FOLLOW THE €€€ FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF MIGRANT WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ASYLUM MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION FUND (AMIF)

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INTRODUCTION

The budget is a powerful instrument revealing political priorities and a tool to transform societies. Societal values can be determined by how the money is spent. This study provides an overview, an analysis and an evaluation of the use of Asylum Migration and Integration Fund for transnational activities, based on publicly available information. The goal of the study is to analyse how this fund functions to respond to the needs of migrant/refugee women and girls and facilitate their integration. We also offer recommendations for the European Commission on how to improve the situation of migrant women and girls through the new Asylum Migration Fund (AMF) and ensure implementation of gender mainstreaming in projects.

ASYLUM MIGRATION AND INTEGRATION PROGRAMME

The Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) has been set up for the period 2014-2020, with an aim to promote effective management of migration flows to EU States and constitute a strong and common policy approach to asylum and migration. The initial objectives of this fund are to:

- Support the development of the Common European Asylum System to ensure the efficient and uniform application of EU legislation in this field;
- Support legal migration to EU states by considering their labour market needs and integration of non-EU nationals;
- Combat irregular migration by promoting fair, effective and sustainable return strategies;
- Promote solidarity between EU states which are most affected by migration and asylum flows and other EU member states.
A total of EUR 3.137 billion is reserved for the seven years. Approximately 88% of the total amount of the AMIF is reserved for EU States’ national programmes through shared management. The remaining 12% of the total amount is implemented through direct management.

The programme aims to fund concrete actions such as “the improvement of accommodation and reception services for asylum seekers, information measures and campaigns in non-EU countries on legal migration channels, education and language training for non-EU nationals, assistance to vulnerable persons belonging to the target groups of AMIF, information exchange and cooperation between EU States and training for staff on relevant topics of AMIF”

Main beneficiaries of the fund include state and federal authorities, local public bodies, non-governmental organisations, humanitarian organisations, private and public law companies, and education and research organisations.

The objectives of the fund mainly prioritise promoting legal migration* and preventing irregular migration, while integration of non-EU nationals is loosely touched upon. The fact that integration is not clearly defined within AMIF leaves the integration part of the programme at loose ends.

The AMIF Programme will be replaced by the Asylum and Migration Fund (AMF) in the next Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF 2021-2027). According to the proposal of the European Commission, the overall budget of the new fund will increase. However, integration beyond “early stages” has not been covered in the current proposal. The proposed budget breakdown implies that the general funding for women will decrease further.

*European Commission frequently uses the term “legal migration” to categorise migrants as “legal” and “irregular”. ENoMW does not support or use this term.
METHODOLOGY

This report covers AMIF calls and awarded projects which belong to the part (12% of the total amount of AMIF budget) implemented through direct management. It is composed of two main parts: the analysis of call for proposals (CfPs) between 2015 and 2019, and the analysis of awarded projects between 2015 and 2018. The results of 2019 proposals have not been announced at the time of the research; therefore, the report does not cover the last awarded projects.

Each CfP was analysed elaborately with specific attention to their priorities, total budget, eligibility criteria and supported activities. In addition to these, all CfPs were evaluated by considering their perspective on specific situations of migrant/refugee women and girls and whether grassroots level organisations were encouraged to apply.

Based on calls published between 2015 and 2018, 94 transnational projects were awarded. The list of these awarded projects was reached on European Commission website. Each project website was examined elaborately by considering project descriptions and outputs. Some projects did not have a specific website, in such cases, news and updates on project partners’ websites were evaluated.

The review of awarded projects initially looked at their main priorities, target groups, main activities and analysis of their partnership. Following the preliminary analysis, we examined the existence of positive actions for women and girls, (grass-root level) migrant women organisations in the partnership and the implementation of gender mainstreaming in the projects.
European Commission published five Asylum Migration and Integration Fund Calls for Proposals during the 2014-2020 funding period.

