). This logic doesn't exclude work packages for different regions in a given country, but it must be explained how the work packages relate to each other (i.e., the reasoning for structuring the proposal by work packages e.g., chronologically, thematically, geographically), as well as their interconnection. Your proposal should have a priority ranking of the work packages and explain the choice for the ranking related to the regions selected – for instance why a particular region should be the first priority based on needs/data as regards the migratory pressure (see section 4.1 of the call (the priorities for funding)).</p> <p>Note that due to limited funding, DG HOME can choose to select only one work package or add non-selected work packages to the reserve list. This should not affect the implementation of other work packages proposed and their effective commencement.</p> <p>3. The applicable period for project funding is the AMIF Fund period, as stated in Article 1, AMIF Regulation (1 January 2021 to 31 December 2027).</p> <p>As explained before, activities are eligible from 1 January 2021 if the respective intervention codes are included in the initially approved version of the AMIF programme, or as from the date of submission by the Member State of its request of the amendment of that programme if this is not the case.</p> <p>Moreover, pay attention to Article 63 of the CPR for eligibility of expenditure in general and the limitations on operations that are physically completed or fully implemented referred to in Article 63(6) CPR.</p> <p>However, please assess your proposal against the requirements of sections 3.2.4 and 3.3.3, as well as the objectives of section 3.4. This call targets in particular Member States facing migratory pressure arising in 2022 and first half of 2023 and proposals should provide a justification that the Member State concerned is facing continuous pressure. This needs to be supported with recent data.</p>
<b>Eligibility</b>	1. Priority 1 of Lot 1 aims to enhance the capacity of national reception and child protection systems to provide quality	1. The described activities (community-based reception centres, collective housing solution, foster families or family-type communities, semi-

	<p>reception and care for unaccompanied minors, by creating/developing/consolidating alternative (de-institutionalised) accommodation and care solutions. On this regard, can you please clarify whether a second line reception system would be considered as a valid solution within this specific action? In providing your clarification, please consider that the system consists of a variety of different projects, such as community-based reception centres, collective housing solution, foster families or family-type communities, semi-independent flats for young adults. This system aims to provide personalised support and assistance to asylum seekers and to the most vulnerable beneficiaries. To achieve this, and especially when it comes to protection of UASCs, projects require the involvement and collaboration between multiple actors, such as public bodies, institutions, social services, third sector. For these reasons, the system is often perceived as de-institutionalised solution, that seems to be aligned to priority 1 of the call.</p> <p>2. Lot 1 specifically target unaccompanied minors and aims to support Member States under pressure in “delivering effective protection of children and bringing about structural improvements at the national level in terms of accommodation and care systems”. On the basis of the information provided below could you please kindly clarify if UASCs recently turned adults, who exited or are exiting, from dedicated care and reception systems for unaccompanied minors, are eligible as beneficiaries within this call?</p> <p>[country specific information shortened]. The government is considering the opportunity, within this call, to target also this specific age group (age 18-21), which would allow to pursue a twofold objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- on the one hand it would support target beneficiaries in their transition to adulthood/leaving care, providing guidance, support and opportunities for continuing education, training and specific services.</li> <li>- on the other hand, it would free places for migrant of lower age in the reception system dedicated to children.</li> </ul>	<p>independent flats for young adults) fall within the objectives and activities identified in section 3.4 of the call. The call could indeed serve to support the elements of the system that directly supports a de-institutionalised approach. Please note that the priorities in section 3.4 refer to the introduction or creation of <i>additional</i> capacity.</p> <p>2. Regarding the possibility to strengthen the capacity for integrated and quality support to unaccompanied minors who are transitioning into adulthood: such support, including relating to the development or strengthening of a related national strategic framework, and always in line with the overall focus on de-institutionalised care, would fall within the scope of the call.</p>
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	This kind of action would be in line with the recommendations expressed within the 2017 Communication on the protection of children in migration, and with the Italian national strategy.	
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❖ AMIF/2023/SA/1.2.1 MS under pressure AMIF Lot 2

