



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS
Directorate E – Borders, Migration and Security in Member States I
The Director (acting)

Brussels
HOME.E.1/SD

NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE HOME AFFAIRS FUNDS

Ref.: HOME-Funds/2026/34

Subject: Launch of the call for expression of interest under the “Specific Action Support to the Member States for the EU Talent Pool implementation” under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) – Reference AMIF / 2026 / SA / 2.4.4.

1. INTRODUCTION

Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund provides that Member States may receive funding for specific actions in addition to their initial allocations in their respective programmes.

Specific actions aim to fund transnational or national projects that bring Union added value in accordance with the objectives of the Fund for which one, several or all Member States may receive an additional allocation to their programmes.

They will be implemented as one of the components of the Thematic Facility in line with Art. 11 AMIF of the above-mentioned Regulation and in accordance with the relevant financing decisions and work programmes for the Fund ⁽¹⁾.

By the present note, the Commission launches a call for expression of interest for Specific Action “Support to the Member States for the EU Talent Pool implementation”, in line with the actions listed in the above-mentioned Commission financing decision and work programme.

(1) [Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund \(2021-2027\) \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/eu-press/1234567890/attachment/data/1234567890/AMIF%202021-2027%20en.pdf).

2. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Specific actions will be implemented by one or more Member States participating in the Fund via funding received in addition to the allocation under their AMIF programmes.

Funding for specific actions is added to the Member States' programme allocations at the time of the approval of the initial programme or by means of a programme amendment. That additional funding is earmarked for the specific action concerned and shall not be used for other actions in the Member State's programme, except in duly justified circumstances and as approved by the Commission through the amendment of the programme.

Whereas the regular EU co-financing rate under the Member States' programmes will not exceed 75% of total eligible expenditure, projects implemented under specific actions may benefit from an increased co-financing rate of up to 90% of total eligible expenditure.

The specific action must be implemented by the Member States in accordance with the AMIF ⁽²⁾ Regulation and the Common Provisions Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR) ⁽³⁾. This includes compliance with fundamental rights.

Your attention is drawn to one provision of the CPR. As regards the value added tax ("VAT") eligibility regime, Article 64 (1)(c) of the CPR provides that VAT is not eligible, except:

- (i) "for operations the total cost of which is below EUR 5 000 000 (including VAT);
- (ii) for operations the total cost of which is at least EUR 5 000 000 (including VAT) where it is non-recoverable under national VAT legislation".

3. CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

3.1. Indicative Budget available

The amount envisaged for this call is **EUR 13 million**.

Each Member State that is participating in the EU Talent Pool and wishes to apply for this specific action will be able to receive an amount up to EUR 500 000.

This dedicated funding support is designed to assist Member States to set up and run the National Contact Points as well as to ensure interoperability between the EU-level platform and the national systems. This amount provides a contribution to support certain

⁽²⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/1147 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy.

costs relating to the implementation of the EU Talent Pool at national level for the years 2026 and 2027.

This call for expression of interest remains open until 1 July 2027. There is no fixed deadline for Member States to comply with (after which applications would not be admissible); Member States are entitled to the same allocation and this is not a competitive call, knowing that the participation in the EU Talent Pool is voluntary.

Member States are invited to submit one application for the amount up to the ceiling indicated above.

The activities that can be covered by Member States with their allocation are outlined in section 3.3. They can cover cost for the full duration of AMIF programmes (until end 2029 ⁽⁴⁾).

The approach for the years 2026 and 2027 is without prejudice to future allocations of funding based on the future MFF which could be based on different procedures and criteria. However, see below in section 3.3 on options and possible future needs of Member States under the current MFF.

3.2. Background for the specific action

The Regulation establishing an EU Talent Pool was adopted on 30 March 2026 ⁽⁵⁾.

The EU Talent Pool is part of a broader set of initiatives at EU level aimed at improving talent attraction from abroad, including the Talent Partnerships, the Legal Gateway Offices and the Commission Recommendation on attracting talent for innovation ⁽⁶⁾.