Overall, five general topics have been covered; integration, legal migration, forced return and monitoring, and trafficking of human beings. Although the majority of the proposal priorities address third country nationals in general, some of them target specific groups including migrant women, persons in need of international protection, EU host societies, victims of trafficking, (unaccompanied) migrant minors and national authorities responsible for asylum and migration matters from EU Member States.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific Target Groups</th>
<th>Number of priorities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Migrant women</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons in need of international protection</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU host societies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victims of trafficking</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Unaccompanied) migrant minors</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National authorities</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although gender mainstreaming is briefly referred to in the majority of the calls, there seems to be a lack of clarity what this term implies in practical terms. The specific vulnerabilities and needs of women and girls are also largely overlooked.
For example, the 2015 call on actions addressing trafficking in human beings state that 80% of the victims of THB are females and 70% of traffickers are male, with sexual exploitation being the most common purpose of trafficking. It also refers to the EU Directive 2011/36/EU on combatting trafficking in human beings which has "a strong gender perspective recognising that women and men are often trafficked for different purposes". However, neither the CFPs' priorities nor its sub-priorities make explicit reference to the importance of a gendered analysis of the issue. Rather, it is mentioned that a "gender specific approach" should be taken "where possible". This suggests that it can be easily overlooked or worked around by practitioners in civil society, politics and private sector. Starting in 2017, the calls on the integration of victims of trafficking in human beings aim "to ensure gender-specific assistance and support measures, including taking into account specific needs of the victims".

In general, specific needs of women and men, gender equality and gender mainstreaming principles are encouraged to be addressed "where relevant". Given this approach, the CFPs assume that gender mainstreaming is not necessary at all times which is a dangerous misconception that overlooks the needs and wants of women and girls. In addition, there is no mention of how success of gender mainstreaming will be measured.

The evaluation of the proposals is based on a set of general criteria: relevance, the quality of the project, cost effectiveness, European added value, expected results, dissemination and long-term impact. However, the evaluation does not mention gender mainstreaming as one of key the criteria.
Among 94 awarded projects, the number of projects with specific priorities related to facilitating the access to workplace and labour market integration in general was one of the highest, followed by projects with priorities on promoting active participation in society.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>The Amount of EU Grants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labour market integration</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>€12,810,847</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration of migrant women</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>€2,786,288</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promoting active participation in society</td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td></td>
<td>€12,754,941</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-departure and post-arrival support for people in need of international protection</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>€4,631,179</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raising awareness on migrants’ contributions to EU societies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>€5,777,423</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community building at local level for integration including volunteering activities</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>€5,490,806</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resettlement</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>€3,128,336</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local and regional networks for the integration of TCNs</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
<td>€4,402,506</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Care for migrant minors</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>€2,986,063</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration of TCNs victims of trafficking in human beings</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>€3,856,451</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagement of diaspora communities in awareness raising</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>€1,815,999</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal migration projects with third countries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>€789,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In line with one of the main objectives of AMIF programme, a deeper analysis of priorities of these projects shows that labour market needs of EU States are essential in many projects. The main focus is on the capacity building of employers, businesses, public authorities, companies, trade unions and chambers of commerce for better understanding of the importance of TCNs in EU labour market and the better management of diversity at workplace. Developing entrepreneurial capacities of TCNs is another significant component of integration into the labour market. Some projects aim to provide TCNs with direct access to the labour market, while some others focus on the early stages of capacity building which might lead to work placement in the long run.

Social participation and integration into cultural life of host communities are also significantly prioritised in the projects. Among these, connecting TCNs with local people, promoting intercultural communication and dialogue between different groups, dispelling fear and stereotypes about migrants, combatting discrimination and empowerment of TCNs are the most addressed.

Only five projects aim to improve the care for migrant children and unaccompanied children. Their main objectives include improving reception in alternative care arrangements for unaccompanied children, supporting children’s mental health and improving the quality and effectiveness of care services for unaccompanied children. However, these projects do not specify the needs and challenges of girls and boys who are affected by migration differently and in need of different support services.

