

# **NATIONAL PROGRAMME AMIF**

## **IDENTIFICATION OF THE DESIGNATED AUTHORITIES**

### **Competent authorities responsible for the management and control systems**

Authority	Name of the authority	Head of the authority	Address	E-mail address	Date of designation	Activities delegated
Responsible authority	Ministry of the Interior, Secretariat, Finance and Purchasing Office, European Funds Service, Project Unit for Internal Security and Migration Funds	Erik Kern, Head of Project Unit	Štefanova 2, SI-1501 Ljubljana, Slovenia	ses.mnz@gov.si		
Audit authority	Ministry of Finance, Budget Supervision Office of the Republic of Slovenia (BSO)	Nataša Prah, Director	Fajfarjeva 33, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia	mf.unp@gov.si		
Delegated authority	Ministry of Finance, Budget Directorate, Department for Management of EU Funds	Mateja Mahkovec, Head of Department	Beethovnova 11, SI-1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia	gp.mf@gov.si		On the spot controls, payments

### **Management and control system**

The system will stay similar to the current system under the SOLID funds. The basic structure has been established by Decision of the Government No. 54924-17/2014/6 of 9 October 2014: the minister, competent for internal affairs, as the Designating Authority, the Ministry of Finance – Budget Supervision Office as the Audit Authority, and the Ministry of Finance – Department for Management of EU Funds as a delegated authority executing financial transactions with the EU budget and performing of on-the-spot checks. The Designating Authority will, upon opinion of the Audit Authority, nominate the Responsible Authority - the Project Unit for Internal Security and Migration Funds within the Ministry of the Interior (hereinafter MoI). After formal designation the Responsible Authority will further delegate the tasks of preparation and implementation of calls for proposals.

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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The national programme is based on various national strategies, which take into account the development of migration policy in terms of coordination between policy areas, systematic approach to integration, institutional arrangements improving efficiency and the safeguarding of human rights, and also compliance with international standards. Strategies in addition aim to facilitate immigration for employment purposes and work.

**ASYLUM** (22% of the AMIF financial plan): Slovenian long-term goal in the field of asylum is an effective implementation of CEAS through efficient and swift procedures ensuring equal conditions to all people requiring protection. Actions co-financed with AMIF will focus on improved quality and speed of asylum decision-making as well as quality monitoring, evaluation and contingency planning. Assistance and support to asylum seekers will encompass provision of information and services (legal, translation, interpretation, social, medical, etc.). Actions will aim at improving reception infrastructure, services and conditions, exploration of alternatives to detention, and identification and improved conditions for vulnerable persons. Improvement of general public awareness will be ensured through training, information campaigns, and events.

**INTEGRATION/LEGAL MIGRATION** (35% of the AMIF financial plan): The long-term goal of actions supported through AMIF in the field of integration and legal migration is to achieve the highest possible level of inclusion of third country nationals (hereinafter TCN) and persons under international protection (hereinafter IP) in all crucial areas of life and work in Slovenia. Particular attention will be devoted to vulnerable persons such as women, children, and elderly persons.

Actions will aim at improving the awareness of the general public, authorities, and migrants themselves of integration issues. Info-point for TCN will offer all available information on life and work in Slovenia, whilst special integration programmes will facilitate active participation of target groups in all spheres of social life in Slovenia.

As regards persons under IP, integration assistance will be provided through an individual approach based on a personal integration plans.

Capacity building will be aimed at building sustainable cooperation amongst relevant stakeholders, particularly through training of staff working with TCN, policymakers, officials and other staff indirectly involved in integration issues. The programme will further support the improvement of infrastructure, services and conditions of stay for TCN in integration houses. Practical cooperation among Member States (hereinafter MS) will also be promoted.

Analysis, evaluation and improvement of existing integration mechanisms and approaches will also be encouraged.

**RETURN** (31% of the AMIF financial plan): As for return, the long-term goal of actions co-funded from AMIF is to establish a systemic framework for a fair and effective return policy with preferential use of voluntary return. The latter will be achieved through cooperation with NGOs, competent international organizations and countries of origin. Particular attention will be given to cooperation with other MS and Frontex in identification procedures, joint return flights operations, and exchange of know-how, knowledge, and expertise.

