

NATIONAL PROGRAMME AMIF

IDENTIFICATION OF THE DESIGNATED AUTHORITIES

Competent authorities responsible for the management and control systems

Authority	Name of the authority	Name of the person responsible for the authority	Address	E-mail address	Date of designation	Activities delegated
Responsible authority	Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic	Vendelin Leitner, State Secretary	Pribinova 2, 812 72 Bratislava	vendelin.leitner@minv.sk		
Audit authority	Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic	Vladimir Urmanic, Director General of the Section of Audit and Control	Stefanovicova 5, 817 82 Bratislava	vladimir.urmanic@mfsr.sk		

Management and control system

The management and control system is based on the good practices and structure of the management and control system of the SOLID funds. The AMIF and ISF are managed by the competent authorities: Responsible Authority (RA) – Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic; and Audit Authority (AA) – Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic. The separation of functions within the RA is ensured, as the Payment Unit is responsible for the financial part of the fund management and the Foreign Aid Department is responsible for the calls for proposals, concluding of grant agreements/administrative decisions, monitoring and evaluation, communication with the European Commission etc. RA strengthened the public procurement checks via specialized unit of the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic that is not directly engaged in the process of public procurement.

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Regarding the national programme, European Union (EU) strategic documents have been taken into account, especially the **European Pact on Immigration and Asylum, Stockholm Programme, Global Approach to Migration and Mobility, Common Basic Principles for Immigrant Integration Policy in the EU and Europe 2020 Strategy**.

The strategic framework for the AMIF priorities is the Migration policy of the Slovak Republic with a perspective until the year 2020 (Migration Policy) adopted on 31 August 2011.

In the field of **asylum** the aim of Slovak Republic (SR) is to assure effective asylum system based on sufficient quality of life of individuals. This goal is to be reached by measures undertaken on the level of administrative improvements via capacity building and upgrade of the information system. Secondly, the improvement will be expected on the level of target group through different sets of services such as social and psychological assistance or interpretation targeting individual needs of third country nationals (TCNs). Beyond the framework of protection of individuals, the SR gives a priority to the transfers of persons waiting for resettlement, as part of the burden-sharing approach. The humanitarian transfers are based on the trilateral treaty between the government of the SR, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM). EU funding will be complement national budget in order to contribute to the fulfilment of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS) requirements. Building of the CEAS, focused in particular on adoption of common legislative acts, will be completed by the end of 2015.

The SR deems TCNs communities to be an integral part of the society and appreciates their contribution in the economic, cultural and social field. In January 2014, the Government of SR adopted the Integration Policy that establishes the overall framework for **integration** mainstreaming. The emphasis is put on justice, equality, an effort to compensate for disadvantages, the prevention of discrimination, respect for human rights and freedoms, protection of the vulnerable groups and adherence to the legal regulations and international commitments. The goal for the upcoming seven years is to enhance prevention of the economically, socially and culturally divided society and creation of closed TCNs communities. National Programme specifically focuses on measures supporting a “bottom up” approach to the creation of policies. The emphasis is therefore laid on the local and regional level in order to create social cohesion between different communities and the majority society. Furthermore, the integrated approach to integration will be ensured via enhancing the cooperation between relevant actors. The aim of the National Programme is to support actions that will bring the most added value to the life of individuals who had chosen the SR as a target country.

Activities aimed at integration of legal TCNs SR will be supported in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (MoLSAF), while activities targeting beneficiaries of international protection will be coordinated with the Migration Office (MO).

The SR supports **return policy** that emphasizes human rights and dignity. SR put emphasis on proper and fully dignified return of returnees in process of voluntary or forced return. National Programme will ensure continuity of the successful European return fund (RF) measures. Assisted voluntary return (AVR) is a preferred possibility to forced return if any given case and proceedings allow it. The AVR is based on Agreement on Cooperation between IOM and the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. The EU funding will provide in particular for wide range of accompanying measures as well as reintegration. Only in necessary cases irregular TCNs are to be detained in order to provide for the forced return. The readmission and bilateral treaties with transit countries or with countries of origin proved to be an important regulation tool. Based on the national strategy, the SR needs to adopt measures that will contribute to decrease the

number of irregular TCNs via sustainable AVR as well as effective forced returns. The National Programme recognizes the need of capacity building and the facilitation of return operations as well as the need to provide for services to the third country nationals (TCNs) in detention. In addition to services and capacity building, the National Programme comprises the measures aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the EU system on return of irregular migrants.

The distribution of allocation between the specific objectives is almost 34.38% to asylum, 36.59% to integration and 29.03% to return.

2. BASELINE SITUATION IN THE MEMBER STATE

Summary of the current state of play as of December 2013 in the Member State for the fields relevant to the Fund

The main goal in the area of **asylum** is to improve asylum system based on sufficient quality of life of individuals via a wide range of services. SR plans to undertake more specific measures in order to ensure quality of procedures by upgrading information systems (IS) such as Migra.

The asylum process is taking place in the facilities of MO with assistance of the civil society and municipalities. TCNs can apply for asylum in the units of the Bureau of Border and Alien Police (BBAP). At first, asylum seekers have restricted movement for not more than 30 days in the Reception Centre (RC) in Humenne with a total capacity of 550 beds, due to the use of 'quarantaine' that is necessary to avoid the risk of spreading diseases. Later, the asylum seekers are moved to one of the open Accommodation Centres (AC) in Opatovska Nova Ves or in Rohovce with a total capacity of 140 beds each. AC in Opatovska Nova Ves is primarily used by vulnerable groups and the special assistance is provided by 4 social workers, a psychologist and a legal adviser. Identification of vulnerable persons can be performed at any point of the asylum process, especially during first contact of the asylum seeker with BBAP, during medical examination, social work, psychological counselling, asylum interview etc. The very specific tailored made assistance is provided to vulnerable persons on case by case basis such as psychiatric help etc. The duration of the first instance of the asylum procedure is no more than 90 days in line with national legislation. Overall, there are 49 persons involved in asylum procedure and 21 reception workers deployed by state. Additionally, there are 20 workers of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) financed by ERF in the three centres. The MO established good cooperation with NGOs and municipalities, which are providing complementary services such as social and psychological assistance or legal counselling. National budget resources provide for basic services (app. 1.2 mil. € in 2013).