One stream of projects specifically focuses on integration of TCN victims of trafficking and they aim to ensure positive long-term integration of these groups and supporting them in the transition from shelter life to independence by prioritising socio-economic integration. These projects also raise awareness of concerned actors about victims’ specific needs and vulnerabilities which continue during the integration process. Finally, they aim to provide victims of trafficking with psychological support and raise awareness among these victims about their rights.

These project objectives show that the definition of integration both in CfPs and awarded projects, in general, is addressed in a linear way giving the priority to the labour market needs of EU states and changing the (negative) perceptions of migrants within the receiving communities by highlighting positive contributions of migrants. However, integrating into a new life is much more than these. Research shows that smooth integration into the labour market is even more difficult for women who cannot find enough support to meet family and childcare related needs which always fall on women. In this case, most of these project objectives indirectly leave women out. In addition, labour market integration is considered in purely economic terms in many projects and does not prioritise support mechanisms that can help migrant women to recover from the traumatic experiences of their migration journey and resettlement and (re)gain their self-confidence to be ready for labour market and social integration. However, development of these soft skills can be critical first steps, particularly for women.
Out of 94 awarded projects, 63 projects directly target migrants, refugees and asylum seekers as one of the main beneficiaries. Depending on project objectives, these include TCNs, newly arrived migrants, beneficiaries of international protection, youth with migrant background, migrant children and diaspora communities. Among these 63, only four projects indicated either there would be a special focus on women, or a particular percentage of total beneficiaries would be women. 12 other projects (five of them are already accepted under “integration of migrant women” priority in CfPs) target migrant and refugee women directly. Other main beneficiaries are employers, local authorities, enterprises, companies, NGOs, social workers, trainers and local communities.

The majority of the projects design activities for migrant groups. These activities, among others, include trainings, workshops, work shadowing, mentoring programmes, coaching, orientation courses, socio-cultural activities and volunteering. Although language skills, job-related skills, cultural awareness, intercultural skills, civic and social skills are frequently referenced, only a few projects mention actions addressed to develop personal and soft skills of migrants and provide psychological and emotional support services.

Following direct actions for migrants, activities related to raising awareness and capacity building of practitioners, local authorities, businesses and local communities seem to be prioritised in the projects. Within these activities, online and offline campaigns to tackle stereotypes about migrants have a significant place.
According to in-depth partnership analysis, some organisations have become main beneficiaries and project partners more than once. These organisations are mainly big international organisations and NGOs with extensive financial and human resource capacities. However, the list of main beneficiaries does not seem to include grassroots migrant organisations. This finding suggests that project evaluations prioritise the operational capacity of organisations while they tend to overlook the experiences and expertise of grass-root migrant organisations. Additionally, it suggests that the criteria for participation in EU projects continue to have too high threshold for grassroots NGOs who continue to be excluded at the application design stage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main Beneficiary</th>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Type of organization</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Organization for Migration</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Organization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eurocities</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Network of European cities</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CESIE</td>
<td>2 5</td>
<td>Non-profit NGO</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fondazione Acra</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Non-profit NGO</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Cross</td>
<td>2 5</td>
<td>International non-profit organization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudwind</td>
<td>2 6</td>
<td>Non-profit NGO</td>
<td>Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arci</td>
<td>3 1</td>
<td>Non-profit NGO</td>
<td>Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Peloponese</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>University</td>
<td>Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patriri-Romanian Institute for action training and research</td>
<td>1 3</td>
<td>Civic organisation</td>
<td>Romania</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DISSEMINATION

Dissemination and long-term sustainability of the projects is one of the award criteria. AMIF guidelines state that the projects should have a “clear, targeted and appropriate” dissemination strategy and the results should be sustainable. However, our research shows that many awarded projects do not provide accessible information about their outputs and deliverables. Some of them only present a short summary of the project objectives. It suggests that online dissemination is mainly based on social media which does not always have a sustainable impact.

