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1. Programme strategy: main challenges and policy responses
Reference: points (a)(iii), (iv), (v) and (ix) Article 22(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 (CPR)

Under AMIF 2021-2027, Ireland is building on the work done with the assistance of the previous AMIF 2014-2020 and improving its effectiveness where possible. There continues to be strong support for the efforts of non-Government actors, particularly with respect to the integration objectives. The programme also includes support for elements of State-run programmes, both at national and local level, across all fund objectives. All actions co-financed under AMIF will ensure compliance with fundamental rights as a cross-cutting principle.

Under SO1, the programme will support the continued reform and improvement of Ireland's asylum and reception systems, following the adoption of the Reception Conditions Directive in 2018 and the launch of a new policy on reception and integration in 2021 as set out in a White Paper to End Direct Provision and to Establish a New International Protection Support Service. Under SO2, funding for projects to assist the integration of Third Country Nationals (TCNs), including asylum seekers and refugees, will be provided to NGOs and state bodies. Under SO3, the programme will support Ireland's returns programme in line with EU objectives in this area. Under SO4, the programme will support the efforts to carry out the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) on both resettlement and relocation of refugees.

The Programme will include actions introducing TCNs to Irish society, enabling them to adapt to it, to inform them about their rights (including economic, social and cultural rights) and obligations, to participate in civil and cultural life and sports and to share the values enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Asylum

The numbers of people seeking asylum in Ireland have risen sharply since 2019. Considerable progress has been made by the International Protection Office (IPO) in reducing asylum application processing times, in line with goals set under the previous AMIF programme. This has been achieved largely through increased resourcing, training, and business process improvements. This work will continue under the new AMIF programme.

In accordance with the requirements of the Reception Conditions Directive, all applicants for international protection are offered accommodation when they lodge their application with the IPO. A growing proportion of applicants avail of state-provided accommodation, and this is placing unprecedented pressure on the international protection accommodation system. At the end of August 2022, there were approximately 15,000 people living in state-provided asylum seeker accommodation in Ireland. This is more than double the total for the same time in 2021.

This comes at a time when the State is also providing accommodation to large numbers of refugees from the war in Ukraine. In total, in 2022 the State is accommodating approximately 50,000 international protection applicants and beneficiaries of temporary protection. These twin pressures have resulted in increased reliance on temporary and emergency accommodation solutions, and this will continue to be an important element of the response for the foreseeable future, in order to ensure a flexible supply of accommodation to meet fluctuating need.

Notwithstanding these pressures, the programme of improvement and reform of Ireland's reception systems, including accommodation provision, is continuing, and will include actions to be co-financed under AMIF. An independent monitoring programme is being put in place to monitor existing accommodation centres against the National Standards adopted in 2019. This will drive improvements in conditions in centres, including for families with children. The new reception and integration policy envisages the establishment of six new reception and integration centres, as well as the provision of early integration supports for TCNs, both during their stay in the reception and integration centre and following their transition to independent living. These supports include early orientation, health screening leading to

specialised health-care supports, including psychosocial supports where necessary, information and legal assistance to facilitate the journey through the asylum process, access to education for school-age children, and English language tuition for adults. Specific NGO-managed accommodation units are being developed for highly vulnerable applicants, including victims of human trafficking.

A formal vulnerability assessment programme was introduced in 2020, and it is intended to expand the capacity of this programme and to strengthen its linkages with mainstream health and social care provision.

Legal Migration and Integration

According to the most recent (April 2022) population and migration estimates from the Central Statistics Office, the number of immigrants in the year to April 2022 is estimated to be 120,700, the highest annual total since 2007. This consisted of 28,900 returning Irish nationals, 24,300 other EU nationals, 4,500 UK nationals, and 63,000 other nationals, including Ukrainians. The total number of non-Irish nationals estimated to be living in Ireland in 2022 is 703,700, or 13.8% of the population. A little over 30% of these – around 223,000 people – are estimated to be non-UK TCNs.

Most migrants to Ireland come for the purposes of work or education. Migration for family reunification purposes is also common. Comprehensive information on migration routes to Ireland is provided on the websites of the relevant Government departments, and also on the publicly funded Citizens Information service. Migration policy and programmes are supported through national funds, and it is not therefore proposed to include legal migration actions in the AMIF programme.

Migrant integration is mainstreamed across all government services. The National Migrant Integration Strategy 2017-2021 provides a framework for work across Government in this area. Work is underway to develop a successor integration strategy, elements of which will be co-financed through AMIF. The current strategy is aimed at promoting diversity and inclusion across all aspects of Irish society, including increased focus on social inclusion measures and improved access to public services. It also includes actions to address racism and xenophobia, representing a whole-of-Government approach.

Policy coordination on integration rests with the DCEDIY. Integration outcomes are monitored periodically by the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) on behalf of the DCEDIY. Monitoring shows that migrants to Ireland are integrating well overall, with well dispersed residential patterns and most being in employment or education. However, there is evidence of poorer outcomes for particular groups, including those with weak English language skills. The integration of TCNs is an area of active policy development and will be supported through this programme.

The findings from integration monitoring and research are also borne out in lessons learned from the implementation of integration actions under the previous programme. For example, labour market integration programmes will be most effective when allied with English language provision for those who need it. Access to housing is a key enabler of integration, and so supports in navigating the private rental market may be a valuable component of broader integration programmes. These and other lessons from the previous AMIF programme and from nationally funded integration programmes will inform the integration objectives and actions in this programme.

Informed by available evidence and lessons learned from the previous programme, a range of measures to support the integration and social inclusion of TCNs will be supported through this programme for delivery primarily by non-governmental organisations and local authorities. Groups known to be at risk of poor integration outcomes will be targeted for support. This includes migrants with poor English language skills, applicants for and beneficiaries of international protection, and, with specific regard to labour market integration, women and vulnerable groups. With respect to applicants for international protection, an early orientation and integration programme is in development for delivery both online and in reception and integration centres. Measures to support the transition from applicant to beneficiary of international protection will also be supported.

As part of this broader work, and in line with the EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings 2021-2025, measures will be developed to enhance the early identification for the referral to specialised assistance and protection services of TCN (potential) victims of trafficking and facilitate their rehabilitation and reintegration, taking into account gender- and age-specific needs. The services offered include accommodation (mainly within the system known as Direct Provision), health and other relevant social services, and assistance with access to further education and training opportunities, including both language and vocational training.

It is anticipated that Ireland will soon have a new National Action Plan Against Racism (NAPAR), in line with the recommendation of the EU Action Plan Against Racism 2020-2025. Subject to adoption of the NAPAR by Government, its objectives will also help to guide the selection of anti-racism activities to be funded under the integration objective of this programme. It is expected that the NAPAR will contain objectives relating to supporting people who experience racism and protecting people from racist incidents and crimes; addressing racial inequalities; enabling minority participation; measuring the impacts of racism; and promoting a shared journey to racial equality.

Returns

Under a returns programme managed by the Department of Justice, Ireland returns to their home states migrants who do not have permission to be resident in Ireland. This is done through a combination of enforced and voluntary return. Generally, people being returned have been served with deportation orders following a legal process, the basis of which is the Immigration Act 1999, or International Protection Act 2015, as the case may be. At all stages of the process, the person is provided with access to professional independent legal assistance.

International travel restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic reduced the scale of the returns programme significantly in 2020, 2021 and 2022. During that period, the programme was primarily used to return people with convictions for serious criminal offences. A total of 795 persons were ordered to leave in 2020, reduced from 2,535 in 2019. A total of 141 deportation orders were effected in 2020, down from 298 in 2019. There was a total of 196 voluntary returns in relation to TCNs in 2020.

As pandemic-related travel restrictions are no longer in place in 2022, the programme is in a position to return to normal operations and it is intended to increase its capacity.

Challenges that existed with respect to returns during the previous AMIF programming period persist. These include lack of cooperation from the home state of origin of the migrant concerned; difficulties in securing travel documents; and evasion of deportation by the migrant.

To help address these challenges, Ireland proposes to increase its capacity to work with Returns Case Management Systems, and will also continue active liaison with the embassies in Ireland of the countries concerned with a view to improving cooperation on returns. It is also proposed to further develop aspects of the voluntary returns programme, which is delivered in conjunction with UN-IOM. The aim is to increase people's incentives – including vulnerable persons – to participate in this programme, in particular through investment in reintegration actions such as return counselling, the provision of cash incentives, training and employment assistance, and start-up support for economic activities. These measures will be developed in line with the newly adopted EU strategy on voluntary return and reintegration.

As the programme expands, investment will also be required in suitable ICT infrastructure. Ireland will also increase the number of forced returns by increasing the identification of suitable cases and improving the robustness of business processes in the area of deportation orders, including through staff training.

Solidarity

Ireland's mechanism for actions to meet the Solidarity objective (including resettlements, humanitarian admissions and relocations) is the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP). The IRPP was established in September 2015 as part of Ireland's response to the migration crisis in central and southern Europe. Since its establishment, the IRPP has overseen the arrival of 4,100 refugees under various resettlement strands, the largest of which is the UNHCR-led programme.

The Programme is now in its second phase, IRPP II, which began in December 2019. Under this phase, Ireland will welcome up to 2,900 refugees through the UNHCR programme between 2020 and 2023. This will involve a combination of resettlement and new community sponsorship initiatives. The Programme planned for 650 UNHCR resettlements in 2020, 700 in 2021, 750 in 2022, and 800 in 2023. This was to be made up of a majority of Syrian refugees resident in Jordan and Lebanon.

There have been significant challenges in meeting these targets over the course of 2020, 2021 and 2022, for a number of reasons. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that resettlements in 2020 and 2021 were fewer significantly than planned. The Programme then diverted effort to support the arrival of refugees from both Afghanistan (from August 2021) and Ukraine (from March 2022).

Elements of the IRPP were co-financed under the previous AMIF Programme, and it is Ireland's intention to continue this approach, making funding available to a range of beneficiaries, including the IOM, local authorities, and NGOs in Ireland. Supported activities are likely to include refugee selection missions, refugee arrivals, and integration supports during resettlement, all of which were also supported under Ireland's previous AMIF National Programme 2014-2020. Further development of the Community Sponsorship Programme may also be supported.

Lessons learned over the previous programming period will be taken into account in the design of actions to be supported. For example, it is hoped to make changes to local integration support structures that will extend the period for which integration supports are provided post-resettlement into the community.

General

Ireland will seek opportunities to increase synergies between the AMIF and relevant aspects of the cohesion funds, in particular the ESF+ and ERDF, including through greater coordination of managing authorities. Regular meetings and exchanges will be held during programme implementation in order to coordinate the design and delimitation of the actions co-financed under the programme. DCEDIY is the managing authority of the AMIF and manages the Integration and Employment of Migrants activity under ESF+; the department will take steps to ensure complementarity between this measure and integration actions co-financed under this programme and to avoid funding overlaps. In general, while the AMIF is used for short-term integration measures for the specific target group of TCNs, the ESF+ aims at the long-term socio-economic integration of vulnerable groups, including people with a migrant background.

Synergies with the ISF will also be exploited where possible through regular exchanges with the managing authority for ISF. The complementarity between the two funds will be ensured in the field of human trafficking.

The complementarity between the AMIF and national funding is that the Union funds available under AMIF are to be used for those priorities for which there is a lack of funding opportunities at national level. In particular, AMIF funds will be directed to TCNs, while national funding may have wider integration objectives encompassing EU mobile citizens.

EU agencies, in particular EUAA and Frontex, will be involved in the implementation of this programme where necessary.