There is a need to ensure the asylum standards. This challenge is to be addressed within new programming period. Asylum system needs to be focused on qualified migration officers and social workers working with reliable data stored in IS. Therefore capacity building will be introduced. NGOs and MO with the support of EU funding will provide for additional assistance complementary to the national budget. IS Migra was developed with the help of ERF and it collects partial information on the status of TCNs. There is a need for its upgrade in order to meet the reporting requirements of the EUROSTAT.

So far, reception capacities are sufficient given the decreasing trend in the number of asylum seekers. In case of high migratory pressure, the Slovak Technical University is ready to provide for sufficient reception capacities based on an agreement between the MO and the University. Based on the 2003-2004 experience staff of MO is ready to deal with up to 10 000 asylum applications.

The number of asylum seekers oscillated around 501 within last 3 years. In 2012 the number of applicants rose up to 732, since then number of application is decreasing. Within 2012- 2014 SR granted asylum to 61 persons while number of granted subsidiary protection is much higher having 237 persons with the protection. Based on the data provided, international protection is in average granted to app. 20% of asylum seekers.

The national law establishes an option of detention of the asylum seekers since January 2014. The asylum seekers in detention will be provided with approximately the same set of services as irregular TCNs in the same Detention Centre or asylum seekers in AC. The division of the measures of the two specific objectives will be ensured.

SR participated in the projects EUREMA I and EUREMA II which dealt with refugees in Malta and offered relocation of 10 persons. So far, no relocation took place due to lack of interest of the target group. However, SR supports burden sharing and solidarity via humanitarian transfers of people awaiting final resettlement in the Emergency Transit Centre in Humenne. Until the end of 2013 there were 514 persons who arrived to the Centre, out of which 489 were successfully resettled to the USA, Canada and Norway.

SR is performing internal and external monitoring of asylum process. Internal monitoring is carried out by an independent MO officer every three months. The results are discussed internally and respective improvements are introduced. Moreover, external audits can be carried only by responsible and reliable persons due to the legal protection of personal data. Therefore external monitoring is done by the UNHCR.

Concerning **legal migration**, the number of issued residence permissions is quite stable. Since 2011 the trend of the low ratio of the number of TCNs compared to the total number of the foreigners, as well as to the total number of the population continues. In 2011 SR positively reacted to 5276 applications. In 2012 statistics were twice as high, having 10 557 residence permissions issued. In 2013, 10 252 permissions were issued. SR does not expect this number to rise in the upcoming years mostly due to the economic situation and high unemployment rate. There are currently 25 945 TCNs legally residing in SR out of which approximately 17 000 persons have a permanent residency permit, that is almost equally divided based on gender. The largest communities of TCNs are Ukrainian, Serbian, Russian, Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean and U.S. citizens. Distribution of legal TCNs across the labour field is almost uniform with respect to high and low qualified workers. SR as well as many other MS faces a so called 'brain waste' when highly qualified TCNs do not have a corresponding job. National Programme is thus focused on diminishing the variances of labour market by means of removal of language, cultural and understanding barriers. Specific attention is also paid to vulnerable groups and the role of regional and local authorities. Integration Policy defines measures on different levels of public administration including national, regional and local authorities, as well as their cooperation with stakeholders.

Measures aimed at integration of TCNs under EIF are implemented mostly at national level. In 2014 a pilot project was implemented moving integration on regional and local level with considerable outcome requiring further support. There is also the need to emphasize activities enhancing self-representation, as well as cultural and social integration, which provides opportunities to gain basic language skills, knowledge of history, institutions, social- economic aspects, cultural life and basic standards and values of host country. These measures are particularly focused on the provision of easier access to labour market. Within 2008-2013 app. 1400 TCNs were involved in Slovak language trainings, while app. 557 hours was devoted to the unaccompanied minors. Socio-cultural trainings were provided to app. 500 TCNs. EIF also granted assistance in development of the Integration Policy defining measures of different levels of public administration and engagement of variety of stakeholders. Among research based activities description and evaluation of labour market and business conditions for TCNs and design of measures to improve economic integration of TCNs brought significant outcome. Another research worth noting was aimed at causes, forms and consequences of violence against TCNs in SR. ERF is providing for the integration of refugees via projects aimed at social, sociological and legal help, language courses and material help.

Attention is especially paid to vulnerable groups of unaccompanied minors, who, in spite of their low numbers, require a targeted approach. Until 2013 specific assistance was provided to approximately 167 children in foster homes for unaccompanied minors in Medzilaborce with the support of EIF.

Within 2012-2014 298 persons were granted international protection. Due to the specific life situation of refugees, they are provided with additional assistance. The national budget provides for assistance up to 6 months in the Integration centre in Zvolen, however because this region lacks the job opportunities there is a need to provide for assistance all over the territory. So far the integration is ensured with help of ERF and

the national budget, mostly to facilitate social integration. The SR is shifting the focus on vocational counselling as part of the self-empowerment process.

Integration policy recognizes the need to move integration activities to the regional/local level. AMIF will help to raise awareness on that level in order to bring the integration activities closer to legal TCNs and refugees. National Programme provides for activities such as administrative guidance, cultural trainings etc. In order to ensure sustainability and continuity, the AMIF will support activities that earned a positive feedback from TCNs, such as centralized assistance provided in migration centres or awareness raising campaigns. The evaluation of the integration policies is highly important and needs to be ensured by civil society carrying out research based activities and identification of emerging gaps in this field. The aim is to establish an environment where TCNs can integrate into a welcoming Slovak society.

In the field of **return**, SR comprehends preventive role of the sustainable return policy and therefore favours voluntary returns over forced. TCNs can chose to make use of voluntary return whether they are irregular TCNs, asylum seekers or beneficiaries of international protection, whether they are in detention, reception facility or residing elsewhere in territory of SR. The number of irregular TCNs oscillated around 1000 within last 3 years. In 2012 the number of identified irregular TCNs slightly rose up to 1479, but in 2013 it decreased again. Most of TCNs came from Ukraine, Somalia, Moldova and Afghanistan.

