



Ad-Hoc Query on implementation of AMIF partnership principle

Requested by EMN HU NCP on 8th January 2015

Responses from Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom plus Norway (20 in Total)

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1. Background Information

The Hungarian Ministry of Interior is in the process of designing the implementation of the horizontal partnership principle specified by Regulation 516/2014 establishing AMIF and currently considers ways of involving civil society organisations in discussions relevant to the AMIF. According to Article 4 of Regulation 516/2014: “For the purposes of the Fund, the partnership referred to in Article 12 of Regulation (EU) No 514/2014 shall include relevant international organisations, nongovernmental organisations and social partners.”

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Therefore, please provide answers to the following questions:

1. How does your Member State implement the partnership principle regulated in Article 12 of Regulation 514/2014/EU?
2. Does your Member State involve non-governmental (civil society, international) organisations (who may be potential applicants) in the drafting of the National Programme?
3. Does your Member State involve non-governmental (civil society, international) organisations in the Monitoring Committee to be compulsorily established in compliance with Article 12(4)?
4. Which non-governmental organisations are members of the Monitoring Committee / Who delegates members to the Monitoring Committee and what are the rules of the selection procedure?

We would very much appreciate your responses by **22nd January 2015**.

2. Responses¹

		Wider Dissemination? ²	
	Austria	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As it has been practiced for many years in the context of the SOLID-funds, Austria intends to maintain in the implementation of the AMIF close contact with the implementing partners. This is reflected in a cooperative exchange concerning all emerging issues, which allows to respond promptly to any problems and to develop quickly common solutions. 2. The civil society and non-governmental-organizations have already been involved before the national programme was developed in the framework of the policy dialogue. Further involvement occurred through presentation of a preliminary draft of the multiannual programme, which was submitted for comments and opinions to the external partners. These comments were subsequently screened and taken into consideration as far as possible in the preparation of the national programme. 3. No, the monitoring committee which was established for the AMIF, and which supports the implementation of the national programme, is in Austria composed of higher level representatives of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, who are selected internally.

¹ If possible at time of making the request, the Requesting EMN NCP should add their response(s) to the query. Otherwise, this should be done at the time of making the compilation.

² A default "Yes" is given for your response to be circulated further (e.g. to other EMN NCPs and their national network members). A "No" should be added here if you do not wish your response to be disseminated beyond other EMN NCPs. In case of "No" and wider dissemination beyond other EMN NCPs, then for the Compilation for Wider Dissemination the response should be removed and the following statement should be added in the relevant response box: "This EMN NCP has provided a response to the requesting EMN NCP. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further."

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			<p>(The monitoring committee is informed on a regular basis by the Responsible Authority about relevant processes – such as inter alia about the project selection and appraisal, the conclusion of grant agreements and the reporting to the European Commission. Should the committee discover any discrepancies or anomalies in this context, it is for the committee to address recommendations to the Responsible Authority.)</p> <p>4. Not applicable.</p> <p>Source: Federal Ministry of the Interior</p>
	Belgium	Yes	<p>1: Partners are extensively involved in the preparation and planning of the National Programme and in the preparation of the policy dialogue. There are no official partnership agreements concluded but all relevant partners are consulted (by e-mail) and where given the opportunity to express their wishes/needs by means of a questionnaire. For the implementation of the NP, service level agreements will be concluded with the main governmental authorities implementing projects. Monitoring the implementation will be done on the level of the monitoring committee where the political decision makers and/or the main governmental administrations are represented.</p> <p>2: Yes</p> <p>3: This is not envisaged</p> <p>4: See point 3. All main governmental partners are represented in the committee by a delegate member. The management of each partner organization is free to appoint its own most suitable member.</p>
	Cyprus	Yes	<p>1. Preparation: All relevant public bodies as well as local authorities, non-governmental organisations, other social partners participated in the drafting of the National Programme by submitting to the RA written proposals on needs and suggested actions together with estimated budget.</p> <p>Implementation: the partners will be potential final beneficiaries. In the case of NGOs the award procedure will apply</p> <p>Monitoring: the Monitoring Committee will again include relevant public bodies, ESF representatives, representatives of local communities, Final Beneficiaries implementing actions at the time of the meeting</p> <p>Evaluation: The actual procedure of evaluation will be conducted by an independent body. During the evaluation procedure, however, the evaluator may contact partners from the relevant committees or those who serve as final beneficiaries of the projects in case it is deemed necessary. Also, the results of the evaluation and the evaluation report will be communicated to the partners of the Monitoring Committee as part of the monitoring procedure.</p> <p>2. NGOs have participated in the drafting of the National Programme by providing written suggestions to the Responsible Authority. The actions had to be linked to specific needs. These proposed actions were taken into consideration by the RA when drafting the National Programme.</p> <p>3. The Committee will invite the Commissioner for NGO's as well as Final Beneficiaries implementing actions</p> <p>4. Only NGOs that implement actions at the time of the meeting of the Committee. The members will be selected by the RA. The selection is based on relevance/complementarity of the bodies invited for the projects under discussion.</p>
	Czech Republic	Yes	<p>1. The principle of partnership is implemented mainly through the institution of Monitoring Committee.</p> <p>2. Both partners from the public sector as well as the non-governmental sector were involved in the preparation of the programme. In the initial phase the Ministry of Interior organised a meeting where representatives of the non-governmental sector were thoroughly informed about the AMIF. This was followed by a consultation phase in which partners from non-profit organisations were asked (via questionnaire) to express their opinion about the use of financial means of the fund and to indicate specific areas on which CZ should</p>