Topic classification	Questions	Reply
	<p>While the tragic upward trend in arrivals remains evident, the frequency, number of arrivals and places of disembarkation are influenced by several factors, such as seasonal variations, weather conditions, as well as push factors in countries of origin and transit. Due to this inherent unpredictability, we kindly request clarification on whether this call allows for the installation of temporary reception facilities at the external border that can be dismantled and relocated to different border areas, in response to changing migrants' influx. This approach would offer flexibility and enable an increase in reception capacity where it is most needed. Furthermore, we believe this might reduce the environmental impact of the project in the proximity of Italian shores, that constitutes 46% of European external border. Additionally, could you please clarify if the leasing cost associated to these temporary reception facilities would be eligible expenses?</p> <p>As a general request: Considering the challenges that might arise in the coming weeks, in terms of increased workload, due to the rise of migrants' arrivals, and considering the holiday period that might hinder the planning and coordination with different offices, we kindly request whether it would be possible to postpone the deadline of the two calls that is foreseen on 25th August.</p>	<p>Leasing costs associated to temporary reception facilities such as tents for example would not fall under the scope of a call the aim of which is to develop structural improvements at national level, given shortcomings identified in the national reception system at the external EU border. Activities funded under this call need to be foreseeable and of medium or long-term nature bringing about structural change in the reception systems of Member States as stated in section 3.2.4. (Minimum requirements for the proposals of the call.) and section 3.3.2 (general principles for specific actions Member States under pressure), thus distinguishing the activities from emergency assistance.</p> <p>Please note that HOME-Funds/2023/35 extends the deadlines as follows:  Deadline for the application: Member States are invited to submit their proposals until 1 September 2023 at the latest.  Deadline for any clarification requests: Member States can send requests until 11 August 2023 to the AMIF specific actions functional mailbox HOME-AMIF-SPECIFIC-ACTIONS@ec.europa.eu.</p>

❖ AMIF/2023/SA/1.2.3 MS Under pressure Ukraine

Topic classification	Questions	Reply
Identification of project beneficiaries	1. The specific action sets three activities using sentence „ <i>The specific action proposed may include activities such as:</i> “ does it mean that also other activities can be supported? Does it mean that the wording used for the activities such as „ <i>support to</i>	1. Yes. The three strands detailed under point 3.4 are not exhaustive and other activities may be proposed as long as they fall within the scope and follow the objectives of the call.

	<p><i>persons with specific needs</i>“, „<i>new and targeted services</i>“ or „<i>targeted to categories of vulnerable persons</i>“ are not limiting, because the previous sentence says „<i>may include</i>“ and „<i>such as</i>“?</p> <p>2. The form of the Specific Action requires to fill in future beneficiary of the project. The three mentioned activities are quite different from each other which would allow broader participation of beneficiaries and project. We were thinking of a possibility of using the money of the specific action for open call for proposals for NGOs or municipalities. However, it seems that you already now require to know beneficiary and only one project.</p> <p>Is that a general rule applicable for specific actions? Because according to our opinion the legal basis does not say that the Specific Action must be only one project. On the contrary. The previous regulation 514/2014 in article 2 included definition of an action as „project or group of projects“. New CPR nor Specific Regulations do not include a definition of an action.</p> <p>In our view it could be possible to have a specific action included in our member state’s programme as earmarked money. And then when it is in the programme, we could issue an open call for proposals and use Article 73 CPR for transparent selection of operations (projects). Our call for proposals would have to respect the limits set by COM Specific Action Call, or more concretely our proposal of the specific action which could be narrower than your call.</p> <p>To sum it up we would now submit application form in which we would specify the details of our planned approach (content of planned call, possible types of beneficiaries, timeline etc.). COM would decide, if the decision was positive, we would issue call, select operations and implement projects.</p> <p>Is this process possible? And if it is not possible for this Specific Action, would it be in general possible as one approach to Specific Actions? Because this AMIF type of specific actions asks for broader participation of possible beneficiaries (unlike</p>	<p>2. The Fund specific Regulations do not define the form that specific actions can take.</p> <p>Current practice is that calls for expression of interest are accompanied by an application form and a budget form that provides an opportunity for the Member States applying for the specific action to provide detailed information on the intentions. The general assumption is that a Member State is able to identify in the application form, to be submitted to DG HOME by the Managing Authority, the entity or entities responsible (“project beneficiaries”) as an integral part of the overall description of its proposal (besides elements such as general objectives, actors involved, activities carried out, expected results, budget requested, overall timeline). The combined information on these elements in a structured format allows for equal treatment of applications through an assessment of relevance, quality and impact of each application.</p> <p>For this purpose, it is indeed not necessary to know whether there will be one or more projects, while it is also a decision for the Managing Authority as it will manage the action like it manages projects under the programme.</p> <p>While it is assumed that specific actions are usually best implemented through one action, involving one or more projects, it can be accepted on a case-to-case basis that a specific action would be implemented through a call for proposals. For some specific actions it was considered not appropriate to do so (notably for the EMPACT or Innovation - Protection of Public Spaces II calls under ISF where there was a clear transnational dimension).</p> <p>Given the nature of the activities under this specific action, involving the possibility of a variety of additional measures that accompany and/or reinforce ongoing efforts by the government to support integration and encourage self-reliance for beneficiaries of temporary protection, the use of a call for proposal could present some advantages, for instance, it could benefit access to funding by civil society, local and regional authorities and reinforce synergies with existing actors supporting the hosting of beneficiaries of temporary protection. If a Member State deems such an</p>
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	<p>some BMVI or ISF Specific Actions where the beneficiary is only one and usually obvious since beginning).</p>	<p>approach as the most suitable form to implement this specific action, considering all circumstances at national level, the Member State can present this approach in its application to this specific action.</p> <p>However, to put DG HOME in a position that it can ensure equal treatment in the assessment as indicated above, the description of the planned approach should include all the necessary elements as indicated in the call and requested in the application form. Ultimately, the Managing Authority commits to implementing under its programme a specific action, if selected, as it proposes it to the Commission. Given the specific nature of this approach, it will therefore be useful in particular to present clear information on the time line for the call, the evaluation criteria and how you intend to measure and secure a <i>coherent</i> set of expected results (as per section 3.5 of the call and the impact criterion) in a situation where you may have a number of (unknown) (different) projects with different actors not necessarily cooperating together under an overall indicative budget planned and you may have potentially less powers to (re)shape / adjust applications than a situation where public authorities have defined a proposal and the Managing Authority transmits this on behalf of the Member State.</p>
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❖ **BMVI/2023/SA/1.1.4 - Electronic surveillance system at the external border**