Concerning forced returns of TCNs into country of origin, the numbers are slightly fluctuating: in 2011, 394 TCNs were returned, in 2012 only 297 and in 2013, 339 returns were conducted.

Within the last 3 years, SR issued decisions on expulsion most often for the citizens of Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Somalia and Vietnam. Readmission via external land border was a preferred option over flight forced returns.

Oscillation of the statistics is highly dependent on current global situation. The number of forced returns also depends on the number of TCNs crossing the external border irregularly. Most of the identified irregular TCNs applied for asylum in return process or were returned to other MS under the Dublin Regulation.

The decreasing trend is noticed in voluntary returns as well, in spite of the information measures supported by RF. In 2011, 95 voluntary returns were conducted while in 2012 it was only 54 and in 2013 the number decreased to 50 . Development of the AVR reflects the intensity of the migration flows to or through the SR as well as the structure of the target group nationalities. Voluntary returns are most frequently conducted to Vietnam, Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia. Since 2007, voluntary returns are supported by RF as part of AVR and reintegration programme. So far, reintegration proved to be a successful tool to prevent irregular migration as well as a tool gaining growing attention of TCNs.

The offices of BBAP as the first-contact points for irregular TCNs offer a special room for TCNs, where they are provided with food, medical or legal assistance, if needed. The facility is used solely by irregular TCNs. If the return (voluntary or forced) cannot be conducted directly from the office of BBAP, irregular TCNs are moved to one of the 2 detention centres (DC) in Medvedov or in Secovce. DC in Secovce is suitable also for families with a total capacity of 176 beds. DC in Medvedov with total capacity of 152 beds was to some extent renovated with the help of RF. The additional assistance to TCNs in DC who are to be removed or returned voluntary such as social, psychological or legal assistance as well as the education of children is provided by RF. Complementary assistance is being ensured also during the actual removal operation through provision of translation and interpretation or facilitation of transport in order to ease the side effect of the removal operation. National budget resources provide for basic services (app. 17.5 mil. € in 2013).

SR would like to follow the successful patterns set up by RF and implement activities that support the preventive nature of the return policy. SR believes that implementation of the measures will result into a proper and fully dignified return in line with requirements of the Return Directive. There is a need to ensure specific needs of irregular TCNs, especially vulnerable groups in detention. The national priority is to ensure proper and fully dignified return of returnees whether they chose to make use of voluntary return or are to be removed forcefully. Therefore AMIF will focus on services provided by civil society and measures aimed at capacity building of staff involved in return process as well as facilitation of the uneventful return.

Transposition of the Return Directive was completed by the adoption of the amendments to the Act on Alien Residence, including alternatives to detention. The national law recognizes 2 forms of alternatives: cash deposits; and obligation to periodically report the address of residence. So far, alternatives to detention were applied 3 times.

Monitoring of return policy is performed regularly in compliance with national and EU legal requirements, mainly by the General Prosecutor who is authorized to monitor the compliance of the administrative decisions on expulsion and the decisions on detention with the national legislation. Compliance with human rights is being monitored by the Ombudsman and the UNHCR in cooperation with civil society.

3. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

Specific objective	1 - Asylum
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In order to ensure sustainability of the goals reached so far in the area of asylum, the national objective is to **secure sufficient quality of the life of individuals during the asylum process according to international standards**. The national approach is based on good cooperation between the state and civil society.

During the programming period SR will focus on two sets of issues:

1. issues supported by AMIF funding: (a) The quality asylum system – capacity building in the field of international requirements and provision of specific services to the target group; (b) Fair and efficient asylum procedure based on relevant and reliable data;

2. issues supported by other sources: (a) Improvement of the national administrative capacity in accordance with national requirements; (b) Sufficient data collection capacity in the field of migration; (c) Adoption of the resettlement programme.

The SR is fully aware of the importance of burden sharing in the area of asylum. Although the SR has not adopted any resettlement programme yet, the highest priority is placed on humanitarian transfers. The national budget will support the area of sharing best practices in case that the SR will be prepared for resettlement.

The aim of the implemented measures is to ease the severe side-effect the asylum process might cause to the individual. The first step is to improve the services to the target group. Specific attention will be paid to the identification of and assistance to vulnerable groups. The next step is to improve personnel's knowledge in line with the new EU requirements. Furthermore, an inevitable part of the asylum procedure is the functioning and user - friendly database of IS MIGRA. The upgrade of the IS Migra will be provided with a focus on the ability to generate reliable statistical data. With regard to the IS Eurodac requirements, a comprehensive upgrade is needed. The upgrade needs to be seen as part of a general initiative on the national level when EU funding and national budget are combined.

Concerning the detention of asylum seekers, services that satisfy their needs will be provided as well. As the alternatives of detention apply in every case the TCN is detained, capacity building of the BBAP will be supported under the specific objective return.

The SR welcomes building of the CEAS that is supported mainly by the AMIF and national budget. ESIF as a complementary source will provide for capacity building of the public authorities.

It is estimated that the national allocation for asylum and integration of asylum seekers will

exponentially annually grow by 10% related to 2013.

National objective

1 - Reception/asylum

The AMIF will provide for the quality asylum system. The funding is particularly aimed at capacity building on the level of national administration and provision of the specific services on the level of target group. The main challenge identified on national level is to provide for sufficient and high quality services while taking into account individual needs of asylum seekers with special attention paid to vulnerable groups. Desired outcome of this combined approach on the 2 levels is that quality asylum system will meet high international standards in line with the CEAS.