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			<p>focus. The responses contributed to the preparation of political dialogue and were taken into account in the development of the national programme.</p> <p>3., 4. The members of the Monitoring Committee were selected with the aim of ensuring a well-balanced representation of relevant beneficiaries and experts on areas covered by the AMIF who are experienced in implementation of EU funded projects.</p> <p>The Ministry of Interior sent a request for nomination to selected organizations. Representatives (the Committee members) have been delegated by the organizations then.</p> <p>Representatives of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Office of the UNHCR, the Committee for Rights of Foreigners of the Human Rights Council of the Government, the Consortium of migrants-assisting NGOs, an NGO governed by the Prague City Hall and Charita České republiky (a non-profit organisation which is a part of the Catholic church) are members of the Committee. Experts from institutions that are not represented in the Committee could be invited by members of the Monitoring Committee to take part in meetings without voting rights.</p>
	Estonia	Yes	<p>1. The Ministry of the Interior is responsible for involvement of partners into the preparation of the national programme. The partners are, primarily, the ministries leading or acting in the particular field or other state authorities.</p> <p>The MoI has convened a working group composed of representatives of the ministries acting in the area (the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education and Research) and the PBGB. The aim of the working group has been to identify national needs and objectives with regard to the fund's objectives and eligible activities. On the basis of submitted proposals the MoI has drafted the national programme. The partners are also involved in the implementation of the programme.</p> <p>2. NGO-s and international organisations are also involved in the preparation of the programme. The draft was published on the website of the MoI in June 2013 and all organisations active in the field have been able to submit their opinions and proposals. The draft was also sent by email to the major non-governmental and international organisations. Proposals were submitted to the MoI and answers of the ministry were published on the website.</p> <p>3. No. These organisations mostly receive support from the fund, this is why it is important to avoid conflict of interests and ensure equal opportunity for all.</p> <p>4. No NGO is involved. Members of the Monitoring Committee will be appointed by the directive of the minister of the interior. Mainly, higher officials of the MoI and partners (i.e. other ministries) will be part of the committee.</p>
	Finland	Yes	<p>1. Please see answers 2, 3 and 4.</p> <p>2. The national programme has been prepared in a joint working group which consists of the Ministries and other authorities responsible of the policy fields of AMIF and ISF.</p> <p>As part of the AMIF national programme preparation a survey was organised for the regional and local authorities and NGOs in order to hear their views on the programme contents and the needs to be addressed by the AMIF. In total 70 different bodies provided their views through the questionnaire. In addition, two seminars have been organised for different partners to inform them about the Fund and the planned actions. Views have also been exchanged with the UNHCR Stockholm office during the preparation of the draft programme. In spring 2014 a circulation of the programme proposal for comments was organised. Comments were asked in total from 67 different bodies of which 36 sent their comments. These bodies included local, regional and state authorities, NGOs operating in fields relevant to the</p>