Actions aimed at improving the infrastructure, maintenance, services, and living conditions will be focused on the detention centre (i.e. the Aliens centre) as well as special facilities for refused third country nationals at international airports. The persons detained will be granted the necessary assistance during the return procedure (social, psychological, medical, legal). Important tasks are also strengthening of the monitoring system of forced return and continuous analysis and evaluation of return mechanisms and practices.

Sustainable return process will be facilitated through both pre-return (consulting and information campaigns) and post- return assistance (daily allowances, reintegration measures such as secondary transportation, first necessary housing, medical assistance, etc.).

Support to return operations will encompass cooperation with third countries' consular authorities and international organizations, advanced parties, support to liaison officers, and administration of return operations.

Education and training of staff is planned in order to increase capacity of the detention facilities and staff dealing with return issues (e.g. language courses, trainings on human rights and liberties, cultural awareness, intercultural competencies, escort operations, etc.).

**SOLIDARITY:** Slovenia has the legislative framework, accommodation and other capacities, as well as experiences needed for the implementation of relocation activities. Nevertheless, due to political circumstances Slovenia will not take part in these projects in the forthcoming years.

12% of the AMIF financial plan will be allocated to technical assistance.

## **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**

**ASYLUM:** In 2013, 272 applications for IP have been filed (of which 31 were re-applications and 23 were returned for reconsideration). In total, 372 applications for IP have been resolved. The most common countries of origin of applicants were Syria (62), Kosovo (\*) (34) and Algeria (22). In comparison to previous years, the total number of applications is slightly decreasing (495 in 2011, 304 in 2012), whilst the number of resolved applications remains on a similar level (392 in 2011, 328 in 2012). 37 persons were granted the status of IP in 2013 (23 were granted refugee status and 14 subsidiary protection status), the most common countries of origin being Syria, Afghanistan, Eritrea and the Russian Federation. In the period 1995-2013, 304 persons were granted the status of IP altogether. As regards Dublin transfers, 30 persons were handed to competent MS in 2013.

All applicants for IP are provided adequate accommodation, care and treatment, and procedural guarantees. Standards have regularly been monitored and evaluated by the Slovene ombudsman office, UNHCR, and NGOs. Past activities were focused on the improvement of reception conditions and procedures: reception capacities, quality and accommodation standards, expanded lifespan of facilities, easier access to information, participation of applicants in IP procedures, linguistic assistance, psychological care, training of staff on the basis of EASO training curriculum, legal assistance, improvement of decision-making procedures in terms of quality and reduction of errors, procedural guarantees, better wellbeing of applicants, and investments in reception capacities. Activities were co-financed from the European Refugee fund (hereinafter ERF). Significant improvements have been achieved in terms of length of the procedures for granting IP. Average procedure at the first instance lasted 99 days in 2012 and 2013, and an average procedure from the date of the application until final decision lasted 148 days in 2012 and 2013 (the numbers in 2011 were 130 and 156 days respectively). In Slovenia, 2nd and 3rd instance IP procedures are judicial procedures, therefore reliable official data/statistics are difficult to monitor. In parallel, continuous improvement of IP standards in national legislation took place (e.g. introduction of pocket allowance for applicants, legal representation for unaccompanied minors).

Current reception capacities for asylum seekers at the Asylum home (203 persons) are sufficient. Further investment in the effective functioning of existing systems for regular evaluation of the asylum procedures is needed, along with possible improvements of the quality and speed of the asylum decision-making, quality monitoring, and improvement of reception capacities (e.g. expansion of recreational facilities). Regular evaluation is required for improvement of the existing asylum system, also by using relevant mechanisms developed by EASO. Further exploration of alternatives to detention is needed. Currently, asylum seekers can be detained in detention facilities operated by the MoI, i.e. the Aliens centre (where asylum seekers are detained separately from other TCN) and on the area of Asylum home. For the years 2011, 2012 and 2013, the number of detained asylum seekers in the Aliens centre was 34, 43, and 49 respectively, whilst the number of those detained in the Asylum home was 3, 14 and 14 respectively. More emphasis in the future should be put on support to vulnerable persons, public awareness raising on issues related to asylum seekers as well as functioning and improvement of contingency planning.