Topic classification	Questions	Reply
<p><b>Eligibility</b></p>	<p>1. Would it be possible to purchase services (e.g., network coverage for data transmission)?</p> <p>2. Could the fund be used to purchase an unmanned aerial vehicle (remotely piloted or autonomously controlled) as a new value-added and state-of-the-art technology element of the system to upgrade the existing border surveillance? This is in line with point 14 of the document annexed to the Commission Communication establishing a multiannual strategic policy for integrated border management in Europe, referred to in the call for proposals, which states, inter alia, that ‘State-of-the-art technologies and various technical equipment and solutions should be favoured (i.e., use of drones)’.</p>	<p>1. No, except if it is necessary for the development or extension/upgrade/update of the electronic surveillance system(s).</p> <p>2. No. UAVs cannot be financed under the current call as they were eligible under the call ref. BMVI/2023-2024/SA/1.2.2 (see section 3.4 of the call).</p>

	<p>3. Is it possible to use the funding for reinforcing air support capability by a rented state-of-the-art rotary wing aircraft (helicopter)?</p> <p>4. The basic concept is to create a Border Management Activity Control Centre (BCCA) where the border camera system and the stable thermal camera system (now two separate systems) can operate together in an integrated way. Is the renovation or conversion of an existing building eligible for funding?</p>	<p>3. No. While a helicopter could complement well from operational point of view the use of e-surveillance tools, the call covers other type of activities as mentioned in section 3.4 of the call ('Procurement of fixed and mobile elements catering for increased surveillance of EU external land borders: electronic surveillance systems, including video surveillance systems, thermal imaging devices, night vision capacity, electronic cables, radars, ground sensors and observation towers, support for technology / communication systems that ensure the information of the new or extended electronic system is integrated into overall information management / situational awareness – e.g. communication devices, etc. (but not direct support for the situational awareness / Eurosur activities'). Furthermore, the call does not cover equipment for mobility along the borders (e.g., cars, aerial vehicles, other means of transport).</p> <p>4. No. Renovation or conversion works, or any other activities related to buildings do not fall within the scope of the call (see section 3.4 of the call).</p>
<b>Multiple applications</b>	Migratory pressure is more significant at a specific border, but could another border section be also developed?	The call focuses on (any) external land borders; however, the decision on the ranking of applications will be made based on the information provided. Therefore, please provide all information requested in the call, in view of the dedicated application (e.g., baseline situation, analysis of the added-value, justification, resources to use and maintain, etc.). In this context, please note that one Member State may submit several applications as per point 4.1. of the call.
<b>Pilot project</b>	Would a pilot project be eligible under this call?	The proposal may include a pilot project if foreseen as a work package, clearly inter-connected with the other work packages and contributing to the achievement of the objective(s) of the proposal (see section 4.1 of the call). For the size of such a work package in relation to the others, we recommend you to bear in mind that the main purpose of the call is to finance projects that result in the actual development or extension / upgrading of electronic border surveillance systems, meaning that costs relating to preparatory activities for the design, such as feasibility studies or pilots, have either been incurred before or constitute a small part of the budget.