The issue will be addressed by priorities:

- **Priority 1:** *Services provided in asylum process with special attention paid to needs of vulnerable group* – a different set of assistance will be provided to asylum seekers in RC, AC and DC with the help of NGOs/municipalities. Individual needs of TCNs will be taken into account. National programme foresees actions such as interpretation, social and legal assistance etc. Needs of vulnerable groups will be ensured on case by case basis, mainly via activities such as psychological assistance. Accessibility of services and assistance to identified vulnerable groups is the desired outcome. It is estimated that the assistance will be delivered to 2 400 asylum seekers.
- **Priority 2:** *Capacity building in field of EU acquis* — support will be provided in order to facilitate the **socio-psychological trainings** emphasizing identification of vulnerable groups for social workers, psychologists, managers of ACs, decision makers and other staff working in the reception area, and to enable **access to more trainings** on EASO’s Curriculum for staff directly involved in asylum and reception process. Translation of the selected training modules into Slovak language as well as “training of trainers” will facilitate training programme on the national level. The EASOs standards, EU acquis, and international refugee law as well as on national standards are to be reflected. The outcome is to train 100% of MO staff involved in asylum process.

The other funding sources will be engaged in the improvement of national administrative capacity in accordance with national requirements – capacity building will be addressed as a part of national training programme under complementary financial resources (ESIF funding and national budget).

Country of origin information (COI) activities will not be supported by AMIF as SR has well established system on COI. On national level “COI analyses” as well as “media monitoring” necessary for asylum procedure are produced on daily bases by specialised department of MO. On international level the most important cooperation is with EASO. SR is also participating in number of different international projects.

The AMIF funding will provide for a fair and efficient asylum procedure that is based on relevant and reliable data. IS MIGRA was developed with help of ERF and since then it was not consistently upgraded. The technological progress and EU reporting requirements need to be reflected in the system. It contributes to sustainable and effective asylum procedure by providing sufficient reporting data.

The issue will be addressed by the priority:

- **Priority 3:** *improvement of the capacity to collect data and statistics* – the scope of the data collected and managed should take into account and facilitate EU level data collection needs – both EUROSTAT and Early warning and Preparedness System data collection launched by EASO. Desired outcome is to collect 100 % of required information.

Complementary financial sources will be used in order to maintain the sufficient data collection capacity in the field of migration – taking into account international reporting requirements, all ISs in the field of migrations need to be upgraded in order to deliver comparable data and provide sufficient information for the IS MIGRA. The upgrade of these ISs such as EURODAC will be supported by the national budget. The IS MIGRA will be at first upgraded with the help of AMIF and then it will be interconnected with other ISs with the national budget support.

Following the discussion and assessment of needs on national level, the NO2 – Evaluation will not be implemented under AMIF. Implementation of measures to ensure this priority was planned together with other complementary activities in this area from national budget.

The SR has not adopted a Resettlement programme. In case that national policy will change, resettlement activities will be provided with the help of the national budget, such as capacity building, sharing of best practice etc. The SR actively supports humanitarian transfers of persons that will be permanently resettled to other countries as part of the burden sharing approach.

The SR intends to develop the activities related to the Emergency Transit Centre in Humenne (ETC). The ETC is part of the MI SR facility designed to provide temporary shelter for refugees to be urgently evacuated from the country of their current stay and who will be resettled to a country of final destination in cooperation with the UNHCR and IOM. The ETC enables to transfer refugees to a safe environment where they can undertake all necessary preparatory steps for their resettlement. The EU and non-EU resettlement countries conduct interviews with refugees, and conclude the final arrangements for the refugees' resettlement. Additionally, the ETC enables to carry out health examinations and medical treatment needed for the purpose of resettlement. During their stay in the Centre the refugees take cultural orientation and language classes, designed by the country of resettlement, which will help them with their future integration.

Until 2014 the SR has provided a temporary shelter to 772 refugees (out of which 300 were children - Palestinian refugees from Iraq; Afghan refugees from Iran; refugees from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, and Somalia who were in Yemen). The capacity of the facility is up to 150 persons.

Based on the ETC success reached so far, the SR plans to maintain this humanitarian tool as a part of wider resettlement programmes of the EU and UNHCR as part of solidarity and burden sharing approach.

The development and continuation of ETC require substantial personnel, material and financial resources. As the ETC serves mainly to the vulnerable refugees (e.g. single mothers, disabled or elderly people, etc.) services have to be carefully adjusted to the individual needs of refugees. Complementary financial resources of AMIF will ensure development and provision of the specialized services in order to meet high EU standards. Moreover, the aim is to assure that ETC can be regularly used by other member states as well. In this regard promotion of the ETC at the national and EU level is a key element. Main activities:

1. Provisions of additional needs, especially specific assistance to vulnerable persons such as development of basic literacy of adults, especially women, enhancing intercultural tolerance and dialogue with local community for children, psychological assistance etc.
2. Maintenance and reconstruction of the ETC and necessary infrastructure - building of facilities for the disabled, replacement of used and broken equipment, refurbishment etc.
3. Development and strengthening of the humanitarian transfer operations via dissemination of information and development of public relation.

The ETC shall be developed for the sole purpose of supporting resettlement operations (transit) in cooperation with UNHCR and in full accordance to international law.

With regards to the Integration Policy, the national objective is to **prevent the risk of an economically, socially, and culturally divided society and the creation of closed TCNs communities**. In order to achieve the national objective, complementary sources are involved.

Integration of TCNs plays an important role in the development of the SR as a country that supports and respects diversity. The Integration Policy is based on justice, equality, effort to compensate for disadvantages, prevention of discrimination, while an emphasis is given on the local/regional level and the civil society.

During the programming period SR will focus on two sets of issues:

1. issues supported by AMIF funding: (a) Legally residing TCNs are to become a part of economic, political, cultural and social life; (b) Creating conditions for the implementation of the integration policy on the national, regional and local level;

2. issues supported by other sources: (a) Inter-institutional cooperation in favour of monitoring of Integration Policy; (b) Empowerment of legally residing TCNs in the labour market.