Ireland will also seek to increase the administrative capacity to manage activities under this programme,

as well as to streamline business processes where possible to achieve greater efficiency in the management of the fund. Methods to simplify governance and oversight arrangements will be sought, including the use of simplified cost options. With respect to NGO-led projects selected through open calls for proposals, the aim will be to contract smaller numbers of larger projects through each call, in order to increase the efficiency of this aspect of the programme.

The types of intervention matching the "0 EUR" amount in table 3 of the programme correspond to those for which possible future needs linked to the implementation of the Thematic Facility are anticipated, in line with Article 22(4)(d) CPR.

2. Specific Objectives & Technical Assistance

Reference: Article 22(2) and (4) CPR

		I
Selected	Specific objective or Technical assistance	Type of action
	1. CEAS	Regular actions
	1. CEAS	Specific actions
	1. CEAS	Annex IV actions
	1. CEAS	Operating support
	1. CEAS	Emergency assistance
\boxtimes	2. Legal migration and integration	Regular actions
	2. Legal migration and integration	Specific actions
	2. Legal migration and integration	Annex IV actions
\boxtimes	2. Legal migration and integration	Operating support
	2. Legal migration and integration	Emergency assistance
\boxtimes	3. Return	Regular actions
	3. Return	Specific actions
	3. Return	Annex IV actions
	3. Return	Operating support
	3. Return	Emergency assistance
	4. Solidarity	Regular actions
	4. Solidarity	Specific actions
	4. Solidarity	Annex IV actions
\boxtimes	4. Solidarity	Operating support
	4. Solidarity	Emergency assistance
	4. Solidarity	Resettlement and humanitarian admission
	4. Solidarity	International protection (Transfer in)
	4. Solidarity	International protection (Transfer out)
\boxtimes	TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)	
	TA.37. Technical assistance - not linked to costs (Art. 37 CPR)	

2.1. Specific objective: 1. CEAS

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

Under the terms of the International Protection Act 2015, applications for international protection are processed by the IPO. Material reception conditions are provided under the 2018 Reception Conditions Regulations. The provision of accommodation and associated supports is administered by the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS), a division of the DCEDIY.

In 2019, a total of 4,781 people applied for international protection in Ireland. In 2020 and 2021, the totals were 1,566 and 2,649 respectively. In both these latter years, international travel restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic reduced the numbers of applications made. To end August 2022, the total stands at 8,893 applications for international protection. This does <u>not</u> include arrivals from Ukraine who have been granted temporary protection under the Temporary Protection Directive. This total is approximately 54,300.

The chief countries of origin of international protection applicants in 2022 (to end August) are: Georgia (1,793), Somalia (1,239), Algeria (980), Zimbabwe (728) and Nigeria (655). The median processing time for all international protection applications determined at first instance in Q1 2022 was 26 months, and 22 months in Q2. While the processing time has reduced, the asylum procedure is still a lengthy process, as outlined in articles 13-26 of the International Protection Act 2015.

While people's applications are being processed, they are entitled, but not obliged, to live in State-provided accommodation. In practice, at present, approximately 70% of applicants opt to live in State-provided accommodation, with full board and an expenses allowance. Applicants also have access to public services, including education for school-age children and free healthcare. They may apply for access to the labour market six months after their arrival in the State.

A new reception and integration policy was adopted by the Government in 2021 in a *White Paper to End Direct Provision and to Establish a New International Protection Support Service*. The policy is founded on the principles of human rights, not-for-profit delivery, and early integration. Under this policy, up to six new reception and integration centres will be established to accommodate people for a temporary period after their arrival. Integration supports will be provided from the beginning under a new "integration from day one" approach. People who remain in the protection system for longer periods will be provided with accommodation that enables independent living in the community, where possible. Over time, this new system will replace the existing Direct Provision system.

Initial progress on this policy was interrupted by the onset of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, as resources were redeployed within the DCEDIY to respond to the needs of people fleeing the war. It has nonetheless been possible to achieve a number of key milestones to date, including the purchase of properties for use as high dependency accommodation for very vulnerable applicants, including victims of trafficking, and the introduction of new funding mechanisms for both accommodation and integration supports to be provided by the independent not-for-profit sector. However, the policy is now being reviewed in light of the greatly increased numbers of people to whom it will apply, and new implementation plans, budgets and timelines are being developed.

Main Challenges

The main challenge in the asylum area at present is the recent sharp increase in the numbers of people

seeking international protection in Ireland. To the end of August this year, the IPO has received 8,893 applications. This is a 187% increase on the same period in 2019 (3,094), the last year in which application numbers were not impacted by COVID-19. These are also the highest numbers of applications since 2002, when a total of 11,634 applications were made in the full year.

From a reception perspective, this has meant that the capacity of the international protection accommodation system is inadequate to meet the demand for accommodation from applicants. The State is having to develop its own accommodation facilities, as the private sector is not providing sufficient accommodation to meet the significant increase in demand. The sudden increase in numbers of international protection applicants has placed considerable pressure on health services, particularly primary care health services, while there are insufficient school places in some areas because of the combined pressures of finding additional places for international protection applicants and Ukrainian beneficiaries of temporary protection. Pressure on the system is being exacerbated by a recent trend for people to remain in asylum seeker accommodation after they have been granted refugee status in Ireland or other leave to remain. By the end of August 2022, there were approximately 4,200 people with leave to remain living in asylum seeker accommodation. This is a growing trend, despite efforts to support these people into alternative accommodation. Additional demands are also being felt in support services, psycho-social needs, and legal assistance requirements.

At the end of August 2022, there were just over 15,000 people accommodated in the IPAS accommodation system as a whole, of whom approximately 3,200 were children. Unaccompanied minors are not accommodated in IPAS; such accommodation is provided by the child and family agency, Tusla, in mainstream settings, and is funded by the Irish government.

The difficulties in sourcing suitable accommodation to meet this increase in demand have been greatly exacerbated by the need to also provide accommodation to large numbers of people who have fled the war in Ukraine. In December 2019, the total number of international protection applicants being accommodated was 7,683. As of end September 2022, the State is providing accommodation to approximately 55,710 people, made up of 39,025 Ukrainian Nationals and 16,685 international protection applicants.

The pressure on the accommodation system has meant that, at several points in August and September 2022, the system was at capacity and small numbers of non-vulnerable arrivals were not offered accommodation immediately. It has also become necessary to provide tented accommodation on State-owned sites for some applicants on a temporary basis.

This level of pressure on the system can have an adverse impact on resident welfare, as people may spend longer periods in emergency accommodation on arrival and may be required to move more frequently. In addition, emergency accommodation may not be of the same standard as permanent accommodation.

The increase in applicant numbers is also straining the capacity of the vulnerability assessment programme, and delaying the rollout of the *White Paper to End Direct Provision and to Establish a New International Protection Support Service*, which sets out a comprehensive reform of policy on reception.

Proposed responses supported by the Fund

Responses relating to asylum challenges

Over the past year, the IPO has implemented measures to assist in meeting its overall objectives and improve on efficiencies and throughput. The application procedures have been revised and the Reception Unit has been resourced with extra staff to cater for increased numbers. The need to make a further appointment (call back) with an applicant to complete the application process has been almost completely eliminated, with interpreters from main languages present on the reception floor to assist applicants in making their protection applications.

Another measure is the careful identification of certain applications that may proceed without the need for an interview. While applicants for international protection are generally interviewed, the legislation allows a trained international protection officer to dispense with the interview if they are of the opinion that, based on the available evidence, the applicant is a person that should be granted a refugee declaration. Other measures include the restructuring of teams within the IPO to allow for more efficient workflow, identification and streamlining of onerous processes, and ensuring that staff are directed to the areas where they can add most value. The measures put in place have allowed the IPO to significantly increase output and process applications more quickly. However, this has been offset by the unprecedented rise in application numbers and the redeployment of staff to establish and administer temporary protection permissions and assist those fleeing the war in Ukraine.

An End-to-End Review of the International Protection Process carried out by a multi-disciplinary team from the Department of Justice has been completed and published. New measures and procedures, including to address the recommendations of this review, will continue to be put in place to improve efficiencies across all aspects of the protection process.

Since the introduction of new efficiency measures, in the year to date the IPO has increased the number of first-instance recommendations and permission to remain decisions being made by 53% when compared with the same period pre-COVID in 2019. Based on current figures, the IPO expects to surpass the number of recommendations and decisions in previous years.

Responses relating to reception challenges

Increase the amount of accommodation available

Ireland has responded to the sharp increase in demand for accommodation by sourcing additional emergency accommodation centres, and by purchasing hotel, guest-house, and hostel accommodation on a short- and medium-term basis. This approach will continue.

Develop new Reception and Integration Centres

Under the new policy for the provision of accommodation and supports to asylum seekers that was adopted by the Government in 2021, it is planned to build up to six new reception and integration centres to replace the current accommodation centres. Project planning has commenced for these new centres, with the initial focus on two large rapid-build projects to construct two of the six planned reception and integration centres. Funding sources for this work will include, but not be limited to, AMIF. The possibility of complementary investment from other cohesion funds (ERDF for infrastructure, and ESF+ for services) will also be explored. National funding will also be used.

Develop Special Accommodation for Highly Vulnerable Applicants

Under the new policy for the provision of accommodation and supports to asylum seekers that was adopted by the Government in 2021, it is envisaged that specific reception centres will be developed for highly vulnerable applicants. It is expected that an independent not-for-profit provider will be selected to

run the facility, including completing any upgrade works to the property as needed, management of the property and providing all social care supports etc. for the residents of the facility.

Monitor accommodation against National Standards

National Standards for accommodation provided to asylum seekers were adopted in 2019. A programme to monitor adherence to the standards is now being developed through collaboration between the DCEDIY and the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA), which will act as an independent monitor.

Increase the capacity of the Vulnerability Assessment Programme

Under the terms of the Reception Conditions Directive, all applicants for international protection are offered a vulnerability assessment within 30 days of making their application. IPAS set up a programme to conduct these assessments in 2020. This programme needs additional capacity to meet the demand, and consideration is now being given to how best to provide this. Additional capacity within the assessment programme will also be used to strengthen the follow-up procedures for linking people with identified vulnerabilities with appropriate mainstream support services.

Support Resident Welfare

It is planned to develop and implement a resident welfare programme that will complement existing mainstream health and social care services and support the continued education and training of accommodation centre managers and staff with respect to resident welfare. This programme will support the early identification of welfare issues as they arise, including those which may not have been identified through the initial vulnerability assessment. Resident welfare supports will include psychosocial and rehabilitation services, supports for families and children, including to help children integrate into the Irish education system, legal assistance with asylum processes, and community integration supports.

Implementation Measure 1 (a)

Indicative actions under this implementation measure:

- Introduce further measures to improve the efficiency of asylum application processing, including the provision of early legal advice to applicants to improve the quality of applications, and other measures to address the recommendations of the 2021 End-to-End Review, for example through caseworker training.
- Strengthen the capacity of the International Protection Vulnerability Assessment Programme with the objective of ensuring the identification of, and provision of support to, people with special reception and procedural needs, as well as victims of trafficking.
- Introduce an independent monitoring programme to monitor adherence to the new National Standards for accommodation offered to people in the international protection system. The Health Information and Quality Authority will be the independent monitoring body.