The EU Talent Pool proposal was presented by the Commission in November 2023 as part of the Skills and Talent Mobility Package. It aims to increase the attractiveness of the EU to talent from outside Europe while supporting Member States in addressing skills and labour shortages.

The EU Talent Pool will be the first Union-wide IT platform designed to facilitate the matching between EU employers and third-country nationals residing outside the EU who are seeking employment opportunities in the EU in EU-wide shortage occupations across all skill levels.

Non-EU jobseekers will be able to create their profiles, and the employers request the transfer of their job vacancies to the platform. The EU Talent Pool will include search and matching functionalities that help jobseekers and employers identify each other.

It will also provide information on recruitment and immigration procedures and provide fair recruitment safeguards to ensure a level-playing field in the labour market.

⁽⁴⁾ As per Article 63 (2) of the CPR, “expenditure shall be eligible for a contribution from the Funds if it has been incurred by a beneficiary or the private partner of a PPP operation and paid in implementing operations...” up to 31 December 2029.

⁽⁵⁾ [EUR-Lex - 52023PC0716 - EN - EUR-Lex](#)

⁽⁶⁾ Commission Recommendation of 29 January 2026 on attracting talent for innovation, C(2026) 462 final.

The Regulation establishes that Member States' participation is voluntary (Article 3 of the Regulation). Member States interested in joining the tool should notify the EU Talent Pool Secretariat, established in the Commission, of their intention to participate at any time. Member States' participation takes effect 9 months after the notification to allow the Commission and the Member States to work on all necessary arrangements.

Each participating Member State will be requested to designate an entity which should act as its National Contact Point. The National Contact Point will be composed of experts in the fields of employment and immigration from relevant national authorities. The National Contact Points will be responsible for the overall implementation of the tool at national level which includes facilitating the functioning of the IT platform at national level and making job vacancies available on the IT platform and removing them (Article 10 of the Regulation).

The Commission will start working on the development of the IT platform and all other necessary arrangements, with a view to delivering the EU Talent Pool platform before 2028.

The Legislative Financial Statement accompanying the Commission proposal for an EU Talent Pool Regulation envisages dedicated funding support for the Member States deciding to participate in the tool.

As a voluntary tool, the EU Talent Pool will offer to the Member States additional support at EU level to improve international recruitment. Therefore, the envisaged funding under this specific action aims to ensure that Member States interested in joining the tool will effectively benefit from this additional support at EU level. The measures to be covered under the funding will have to be dedicated to the setting up and running of the National Contact Points as well as to ensuring interoperability with the national systems.

3.3. Scope and purpose of the specific action

The objective of this specific action is to provide support to the Member States for the EU Talent Pool implementation at national level.

This call targets **Member States participating in the EU Talent Pool**, following their notification of the intention to join to the EU Talent Pool Secretariat (Commission) pursuant to Article 3 of the Regulation.

Only the participating Member States complying with the requirements established in the EU Talent Pool Regulation are eligible for support under this call. Please see the requirements set out in section 4.1 below.

Member States are invited to outline in the application the activities the requested allocation will cover. As outlined in section 3.1, the specific action can cover activities related to the set up and running of the National Contact Points as well as the interoperability of the national systems, as set out in the EU Talent Pool Regulation. This includes, for instance the following types of activities:

- i. staffing the National Contact Points (7);

(7) Staff and running costs may be covered as project costs under AMIF (they may also be eligible under operating support).

- ii. conducting training and capacity building activities for the relevant staff on the use of the IT platform and other aspects enshrined in the Regulation;
- iii. conducting communication and awareness raising campaigns at national level;
- iv. putting into place the necessary IT arrangements to ensure the interoperability of the national systems with the EU Talent Pool;
- v. gathering the relevant information on recruitment and immigration procedures to be published on the EU Talent Pool;
- vi. carrying out the tasks of the National Contact Points set out in Article 10 of the Regulation.