Integration on the local/regional level brings targeted assistance to TCNs and promotes integration within the society. As this is a long-term process, the first step will be to introduce integration to the national/local/regional authorities via capacity building, rising of awareness and cooperation. In the second phase authorities will be expected to implement actions directly. The second priority is to maintain the level of services provided to the target group in order to facilitate the integration into socio-cultural life and to prepare the TCNs for the labour market conditions via language trainings, administrative assistance etc. Research based activities will be additional and complementary to the main priorities. Their aim will be to identify gaps on the national and regional level that should be fulfilled, in order to achieve effective integration of TCNs and to reach the goals of the Integration Policy. As the needs of vulnerable persons are cross cutting, it will be addressed within every proposed priority.

The ESF is one of the sources to finance integration of TCN into the labour market. In order to prevent the overlap, the AMIF will support complementary measures.

The SR also respects the need to recognise achieved education and qualifications and to prevent the phenomenon of so called “brain waste” that will be directly reflected by the national budget.

Due to the low number of legal TCNs and a high unemployment rate; in the field of pre-departure measures, the SR is currently not initiating any concrete steps, as the Integration

Policy identifies measures to be implemented on behalf of TCNs in the territory of the SR.

National objective

1 - Legal migration

The inter-institutional cooperation in favour of monitoring of Integration Policy will be ensured under the relevant national budget heading. The SR has a well-established cooperation between different stakeholders including public authorities and civil society. The MoLSAF SR coordinates regular meetings of the MEKOMIC (inter-ministerial expert committee on labour migration and integration of TCNs) where all integration activities are subject of monitoring, and evaluation.

National objective

2 - Integration

The AMIF funding will provide for ensuring that legally residing TCNs will become a part of economic, political, cultural and social life. The issue is based on the recognition of the integration as a mutual two way process and so the activities need to support integration on the level of legally residing TCNs as well as on the level of the receiving society.

The issue will be addressed by the priority:

- **Priority 4:** *facilitation of integration via services* – the provision of services by different stakeholders proved to be a very successful tool to facilitate integration. Activities such as legal and administration counselling, language trainings, employment consultancy, guidance aimed at administrative system, etc. are foreseen in order to enable the TCNs to deal with specific structures of the national, regional or local administration different from the ones of their home country. Moreover, the services will emphasize the integration of the TCNs in the socio-cultural, political and economic life. The outcome is to ensure the accessibility of services and assistance to all interested members of target group.
- **Priority 12:** *Measures implementing the Action Plan on the integration of third country nationals, in particular those carried out by civil society organisations and regional and local authorities in the context of comprehensive integration strategies. Such measures would notably promote an integrated approach to the integration of third country nationals, including through enhancing the cooperation between relevant actors.*

Other sources will be used in order to increase the employment rate of the TCNs as well as to support active participation of TCNs in the labour market. Complementarity will be ensured between activities supported by AMIF and ESIF in relation to the integration of TCNs in the labour market. AMIF will therefore support only complementary activities stated in priority 4. ESF will be focused on targeted active and preventive measures of the labour market in order to increase the employment rate and sustainability of the self-employment. To support the final outcome at the end of the programming period, the SR will make use of the national

budget as well, in order to improve the system of the recognition of education.

National objective

3 - Capacity

The AMIF funding will provide for creation of conditions for implementation of the integration policy on the national, regional and local level. The Integration Policy emphasizes the role of national, regional and local authorities in the process of integration. The aim is to increase their engagement in the integration process, especially in the fields identified for intervention of the integration measures.

The issue will be addressed by the priorities:

- **Priority 5:** *identification of possible areas of interventions for integration measures* via research based activities. The outcome will be to identify at least 3 areas of integration where the national or EU funding would bring the most added value. In order to support the integration process of TCNs the cooperation of national/regional/local authorities as well as the “bottom-up” approach will be implemented. The research-based projects are reckoned to collect and provide necessary data and the basis of further actions and options for improvement of the integration process.
- **Priority 6:** *engagement of the national/regional/local authorities in the integration field via reinforcing their capacity* – activities such as capacity building, workshops etc. The desired outcome is to strengthen the cooperation between regional/local and national authorities via capacity building and development of regional/local integration plans contributing to fulfilment of Integration Policy goals. It is estimated that 40 measures/frameworks/tools/plans will be developed.

With regards to previous activities funded by EIF, the SR considers the engagement of wide range of stakeholders in the process of integration of TCNs as an example of good practice. The SR intends to establish more advanced activities in the field of cooperation between local/regional authorities and realization of schemes which can implement the integration policy. Another example of good practice is providing training to experts, as part of multifunctional team, from various government offices who are directly involved in the integration process and in everyday contact with the target group.

Specific objective

3 - Return

In the field of return attention is paid to the return procedure as such. The **national priority is to ensure proper and fully dignified return of returnees whether they chose to make use of voluntary return or are to be removed forcefully**. Return management is fully in the

competence of the BBAP. With the support of the national budget and the RF some of the serious challenges had already been addressed. The AMIF will therefore continue to support measures that proved to be successful so far, while the complementarity of funding will be taken into account.

The AMIF assistance is at first targeted to TCNs just recognized to be illegally residing in the territory of the SR. Preference is however paid to TCN (asylum seeker, beneficiary of international protection, irregular TCN) in the process of AVR. In case the return process is not conducted via AVR, the SR deploys all measures as required by the Return Directive. Returnee in detention, due to specific life situation, needs not only special assistance, but also help from skilled national authorities participating in the forced return. As the return management is the one developing quickly in reaction to the unpredictable migration flows, provisions on the prevention of irregular migration, exchange of information and the development of effective return policies will be supported. Evaluation of the return policies is also inevitable in order to better target the funding to achieve the policy goals. Activities such as evaluation or data dissemination will be supported by the national budget. Any activities connected to the improvement of the alien police departments will be supported by the ESIF. The BBAP is also willing to take part in the various international projects aimed at the exchange of the information and best practices funded with the support of different sources.

During the programming period SR will focus on two sets of issues:

1. issues supported by AMIF funding: (a) Effective return procedure; (b) Sustainable and dignified return of TCNs into country of origin;

2. issues supported by other sources: (a) Improvement of the reception and detention conditions and facilities; (b) Effective monitoring system.