<u>Implementation Measure 1 (b)</u>

Indicative actions under this implementation measure:

- Provision of supports to asylum applicants, some of whom will be vulnerable applicants, including information and assistance throughout the asylum procedure.
- For individuals deemed vulnerable, additional supports will include medical help and bespoke

- psychosocial support for victims of human trafficking and torture, and other persons with special reception and procedural needs.
- Acquisition of existing accommodation centres; acquisition of existing premises to be re-purposed as accommodation centres; or the construction of new purpose-built centres.
- Increase the capacity of the international protection accommodation system through tendering for the provision of temporary accommodation services from both existing and new providers.
- Increase IRPP's ability to arrange for refugee transfers by increasing capacity in EROCs, which operate as dedicated temporary reception centres for arriving resettled refugees. This includes the provision of initial integration supports and access to state services, including health and education services, before arranging for transfer to more long-term accommodation solutions.
- Develop temporary accommodation on arrival in the community for vulnerable asylum seekers, including victims of trafficking and individuals identified with additional needs, in partnership with independent not-for-profit organisations.
- Carry out upgrades and improvements to accommodation centres as indicated by the HIQA programme of independent monitoring against the National Standards for international protection accommodation.
- Development and implementation of a case management system to underpin the provision of accommodation services.
- Commission the development and rollout of a resident welfare support service aimed at identifying
 emerging welfare issues in accommodation centres, providing initial support, and ensuring that
 residents are enabled to access existing mainstream services.
- Commission the development and rollout of a training and development programme for accommodation centre managers and staff. Such training may cover, for example: interpreter briefing training; human trafficking training; LGBTQIA+ awareness training; resilience and personal safety training.
- Develop and implement a strategy for the procurement of transport services for residents of accommodation centres to facilitate access to essential reception services, and for the procurement of interpretation services for residents of accommodation centres to facilitate access to essential reception services.
- To complement the investment in accommodation, invest also in services for the target population, such as material aid, psycho-social and rehabilitation services, legal assistance, etc.

Desired Outcomes:

- TCNs to receive the necessary supports: legal advice, information and assistance throughout the asylum procedure, psycho-social support, etc.
- Reductions in processing times for asylum applications are sustained.
- Several new Reception and Integration Centres are developed and begin operation, part funded by AMIF.
- An expansion of the overall capacity, in terms of accommodation and services, of the Emergency Reception and Orientation Centres available to the IRPP, allowing for increased reception of resettled programme refugees.
- Specific accommodation operated by specialist staff is available for vulnerable asylum seekers who have been identified as having high support needs, including victims of trafficking.
- IPAS accommodation centres progressively improve their adherence to the National Standards for International Protection Accommodation.

- An effective case and bed management ICT system is in place in IPAS.
- An NGO-led resident welfare support programme is in place for residents of accommodation centres, which complements available mainstream welfare support services.
- A training programme is in place for IPAS accommodation centre managers and staff.
- A procurement strategy is in place for transport services and for interpretation services used by IPAS.

Operating support:

Operating support will be required for the DCEDIY (IPAS) in connection with the reception activities and the IPO for the asylum activities. Funding may be used for the maintenance of existing reception centre facilities. It is also anticipated that operating support could be used to hire staff to work in the IPO to increase their capacity to process asylum applications. The use of operating support will contribute toward strengthening and developing Ireland's asylum and reception systems and will be used in accordance with Annex VII of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147.

2.1. Specific objective 1. CEAS

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 1: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
O.1.1	Number of participants supported	number	1,800	18,400
O.1.1.1	of which number of participants who received legal assistance	number	450	2,300
O.1.1.2	of which number of participants benefiting from other types of support, including information and assistance throughout the asylum procedure	number	1,350	16,100
O.1.1.3	of which number of vulnerable participants assisted	number	500	3,200
O.1.2	Number of participants in training activities	number	150	1,050
O.1.3	Number of newly created places in reception infrastructure in line with Union acquis	number	200	2,400
O.1.3.1	of which number of newly created places for unaccompanied minors	number	0	0
O.1.4	Number of renovated/refurbished places in reception infrastructure in line with Union acquis	number	400	4,800
O.1.4.1	of which number of renovated/refurbished places for unaccompanied minors	number	0	0

2.1. Specific objective 1. CEAS

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 2: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
R.1.5	Number of participants who consider the training useful for their work	number	0	share	2021	840	number	Survey of participants on completion of training	
R.1.6	Number of participants who report three months after the training activity that they are using the skills and competences acquired during the training	number	0	share	2021	735	number	Survey of participants 3 months after completion of training	
R.1.7	Number of persons placed in alternatives to detention	number	0	number	2021	0	number	0	People are not detained
R.1.7.1	of which number of unaccompanied minors placed in alternatives to detention	number	0	number	2021	0	number	0	Unaccompanied minors are not detained
R.1.7.2	of which number of families placed in alternatives to detention	number	0	number	2021	0	number	0	Families are not detained

2.1. Specific objective 1. CEAS

2.1.3. Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Reference: Article 22(5) CPR; and Article 16(12) AMIF Regulation, Article 13(12) ISF Regulation or Article 13(18) BMVI Regulation

Table 3: Indicative breakdown

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	001.Reception conditions	4,586,383.97
Intervention field	002.Asylum procedures	2,000,000.00
Intervention field	003.Implementation of the Union acquis	0.00
Intervention field	004.Children in migration	0.00
Intervention field	005.Persons with special reception and procedural needs	3,000,000.00
Intervention field	006.Union resettlement programmes or national resettlement and humanitarian admission schemes (Annex III, point 2(g))	0.00
Intervention field	007.Operating support	2,000,000.00

2.1. Specific objective: 2. Legal migration and integration

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

Initial Situation

Most migrants to Ireland come for the purposes of work or education. Migration for family reunification purposes is also common. Comprehensive information on migration routes to Ireland is provided on the websites of the relevant government departments, and also through the nationally funded Citizens Information service. A range of visa and permit schemes are in place to facilitate TCNs who wish to move to Ireland for work, training or study purposes. These schemes are also supported through national funds.

Migrant integration is mainstreamed across all government services. A National Migrant Integration Strategy provides a framework for work across government in this area. Policy coordination on integration rests with the DCEDIY.

According to April 2022 population and migration estimates from the Central Statistics Office, the number of immigrants in the year to April 2022 is estimated to be 120,700, the highest annual total since 2007. This consisted of 28,900 returning Irish nationals, 24,300 other EU nationals, 4,500 UK nationals, and 63,000 other nationals, including Ukrainians.

The total number of non-Irish nationals estimated to be living in Ireland is now 703,700, or 13.8% of the population. A little over 30% of these – around 223,000 people – are estimated to be non-UK TCNs.

Main Challenges

Monitoring results show that migrants to Ireland are integrating successfully overall, with a large majority in employment and/or education. There is some evidence of poorer integration outcomes among certain groups, in particular those with weak English language skills. There is also evidence of some labour market segregation, with migrants under-represented in some professional sectors. TCNs have a higher risk of poverty and lower employment levels than other migrant groups, with outcomes varying greatly across national and regional groups. Recent rapid increases in the numbers of migrants needing to access public services has led to pressures on service delivery organisations in some areas.

There can be particular challenges associated with the integration of migrants who have come through the protection process. Though data is not available to track the longer-term integration outcomes of refugees, an immediate challenge exists in respect of over 4,000 people who remain in asylum-seeker accommodation despite having been granted leave to remain in Ireland. This is adding to the pressure that increasing numbers of arrivals are placing on accommodation services. The increase in the numbers of applications for international protection approved arising from the International Protection Regularisation Scheme, together with an overall shortage of housing in Ireland, are two factors exacerbating this problem.

It is acknowledged that poorer outcomes for some migrant groups, including for example Sub-Saharan Africans, whose employment rates lag some way behind those of other migrant groups, may in part be attributable to racism.

Proposed responses supported by the Fund

Development of new National Integration Strategy

Work will commence shortly on the development of a new national-level Migrant Integration Strategy for Ireland, in consultation with key stakeholders and affected groups, including migrant-focused and migrant-led NGOs, local authorities, and public service provider organisations across key policy domains, such as employment, education, health and housing. The content of this Strategy will be informed by integration research evidence, including that from the Equality and Integration Research Programme of the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). It will also be informed by evaluation of the implementation of the previous Strategy, which ran from 2017 to 2021.

Initiatives to reach and support victims of human trafficking

The Department of Justice, in partnership with the UN IOM Office in Dublin, has developed an initiative to support the development of additional cultural mediator services. This will involve training persons, including persons from the same national or ethnic background, and equipping them with the skills to act as a bridge between potential victims and public authorities, such as the police. The AMIF could also be used to support outreach to specific communities to help ensure that information about human trafficking risks and the rights of victims to seek protection reaches vulnerable groups and individuals in the State.

Expansion of National Network of Integration Support Workers

As part of the new reception and integration policy adopted in 2021, a national network of integration support workers is being established to support the integration of both asylum seekers and refugees throughout the country. This is a collaboration between central and local government, building on the model established in 2015 under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme. Integration Support Workers will work with both international protection applicants (whether resident in accommodation centres or elsewhere) and refugees. This is intended to assist people in the transition from applicant to beneficiary of international protection. Integration Support Workers will not replace mainstream service provision, but will support asylum seekers and refugees to access services appropriate to their needs. This includes linking TCNs with mainstream support services including legal aid, childcare, and healthcare; functioning as a direct point of contact and addressing any issues that arise in interactions with public services; and making appropriate provisions for vulnerable persons, including working with mainstream providers to facilitate access to additional services if required.

Development of an Orientation and Early Integration Programme for Asylum Seekers

The new policy of "integration from day one" requires the development of an orientation and early integration programme for asylum seekers. This will combine online and in-person elements, and may be accessed both by people living in State-provided accommodation and those living independently. This programme will build on the orientation programme currently provided at the National Reception Centre. Core elements will encompass civic orientation and English language provision; information on, and access to, public services and NGO-led integration supports (including counselling and psycho-social supports); and links to local community initiatives to support social integration, including such activities as sports, arts and crafts, music, dance, theatre and literature.

Implementation of National Action Plan Against Racism

A new National Action Plan Against Racism (NAPAR) for Ireland was developed over the period 2020-2022 by an independent committee appointed by Government. The proposed plan was submitted by the committee to the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth in June 2022 and,

subject to approval by Government, its implementation is due to commence in 2023. Several of the plan's anticipated objectives and actions are directly relevant to the AMIF. These include addressing racial inequalities insofar as they affect TCNs; enabling minority participation, including of TCNs; measuring the impacts of racism; and promoting a shared journey to racial equality, which will involve actions to promote interaction between migrant and host communities.

Continued support for NGO-led projects for the integration of TCNs, with a focus on vulnerable people

The DCEDIY managed competitive processes to select NGO-led integration projects to receive AMIF funding under the previous programme. This included projects providing extensive psychosocial supports to victims of torture, including provision of medico-legal reports to the national health service, the Health Service Executive (HSE). The approach applied under the AMIF 2014-2020 programme was successful, and it is planned to continue building on this under the new AMIF. The types of projects sought will be informed by evidence from integration monitoring so that there is a particular focus on, for example, projects to provide accessible English language education, or supports in meeting housing needs.

Under the 2014-2020 AMIF programme, a service was delivered for the HSE by the Safetynet Primary Care ('Safetynet') medical charity, using a mobile health screening vehicle sourced from the UK National Health Service. Safetynet provides a mobile health screening service delivered to asylum seekers in Direct Provision centres. It is envisaged that this service would continue to benefit under the new AMIF programme.

Integration of resettled refugees under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP)

Following the arrival of refugees through the IRPP and their stay in EROCs, permanent housing is sourced in cities and towns across Ireland through collaboration between the IRPP and local authorities, as well as through the IRPP's Community Sponsorship Programme. Integration supports are provided for programme refugees through Local Authority Integration Projects and Community Sponsorship Groups. This work contributes strongly to the success of the IRPP, as decribed in more detail in SO4.

Integration Research

The multi-annual DCEDIY/ESRI Equality and Integration Research Programme provides valuable research evidence for integration policymakers and practitioners both in Ireland and across the EU. This approach will continue with a renewal of the Research Programme under new objectives informed by current trends and challenges.