Moreover, Member States are invited to give an indication of further possible needs within the timeframe of this call. The application and budget forms relating to this call provide a section for such an indication.

In cases of duly justified needs the specific action could be reinforced with additional funding under this call.

The Commission will be able to assess whether further funding is available in the first half of 2027. If further funding is available, the Commission will contact Member States to ascertain whether these further possible needs are appropriate and still valid. Any further future funding would then be allocated accordingly. The specific action proposed should not include activities going beyond the scope of the EU Talent Pool Regulation.

3.4. Expected results following the call

Member States are expected to use the funding allocated under this specific action to ensure the effective implementation of the EU Talent Pool at national level with a view of achieving the objective of the EU Talent Pool Regulation.

In this light, Member States are expected to comply with the rules set out in the EU Talent Pool Regulation.

4. PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION

4.1. Admissibility and assessment aspects

All Member States participating in the AMIF are eligible if they comply with the requirements set out under section 3.3, notably being a Member States participating in the EU Talent Pool and respecting the conditions for the setting up of the National Contact Points.

The Specific Action proposed should not start before 30 March 2026 and should be completed by the Member State by the end of the current programming period (end-date for implementation, 31 December 2029).

To be considered admissible a proposal must:

1. be submitted (see below concerning the date when the call will be closed) to the AMIF specific actions functional mailbox HOME-AMIF-SPECIFIC-ACTIONS@ec.europa.eu,

2. consist of the official AMIF / 2026 / SA / 2.4.4. Application Form attached to this note together with its annexes, which must be readable and complete (all fields necessary for assessment are filled in),
3. be submitted by the Managing Authority on behalf of the entity in the Member State that will be responsible for the implementation of the specific action – for example, the National Contact Point,
4. identify the project beneficiary (a legal entity) that will be responsible for the implementation of the specific action in the Member State (in the lead for the action). If this is not the National Contact Point, explain why not. Include information on how cooperation between the immigration and employment authorities is established for the purpose of implementing the EU Talent Pool at national level,
5. If the project beneficiary is not the National Contact Point, include, attached to the application form, proof of the consultation of the employment and immigration authorities that have been nominated as National Contact Points,
6. Member States in which competencies relevant for the EU Talent Pool are further delegated to and/or shared with regional authorities should include an outline for the planned coordination mechanisms with these regional authorities.

Following the admissibility, the eligibility of the application will be assessed with the support of the EU Talent Pool Secretariat. The eligibility criteria are:

- i) According to Article 3 of the Regulation, the Member State has notified to the EU Talent Pool Secretariat its intention to participate in the EU Talent Pool and has nominated the National Contact Point and Steering Group representatives.
- ii) According to Article 10(1) of the Regulation, the National Contact Point in the Member State will be composed of experts in the fields of employment and immigration from relevant national authorities;
- iii) The activities presented in the Member State's proposal fall within the scope of the Regulation and, in particular, Articles 5 and 10 on the IT platform and the National Contact Points.

The Commission services will allocate the indicative amount proposed in section 3.1 above to each admissible application that is assessed as falling within the purpose and the scope of the specific action. Member States may request less.

Member States must ensure respect for the horizontal principles described in Article 9 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060, including respect for fundamental rights and compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. Moreover, Member States must ensure that the envisaged actions are not affected by a reasoned opinion delivered by the Commission in respect of infringement proceedings under Article 258 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) that put in doubt the legality and regularity of expenditure or the performance of the actions (Article 11(6) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147).

4.2. Application procedure

Member States are invited to submit their proposals using the official AMIF / 2026 / SA / 2.4.4 application form attached to this note, together with its annexes. The applicant can

submit an application in any official EU language (project abstract/summary should however always be in English). For reasons of efficiency, it is strongly advised to use English for the entire application.