The SR aims to ensure the needs and rights of the returnees at any stage of the return process in line with international requirements, EU and national law. Due to the decreasing number of returnees, specific attention is paid to every single returnee. For that purpose measures are based on individual needs of TCNs that will be implemented in the process of return and in the detention. Apart from the services provided to the target group, better application of the EU and national law is needed and therefore capacity building will be provided as well. Desired outcome of the National Programme in the field of return is development of the effective management of return operations.

It is estimated that the national allocation for return will exponentially annually grow by 10% related to 2013.

National objective	1 - Accompanying measures
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The AMIF funding will provide for effective return procedure that is set in place in order to ensure smooth return process based on specific assistance provided to every returnee in
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detention, and also on a qualified approach of police officers participating in the process of return.

The issue will be addressed by the priorities:

- **Priority 7:** *services provided in the process of forced return with specific attention paid to vulnerable groups*- services that proved to have the most added value, such as social or psychological assistance, legal aid and counselling, material support etc. TCN in detention face a specific life situation where they are awaiting the removal operation. During the stay they follow the regime of the detention centre. NGOs play a key role in ensuring social, psychological and material needs of the TCNs. Practical experience suggests that psychological and social care significantly contributes to the facilitation of returns by mitigating stressful factors for TCNs in detention, and by increasing their willingness to cooperate and proactively engage in actions required for successful return operations. Desired outcome is to ensure accessibility of the services.
- **Priority 8:** *capacity building of the staff directly involved in the return policy* - activities such as training of relevant authorities in return related topics which are based on legislation in force, such as alternatives to detention, etc. Complementary to the services the highly qualified staff involved in the return process will contribute to the successful return operations and efficient management of return policy. Desired outcome is to build capacities of BBAP staff directly involved in return policy.

Other sources will be engaged in the improvement of the reception and detention conditions and facilities will be addressed by other resources, as part of the structural changes in the area of public services and public administration.

National objective

2 - Return measures

The AMIF funding will provide for sustainable and dignified return of the TCN into country of origin. In the first place the voluntary return programme and reintegration are to be favoured by the SR, but in the case the AVR cannot take place, forced return will be conducted.

The issue will be addressed by the priorities:

- **Priority 9:** *reinforcement of the voluntary return and reintegration* – activities aimed at the facilitation of voluntary return including pre-departure and post-return measures and reintegration, such as provision of accommodation, food, medical services; counseling related to return and reintegration in country of origin; provision of interpreting services, assistance with travel documents and travel arrangements etc. Desired outcome is to ensure the accessibility of AVR and reintegration to the target group (app. to 500 persons). Due to decreasing trend in the AVR in the last years, AMIF is expected to increase the number of AVR in the long term perspective

reflecting the strength of the migration flows.

- **Priority 10:** *enhancing the quality of forced return* via activities within the entire return procedure, such as interpretation and translation, safe transfer of returnees and transport to the country of origin etc. Desired outcome is to support the preventive nature of forced return operations via effective and smooth return process. It is estimated that app. 2 700 persons will be removed via forced return.
- **Priority 11:** *Measures implementing the EU Action Plan on return and possible follow-ups to the plan on return aiming at enhancing the effectiveness of the EU system to return irregular migrants that are developed and implemented in / through innovative cooperation with other Member States.*

National objective

3 - Cooperation

An effective monitoring system is a national priority that is addressed by the national budget and focuses on supporting regular monitoring by relevant national bodies. Monitoring and evaluation of returns is conducted regularly according to the Return Directive requirements. On the other hand, any international initiative is welcomed in order to ensure effective and fully independent comparison of the return policies within the EU.

Specific objective

4 - Solidarity

The SR welcomes the voluntary nature of relocation activities. The SR is not pursuing any particular activities with the help of AMIF funding. In the case, the national priorities in the field of relocation will develop in favour of active approach, the SR will be involved in the pledging exercise the AMIF National Programme is offering, while all the activities will be supported solely by the national budget.

National objective

1 - Relocation

INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

Specific Objective	NO/SA	Main action	Name of action	Start of planning phase	Start of implementation phase	Start of closing phase
SO1 - Asylum	NO1 - Reception/asylum	1	Services provided to the target group	2015	2015	2022
SO1 - Asylum	NO1 - Reception/asylum	2	Capacity building	2017	2018	2021
SO1 - Asylum	NO2 - Evaluation	1	Upgrade of IS	2016	2022	2022
SO1 - Asylum	SA1 - Transit centres	1	Provision of specific services	2016	2022	2022
SO1 - Asylum	SA1 - Transit centres	2	Reconstruction and maintenance	2016	2022	2022
SO1 - Asylum	SA1 - Transit centres	3	Strengthening of humanitarian transfers	2016	2022	2022
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO2 - Integration	1	Services provided to the target group	2015	2015	2022
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO2 - Integration	2	Integrated approach to integration	2017	2018	2022
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO3 - Capacity	1	Research based activities	2018	2020	2022
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO3 - Capacity	2	Engagement of the regional/local authorities	2017	2017	2021
SO3 - Return	NO1 - Accompanying measures	1	Services provided to the returnees in detention	2015	2015	2022
SO3 - Return	NO1 - Accompanying measures	2	Capacity building	2015	2016	2022
SO3 - Return	NO2 - Return measures	1	Voluntary return and reintegration measures	2015	2016	2022
SO3 - Return	NO2 - Return measures	2	Forced return measures	2015	2015	2022
SO3 - Return	NO2 - Return measures	3	Enhancing the effectiveness of system to return irregular migrants	2017	2022	2022

4. SPECIAL CASES

4.1 Resettlement

Justification of the number of persons to be resettled

Pledging for 2016-2017, see Conclusions of 20 July 2015 of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council on resettling through multilateral or national schemes 20.000 persons in clear need of international protection and Commission Recommendation of 8 June 2015 on a European resettlement scheme.