Implementation Measure 2(a)

- Development of new National Integration Strategy, informed by integration research evidence and in consultation with key stakeholders and affected groups.
- The renewal of a multi-annual DCEDIY/ESRI Equality and Integration Research Programme, focused on the research evidence needs of integration policymakers and practitioners both in Ireland and the EU.

Implementation Measure 2(d)

- Support Local Authority resettlement projects. Funding is provided for integration support, including the employment of integration officers and intercultural workers at local level, whose role is to support the resettlement and early integration of refugees. Other integration supports that may be part funded under AMIF include, but are not limited to:
- promoting participation in volunteering to support integration;

- complementary education programmes;
- supports for teenagers, including counselling and activities;
- provision of in- and after-school supports, childcare, and transport to and from services;
- identifying opportunities for integration of children and young people with counterparts in similar age groups;
- identifying the need for exceptional medical treatment in collaboration with the Health Service Executive and hospital personnel.
 - Building capacity within Regional Support Organisations (RSOs), which are an essential partner in
 the Community Sponsorship Programme to provide direct integration supports to refugees
 resettled under the IRPP. This includes coordinating access to education and health services,
 community engagement, and English language education. The contribution of this small but
 successful element of Ireland's overall refugee policy is further outlined under SO4.
 - Establishment of a nationwide network of integration support workers to support the integration of asylum seekers. This will be a collaboration between the DCEDIY and local authorities and is a key element of the new reception and integration policy adopted by Government in 2021.
 - Building on the lessons learned from the above-mentioned Safetynet project, the implementation of a similar action will be examined to ascertain its feasibility for the new programme, taking into account the Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027. This will be carried out as part of a wider effort to increase awareness among TCNs of their rights and opportunities within the Irish healthcare system.
 - Early integration of asylum seekers is a key element of the new reception and integration policy adopted in 2021. It is proposed to commission the development of an early integration and orientation programme, to be delivered to asylum seekers during the first four months after arrival.
 - The implementation of the new National Action Plan Against Racism for Ireland, including addressing racial inequalities insofar as they affect TCNs; enabling minority participation in society; measuring the impacts of racism; and promoting a shared journey to racial equality, which will encompass actions to promote interaction between migrant and host communities.
 - Building on the positive experience under the previous AMIF programme, independent not-for-profit organisations operating at national, regional and local levels will be invited to bid for multi-annual funding for projects that aim to support the integration of TCNs in line with the objectives and scope of the Fund. These projects could include education projects, English language provision, psycho-social supports and supports for specific vulnerable groups including victims of torture, and confidence-building projects as were funded under calls for proposals in the previous round of AMIF.
 - Support development of cultural mediator service to connect potential victims with public authorities, such as the police. Also, support outreach to specific communities to help ensure that information about human trafficking risks and the rights of victims to seek protection reaches vulnerable groups and individuals.

Desired Outcomes

- A well-informed Migrant Integration Strategy that can be implemented effectively.
- Asylum seekers are supported to integrate into Irish society, both at the initial stage while in a reception and integration centre, and subsequently into their local communities.
- Both the government (national and local) and not-for-profit sector are actively collaborating to support the integration of TCNs, including asylum seekers and refugees.
- An expansion of the capacity of the Community Sponsorship Programme to ensure the successful

integration of refugees into Irish society.

- Successful integration of resettled programme refugees into Irish communities, supported by local authorities.
- A new National Action Plan Against Racism is adopted by Government and implemented over the period 2023-2027. Where the integration of TCNs is being compromised by racism, steps are taken to address this.
- Independent, high-quality research evidence on the integration of TCNs in Ireland and related matters is available to policymakers and practitioners.

Operating support

Operating support will be used to meet staff costs in Government departments and agencies charged with implementing integration programmes under this objective. This will enable staff resources to be dedicated to the implementation of the actions required to achieve the objectives of the Fund in Ireland. For example, the establishment of a nationwide network of integration support workers will require additional staff resources in the DCEDIY to design and manage the network. The DCEDIY has statutory responsibility for policy co-ordination on integration at central government level. Operating support will be used in accordance with Annex VII of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147.

2.1. Specific objective 2. Legal migration and integration

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 1: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
O.2.1	Number of participants in pre-departure measures	number	0	0
O.2.2	Number of local and regional authorities supported to implement integration measures	number	0	0
O.2.3	Number of participants supported	number	2,700	18,200
O.2.3.1	of which number of participants in a language course	number	500	3,500
O.2.3.2	of which number of participants in a civic orientation course	number	1,000	7,000
O.2.3.3	of which number of participants who received personal professional guidance	number	500	3,500
O.2.4	Number of information packages and campaigns to raise awareness of legal migration channels to the Union	number	0	0
O.2.5	Number of participants receiving information and/or assistance to apply for family reunification	number	0	0
O.2.6	Number of participants benefitting from mobility schemes	number	0	0
O.2.7	Number of integration projects where local and regional authorities are the beneficiary	number	10	35

2.1. Specific objective 2. Legal migration and integration

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 2: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
R.2.8	Number of participants in language courses who have improved their proficiency level in the host-country language upon leaving the language course by at least one level in the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages or national equivalent	number	0	share	2021	2,450	number	Language courses – list of students.	N/A
R.2.9	Number of participants who report that the activity was helpful for their integration	number	0	share	2021	14,560	number	Participant surveys	N/A
R.2.10	Number of participants who applied for their qualification or skills acquired in a third country to be recognised / assessed	number	0	number	2021	0	number	Relevant authority	N/A
R.2.11	Number of participants who applied for a long- term residence status	number	0	number	2021	0	number	0	Not an activity under the programme

2.1. Specific objective 2. Legal migration and integration

2.1.3. Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Reference: Article 22(5) CPR; and Article 16(12) AMIF Regulation, Article 13(12) ISF Regulation or Article 13(18) BMVI Regulation

Table 3: Indicative breakdown

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	001.Development of integration strategies	200,000.00
Intervention field	002. Victims of trafficking in human beings	500,000.00
Intervention field	003.Integration measures – information and orientation, one stop shops	2,636,384.90
Intervention field	004.Integration measures – language training	1,500,000.00
Intervention field	005.Integration measures – civics and other training	2,000,000.00
Intervention field	006.Integration measures – Introduction, participation, exchanges host society	1,500,000.00
Intervention field	007.Integration measures – basic needs	1,000,000.00
Intervention field	008.Pre-departure measures	0.00
Intervention field	009.Mobility schemes	0.00
Intervention field	010.Acquisition of legal residence	0.00
Intervention field	011. Vulnerable persons, including unaccompanied minors	800,000.00
Intervention field	012.Operating support	1,000,000.00

2.1. Specific objective: 3. Return

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

Initial Situation

The overall mission of the Department of Justice, which is responsible for immigration policy, is to create a safe and fair Ireland. The Department subscribes to the view that the capacity to exercise border control is fundamental to the sovereignty and stability of the State and the rights of its citizens to define the type of society in which they wish to live.

An effective deportation process is an essential component of a functioning immigration system. Ireland returns migrants who do not have permission to be resident in Ireland to their home states by a combination of enforced and voluntary return. Generally, such persons have been served with deportation orders following a legal process, the basis of which is the Immigration Act 1999 or International Protection Act 2015 as the case may be. Ireland offers a process of assisted voluntary return, which is promoted as a more attractive alternative to forced deportation.

Ireland offers free legal assistance to all persons in the immigration system, and all actions carried out by the State in the exercise of functions deriving from the relevant legislation are subject to oversight by the Courts. Between 2015 and 2020, the Legal Aid Board received 10,476 applications for legal aid cases concerning International Protection and other immigration-related matters.

Where the State notifies a person of its intention to deport them, the person in question is advised of the options available to them at that point in time. These options are to leave the State voluntarily; to consent to deportation; or to submit written representations to the Minister for Justice as to why they should not have a Deportation Order made against them. They must do this within 15 working days of the issuance of the notification. A consideration of these representations will lead to either an affirmation of the Deportation Order or a revocation of the order and permission to remain in the State.

The operational matters outlined at 3(b) and 3(c) below are delivered by cooperation between the Department of Justice, the Garda National Immigration Bureau and an NGO sector partner selected on the basis of a public call for services in this area.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) has overarching responsibility for returning migrants who do not have permission to remain in the State to their home states.

The Garda National Immigration Bureau's role in the area of returns is primarily operational and concerned with the location and physical removal of persons subject to deportation. The GNIB works closely with the DOJ in the structuring and execution of returns operations, including charter flight returns. Although Ireland is not a member of Frontex, the GNIB maintains close links with that organisation and contributes to its operations. As with any police force, it maintains close intelligence and operational links with other jurisdictions through Europol and Interpol. A senior Garda Officer at Chief Superintendent level sits on the Board of Frontex as an observer. Ireland also holds annual bilateral meetings with Frontex on return issues.

The NGO Sector - The DOJ works closely with a selected partner from the NGO sector to deliver voluntary return supports, including pre-return counselling, supports with the logistics of return, and support and reintegration assistance. The NGO partner is selected though a transparent process following an open call for such services.

AMIF 2014-2020

During the period 2014-20, AMIF provided support on a number of matters relevant to return, notably in the area of the management of return of irregular migrants. Many of the services were delivered by the IOM, which was selected as a partner by the DOJ following an open call, publicly advertised. The IOM delivered services in the areas of pre-return counselling costs for persons who opted for voluntary return, medical assessments, and re-integration assistance upon return. In addition, the GNIB was a beneficiary of funding in the areas of escort and operational costs and flight costs.

Both these areas of work will continue to be supported under the new AMIF programme.

Main Challenges

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ireland adopted a humanitarian approach in the area of deportations. Effectively, deportations only occurred where the individuals concerned had a record of serious criminality in the State and had demonstrated a lack of willingness to contribute to the betterment of Irish society. With the standing down of pandemic-related measures, Ireland now wishes to return to a more normalised system of processing immigration cases, including by means of deportation.

The statistics below show historic and recent trends in deportation activity in this State. This highlights the disparity between deportation orders signed and those executed.

In 2015, 818 deportation orders were issued, of which 251 were effected. In 2016, 1,442 orders were issued, with 428 effected. In 2017, 1,122 were issued, with 140 effected. In 2018, 1,116 were issued, with 163 effected. In 2019, 2,017 orders were issued, with 299 effected. Numbers then declined significantly during the pandemic. In 2020, 873 orders were issued, with 141 effected. In 2021, 31 orders were issued, and 38 were effected. In 2022 to date, 7 orders were issued, and 79 were effected.

Other challenges include:

<u>Evasion of deportation by the migrant.</u> Like many Member States, Ireland experiences difficulty in locating and tracking individuals deemed suitable for return. One consequence of the moratorium on deportations as a result of the pandemic is that the whereabouts of many such individuals is currently unclear. As of now, considerable work is being undertaken by the GNIB to locate the individuals concerned and to assess whether it is still viable to deport. This is a necessary step to ensuring an accurate use of personnel and resources.

<u>Lack of cooperation from the home state of origin of the migrant concerned</u>. Ireland is no different from any other EU Member State in encountering problems with certain states of origin. As a matter of practice, Ireland maintains an open line of communication with all relevant foreign embassies. Ireland is currently examining how voluntary return can be promoted as a means of encouraging such states to cooperate more readily. Ireland also feeds into the development of EU-wide approaches in this matter.

<u>Securing of travel documents</u> can be challenging where the home state of origin does not wish to cooperate or where the migrant can provide no source identification documents. Ongoing liaison with foreign embassies is used to resolve difficulties where possible. It is becoming clear that states of most relevance to Ireland in the area of return are turning to technical (electronic Re-Admission Case Management Systems, RCMS) solutions to enable the obtaining of travel documents for return purpose. Training of staff on these systems has been identified as an operational need that will likely increase in the coming years.