As for resettlement, Slovenia has established the legislative framework, accommodation and other capacities. Nevertheless, due to political circumstances Slovenia will not take part in these projects in the forthcoming years.

**INTEGRATION/LEGAL MIGRATION:** On 31 December 2013, 103.097 (5,3% of the total population) TCN had a valid residence permit or a certificate of residence registration. The most common purposes of their stay are work (21.769) and family reunification (13.658). Top four countries of origin are Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia (data until 1 July 2013 when Croatia entered the EU), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia, all former Yugoslav republics.

Slovenia has been actively implementing the integration programmes for TCN since 2008. Before, specific integration measures were designed only for beneficiaries of IP. Most of the actions have been financed with the assistance from the European fund for the integration of TCN and ERF.

Since 2012, programmes on Slovenian language learning and knowledge on Slovenian history, culture and constitutional order have been taking place. Although 64 % of participants recognized the importance of such programmes, the level of participation was low. For this reason Slovenia prepared an integrated programme combining both Slovenian language courses and information on the Slovenian society. The current programme titled "Initial integration of TCN" is free of charge and is performed as a 180, 120 and 60 hour course at 22 locations in Slovenia; the programme includes a free Slovenian language test. 2.022 TCN attended the programme, 589 participated in the Slovenian language examination and 407 have passed. The MoI also provides information to aliens prior to their arrival in Slovenia and information on integration into the Slovenian society through the website [www.infotujci.si](http://www.infotujci.si) in six languages (the page recorded 50.000 visitors in 2013). Brochures and leaflets on entry, stay and integration possibilities are available in different languages at diplomatic and consular missions in most common countries of origin (providing TCN with information before entering Slovenia), at administrative units, and at the info-point for aliens at the Slovenian Employment service.

In 2012, Slovenia initiated several integration assistance programmes for specific target groups of TCN, e.g. for parents of primary school children with predominantly immigrant population, women and young people, and the programme facilitating employers' participation in the integration process.

Integration assistance for persons under IP is provided through personal integration plans for the first three years after obtaining the status (32 have been prepared in 2013). Plans encompass areas such as education, employment, accommodation, Slovenian language courses, knowledge of the Slovenian culture, history and constitutional order, etc. MoI also provides special services such as information on rights and obligations, one-time financial assistance at the relocation from Asylum home, accommodation in integration houses (capacity 49 persons, 28 accommodated throughout 2013), and financial compensation for private housing (60 persons in 2013). As regards healthcare and welfare protection, education and training, the beneficiaries are equal to Slovenian citizens and can exercise their rights on employment in line with the rules on employment and work of aliens. With the assistance

from the ERF, the Ministry also provided assistance to persons under IP in terms of arranging their life situations, psycho-social assistance, study assistance, education for improving employment opportunities, etc.

Key needs in the area of integration/legal migration are continuous functioning of the info point for TCN, basic integration assistance for TCN (particularly language courses), special programmed for persons under IP, and sufficient capacity for the implementation of integration measures. Due to particularly high demand for "Initial integration of TCN" programme, adequate resources should be allocated in order to ensure the highest possible level of inclusion and nation-wide coverage.

Analysis of integration measures from January 2014 showed that on average, participants are young and well educated TCN, which has to be taken into account when planning further integration programmes (e.g. more information could be disseminated online). As target groups are heterogeneous, programmes need to be adapted. In order to achieve maximum efficiency and participation, diversity needs to be considered already when designing specific activities.

Overall, average annual resources from the national budget for the entire policy area of migration (i.e. asylum and integration policy under the jurisdiction of the MoI, as well as health, education, employment, and other social contributions) amounted to 45 million EUR (average amount based on 2011-2013 data; larger share of this amount is dedicated to asylum).