INTEGRATION OF MIGRANT WOMEN AS A PRIORITY

INTEGRA-TRAIN: ENHANCING THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN, BENEFICIARIES OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION BY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MULTIFACETED INTEGRATION TRAININGS

The project aims to design and conduct integration trainings for refugee women and to improve the capacity of national NGOs and stakeholders to offer integration courses for migrant women. The project does not define integration as a linear process which can be finalised with labour market integration. With the awareness of refugee women’s special needs in different phases of migration and integration, Melissa Network of Migrant Women in Greece, and the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy prepared a training module which addresses literacy, psycho-social support (group psychotherapy, psychodrama, parenting workshops, individual psychotherapy), legal and medical information sessions, sessions on sexual and gender-based violence prevention, media and advocacy support, art and creativity, self-care and community engagement, and employability skills and capacity building.

Among seven project partners, Melissa Network is the only migrant women organisation which directly works with migrant/refugee women and girls on the ground. They have a leading role in design of training modules and materials which respond to the needs of migrant/refugee women. [ more project info here ]
ENFEM: A COMMITMENT TO BETTER INTEGRATE MIGRANT WOMEN

The main objective of the project is to change the "negative collective image of migrant women". It also aims to "change the [negative] narrative" about Muslims and offer a concrete opportunity of access to educational facilities, local social and cultural life while minimising the isolation of migrant women at the local level. Although the project's main beneficiaries are migrant women, most of the activities focus on conducting research on perceptions among the general population and collect good practices for recommendations, while migrant women seem to only benefit from an audio-visual creative workshop. In addition, none of the partners in the consortium is a migrant women organisation or migrant-led organisation. [ www.enfem.eu ]

URBAGRI4WOMEN: INNOVATIVE PRACTICES AND JOINT URBAN INITIATIVES TO FOSTER THE INTEGRATION OF MIGRANT WOMEN IN THE RECEIVING SOCIETY WITHIN URBAN AGRICULTURE PRACTICES

The project promotes social inclusion and female empowerment through rehabilitation of unused space in urban areas with the intent of developing innovative and self-sufficient agricultural initiatives. They organise urban agriculture labs, a transnational workshop on good practices, a transnational gardening contest and finally produce a green paper and manifesto on the integration of migrant women. None of the partner organisations is a migrant women organisation and the project does not seem to offer a complete integration programme which can address different needs of migrant women. The fact that the project also targets asylum seeking and refugee women suggests the necessity of prioritising other aspects of integration for newcomers, which seems to be missing among project actions. [ www.urbagri4women.com ]

WEIP: WOMEN’S EMPOWERMENT INTEGRATION AND PARTICIPATION

The main priority of the project is to provide migrant and refugee women with a better start to life in the EU and to improve their chances of integration in the host countries by increasing their skills, access to services and employment opportunities. Their activities include language and skills training, employability activities, specialist advice and education advice and recreational pursuits for migrant/refugee women. They also support women to participate in social activities and learn about the local system. The project is led by Latin American Women's Rights Service, "a human right, feminist organisation run for and by Latin American women in the UK". Although the project was finalised in 2018, no information about their outputs and deliverables is available, which makes it challenging to evaluate the extent of positive actions for migrant and refugee women during the implementation of the project. [ more project info here ]
The main purpose of the project is to research the training needs of migrant women in each partner country, develop training programmes to address the needs of migrant women, and also to train adult educators to support migrant women in their new role as community liaisons. Through the active participation of migrant women in each phase, the project aims to prepare trained migrant women to be the leaders of integration in their communities. Their training modules include self-care (dealing with “culture shock”, self-management, mindfulness), effective communication (personal communication style, non-verbal communication, becoming an effective listener, intercultural communication), cultural competence (intercultural awareness and understanding, managing cultural similarities and differences, building intercultural understanding) and engagement (involvement in social activities in host communities). In-depth analysis of training modules shows that socio-cultural engagement is highly prioritised in this project. However, these trainings are more likely to be targeting only migrant women who seem to be expected to recover from “culture shock” and find ways to engage with the local community. In addition, the project does not adequately refer to other needs which can have more serious impacts on their lives. Lastly, although some partners work with migrants in general, partnership does not include any (grass-root level) migrant women organisation. [ integrateproject.eu ]