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			<p>AMIF, social partners and international organisations (IOM and UNHCR).</p> <p>Because the national programme includes information about the objectives and actions only on a general level, a separate national implementation programme for 2014-2020 is being drafted in order to specify the objectives and actions to be funded. In the preparation of the implementation programme NGOs' views have been heard by inviting them to a preparation meeting and through circulation of the draft implementation programme for comments. The circulation round closes on 26th January 2015.</p> <p>3. The monitoring committee for AMIF will be established officially in the beginning of 2015, thus in the forthcoming weeks. The composition of the committee has been stated in the national decree of the funds, according to which the the members will include representatives of the key ministries relevant to the achievement of the objectives of AMIF, including their subordinate agencies; representatives of other public authorities and the Government of Åland islands; and representatives of key organizations (including NGOs) and social partners operating in fields relevant to the Fund.</p> <p>4. The total and exact composition of the committee has not yet been nominated, but its members will include representatives of NGOs operating in fields relevant to the Fund. Examples of possible members are: Refugee advice center, Finnish Refugee Council, IOM, Finnish Red Cross, The Finnish League for Human Rights, Central Union for Child Welfare, the Family Federation of Finland. The idea is that the membership of various NGos circulates every two years. In addition to the Ngos there will be a circulating representation of reception centres in the MC.</p> <p>The Monitoring Committee will be delegated by the government and changes of members will be handled by the responsible authority.</p> <p>The selection procedure is as follows: the responsible authority sends a request for designation of representatives as Monitoring Committee members to relevant organizations. This is preceded by a discussion on and mapping of suitable organizations during the preparation of national law and national programme. The organizations themselves make a decision on the persons to be designated as representatives and send their letter of designation to the responsible authority, after which the government nominates the monitoring committee.</p>
	<p>France</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1. Generally, regarding this principle, it is not about uniting all partners at every step of the program but thinking about a form of consultation or of participation that varies according to the authorities and the topics. One needs to bear in mind that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There should be no conflict of interests (as when topics are decided, what excludes some beneficiaries within this selection procedure) - Some works should remain confidential (as evaluations) <p>2. The main partners (Ministers, public bodies) and beneficiaries of the AMIF have been consulted on the development of national objectives in a preparatory work to the AMIF implementation. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministers (Justice, Employment, Health, Social affairs, Interior, Women) - Public bodies (OFII – French Office for Immigration and Integration, OFPRA – French Office for the Protection of Refugees and

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			<p>Stateless Persons, ACSE – National Agency for Social Cohesion and Equal Opportunity)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decentralized State services - Semi-public company - Associations - NGOs (High Commissioner for Refugees, International Organization for Migration) - Regional and local authorities - National Court for Right of Asylum <p>They are associated to programming thematic committees (return, integration, and asylum) under the presence of the General Secretariat of European Affairs (SGAE) as guarantee to this interministerial partnership.</p> <p>For the “asylum / integration of the beneficiaries of international protection” section, there has been a consultation on the AMIF objectives. It was officially launched by the General Secretary to Immigration and Integration (ex- Directorate General for Foreign Nationals in France) during a seminar associating almost 80 beneficiaries on April, 16th 2013 and then relayed under an electronic consultation. About a dozen of answers have been sent and studied in May 2013.</p> <p>For the “integration” section, there has been a meeting of an advisory board of partners and beneficiaries on April, 26th 2013 (decentralized services, OFII, regional and local authorities and associations).</p> <p>For the “return” section, the ministerial partners and the OFII have been associated on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first drafts from January 2012 • The organization of seminars and working groups on April, 24th and 25th 2013 to define the national objectives • And to relaying objectives and exchanges/information <p>Likewise these beneficiaries/partners/stakeholders have been consulted on the implementation of the AMIF and its program.</p> <p>3. All partners take strategically part to the stakeholders’ Conference that constitutes the AMIF monitoring committee. This conference is open to all program’s partners with the purpose of informing and exchanging on the financial, physical and strategic progress as well as on the implementation modalities.</p> <p>4. All partners are members. See above question 3.</p>
	Germany	Yes	<p>1. The responsibilities for asylum, integration and return are shared between the Federal Government and the Bundesländer. Therefore the Bundesländer where involved in the process of drafting the NP. The Bundesinnenministerium (Ministry of the Interior) took the leadership together with the BAMF. The governing bodies of the NGO’s, like “Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband” where informed on the development of the NP.</p> <p>2. Not directly, but they received information on the status of the development during several presentations.</p> <p>3. It is planned to invite the main governing bodies to get members of the monitoring committee</p> <p>4. See answer number 3.</p>
	Hungary	Yes	<p>Hungary has not yet implemented the partnership principle regulated in Article 12 of Regulation 514/2014/EU, therefore, this questionnaire will allow us to give it an initial input.</p>