<u>Ireland experiences legal challenges in relation to returns</u>. The removal environment is highly litigious, with a number of domestic law firms specialising in the area. The training of staff in the area of legally

robust decision-making that is comprehensive, considers a person's connections to the State, and underpins principles of non-refoulement is seen as the best solution to withstanding challenges against deportation decisions.

The management of destitute or exceptionally vulnerable people who have been identified for a return process requires particular attention to prepare them for return and assist them in reintegrating into their home states. People of this nature are particularly vulnerable and require additional levels of support, such as mental health assessments and specialised counselling services. Ireland is increasingly seeing individuals who require enhanced individual levels of support, and this may be expected to increase over the term of the fund.

Proposed Responses supported by the Fund

Ireland wishes to counter irregular migration and ensure effectiveness of return and readmission to third countries. It is considered essential that the State clearly demonstrates to all of its citizens, and others, that the State has a means of addressing migration in an effective, humane and lawful manner that complies with the standards expected of an EU Member State. It is important to send a signal to those who do not have permission to remain in the State, or who have not complied with the standards expected of them while resident in the State, that the State will take the necessary action to remove them from its territory.

In 2022, Ireland has around 6,500 deportation orders that have not been executed. In addition, approximately 1,000 cases involving unsuccessful International Protection applications will shortly result in deportation orders. Furthermore, the DOJ has around 600 cases where individuals subject to deportation orders have asked the Minister for Justice to consider revoking her decision. Taking the above into account, it is clear that Ireland will have a significant amount of cases that will be suitable for deportation over the term of the new AMIF funding period.

Because of the moratorium on 'normal' deportations during the pandemic, a considerable amount of work is currently being undertaken to update records with a view to identifying those who are subject to deportation orders, who are still present in the State and whose situations have not changed to the extent that would warrant a decision to reconsider the appropriateness of a decision to deport. The purpose of this work is to ensure a reliable source of data pertaining to cases considered suitable for deportation, with the aim that available financial and personnel resources will be properly focused on such cases.

Enforced return

Ireland received funding under the previous AMIF programme in respect of expenditure incurred by its national police force, An Garda Síochana, and in particular the GNIB, in the course of activities relevant to enforced return; in particular, relevant investigative work and the provision of escorts for such purposes. It is almost certain that expenditure in this area will increase arising from the return to normal deportation regimes post pandemic.

Return operations

Ireland has now signaled an intention to return to more normalised arrangements for returns, notably through the use of charter and leased aircraft procured for such purposes. Charter flights offer the option of a removal of a greater number of persons on a single flight. Ireland currently has no supplier of such flights available to it and options are currently being considered as to how such aircraft might be procured. Substantial costs will arise in the context of financing charter operations. In 2019, Ireland incurred costs

of €200,000 in the context of one return operation by charter. It is Ireland's intention to participate in joint return operations. In that regard, Ireland has already had discussions with Frontex on participating in that organisation's joint return operations and has indicated a willingness to lead and finance at least one such operation in the coming year. This step is key in providing access to Joint Return Operations (JRO) operated by other Member States.

Voluntary Return

Ireland received funding under the previous AMIF programme in respect of promoting and facilitating voluntary return. This approach will be continued. Ireland's voluntary returns programme is delivered in collaboration with the IOM. Ireland will, where appropriate, provide incentives to support the returnee's sustainable return and re-integration, including cash incentives, training, placement and employment assistance and start-up support for economic activities. Ireland is also considering the use of re-integration assistance for vulnerable or destitute deportees. Ireland is aware of a general policy shift at EU level to seek to grow the voluntary return sector as a possible alternative to enforced return, and Ireland agrees with this approach where suitable cases can be identified.

Access to Travel Documents

Ireland currently has access to two electronic RCMS Systems provided by third countries. Training on these systems will be required for personnel involved in the returns process, with associated expenditure. For all other states, liaison with relevant embassies is required. Ireland will also participate in any rollout of an EU-wide RCMS, as agreed in EU readmission agreements.

<u>Implementation Measure 3(b)</u>

Indicative Actions under this Implementation Measure

Administratively support GNIB in carrying out enforced returns under 3(b), including;

- Engagement with foreign embassies on the acquisition of travel documents;
- Seek to engage with relevant states on obstacles to return operations, where there is no engagement on accepting returns;
- Feed into State policy in relation to migrant flows, particularly on the matter of lawful access to the labour market;
- Investigate a procurement arrangement to provide Ireland with charter aircraft for deportation purposes;
- Finance the cost of return operations;
- Support the provision of free legal aid to applicants subject to a deportation order, who have been detained ahead of deportation having been considered a flight or evasion risk;
- Interaction with other Member States on relevant matters at working groups and other fora;
- Arrange and support travel arrangements for return operations;
- Engage with other states on rolling out of Return Management Systems;
- Identify suitable cases for deportation;
- Identify priority cases for action, e.g. criminnals.

Operational Matters pertaining to enforced returns under 3(b)

- Conducting work to determine suitable cases for return following the disruption to the programme caused by the pandemic in 2020-2021, including:
- Assessment of whether a review of the decision to deport is warranted in light of changes to personal circumstances;
- Assessment of whether there are now any other legal obstacles to a deportation proceeding;
- Investment in technical solutions for facilitating biometric requirements of RCMS Systems if required;
- Investigations into current whereabouts of deportation candidates and carrying out return operations.

Participation in joint return operations with other Member States and Frontex

- Ireland would propose to lead and finance up to two Joint Return Operations per year.
- Ireland would offer return opportunities to other Member States in respect of Irish-led JROs.
- Ireland would envisage transporting Irish return cases to European points of departure of other Frontex JROs.
- Administrative and operational costs associated with investigation of suitable cases for deportation (GNIB), primarily personnel costs associated with surveillance of return candidates and administrative and operational (personnel) and equipment costs associated with enforced deportation cases.
- Administration and operational costs associated with Joint Return Operations in association with Frontex, primarily personnel costs associated with escort duties performed by GNIB and funding of charter flights.
- Interpretation Services.
- Costs associated with relevant research into the area of return.
- Return Procedures Training on eRCMS and other relevant technical solutions. Envisaged expenditure is primarily in the area of hardware.

Implementation Measure 3(c)

Indicative actions under this implementation measure

- Continue implementing and promoting the voluntary returns programme
- Provide incentives to support the returnee's sustainable return and re-integration, including cash incentives, training, placement and employment assistance and start-up support for economic activities. Ireland is also considering the use of re-integration assistance for vulnerable or destitute deportees.
- Provide additional levels of support, such as mental health assessments and specialised counselling services, for destitute or exceptionally vulnerable people.
- Provide pre-return counselling, medical assessments, and re-integration assistance upon return.
- Carry out liaison activities with embassies of relevant countries to strengthen co-operation on sustainable return with these countries.

- Provide information on voluntary return and introduce new re-integration measures to incentivise participation in voluntary returns.
- Administrative and operational costs associated with voluntary return cases, including under the Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme for Vulnerable Irregular Migrants (I-VAARP), in collaboration with relevant NGO

Support Ireland's participation as an observer on the Frontex Pre-Return Arrangements Network and the Voluntary Return Network operated by Frontex.

Expected Results / Desired Outcomes

- Overarching objective Return 2,500 illegal migrants over the funding period.
- Improve the efficiency and speed of the return procedures, with particular attention on vulnerable groups.
- Develop the assisted voluntary return programmes and improve reintegration assistance.
- Expand Ireland's use of technical solutions, such as RCMS systems, to bring about further efficiencies in the area of removal.

Operating support is not planned to be used under SO3.

2.1. Specific objective 3. Return

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 1: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
O.3.1	Number of participants in training activities	number	50	200
O.3.2	Number of equipment purchased, including number of ICT systems purchased / updated	number	5	10
O.3.3	Number of returnees who received re-integration assistance	number	200	1,500
O.3.4	Number of places in detention centres created	number	0	0
O.3.5	Number of places in detention centres refurbished/renovated	number	0	0

2.1. Specific objective 3. Return

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 2: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
R.3.6	Number of returnees voluntarily returned	number	0	number	2021	1,400	number	Previous operational experience (2019)	0
R.3.7	Number of returnees who were removed	number	0	number	2021	1,100	number	Previous operational experience (2019)	0
R.3.8	Number of returnees subject to alternatives to detention	number	0	number	2021	0	number	N/A	0

2.1. Specific objective 3. Return

2.1.3. Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Reference: Article 22(5) CPR; and Article 16(12) AMIF Regulation, Article 13(12) ISF Regulation or Article 13(18) BMVI Regulation

Table 3: Indicative breakdown

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	001.Alternatives to detention	0.00
Intervention field	002.Reception/detention conditions	0.00
Intervention field	003.Return procedures	100,000.00
Intervention field	004.Assisted voluntary return	3,600,000.00
Intervention field	005.Reintegration assistance	2,200,000.00
Intervention field	006.Removal/Return operations	4,000,000.00
Intervention field	007.Forced-return monitoring system	0.00
Intervention field	008.Vulnerable persons/UAMs	700,000.00
Intervention field	009.Measures addressing incentives for irregular migration	0.00
Intervention field	010.Operating support	0.00

2.1. Specific objective: 4. Solidarity

2.1.1. Description of the specific objective

Initial Situation

Resettlement in, and relocation to, Ireland are managed by the IRPP, which is a division of the DCEDIY. The Programme was established in 2015 to respond to the needs of refugees from the conflict in Syria. It built on a previous, smaller resettlement programme that had been operating in partnership with the UNHCR since 2000

Since 2015, the IRPP has resettled or relocated approximately 4,100 refugees in Ireland. A majority of these have been Syrian nationals, though the programme has also supported people from Afghanistan and a number of other countries in small numbers.

The IRPP and its partners carry out selection missions to third countries, after which transfer is arranged for those refugees selected for resettlement in Ireland. On arrival, participants in this programme spend an initial period in one of three Emergency Reception and Orientation Centres (EROCs). During this period, an orientation programme is provided and arrangements are made for access to essential public services and immediate integration supports, including English language education and health screening.

The Programme is now in its second phase, IRPP II, which began in December 2019. Under this phase, Ireland pledged to welcome up to 2,900 refugees through the UNHCR programme between 2020 and 2023. This involved a combination of resettlement and new community sponsorship initiatives. In respect of relocation, Ireland plans to participate in relocation schemes, such as the ongoing participation in the Voluntary Solidarity Mechanism, and similar future programmes in recognition of the importance of supporting solidarity with other EU Member States with regard to pressures in terms of refugees and international protection applicants.

The IRPP also supports Community Sponsorship Ireland as referenced in SO2. This is a collaboration between the IRPP, the UNHCR, specially established Regional Support Organisations, and members of the public who form groups to sponsor refugee families. The referral of refugees to Community Sponsorship Ireland is made under procedures already in place for the government-managed resettlement programme.

To participate in Community Sponsorship Ireland, like-minded members of the public come together to form a group of five or more, and then partner with a Regional Support Organisation (RSO) which provides training, advice and support. Sponsors are asked to commit to providing financial and non-financial supports to a resettled family for 18 months and to source suitable housing for two years. Sponsorship groups also play a key role in introducing resettled families to State services, local amenities, educational and language resources and social and professional networks in the new community in which they have settled. It is hoped to expand the capacity of this programme over the next five years.

Main Challenges

Under IRPP II, it was planned to effect 650 UNHCR resettlements in 2020, 700 in 2021, 750 in 2022 and 800 in 2023. This was to be made up of a majority of Syrian refugees resident in Jordan and Lebanon. There have been significant challenges in meeting these targets over the course of 2020, 2021 and 2022. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic meant that resettlements in 2020 and 2021 were fewer than planned. The IRPP then diverted effort to support the arrival of refugees from both Afghanistan (from August 2021) and Ukraine (from March 2022).