**RETURN:** Although predicting future trends is thus speculative and risky, we can assume that situation in the area of migration (in terms of numbers) in Slovenia will not change significantly during the programming period. In 2013, 331 out of a total 425 TCN residents have been effectively removed from the Aliens centre, which is the central detention facility hosting those TCN who have been issued a return decision (most of the removals – 203 – were based on bilateral agreements with third countries and EU MS). The most frequent reason accommodating TCN in the Aliens centre is the risk of absconding due to the fact that Slovenia represents a transit rather than destination country for most of irregular migrants. Aliens not residing in the Aliens centre are issued a voluntary return decision, which is often an ineffective measure for the very same reason.

Detention within the Aliens centre can last up to 12 months. TCN can opt for a voluntary return, either in co-operation with international organizations (IOM) or independently. Slovenia developed a general voluntary return and reintegration program with special emphasis on vulnerable categories of TCN. In 2013, only 3 cases of active resistance to removal have been recorded and forced return had to be applied.

Alternatives to detention should be further explored, e.g. development of a system of regular reporting to the competent authorities for those TCN whose identity is known and actively cooperate in the identification procedures. In this respect Slovenia understands its return policy as fair and affective in relation to both TCN as well as other MS (in cases when detention prevents absconding).

Detention facilities in Slovenia consist of the Aliens centre (which is the central organizational unit and detention facility in the area of return) as well special facilities for refused third country nationals at international airports. The Aliens centre was renovated in 2002 and requires partial adaptation in order to ensure adequate living conditions. Apart from the most burdened department housing men, special attention should be given to vulnerable groups such as women and unaccompanied minors. Special facilities at international airports (cca 100 square meters at Ljubljana Airport and cca 60 square meters at Maribor Airport) are used for TCN whose refusal of entry at air borders is not possible immediately because of unavailability of flights to the country from which they came from. The refused third country nationals can be placed in such facilities for maximum period of 48 hours. If refusal of entry is not foreseen in 48 hours, they are accommodated in the Aliens centre.

A great challenge in return processes is identification of aliens and acquisition of documents required for effective return due to concealment of identity, false representation, and unwillingness of third countries' authorities to identify their own citizens. Missions of most high-risk countries in terms of migration (such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria, Syria, Iraq, etc.) are accredited in other MS, which can be an obstacle in the return process. It is therefore necessary to maintain good working relations with these representations.

Monitoring of forced return still needs to be implemented through the choice of an appropriate system/partner.

The Aliens centre already actively cooperates with key partners in all phases of the return procedure: returnees, Social service centre, local health centre, primary school, Jesuit refugee service, IOM and local representatives of all main religions (Catholic, Orthodox and Muslim). In order to understand key issues faced by these stakeholders, further effort should be invested in analysis and evaluation of the return processes.

All future projects will take into account the outcomes of projects financed under the European Return Fund: support to voluntary return, return measures by the Aliens centre, establishment of a forced return monitoring system, provision of free legal assistance and services for TCN, cooperation with consular representatives and immigration authorities, permanent operational cooperation with interpreters, training of staff, as well as infrastructure investments.

Average annual resources from the national budget for the entire policy area of return (i.e. expenses related to the operation of the Aliens centre) amounted to 1,9 million EUR (average amount based on 2011-2013 data).

**SOLIDARITY:** Slovenia has the legislative framework, accommodation and other capacities, as well as experiences needed for the implementation of relocation activities. Slovenia participated in the EUREMA relocation project and thus demonstrated its commitment to solidarity. Nevertheless, due to political circumstances Slovenia will not take part in these projects in the forthcoming years.

(\*) This designation is without prejudice to position on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



### 3. PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

<b>Specific objective</b>	1 - Asylum
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Slovenia's multiannual national programme will support the national policy framework for increasing security and managing migration, defined by international and national legislation, strategic, planning documents of the MoI, as well as multiannual and annual programmes of SOLID funds. Actions will be aimed at achieving a more effective implementation of CEAS through efficient and swift procedures paying due regard to the provision of equal conditions to all people requiring protection.