Apart from above mentioned projects, seven other projects target migrant/refugee women as their main beneficiaries. Six of them are awarded under “promoting active participation in society overall” priority while one is under “integration of third country nationals who are victims of trafficking in human beings” priority. These projects mainly focus on socio-economic integration through actions such as volunteering, skill development, art, culture and social support activities, providing information services, mentoring and training programmes. A few of them prioritise activities related to self-confidence and agency development, personal soft skills and psychological emotional support. Out of these six projects, only one has a specialist migrant women organisation in their consortium. The project on trafficked women aims to sustain the socio-economic integration of women victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and to prevent re-trafficking abuse. Along with psychological and legal support, the project organises activities (vocational training and language courses) to facilitate trafficked women’s long-term socio-economic integration.

Although not mentioned as such in their target groups, a deeper analysis of project activities shows that some projects specified a few actions targeting women. These include activities for women who are victims of sexual exploitation; organising specialised training for European integration practitioners on vulnerable groups such as women; creating an online resource platform with tools to support practitioners working with refugees and migrants who are gender-based violence survivors; using relevant tools from other EU funded projects to reach TCN women; a pilot action about stories of migrant women; and a workshop organised for women. A few other projects marginally mention women either as a vulnerable group or in toolkits and handbooks.
**Gender Mainstreaming and Positive Actions for Migrant Women**

*Gender mainstreaming* is a strategy which seeks to achieve the equality between women and men. The goal is to discover the root causes of the inequalities which lie in the social structures, institutions, values and beliefs. Namely, gender mainstreaming is not about “adding and mixing” women into existing structures to have balanced statistics. Under gender mainstreaming, the needs of women and men should be recognised and a common ground should be sought to meet these needs.

Gender mainstreaming approach was adopted by the EU in 1996 and the European Commission expressed its commitments to implement it in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all the policies and actions. As such, all the integration-related policies and actions of the European Union are bound by this commitment.

According to Council of Europe, *gender mainstreaming* “is the (re)organisation, improvement, development and evaluation of policy processes, so that a gender equality perspective is incorporated in all policies, at all levels and at all stages, by the actors normally involved in policymaking”.

Although it has been a long time since the adoption of gender mainstreaming, its practical implementation still remains very vague, especially in project actions. Moreover, the equality principle has created a tendency to overlook the necessity of targeted positive actions for women.

*Positive action* is a term used to define specific measures to eliminate, prevent or remedy persistent inequalities a group has faced for a long time. In 1984, the Council recommended to adopt a positive action policy to eliminate existing inequalities and a guide about positive actions was published by European Commission in 1988. Although the Commission has tended to prioritise gender mainstreaming principle over positive action measures for women since 1996, Article 6 of Council Directive 2004/113/EC acknowledges the importance of positive actions for women: “with a view to ensuring full equality in practice between men and women, the principle of equal treatment shall not prevent any Member State from maintaining or adopting specific measures to prevent or compensate for disadvantages linked to sex”.
The analysis of AMIF CfPs and awarded projects shows that gender mainstreaming, in general, is not used to conduct a structural analysis of problems causing inequalities between women and men and respond to specific needs of both groups. The number of projects targeting migrant women as main beneficiaries is very limited, while other mixed group (migrant women and men) projects do not necessarily identify specific actions for women and men. The activities are mainly for general public and it is not clear how they apply gender mainstreaming in their actions. However, in addition to the initiatives specifically addressed to women to tackle persistent inequalities they face, the projects targeting both women and men should do much more to reduce or end the inequalities between these two groups.

For example, although migrant women’s disadvantaged positions in the labour market is a well-known fact, women’s relations to the labour market remains in the background in the projects. While projects with a specific focus on women mostly provide services and actions to facilitate socio-cultural integration, the majority of the projects under priorities “facilitate the access to work” and “promote swift integration of TCNs into the labour market” do not present any specific action to reduce the inequalities and deskill migrant/refugee women face in workforce. As a result, the efforts to find sustainable solutions to root causes of labour market inequalities which hold women back remain very limited in these projects.