Prior to these disruptions, the main challenges to the operation of the IRPP concerned difficulties in sourcing permanent accommodation for the refugees. A general housing shortage, combined with pressures on local authorities' social housing stock, has made it difficult to source suitable permanent accommodation within the desired timeframes. This has created knock-on delays in the operation of the IRPP, as it has been necessary for people to remain in the Emergency Reception and Orientation Centres for longer than the three months envisaged when the programme began. Lack of space in the EROCs has, on occasion, delayed the transfers of selected programme participants from Lebanon.

While there is no systematic tracking of the longer-term integration outcomes of resettled refugees, there is some evidence to suggest challenges arising, for example with respect to labour market participation. DCEDIY is currently in the process of commissioning research to develop a methodology to ethically and efficiently gather information from International Protection claimants in Ireland. It is envisaged that this methodology will be used to conduct further studies, including research on long-term integration outcomes.

Proposed Responses

The IRPP expects to resume normal resettlement processes for the remainder of 2022 and into 2023. Preparations are currently underway for a mission to Beirut in late November 2022, where approximately 400 refugees will be proposed by the UNHCR for selection into the IRPP.

It is Ireland's intention to continue to use AMIF funding to support elements of the IRPP, including implementation of resettlement and humanitarian mission schemes, refugee selection missions, refugee arrivals, and integration supports during resettlement, all of which were also supported under Ireland's previous AMIF National Programme 2014-2020. Expansion of EROC capacity and further development of the Community Sponsorship Programme may also be supported. Funding beneficiary organisations will include the International Organization for Migration (IOM), local authorities in Ireland, and non-governmental organisations.

The identified challenges on housing and integration will be addressed through the expansion of local integration services, which is planned as part of the implementation of the new reception and integration policy adopted by the government in 2021, as detailed under SO2 above.

<u>Implementation Measure 4(a)</u>

Indicative Actions under this implementation measure

Resettlement Missions

Support for resettlement missions was an element of the previous AMIF Programme in Ireland, and it is proposed to continue this approach. Activities to be supported under this objective include:

- Selection missions to carry out interviews and conduct medical and security screening;
- Pre-departure health assessment and medical treatment, pre-departure material provisions, predeparture information and integration measures and travel arrangements, including the provision

of medical escort services;

- Information and assistance upon arrival or shortly thereafter, including interpretation services
- Implementation of resettlement and humanitarian mission schemes
- Training to staff carrying out selection missions

Implementation measure 4(b)

Indicative actions under this implementation measure

- Implementation of voluntary transfers from other Member States to Ireland of either applicants for international protection or beneficiaries of international protection.
- Relocation selection missions and pre-departure activities will also be funded under this implementation measure.

Indicative List of Beneficiaries

The IRPP itself will be the chief beneficiary using the direct award mechanism. Other beneficiaries will receive funding under contract or grant agreement with the IRPP. As a rule, beneficiaries will be selected using open, competitive processes. Where this is not considered appropriate, for example in the case of single statutory providers, grant agreements and suitable oversight arrangements will be in place to meet public financial accountability requirements. Likely beneficiaries include: the International Organization for Migration, local authorities, other public bodies (for example health and social care providers), NGOs, and private service providers (for example interpretation service providers).

Expected Results / Desired Outcomes

- Ireland meets its targets in respect of refugee resettlement over the programming period.
- Ireland expands its capacity to participate in voluntary solidarity mechanisms.
- Ireland also aims to achieve its targets in terms of relocation.

Operating Support

Operating support may be used to meet staff costs in IRPP charged with implementing solidarity programmes under this objective. This will enable staff resources to be dedicated to the implementation of the actions required to achieve the objectives of the Fund in Ireland. For example, staff costs relating to selection missions are likely to be eligible for Operating Support. The IRPP has statutory responsibility for resettlement and relocation as part of the solidarity objective. Operating support will be used in accordance with Annex VII of Regulation (EU) 2021/1147.

2.1. Specific objective 4. Solidarity

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 1: Output indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Milestone (2024)	Target (2029)
O.4.1	Number of staff trained	number	10	50
O.4.2	Number of participants who received pre-departure support	number	1,600	6,750

2.1. Specific objective 4. Solidarity

2.1.2. Indicators

Reference: point (e) of Article 22(4) CPR

Table 2: Result indicators

ID	Indicator	Measurement unit	Baseline	Measurement unit for baseline	Reference year(s)	Target (2029)	Measurement unit for target	Source of data	Comments
R.4.3	Number of applicants for and beneficiaries of international protection transferred from one Member State to another	number	0	number	2021	350	number	Process estimate	
R.4.4	Number of persons resettled	number	0	number	2021	623	number	Pledging process estimate	
R.4.5	Number of persons admitted through humanitarian admission	number	0	number	2021	610	number	Pledging process estimate	

2.1. Specific objective 4. Solidarity

2.1.3. Indicative breakdown of the programme resources (EU) by type of intervention

Reference: Article 22(5) CPR; and Article 16(12) AMIF Regulation, Article 13(12) ISF Regulation or Article 13(18) BMVI Regulation

Table 3: Indicative breakdown

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	001.Transfers to another Member State (relocation)	400,000.00
Intervention field	002.Support by a Member State to another Member State, including support provided to EASO	0.00
Intervention field	003.Resettlement (Article 19)	7,600,188.68
Intervention field	004.Humanitarian admission (Article 19)	5,380,000.00
Intervention field	005.Support, in terms of reception infrastructure, to another Member State	0.00
Intervention field	006.Operating support	250,000.00

2.2. Technical assistance: TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)

Reference: point (f) of Article 22(3), Article 36(5), Article 37, and Article 95 CPR

2.2.1. Description

Technical assistance will be used to cover part of the costs of the managing authority linked to day-to-day fund management. The assistance will be used to manage the Fund effectively and to comply with the regulatory requirements imposed on managing authorities. Part of the support will cover the costs of IT systems, but also information and communication measures to beneficiaries. In addition, technical assistance will also be used for the implementation and management of the programme, including monitoring, auditing, control and evaluation of implementation and capacity building.

2.2. Technical assistance TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)

2.2.2. Indicative breakdown of technical assistance pursuant to Article 37 CPR

Table 4: Indicative breakdown

Type of intervention	Code	Indicative amount (Euro)
Intervention field	001.Information and communication	300,000.00
Intervention field	002.Preparation, implementation, monitoring and control	2,117,177.45
Intervention field	003.Evaluation and studies, data collection	200,000.00
Intervention field	004.Capacity building	200,000.00

3. Financing plan

Reference: point (g) Article 22(3) CPR

3.1. Financial appropriations by year

Table 5: Financial appropriations per year

Allocation type	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Total
Initial allocation		5,054,300.00	7,120,894.00	7,129,668.00	7,163,103.00	6,555,322.00	5,372,848.00	38,396,135.00
Mid-term review								
Thematic facility WPI		6,710,000.00						6,710,000.00
Thematic facility WPII			4,664,000.00					4,664,000.00
Thematic facility WPIII								
Transfer (in)								
Transfer (out)								
Total		11,764,300.00	11,784,894.00	7,129,668.00	7,163,103.00	6,555,322.00	5,372,848.00	49,770,135.00

3.2. Total financial allocations

Table 6: Total financial allocations by fund and national contribution

Specific objective (SO)	Type of action	Basis for calculation Union support (total	Union contribution	National contribution	Indicative breakd contrib		Total (e)=(a)+(b)	Co-financing rate
		or public)	(a)	(b)=(c)+(d)	Public (c)	Private (d)		(f)=(a)/(e)
CEAS	Regular actions	Total	9,586,383.97	3,195,461.33	1,647,697.45	1,547,763.88	12,781,845.30	74.9999999609%
CEAS	Annex IV actions	Total						
CEAS	Operating support	Total	2,000,000.00	0.00		0.00	2,000,000.00	100.0000000000%
Total CEAS			11,586,383.97	3,195,461.33	1,647,697.45	1,547,763.88	14,781,845.30	78.3825275861%
Legal migration and integration	Regular actions	Total	8,136,384.90	2,712,128.30		2,712,128.30	10,848,513.20	75.0000000000%
Legal migration and integration	Annex IV actions	Total	2,000,000.00	222,222.23	222,222.23		2,222,222.23	89.999996850%
Legal migration and integration	Operating support	Total	1,000,000.00				1,000,000.00	100.0000000000%
Total Legal migration and integration			11,136,384.90	2,934,350.53	222,222.23	2,712,128.30	14,070,735.43	79.1457202461%
Return	Regular actions	Total	10,600,000.00	3,533,333.34	3,533,333.34		14,133,333.34	74.9999999646%
Return	Annex IV actions	Total						
Return	Operating support	Total	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	
Total Return			10,600,000.00	3,533,333.34	3,533,333.34		14,133,333.34	74.9999999646%
Solidarity	Regular actions	Total	2,270,188.68	756,729.56	756,729.56		3,026,918.24	75.0000000000%
Solidarity	Annex IV actions	Total						
Solidarity	Operating support	Total	250,000.00				250,000.00	100.0000000000%
Solidarity	Resettlement and humanitarian admission		11,110,000.00				11,110,000.00	100.0000000000%
Total Solidarity			13,630,188.68	756,729.56	756,729.56		14,386,918.24	94.7401552760%
Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)			2,817,177.45				2,817,177.45	100.0000000000%
Grand total			49,770,135.00	10,419,874.76	6,159,982.58	4,259,892.18	60,190,009.76	82.6883650600%

Table 6A: Pledging plan

	Number of persons per year						
Category	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Resettlement		223	400				
Humanitarian admission in line with Article 19(2) of AMIF Regulation							
Humanitarian admission of vulnerable persons in line with Article 19(3) of AMIF Regulation	404	156	50				

3.3. Transfers

Table 7: Transfers between shared management funds $^{\rm 1}$

Tuon of suring found	Receiving fund							
Transferring fund	ISF	BMVI	ERDF	ESF+	CF	EMFAF	Total	
AMIF								

¹Cumulative amounts for all transfers during programming period.

Table 8: Transfers to instruments under direct or indirect management¹

¹Cumulative amounts for all transfers during programming period.

4. Enabling conditions

Reference: point (i) of Article 22(3) CPR

Table 9: Horizontal enabling conditions

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
1. Effective monitoring mechanisms of the public procurement market	Yes	Monitoring mechanisms are in place that cover all public contracts and their procurement under the Funds in line with Union procurement legislation. That requirement includes: 1. Arrangements to ensure compilation of effective and reliable data on public procurement procedures above the Union thresholds in accordance with reporting obligations under Articles 83 and 84 of Directive 2014/24/EU and Articles 99 and 100 of Directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	National Public Procurement Policy Framework https://ogp.gov.ie/national-public-procurement-policy-framework/ National Public Procurement Guidelines on Goods and Services https://ogp.gov.ie/public-procurement-guidelines-for-goods-and-services/ https://www.etenders.gov.ie/	The Office of Government Procurement (OGP) has responsibility for developing and setting out the overarching policy framework for public procurement in Ireland. The National Public Procurement Guidelines outline the responsibilities of contracting authorities to comply with monitoring and reporting arrangements in line with EU procurement legislation. The arrangements in relation to these directive are at pp. 72-3. Reports are submitted by OGP as required.
				Capital Works Management Framework https://constructionprocurement.gov.ie/	eTenders provides a central facility for advertisement of procurement opportunities and award notices across the public sector which is reported on by OGP.
				DPER Circular 13/2015	The CWMF is an integrated set of contractual provisions, guidance material
				https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/2b0103e70fec4127983d2c1e60e0546d/	and technical procedures which covers all aspects of the delivery process of a public works project from inception to final project delivery and review.
				This will be updated for 21-27 period.	
					As is noted in DPER circular 13/2015 on management and control procedures for

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					ESIF, Managing Authorities, Intermediate Bodies and Beneficiaries are responsible for ensuring that projects and operations are in compliance with Procurement Guidelines and EU legislation.
		2. Arrangements to ensure the data cover at least the following elements: a. Quality and intensity of competition: names of winning bidder, number of initial bidders and contractual value; b. Information on final price after completion and on participation of SMEs as direct bidders, where national systems provide such information.	Yes	https://ogp.gov.ie/public-procurement-guidelines-for-goods-and-services/ https://www.etenders.gov.ie/Media/Default/SiteContent/LegislationGuides/Circular_1014_0.pdf	The National Public Procurement Guidelines set out these arrangements on page 72-73. Information on price at award is provided in the Contract Award Notice required for every contract above the value of €25,000. eTenders, the national procurement platform, records the details of all interested bidders. eTenders is a live platform. In addition, page 22-23 of the National Procurement Guidelines on Goods and Services set out the policy on SME participation in public procurement.
		3. Arrangements to ensure monitoring and analysis of the data by the competent national authorities in accordance with article 83 (2) of directive 2014/24/EU and article 99 (2) of directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	https://www.etenders.gov.ie/ Report of the Interim Procurement Reform Board	OGP analyses the data captured on eTenders and prepares Article 83 and Article 99 reports to the European Commission as required. This document that is regularly published and contains additional information.