During the programming period Slovenia will seek to: (a) improve standards of reception, accommodation and supply for asylum seekers (measured as the percentage of accommodated asylum seeker out of all asylum seekers and the number of supplies offered); (b) facilitate the identification of vulnerable groups that need special treatment (measured as the number of identified vulnerable persons out of all asylum seekers, number of experts in recognition of vulnerability included in the procedures); (c) improve the quality and speed of asylum decision making (measured as the number of trainings of staff involved in the process, and also using decision-making cycle times). Measurable targets during the programming period are:

- all asylum seekers (100%) accommodated and supplied;
- all vulnerable persons (100%) identified;
- 20% more decisions confirmed in court;
- all asylum seekers (100%) provided with free legal aid.

Although current reception capacities for asylum seekers fulfill the needs, additional improvements and continuous investment in infrastructure and conditions are required (e.g. in the expansion of recreational facilities). Actions will further aim at implementation of the contingency planning system and provision of sufficient means for living for those asylum seekers residing outside the reception centers (financial allowance).

Efforts will continue to focus on shortening and improving the quality of IP procedures, also through EASO mechanism. This can be achieved through efficient informing, legal counseling, translation and interpretation services (especially for less common languages), quality expert opinions (pediatricians, psychiatrists), use of quality country of origin information (COI), in order to respond effectively to the needs of asylum seekers. It is necessary to provide adequate training of staff, counselors and other stakeholders. The quality of procedures should be further supported by adequate information support, e.g. the case law register.

In the reception area particular attention will be paid to vulnerable categories where further improvement of assistance measures to vulnerable groups in all stages is planned: from identification of these persons, their special needs, provision of special treatment, to cooperation of experts and accommodation in special facilities. With these measures Slovenia intends to reach a comprehensive treatment of target groups.

<b>National objective</b>	1 - Reception/asylum
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Slovenia will focus on two clusters of actions: (1) asylum procedure and decision-making and (2) reception capacities and reception conditions.

General national priorities, for which Slovenia provides national funding, are:

- Core assistance programmes to asylum seekers (such as medical examination);
- Core decision making procedures related to asylum applications;
- Basic maintenance of infrastructure.

Main actions co-funded from AMIF shall encompass:

- Assistance and support to asylum seekers (information on procedure, legal aid, counseling, translation, interpretation, Dublin transfers, medical assistance, social mediation, language training, etc.);
- Strengthening of competent services involved in processing asylum applications (e.g. training of border guards, judges, guardians, legal representatives of unaccompanied minors, facilitation of the use of quality country of origin information, streamlining of administrative procedures, strengthening of cooperation between services, etc.), aimed at further improvement of the quality and speed of asylum decision-making;
- Establishment of a sustainable and structured provision of free legal assistance at first instance, for example through maintenance of a directory of consultants for refugees, informing of asylum seekers about their rights and duties, etc.;
- Development of reception infrastructure, services and conditions of stay in terms of regular maintenance of reception infrastructure, which will result in lower operating costs;
- Improvements in the use of alternatives to detention, such as a system of regular reporting to the competent authorities;
- Facilitation of identification of vulnerable persons and provision of adequate conditions and services to these persons, including through cooperation with EASO;
- Provision of sufficient means for living for those asylum seekers residing outside the reception centers (financial assistance);
- Improvement of general public awareness (training, information campaigns and events).

<b>National objective</b>	2 - Evaluation
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Slovenia will focus on an effective functioning of the existing systems for regular evaluation of the asylum procedures, as well as quality monitoring/contingency planning, which includes upgrading of the national asylum management system for Eurostat and EASO reporting, where needed.

General national priorities, for which Slovenia provides national funding, are:

- Ensuring capacity and maintenance of the basic national data information system.

Main actions co-funded from AMIF shall encompass:

- Facilitation of a continuous functioning of the national reception capacity monitoring system;
- Continued operation of the existing national system of evaluation of the asylum procedures;
- Implementation of a contingency planning system for managing high, sudden and unexpected influxes of asylum seekers.