Pledging plan

Vulnerable groups and Common Union resettlement priorities (Lump Sum 10 000€ per person resettled)	2014- 2015	2016- 2017	2018- 2020
Syrian refugees in the region		100	-69
Total union priorities		100	-69
Grand total		100	-69

4.2 Transfer & relocation

	From	To	2014-2015	2016-2017	2018-2020
Relocation (2015/1523)	Greece	Slovakia		40	-24
Relocation (2015/1523)	Italy	Slovakia		60	-60

4.3 Admission from Turkey (2016/1754)

Pledging plan: Number of persons to be admitted from Turkey per pledging period

	2014-2015	2016-2017	2018-2020
Admission			

5. COMMON INDICATORS AND PROGRAMME SPECIFIC INDICATORS

Specific objective		1 - Asylum			
Indicator	Unit of measure	Baseline value	Target value	Source of data	
C1 - Number of target group persons provided with assistance through projects in the field of reception and asylum systems supported under this Fund	Number	0.00	2,400.00	Project reporting	
C2.1 - Capacity (i.e. number of places) of new reception accommodation infrastructure set up in line with the minimum requirements for reception conditions set out in the EU acquis and of existing reception accommodation infrastructure improved in line with the same requirements as a result of the projects supported under this Fund	Number	0.00	0.00	Project reporting	
C2.2 - The percentage in the total reception accommodation capacity	%	0.00	0.00	Project reporting	
C3.1 - Number of persons trained in asylum-related topics with the assistance of the Fund	Number	0.00	150.00	Project reporting	
C3.2 - That number as a percentage of the total number of staff trained in those topics	%	0.00	100.00	Project reporting	
C4 - Number of country of origin information products and fact-finding missions conducted with the assistance of the Fund	Number	0.00	0.00	Project reporting	
C5 - Number of projects supported under this Fund to develop, monitor and evaluate asylum policies in Member States	Number	0.00	0.00	Project reporting	
C6 - Number of persons resettled with support of this Fund	Number	0.00	0.00	Authority in charge of transferring the persons	
S.1 - Number of refugees recognized under UNHCR mandate evacuated in Slovakia for further resettlement, provided with assistance as a part of Specific action in the period 2015 – 2022	Počet	0.00	1,800.00	Project reporting	

Specific objective		2 - Integration/legal migration			
Indicator	Unit of measure	Baseline value	Target value	Source of data	
C1 - Number of target group persons who participated in pre-departure measures supported under this Fund	Number	0.00	0.00	Project reporting	
C2 - Number of target group persons assisted by this Fund through integration measures in the framework of national, local and regional strategies	Number	0.00	18,500.00	Project reporting	
C3 - Number of local, regional and national policy frameworks/measures/tools in place for the integration of third country nationals and involving civil society, migrant communities as well as all other relevant stakeholders, as a result of the measures supported under this Fund	Number	0.00	60.00	Project reporting	
C4 - Number of cooperation projects with other Member States on integration of third-country nationals supported under this Fund	Number	0.00	0.00	Project reporting	
C5 - Number of projects supported under this Fund to develop, monitor and evaluate integration policies in Member States	Number	0.00	8.00	Project reporting	

Specific objective		3 - Return			
Indicator	Unit of measure	Baseline value	Target value	Source of data	
C1 - Number of persons trained on return-related topics with the assistance of the Fund	Number	0.00	1,400.00	Project reporting	
C2 - Number of returnees who received pre or post return reintegration assistance co-financed by the Fund	Number	0.00	140.00	Project reporting	
C3 - Number of returnees whose return was co-financed by the Fund, persons who returned voluntarily	Number	0.00	500.00	Project reporting	
C4 - Number of returnees whose return was co-financed by the Fund, persons who were removed	Number	0.00	2,700.00	Project reporting	
C5 - Number of monitored removal operations co-financed by the Fund	Number	0.00	0.00	Project reporting	
C6 - Number of projects supported under the Fund to develop, monitor and evaluate return policies in Member States	Number	0.00	2.00	Project reporting	

Specific objective		4 - Solidarity			
Indicator	Unit of measure	Baseline value	Target value	Source of data	
C1 - Number of applicants transferred from one Member State to another with support of this Fund	Number	0.00	0.00	Authority in charge of relocation	
C2 - Number of cooperation projects with other Member States on enhancing solidarity and responsibility sharing between the Member States supported under this Fund	Number	0.00	0.00	Project reporting	

6. FRAMEWORK FOR PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME BY THE MEMBER STATE

6.1 Partnership involvement in the preparation of the programme

The role of the RA was to coordinate consultations and to ensure that all suggested priorities were considered when drafting the National Programme. Under the partnership principle public consultations were launched in the spring 2013. RA organised an information meeting for all interested partners in order to offer the possibility to participate in the preparation of the National Programme via inputs on priorities and measures. Following suggestions from most of the final beneficiaries of the SOLID funds submitted in written form, national policy makers developed a list of long term national priorities. The Policy Dialogue with the European Commission brought about cross-cutting issues and comprehensive programming approach was adopted. Policy makers and practitioners were brought together to ensure the feasibility of measures and consistency of the data analysis. In order to ensure sustainability of the National Programme a second round of public consultations took place in December 2013 via the website of the MI SR. Two NGOs and IOM took the opportunity to comment on the first draft of the National Programme.

Partners in the area of AMIF national policies include: MO, BBAP, MoLSAaF SR as well as respective departments of the MI SR with an EU agenda. These partners were consulted when preparing the final draft of the National Programme.

6.2 Monitoring Committee

The Monitoring Committee (MC) is established as a common committee for AMIF and ISF. Its main role is to ensure the complementarity of funding with the participation of all relevant partners. The RA will annually report to the MC on progress on the implementation of the National Programme (progress reached on indicators and financial consumption of the allocation). The MC will have following responsibilities:

- monitoring of implementation of National Programme based on achieved outputs and goals;
- acknowledgement of implementation reports including financial data, interim evaluation report on the implementation of actions and progress towards achieving the objectives of National Programmes and ex-post evaluation report on the effects of actions implemented under National Programmes;
- acknowledgement of information on financial consumption of National Programmes' resources including information on identified irregularities;
- acknowledgement of reports of independent audits concerning implementation of MCS;
- approval of revision of National Programme;
- consultation of call for proposals timetable for following year;
- approval of measures to fulfil the overall objectives of National Programmes.