Moreover, even though the statistical dominance of women in human trafficking is acknowledged by European Commission, proposals with priorities related to integration of trafficked people do not always prioritise targeting women and girls specifically. Contrary to gender mainstreaming framework, our analysis also shows that projects targeting migrant and unaccompanied children do not adopt a sex disaggregated approach to identify and reduce or end specific problems girls confront at different stages of migration and integration.

These findings suggest that evaluation of proposals and awarded projects do not follow certain procedures to completely implement and assess gender mainstreaming principles. As mentioned earlier, gender mainstreaming is loosely referred in CfPs and it is not even mentioned in evaluation criteria, which implies that implementing gender mainstreaming is not crucial.
TO IMPLEMENT GENDER MAINSTREAMING, EUROPEAN NETWORK OF MIGRANT WOMEN ADVISES IN THE PROCESS OF EVALUATION TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

- Examining the quantitative representation of women and men among beneficiaries of the projects

- Analysing how the activities affect women’s and men’s lives in practical terms

- Analysing how different needs of women and men are addressed and what has been done to respond to these needs at every stage of the projects

- Analysing the type of activities and resources provided to women and men (e.g. digital competence trainings, work shadowing, food workshops, volunteering)

- Evaluation of specific strategies to reach out and ensure the participation of disadvantaged women (the difficulty of reaching and attracting migrant women is one of the most pronounced reason behind low participation level of women in project activities)

- Paying attention whether the project uses generalisations that could reproduce gender stereotypes and consider migrant women as a homogenous group

- Taking account of the coherence and relationship between different policy areas which can ensure more successful outcomes for women and men

- Analysing how the equality between women and men is promoted

- Examining what kind of obstacles to gender equality challenged with project objectives and activities

- Checking whether dissemination activities highlight the principle of equality between women and men in project outcomes

- Examining whether the project provides sex-disaggregated data and/or bases its activities on sex-disaggregated data

- Evaluating the capacity and expertise of partners in identifying and achieving gender equality objectives
- Gender mainstreaming should not be used as a "buzzword" and be implemented in every stage of the projects - including proposals, award criteria, project objectives, activities, target groups, dissemination activities and evaluation.

- Gender mainstreaming should not be an obstacle to organise positive actions for migrant women and girls who face persistent inequalities.

- More positive actions for migrant women should be prioritised to minimise structural inequalities holding women from entering into workforce, to facilitate their labour market integration, and to prevent and end men's violence against migrant/refugee women.

- Deskilling prevention for highly skilled migrant women and upskilling for low skilled and long-term unemployed migrant women should be specifically mentioned among proposed activities in the calls. Awarded projects should plan and implement these activities to respond to the needs of different migrant women groups.

- Contrary to focusing on merely economic aspects, labour market integration projects should consider prior intervention activities to provide psychological support and improve soft skills of migrant beneficiaries. These activities should also be particularly designed for migrant women for whom soft skills are critical to develop hard skills in the long term.

- Call for Proposals should encourage grassroots migrant women organisations and service providers to be leading partner and/or partner in projects under different priorities. Along with operational capacity of organisations, project evaluations should also put further emphasis on expertise, experience and target groups of applicants.

- Call for proposals should encourage collaborative partnerships not only with businesses and public bodies, but also with specialist service providers and women’s rights organisations who act as experts on the wide range of issues of women’s human rights at national and local level.

- Project evaluations should further emphasise the importance of concrete dissemination activities which should be sustainable and accessible during and after project implementation phase.

- Evaluators should examine if the projects respect and implement the rights and principles enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in every stage of the projects.
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European Network of Migrant Women (ENoMW) is a feminist secular migrant women led platform, not affiliated with any political party, advocating for the rights, freedoms and dignity of migrant, refugee and ethnic minority women and girls and Europe.

www.migrantwomennetwork.org | Twitter @ENoMW | FB @migrantwomeneurope | Insta @migrantwomennetwork
info@migrantwomennetwork.org
Given this approach, the Calls for Proposals assume that gender mainstreaming is not necessary at all times which is a dangerous misconception that overlooks the needs and wants of women and girls.