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	Ireland	No	This EMN NCP has provided a response. However, they have requested that it is not disseminated further.
	Latvia	No	<p>1. Latvia has set up a Monitoring Committee to support the implementation of the national programme within the framework of Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund and to ensure a partnership principle. The Monitoring Committee has been set up by the Order of the Responsible Authority and comprises relevant governmental authorities (some of them are also final beneficiaries) which perform a significant role in preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national programmes.</p> <p>2. Non-governmental (civil society, international) organisations (who could be potential applicants) have been involved in drafting the National Programme.</p> <p>3. Latvia foresees to involve an international organisation in the AMIF Monitoring Committee.</p> <p>4. UNCHR is foreseen to be a member of the Monitoring Committee. Members to Monitoring Committee are invited by the Responsible Authority by sending the letters of invitation to become a Monitoring Committee member. Also stakeholders can submit their candidacy themselves if interested. The Responsible Authority selects the proposed Committee Members and approves the Monitoring Committee by the Order of the Responsible Authority (Ministry of Interior).</p>
	Lithuania	Yes	<p>1-2. The implementation of the partnership principle applies as from the determination of funding measures when drafting an AMIF National Programme (NP). In the summer of 2013, a working group was formed from various non-governmental institutions and organisations (NGOs) involved in the activities of the European Refugee Fund (ERF), the European Fund for the Integration of third-country nationals (EIF) and the European Return Fund, research organisations and other bodies which must/could contribute to the development of the AMIF NP. The working group has met on several occasions to discuss/offer the funding measures which are relevant for Lithuania and can be included in the AMIF NP. Moreover, the working group has been provided with the initial draft of the AMIF NP.</p> <p>3-4. The Monitoring Committee has not been set up yet. Relevant NGOs are expected to be involved in the Monitoring Committee, just as in the case of the implementation of the ERF and EIF programmes. However, as I have mentioned, no specific organisations have been discussed yet. The Responsible Authority contacts in writing the relevant authorities and the NGOs which it considers appropriate to involve in the Monitoring Committee and requests to delegate two members (regular and alternate). The Monitoring Committee carries out activities under its rules of procedure, which will be drafted by the Responsible Authority, will be coordinated with members of the Monitoring Committee and will be approved at the first meeting.</p>
	Luxembourg	Yes	<p>1. The partnership principle regulated in Article 12 of Regulation 514/2014/EU is carried out during the whole implementation of the AMIF, especially in the preparation of the National Programme and in the selection and monitoring committee.</p> <p>2. Yes. Former and new potential applicants (national NGOs) were involved in the pre-drafting period (consultation, needs analysis on the basis of a questionnaire).</p> <p>3. Yes. Two civil society organisations are members in the “selection and monitoring committee” (Monitoring Committee).</p> <p>4. The two civil society organisations which are members of the so called “selection and monitoring committee” are a) the “Federation of local authorities” (Syvicol) and b) the “National Council for Foreigners” in LU (CNE). Upon request by mail of the ministers in charge of the Responsible Authority and the Delegated Authority, the members are delegated by the organisation itself. Concerning the selection procedure, it is foreseen that each member representing an organisation which has submitted a project for financing, cannot take part in the discussion and the selection procedure of the project.</p>
	Netherlands	Yes	1. Under construction. General direction: Evaluation, Consultation, Information in Conference /workshop setting