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
		4. Arrangements to make the results of the analysis available to the public in accordance with article 83 (3) of directive 2014/24/EU and article 99 (3) directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	Public Service Spend and Tendering Analysis https://ogp.gov.ie/wp- content/uploads/OGP-2017-Public- Service-Spend-and-Tendering- Analysis.pdf Report of the Interim Procurement Reform Board	Reports are published on the OGP website once finalised. The OGP also publishes an annual Spend and Tendering Analysis report. This document that is regularly published contains additional information.
		5. Arrangements to ensure that all information pointing to suspected bidrigging situations is communicated to the competent national bodies in accordance with Article 83(2) of Directive 2014/24/EU and Article 99(2) of Directive 2014/25/EU.	Yes	https://ogp.gov.ie/public-procurement-guidelines-for-goods-and-services/ https://www.ccpc.ie/business/help-for-business/guidelines-for-business/bid-rigging-what-you-need-to-know/	Contracting Authorities must report suspected bid-rigging to the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (see p. 19 of guidelines) The Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) is an independent statutory body with a dual mandate to enforce competition
					and consumer protection law in Ireland. It regularly publishes information for consumers and businesses. For example, it recently published a "Business Guide on Bid Rigging".
					Ireland's Anti-Fraud Coordination Service (AFCOS) based in the EU and International Division of Dept of Finance are responsible for anti-fraud coordination for EU funds in Ireland.

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Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
3. Effective application and implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights	Yes	Effective mechanisms are in place to ensure compliance with the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union ('the Charter') which include: 1. Arrangements to ensure compliance of the programmes supported by the Funds and their implementation with the relevant provisions of the Charter.	Yes	Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2014/act /25/enacted/en/print IHREC Strategy Statement https://www.ihrec.ie/app/uploads/2022/02/ IHREC_StrategyStatement_FA-v2.pdf	The MAs will ensure compliance with the Charter in all Funds. IHREC will support the MAs with monitoring, assisting to ensure compliance with the Charter. The Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty (the Duty) requires public bodies to have regard to non-discrimination, equality, and human rights in carrying out their functions. Adherence to the Duty by all implementing bodies
				Implementing the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty https://www.ihrec.ie/app/uploads/2022/08/ IHREC_Public_Sector_Duty_Final_Eng_ WEB.pdf Guidance Tool on Equality and Human Rights in EU Funds	will help to ensure compliance with the Charter. Building on the Duty, a guidance tool has been developed with IHREC to assist Intermediate Bodies (IBs) and Beneficiaries in advancing equality and human rights. IHREC will be invited to sit on the PMCs
				https://eufunds.ie/regulations-guidance/	and will be consulted throughout the development of the PA and OPs and in implementation, monitoring and evaluation of OPs. Compliance will be ensured through application of the Duty and with the help of the Commission's 'Fundamental Rights Checklist' and IHREC guidance. Each IB

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					or scheme delivery partner will report annually on progress in relation to human rights and equality and on continued compliance with the Charter.
					Training on human rights and equality will be procured and provided to staff in the MAs, IBs and Beneficiaries as required.
		2. Reporting arrangements to the monitoring committee regarding cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the Charter and complaints regarding the Charter submitted in accordance with the arrangements made pursuant to Article 69(7).	Yes	N/A	Where a complaint regarding the Charter or potential case of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the Charter is brought to the attention of the MA, the MA will establish the facts of the case. If the case is established by the MA to be a potential breach of the Charter, the MA will request that IHREC provide an assessment. The MA will state clearly the reasons for its belief that a potential breach of the Charter has occurred. Upon formal receipt of such a request,
					IHREC will complete their assessment with reference to Ireland's obligations under the Charter.
					Where IHREC deem that the Charter has not been complied with they will inform the Monitoring Committee. IHREC will set out its findings in a report and propose recommendations, if any, drawing on the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty and the guidance tool developed by

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Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					IHREC and the MAs to support integration of equality and human rights standards under the Funds. The MA will respond and inform the Committee of any remedial actions taken and of the scope to draw lessons for the implementation of programmes. Reporting on any cases of non-compliance and complaints will take place at least annually.
4. Implementation and application of the United Nations Convention on the	Yes	A national framework to ensure implementation of the UNCRPD is in place that includes: 1. Objectives with measurable goals, data collection and monitoring mechanisms.	Yes	The National Disability Inclusion Strategy Mid-Term Review of National Disability Inclusion Strategy	The current mechanism to implement the UNCRPD commitments is the National Disability Inclusion Strategy (NDIS) and its Steering Group.
rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD) in accordance with Council Decision 2010/48/EC				Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities 2015-24	The NDIS has been extended until the end of 2022 with implementation of actions and monitoring by the NDIS Steering Group continuing. Progress is tracked against a set of 62 indicators identified by
				https://www.ihrec.ie/crpd/	the National Disability Authority (NDA).
				NDA – Monitoring of NDIS	There will be ongoing assessment of the implementation of actions identified in the
				https://nda.ie/	NDIS until the strategy concludes. The Mid-Term review of the NDIS commits to the development of a specific UNCRPD
				Launch of Disability Consultation Network	implementation plan, expected in 2022.
				www.gov.ie/en/consultation/a3ef2-launch- of-disability-participation-and- consultation-network/	The Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities (CESPD) is also of particular relevance in relation to Article 27 of the UNCRPD.
					IHREC is the independent monitoring

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Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					mechanism for UNCRPD in Ireland and will work with the NDA to carry out this task.
					A Disability Participation and Consultation Network has been established to ensure that persons with disabilities have input into the formation of policy and legislation in Ireland.
		2. Arrangements to ensure that	Yes	The National Disability Inclusion Strategy	The MAs will ensure that accessibility
		accessibility policy, legislation and standards are properly reflected in the preparation and implementation of the programmes.	ies	Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities 2015-24	policy, legislation and standards are properly reflected in the preparation and implementation of programmes. Where relevant, interventions will be aligned with and enable progress on the implementation
				Disability Act 2005	of the NDIS & CESPD.
				Employment Equality Act 1998-2015	The NDA and IHREC are members of the Partnership Process Steering Group which advises on preparation for 2021-27 and will be consulted throughout the development of the PA and OPs. They will
				Equal Status Act 2000-2018	be invited to sit on the Monitoring Committees.
				NDA Code of Practice on Accessibility of Public Services and Information provided by Public Bodies	The MAs will ensure that accessibility policy, legislation and standards will be reflected in all stages through consultation on key documents and active monitoring. Relevant policy, legislation and standards
				NDA Centre for Excellence in Universal	include the NDIS, CESPD, the Disability

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Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
				Design http://universaldesign.ie/ Implementing the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty	Act and the Equality Acts. The NDA and IHREC have developed detailed guidance for use by public bodies involved in preparation and implementation of programmes. Each IB or scheme delivery partner will report annually on disability issues.
				https://www.ihrec.ie/app/uploads/2022/08/IHREC_Public_Sector_Duty_Final_Eng_WEB.pdf	Training in relation to disability issues will be procured and provided to staff in the MAs, IBs and Beneficiaries as required.
		3. Reporting arrangements to the monitoring committee regarding cases of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with the UNCRPD and complaints regarding the UNCRPD submitted in accordance with the arrangements made pursuant to Article 69(7).	Yes	N/A	Where a complaint regarding UNCRPD or potential case of non-compliance of operations supported by the Funds with UNCRPD is brought to the attention of the MA, the MA will establish the facts of the case. If the case is established by the MA to be a potential breach of UNCRPD, the MA will request that IHREC provide their assessment. The MA will state clearly the reasons for its belief that a potential breach of UNCRPD has occurred.
					Upon formal receipt of this request, IHREC will complete their assessment with reference to Ireland's obligations under UNCRPD, the Employment Equality Acts and the Equal Status Acts. Where IHREC deem that UNCRPD has not been complied with, they will inform the Monitoring Committee. IHREC will set out its findings in a report and propose recommendations, if any, drawing on the Public Sector Duty and the guidance tool developed by IHREC and the MAs to

Enabling condition	Fulfilment of enabling condition	Criteria	Fulfilment of criteria	Reference to relevant documents	Justification
					support integration of equality and human rights under the Funds. The MA will respond and inform the Committee of any remedial actions taken and of the scope to draw lessons for the implementation of programmes. Reporting on any cases of non-compliance and complaints will take place at least annually.

5. Programme authorities

Reference: point (k) of Article 22(3) and Articles 71 and 84 CPR

Table 10: Programme authorities

Programme Authority	Name of the institution	Contact name	Position	Email
Managing authority	Funds Administration Unit, Department of Children, Equality, Disibility, Integration and Youth	Colm O'Loughlin	Head of Respoinsible Authority for AMIF	Colm.OLoughlin@equality.gov.ie
Audit authority	Internal Audit Unit, Department of Children, Equality, Disibility, Integration and Youth	Conor Kelly	Head of Internal Audit	Conor.Kelly@equality.gov.ie
Body which receives payments from the Commission	Funds Administration Unit, Department of Children, Equality, Disibility, Integration and Youth	Colm O'Loughlin	Head of Respoinsible Authority for AMIF	Colm.OLoughlin@equality.gov.ie

Reference: point (h) of Article 22(3) CPR

In developing this Programme, the Managing Authority AMIF has consulted with those central government authorities that will participate in its implementation, including DCEDIY, the Department of Justice (Intermediate Authority, Returns), the IRPP, the IPO, IPAS. The ESF+ Managing Authority in Ireland was also consulted. Each of these partners plays an important role for AMIF in Ireland:

- The Department of Justice is responsible for all actions related to Returns from the state.
- Resettlement in and relocation to Ireland are managed by the IRPP, which is a division of the DCEDIY. The Programme was established in 2015 to respond to the needs of refugees from the conflict in Syria. The IRPP utilises AMIF funding for its operations.
- The IPO is an office within the Immigration Service Delivery (ISD) section of the Department of Justice, responsible for processing applications for international protection under the International Protection Act 2015. It also considers, as part of a single procedure process, whether applicants should be given permission to remain.
- The provision of accommodation and associated supports is administered by IPAS, a division of the DCEDIY.

Each of these organisations or offices were provided with the programme structure, priorities, eligible expenditures, and programme fiche to assist them in their input. The MA worked intensively with these groups to ensure input was assessed and fed into the preparation of this programme.