Members of the MC will be provided with the information prepared by the RA.

6.3 Common monitoring and evaluation framework

The SR is building on the positive experience from the SOLID funds monitoring and evaluation system that will be adapted to the new requirements. Monitoring and evaluation is to be carried out on the projects and programme level.

Monitoring on the level of projects will be carried out by the RA directly via meetings with beneficiaries and projects reports on activities and indicators that will also contain information on evaluation of the project. Data will be electronically collected on the level of the RA. The RA will report to the EU in accordance with the Horizontal regulation requirements.

Monitoring of the programme will be carried out directly by the RA. Progress, efficiency and effectiveness, in relation to the objectives and financial consumption will be measured by common indicators related to the baseline situation, outputs, results and impact of projects. The progress will be reported to the Monitoring committee.

Evaluation of the programme will be ensured according to the Horizontal regulation requirements either internally or externally. The interim evaluation report will be submitted by 30 June 2018 and the ex-post evaluation will be submitted by 30 June 2024.

6.4 Partnership involvement in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the national programme

Partnership principle is foreseen during the programme implementation via a Monitoring committee, consultations prior to open calls for proposals; and monitoring and evaluation of the National Programme.

Most important platform for partners will be Monitoring Committee. Broad partnership principle applied in programming will be narrowed in number of partners during the implementation. In order to avoid conflict of interest, as most of the partners are interested in project implementation, partnership principle will be limited to national, regional and local authorities that are policy making authorities.

The RA will, however, organize regular coordination meetings prior to calls for proposals for public and information meetings for the beneficiaries. The meetings will be open to NGOs, international organisations, national, regional and local associations and unions, and all the interested partners. The RA will reflect on any comments and suggestions addressed during these meetings.

At the time of programme completion the scope of partners will be broaden in order to ensure effective evaluation of achievement of National Programme objectives. Partnership principle will be applied in a same way as in the programming concerning the scope of partners.

The RA will inform partners on the progress in the National Programme implementation via web page of the MI SR.

6.5 Information and Publicity

The SR will ensure that a website of the MI SR provide the information on and access to the National Programme; inform potential beneficiaries about funding opportunities and EU citizens about the role and achievements of the Specific Regulations via results and impact of the National Programme.

The SR will ensure transparency on the implementation of the National Programme and maintain a list of actions supported which will be accessible on the website or the website portal.

Further information and publicity actions may also be carried out during the course of the programme. RA will emphasize importance of the publicity of every project on the level of beneficiaries as well.

6.6 Coordination and complementarity with other instruments

The RA works closely with respective Managing Authorities in the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation phases. Complementarity of funding was already ensured in the programming period and will be subject of the Monitoring Committee. Overlap of the funding is prevented via careful strategic planning of the activities and specific content of the objectives of the National Programme.

During the preparation of respective calls for proposals complementarity between the EU policies and instruments at national, regional and local level will be ensured.

Concerning activities implemented in third countries coordination with other relevant partners or other Member States as well as EU Delegations will be ensured in order to reinforce the complementarity and synergy of the EU measures.

6.7 Beneficiaries

6.7.1 List of five main types of beneficiaries of the programme

State authorities, local public bodies, non-governmental organizations, international public organizations, research organizations

6.7.2 Direct award (if applicable)

The direct award of the grant will be issued within the Specific Objective 1 Asylum for the MO that has de jure monopoly in the field of IS deployed in the asylum field and capacity building of the MO officers benefitting from the EASO tools.

The direct award will be also issued within the Specific Objective 3 Return for the BBAP that has de jure monopoly in the field of forced return operations and capacity building concerning the Act on Alien Residence.

In case of national legislation development there might be more stakeholders involved in the implementation of the projects under direct award procedure.

7. THE FINANCING PLAN OF THE PROGRAMME

Table 1: AMIF Financial plan

Specific objective / national objective / specific action	Total
SO1.NO1 Reception/asylum	2,549,095.40
SO1.NO2 Evaluation	0.00
SO1.NO3 Resettlement	0.00
TOTAL NO SO1 Asylum	2,549,095.40
SO1.SA1 Transit centres	2,086,243.73
TOTAL SA SO1 Asylum	2,086,243.73
TOTAL SO1 Asylum	4,635,339.13
SO2.NO1 Legal migration	0.00
SO2.NO2 Integration	4,191,638.25
SO2.NO3 Capacity	657,237.12
TOTAL SO2 Integration/legal migration	4,848,875.37
SO3.NO1 Accompanying measures	1,016,528.06
SO3.NO2 Return measures	2,191,558.91
SO3.NO3 Cooperation	0.00
TOTAL SO3 Return	3,208,086.97
SO4.NO1 Relocation	0.00
TOTAL SO4 Solidarity	0.00
Technical assistance	1,797,474.26
TOTAL Special Cases	406,000.00
TOTAL	14,895,775.73

Table 2: Special case pledges

Special case pledges	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Resettlement total			500,000.00	500,000.00	-230,000.00	-230,000.00	-230,000.00	310,000.00
Relocation (2015/1523) total			300,000.00	300,000.00	-168,000.00	-168,000.00	-168,000.00	96,000.00
Relocation (2015/1601) total								0.00
MS Relocation total								0.00
Transfer total								0.00
Admission from Turkey(2016/1754) total								0.00
TOTAL			800,000.00	800,000.00	-398,000.00	-398,000.00	-398,000.00	406,000.00

Table 3: Total Annual EU commitments (in €)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
Asylum and solidarity	0.00	714,368.10	2,345,241.00	197,734.10	945,554.31	867,936.37	869,242.38	5,940,076.26
Integration and return	0.00	1,638,323.90	1,537,454.00	2,004,932.63	1,235,497.69	1,267,712.63	1,271,778.62	8,955,699.47
TOTAL	0.00	2,352,692.00	3,882,695.00	2,202,666.73	2,181,052.00	2,135,649.00	2,141,021.00	14,895,775.73

Justification for any deviation from the minimum shares set in the Specific Regulations
Not applicable.