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			<p>2. Not in the drafting of the National Programme. We do consult these organisations in the drafting of the national legislation.</p> <p>3. The Monitor Committee is formed by members of Policy departments, Responsible Authority and Delegated Authority</p> <p>4. None/ Director General for Migration</p>
	Poland	Yes	<p>1. Each project selected for co-financing – both in the no-competition and competition award procedure – will be submitted for approval to the members of the Interministerial Team for AMIF and ISF, who will ultimately accept the selected measures. The members of the Interministerial Team will include the institutions that act as the institutions responsible for other operational programmes and, when awarding co-financing, always examine the projects also for synergies with other financial mechanisms, including the European Structural Funds and Investment Funds or the Internal Security Fund.</p> <p>2. Yes. The non-governmental organisations have taken part in the National Programme consultancy process. Their comments and remarks are valuable and helpful during the drafting of the final version of the National Programme.</p> <p>3. The ad-hoc working group is established to consult various aspects related to the Fund. It is planned to involve this body as consultancy body to the Monitoring Committee.</p> <p>The Interministerial Team for AMIF and ISF, mentioned above, takes the role of the Monitoring Committee. The Interministerial Team includes various ministries and national agencies and it is established by the Prime Minister ordinance, therefore non-governmental organisations will be involved in the Monitoring Committee as consultancy body.</p>
	Slovak Republic	Yes	<p>1. Partnership principle is implemented in different scope throughout the national programme implementation via Monitoring committee, consultations prior to open calls for proposals; and monitoring and evaluation of the national programme. The partnership principle will be applied via regular information meetings on the progress made in programme implementation. Broad partnership principle applied during programming period will be modified in the implementation period in order to avoid conflict of interest. At the time of the programme completion, the scope of partners will be extended in order to ensure effective evaluation of achievement of the national programme's objectives.</p> <p>2. Yes. Public consultations were launched in spring 2013 and suggestions from the public sector submitted in written form were taken into account when drafting a list of long term national priorities. In order to ensure sustainability of the national programme, the second round of public consultations took place in December 2013 via the website of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. Two NGOs and International Organisation for Migration (IOM) took the opportunity to comment on the first draft.</p> <p>3. No. There will be one monitoring committee established for both AMIF and ISF. Members will be only the national bodies involved in the policy areas of AMIF and ISF. However, we consider an option to ad-hoc invite other partners without full membership in the committee.</p> <p>4. NGOs or international organisations might be invited on ad-hoc basis depending on the agenda of the committee.</p>
	Slovenia	Yes	<p>1. For the time being partnership principle is pursued through public information events taking place at least once per year and regular publishing of all relevant information on Responsible Authority's website (such as latest draft national programme, systemic document, government decisions etc.).</p> <p>2. Yes. NGOs and other non-profit organization as well as international organizations participated in the drafting of the national programme through a public debate (May 2014) as well as during written consultations (June 2014).</p> <p>3. For the time being NGOs are not members of the Monitoring Committee. However, we are planning to propose to the Monitoring Committee an implementation of a public call to select representatives of the committee from the non-governmental sector. The call will</p>

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			preferably be implemented by a NGO network. 4. NTR.
	Sweden	Yes	<p>In general Sweden will use experiences from the partnership within ERF/RF and Solid for Sweden, but adjusting it to fit AMIF regulation.</p> <p>1. We will have a two level partnership, still in working progress. A) The monitoring committee (“upper level”) is suggested to be appointed on a ministry level and is suggested to have a mix of representatives from governmental authorities, municipalities, NGO’s etc. The Swedish ESF Council (Svenska ESF-rådet) will also be part of the monitoring committee. The monitoring committee will e.g. help ensuring that the various existing EU funds complement each other and reduce the risks of overlap, and will also help in providing guidance in the implementation of the programme and takes note of reports and evaluations etc. The monitoring committee will also be guiding and giving suggesting’s before launching calls for proposal. B) The Expert group consisting of different representatives from e.g. (not yet finalised) Swedish employment service (Arbetsförmedlingen), municipalities, Red Cross, UNHCR, County administration Boards, Swedish Migration Board etc. and will assist in assessing project applications and calls for proposals. Experts work two-and-two when assessing and are not allowed to examine applications they may be involved in themselves.</p> <p>2. Yes, they were involved in this process. Inter alia they answered a questionnaire sent by the responsible authority, participated in a full day hearing/work shop about the funds and served as a reference group when writing the national programme for AMIF.</p> <p>3. See point 1</p> <p>4. See point 1</p>
	United Kingdom	Yes	<p>1. The United Kingdom will organise partnerships with all authorities and bodies mentioned in Article 12 of Regulation 514/2014 that are relevant to the UK context. These will generally be national public bodies, regional public bodies, international organisations, and non-governmental bodies. Local public authorities and social partners will not be involved in implementation partnerships, as these bodies are potential recipients of funds from AMIF. The individual bodies involved in consultation and cooperation will vary between the different phases of implementation as allowed for in Article 12 (3).</p> <p>2. The United Kingdom engaged with appropriate non-governmental and international organisations when drafting its National Programme. The strategy adopted ensured that all key decisions were taken by United Kingdom Government ministers.</p> <p>3. UNHCR will have membership of the United Kingdom’s Monitoring Committee. The UK’s Monitoring Committee will have an overview of the programme and final approval of projects funded under the Direct Award and Executing Body Mode. To avoid, any possible conflict of interest, non-governmental organisations will not be members of the Monitoring Committee.</p> <p>4. Non-governmental organisations will not be members of the Monitoring Committee. Final decisions have not been taken on the membership of the Committee.</p>
	Norway	Yes	Regulation 514/2014 does not apply to Norway.