Additionally, DCEDIY consulted with several non-governmental organisations considered to be representative of the sector (Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, UNHCR Ireland, Doras Luimní, and Jesuit Refugee Service Ireland) on an advanced draft of this programme in October 2022 and reviewed their observations and feedback. This feedback was broadly positive, particularly with regard to the focus on reception and integration measures set out in the 2021 White Paper to End Direct Provision and to Establish a New International Protection Support Service. Furthermore, all of the NGOs highlighted the importance of continued engagement regarding implementation, monitoring and evaluation over the lifetime of the programme.

To support the implementation of the Programme, a new Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) will be established, consisting of stakeholders as mandated by the CPR. The Committee will include NGO representatives, including those organisations referred to above. Representatives of the other relevant cohesion funds MAs (ESF+ and ERDF) will also be invited to participate. Meetings will be held twice a year, and the views of members will be sought, both at and between meetings, on the implementation of the programme, in particular with regard to calls for proposals for funding projects under AMIF. The PMC will be the key forum for the exchange of information relevant to the programme and to assist in guiding policy decisions relating to programme implementation, given that external factors will inevitably influence some decisions on implementation over time. The work of the PMC will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the CPR, most notably Articles 8, Articles 38-40 and Article 75 of that Regulation.

More broadly, the AMIF partnership will include regional, local, urban and other public institutions, economic and social partners, relevant bodies representing civil societies and research institutions and universities. Information will be made available to the partnership online and periodic stakeholder briefings on the Programme will be held to coincide with the launch of calls for proposals for NGO-led

projects. All relevant partners (including as a minimum the ones referred to in article 8(1) CPR and, for AMIF programmes, Article 4 of the AMIF Regulation) will be represented in the partnership in a balanced manner. Invitations to the partnership process will be issued to relevant bodies, including human rights organisations and equality bodies (for example, Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, Migrant Rights Centre, Irish Refugee Council, Ombudsman etc). Members of the Partnership will receive information periodically, and at a minimum twice yearly, to enable them to monitor the implementation of the AMIF in Ireland. Partnership members will be invited to make written submissions to the PMC for consideration by the PMC, either at formal committee meetings or by committee members with relevant expertise.

The Managing Authority will continue to meet regularly with the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS), as that Department is the Managing Authority for ESF+. DCEDIY manages the Integration and Employment of Migrants and Gender Equality activities under the ESF and ESF+ programmes. As Managing Authority for AMIF, DCEDIY will continue to ensure complementarities between projects funded under AMIF, and those funded under Integration projects using both ESF+ and exchequer funding. In particular, DCEDIY will liaise closely with DFHERIS in determining objectives for calls for proposals.

The Managing Authority is a member of the Partnership Process Steering Group, and the Partnership Agreement Working Group. These two groups work to ensure that complementarities, overlaps, and synergies are managed between the Managing Authorities of all EU funds in Ireland.

Partnership Process Steering Group (PPSG)

In accordance with CPR Article 8 Partnership and multi-level governance, Ireland has put in place suitable mechanisms that will ensure coordination between the funds and other EU and national instruments. At the National level, a Partnership Process Steering Group (PPSG) of the Funds was established to assist and advise the programme authorities throughout the development process for the Partnership Agreement, including identifying synergies and common themes across programmes.

The PPSG includes representatives from economic and social partners; relevant bodies representing civil society; environmental partners; non-governmental organisations; bodies promoting social inclusion, fundamental rights, rights of persons with disabilities, gender equality and non-discrimination; and accountable departments. The group meets two or three times a year. Implementation of the 2021-2027 AMIF programme will form part of discussions of the PPSG meetings.

Partnership Process Steering Group

- DPER
- DES
- DAFM
- Northern & Western Regional Assembly
- Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly
- Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly
- SEUPB
- Equality Organisations (IHREC)
- National Disability Authority
- Environmental Organisations (IEN)

- Voluntary & Charity Sector (The Wheel)
- Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU)
- Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC)
- Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government
- Department of Business, Enterprise, and Innovation
- Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
- Department of Justice
- Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth
- Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection

Partnership Agreement Working Group (PAWG)

The PAWG reports into the PPSG as appropriate. Membership is comprised of the relevant programme authorities of the CPR Funds. The role of the PAWG is to assist in drafting and coordination of timelines of the various funds for the purposes of the Partnership Agreement. The group has been instrumental in the common approach taken for the Horizontal Principles, along with identifying and exploring possible synergies and complementarities across the funds along with other EU instruments. It meets two or three times a year.

Membership of the PAWG:

Member State (DPER)

ERDF MA (SRA & NWRA)

ESF+ (DFHERIS)

EMFAF (DAFM)

JTF (DECC & EMRA)

AMIF (DCEIDY)

ISF (DOJ)

7. Communication and visibility

Reference: point (j) of Article 22(3) CPR

The aim of Ireland's communication strategy for the AMIF 2021-2027 is to provide the defined target audience, including partners, project beneficiaries and the general public, with appropriate information about the Programme, thus ensuring transparency and visibility of the projects and their impact. Particular attention will be given to projects of strategic importance.

The Managing Authority will aim to raise awareness of the achievements of Union funding and inform the general public accordingly. Transparency, communication and visibility activities are essential in making Union action visible on the ground and will be based on true, accurate and updated information.

Information about the Programme (including the Programme document itself) will be published on the website of the Managing Authority, which is the DCEDIY website. Calls for proposals for funded projects will also be published on this website, including selection criteria and guidance for applicants. The outcomes of project selection processes will be published.

Periodic stakeholder briefings (NGO and public authorities) will be held, including a briefing to coincide with the launch of the first call for proposals for NGO-led integration projects.

Annual performance reports on the Programme will be published.

The Managing Authority website will also host information about the monitoring committee, including its membership, schedule of meetings and minutes.

In terms of communication with beneficiaries, each funded project will be assigned a project co-ordinator within the Managing Authority, who will act as the project's first point of contact for all queries and reporting matters.

Requirements for projects with respect to visibility of the support from the fund (EU emblem, statements of support) will be clearly stipulated in project grant agreements.

The Managing Authority will avail of opportunities to publicise the achievements under the Programme, for example through press releases and social media campaigns surrounding calls for proposals, project selection and annual reports. Opportunities for Government representatives to visit funded projects will also be explored where appropriate, and publicity arranged in this context. Major milestones in reception and integration projects funded under the Programme will be highlighted through public information campaigns.

Communication will be a standing item on the agenda of the monitoring committee.

The communication strategy will be implemented taking into account the resources available to the Managing Authority and in line with the legal requirements of the CPR and the AMIF Regulation. Cooperation with the national coordinator for all funds under the CPR is essential. Regular exchanges with existing communication networks at EU and national level will also be undertaken. The Managing Authority will appoint a communication officer in accordance with Art. 48(2) CPR.

Channels of communication

Taking into account the resources available in the Managing Authority, the main communication channels will be:

- Information sessions on the programme and its implementation
- Media work (e.g. press releases/press conferences)
- Single website portal in accordance with Art. 46 CPR
- Printed material (e.g. information brochures)

Further measures will be scaled up according to needs and available resources.

Planned budget

As part of the technical assistance, Ireland has allocated approximately EUR €300,000 to communication and visibility.

Monitoring and evaluation indicators

An up-to-date web page on the DCEDIY website can be viewed by the public, and the department will publicise the use of the Fund in all relevant information campaigns/public announcements. An annual stakeholder event will be held to inform stakeholders on the implementation of the Fund.

Monitoring and evaluation indicators

Action:

- 1. Information sessions for beneficiaries and potential beneficiaries
- 2. Media work
- 3. Homepage
- 4. Print media

Output indicator:

- 1. Events
- 2. Press conferences, contacts with journalists
- 3. Revision
- 4. Printed products, distributed products

Result indicator:

- 1. Participants, feedback
- 2. Reader/visitor, media analysis
- 3. Visitors, residence times, downloads, feedback
- 4. Reader

Tool:

- 1. Visitor statistics, questionnaire
- 2. Media monitoring, press reviews
- 3. Google analytics, online interviews
- 4. Statistics

8. Use of unit costs, lump sums, flat rates and financing not linked to costs

Reference: Articles 94 and 95 CPR

Intended use of Articles 94 and 95 CPR	Yes	No
From the adoption, the programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates under the priority according to Article 94 CPR		
From the adoption, the programme will make use of reimbursement of the Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs according to Article 95 CPR		\boxtimes

Appendix 1: Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates

A. Summary of the main elements

	Estimated proportion of the total financial allocation	Type(s)) of operation covered	Indicator tri	ggering reimbursement (2)	Unit of measurement for the	Type of SCO	Amount (in EUR) or
Specific objective	within the specific objective to which the SCO will be applied in %	Code(1)	Description	Code(2)	Description	indicator triggering reimbursement	(standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates)	percentage (in case of flat rates) of the SCO

⁽¹⁾ This refers to the code in Annex VI of the AMIF, BMVI and ISF Regulations

⁽²⁾ This refers to the code of a common indicator, if applicable

Appendix 1: Union contribution based on unit costs, lump sums and flat rates

B. Details by type of operation

C. Calculation of the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates
1. Source of data used to calculate the standard scale of unit costs, lump sums or flat rates (who produced, collected and recorded the data, where the data is stored, cut-off dates, validation, etc.)

2. Please specify why the proposed method ar	nd calculation based on Article 94(2) CPR is relevant to the
type of operation.	

3. Please specify how the calculations were made, in particular including any assumptions made in terms of quality or quantities. Where relevant, statistical evidence and benchmarks should be used and, if requested, provided in a format that is usable by the Commission.

4. Please explain how you have ensured that only eligible expenditure was included in the calculation of								
the standard scale of unit cost, lump sum or flat rate.								
· •								

5. Assessment of the audit authority(ies) of the calculation methodology and amounts and the
arrangements to ensure the verification, quality, collection and storage of data.

Appendix 2: Union contribution based on financing not linked to costs

A. Summary of the main elements

	The amount covered by the financing not linked to costs	Type(s) of operation covered		Conditions to be fulfilled/results to	Indicators		Unit of measurement for the conditions to be	
Specific objective			Description	- Conditions to be fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbusresment by the Commission	Code(2)	Description	fulfilled/results to be achieved triggering reimbursement by the Commission	Envisaged type of reimbursement method used to reimburse the beneficiary(ies)

⁽¹⁾ Refers to the code in Annex VI of the AMIF, BMVI and ISF Regulations.

⁽²⁾ Refers to the code of a common indicator, if applicable.

B. Details by type of operation

Appendix 3
Thematic facility (Article 11 AMIF Reg., Article 8 BMVI Reg., Article 8 ISF Reg.)

Procedure reference	Programme version	Status	Status Accept/Decline date		Comments				
C(2021)8458 - 25 Nov 2021 - 2	1.1 Accepted 8 May 2023 The relevant output and result indicators in Tables 1 and 2 under SO4 do not need to be updated as Irelat total programme pledge amounts in these tables for the period 2021-2027 already.								
Specific objective		Modality		Type of intervent		Union contribution	Pre-financing rate	Description of the action	
4. Solidarity		Resettlement and humanitarian admission				11,110,000.00		AMIF TF - Resettlement & Humanitarian Admission (Art. 19 AMIF Regulation)	
TA.36(5). Technical assistance - flat rate (Art. 36(5) CPR)						264,000.00		TA	

DOCUMENTS

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent by
AMIF Methodology Revised	Supplementary Information	22 Jun 2023		Ares(2023)4373503	AMIF Methodology Revised Letter requesting amendment	23 Jun 2023	Maluki, Benta
Programme snapshot 2021IE65AMPR001 2.1	Snapshot of data before send	23 Jun 2023		Ares(2023)4373503	Programme_snapshot_2021IE65AMPR001_2.1_en.pdf	23 Jun 2023	Maluki, Benta