Considering the voluntary nature of Member State participation, the call will remain open until 1 July 2027. The Commission considers that this is the latest possible date on which an application could be processed, and the respective Member State's programme amended, before the end of the programming period on 31 December 2027, whilst allowing for the implementation of the activities covered by the specific action. Member States are strongly encouraged to submit their applications sooner if possible.

The Commission will examine applications as soon as they arrive to allow for swift approval and the introduction of the amendment to the AMIF programme. To ensure equal and fair treatment of the proposals and allow the allocation of all the available funding, the Commission will assess all proposals following order of submission. Proposals submitted after the deadline will not be admissible.

In line with the Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001⁽⁸⁾, any document held by the Commission, including documents containing sensitive information, may be subject to a request for public access. For this reason, clarifications where needed/required per application should be sent in separate emails.

E-mail address for the application: The proposals should be submitted to the AMIF specific actions functional mailbox HOME-AMIF-SPECIFIC-ACTIONS@ec.europa.eu. Member States may submit additional documentation if necessary.

If there is a need to clarify certain aspects or to correct clerical mistakes, the Commission may contact the applicant Member State during the evaluation process. A reply should be provided by the Member State within 3 working days from the request date.

Any requests for clarification of the Member States on this call for expression of interest may be sent to the same functional mailbox HOME-AMIF-SPECIFIC-ACTIONS@ec.europa.eu. Such requests should be sent not later than 2 weeks before the intended submission of the Member State's application, to ensure a timely response.

Requests should only be sent **by the Managing Authority**. The Managing Authority has an important role to explain to the potential beneficiaries the applicable rules and specificities of the programmes in general and of a specific action in particular and to help prepare applications for a specific action. The Managing Authority should be the contact point and take the responsibility to review questions from potential beneficiaries and raise questions to or request clarifications from the Commission services where necessary. As projects under specific actions are managed at national level, according to national rules, specific questions on eligibility of costs should be addressed first to the Managing Authority.

⁽⁸⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents

To respect the equal treatment and transparency, the replies to the written requests for clarification received will be sent to all Member States, via HOME-AFFAIRS-FUNDS-COMMITTEE@ec.europa.eu

4.3. Information to the Member States on the state of play of the specific action and the implementation of the projects

The EU Talent Pool Secretariat /DG HOME will regularly inform Member States of the state of play on this specific action via the Steering Group, the Network of the National Contact Points, and the Committee for the Home Affairs Funds.

Member States which have received an allocation under this specific action may be invited to present the state of play to the Commission services and/or other Member States in relevant fora.

5. AMENDMENT OF THE AMIF PROGRAMMES AND ELIGIBILITY OF EXPENDITURE

After having been informed of the outcome of the call for expression of interest, each successful Member State shall submit to the Commission a request to amend its AMIF programme via SFC. The amended programme should include a short description of the specific action, adjust the output and result indicators, and include the costs and codes linked to this specific action (respectively in the description and under tables 1, 2 and 3 of the relevant specific objective, and table 6 of the programme).

When amending an AMIF programme of a Member State, two situations may arise regarding the eligibility of expenditure ⁽⁹⁾:

1. For Member States that have included all the types of interventions listed in Annex VI table 1 of the AMIF Regulation that are relevant for the Specific Action “Support to Member States for the EU Talent Pool implementation” in the table(s) 2.1.3 of the relevant specific objective(s) in their *initially approved* AMIF programme: expenditure for the Specific Action will be eligible as of 30 March 2026, the date of the adoption of the EU Talent Pool Regulation.
2. For Member States that have *not* included all the types of interventions listed in Annex VI table 1 of the AMIF Regulation that are relevant for the Specific Action “Support to the Member States for the EU Talent Pool implementation” in the table(s) 2.1.3 of the relevant specific objective(s) in their initially approved AMIF programme: expenditure for the Specific Action will be eligible from the date of submission by the Member State of its request for amendment of the AMIF programme that will add the respective types of interventions in the programme.

Yours faithfully,

Silvia MICHELINI

⁽⁹⁾ Art. 63(7) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060.