<b>National objective</b>	3 - Resettlement
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Slovenia has established the legislative framework for implementing resettlement activities (International Protection Act and implementing regulation) as well as accommodation (Asylum home and integration houses, the latter providing the possibility of accommodation for a limited period, i.e. until applicants are granted international protection), and other capacities (such as training of staff, appointment of coordinators, counselors, etc.). The MoI can appoint a special resettlement coordinator for the facilitation of the integration process of resettled persons, thus providing assistance in terms of arranging relevant documents and life situations (registration of accommodation, opening of bank accounts, acquisition of working permits, etc.), as well possible search for employment. These capacities are mainly supported through national funds (operating costs of facilities, maintenance, staff costs).

Nevertheless, the decision to participate in resettlement programmes is subject to political consensus and approval, which at the moment does not indicate that Slovenia will take part in these projects in the forthcoming years. However, unstable and rapidly changing situation in certain regions could lead to the adoption of a different policy decision in the future.

<b>Specific objective</b>	2 - Integration/legal migration
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The Slovenian policy framework in the field of legal migration and return is determined by law, strategic and planning documents of the MoI, and multi-annual and annual programmes of SOLID funds. According to first paragraph of Article 105 of the Aliens Act, Slovenia provides the conditions for the integration into the cultural, economic and social life to all aliens who hold a residence permit in Slovenia or the certificate on registered residence. This act provides aliens with the information needed for their inclusion into the Slovenian society (particularly as regards their rights and obligations), Slovenian language learning programmes, knowledge on the Slovenian society, information for aliens who are not EU citizens, and programmes for the promotion of mutual knowledge and understanding.

As regards persons under IP, integration assistance is provided through an individual approach based on a personal integration plan. The decree on the rights of persons with IP provides the legal basis for a variety of activities in the area of education, employment, recognition of education, accommodation, documents and participation in the Slovenian

language courses, knowledge on the Slovenian culture, history and constitutional order, and other.

The aim of projects funded by AMIF is to achieve the highest possible level of inclusion for TCN and persons under IP in all crucial areas of integration policy: education, training, employment, knowledge of the language, society, as well as an active participation in social and political life. Slovenia will continue to implement common principles of integration adopted in 2004 and build an effective infrastructural environment and integration system. In designing the programmes and actions, analysis of integration programmes for TCN performed so far shall be taken into account.

During the programming period Slovenia will seek to (a) improve the quality and contents of integration programmes with the emphasis on special groups of migrants (measured as the number of actors involved in designing the programmes and implementation of programmes as well as the number of programmes); (b) enable local accessibility and decentralization of the programmes (measured as the number of programmes at the different local environments); (c) increase the number of TCN involved in designing, implementing and attending the programmes. Measurable targets during the programming period are:

- implementation of at least 5 different integration programmes per year;
- implementation of programmes in at least 22 local environments per year;
- at least 1500 TCN and persons under IP participating in programmes per year.

<b>National objective</b>	1 - Legal migration
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Activities targeting persons under IP and TCN are aimed at providing these persons with (local) access to comprehensive counseling and information about life and work in Slovenia, also prior to their departure to Slovenia. This involves measures that will also protect the integrity of immigration systems in EU MS.

General national priorities, for which Slovenia provides national funding, are:

- Ensuring core capacity for the functioning of the system of managing legal migration and integration of TCN.

Main actions co-funded from AMIF shall encompass:

- Continuous functioning of the info-point for TCN (TCN and persons under IP) providing access to all information on life and work in Slovenia, including in cooperation with organizations and institutions offering pre-departure assistance in countries of origin and transit.

<b>National objective</b>	2 - Integration
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Slovenia will focus on integration measures in accordance with the European agenda for integration and in line with the national policy framework. Special attention will be given to specific target groups. The main goal of the actions is to facilitate active participation of target groups in all spheres of social life in Slovenia.

General national priorities, for which Slovenia provides national funding, are:

- Provision of core integration assistance for persons granted IP;
- Provision of basic social and health protection rights, including rights in the field of education and employment for persons granted IP and TCN;
- Ensuring core coordination capacity for integration of TCN.

Main actions co-funded from AMIF shall encompass:

- Further implementation of programmes for basic assistance and services for TCN, including beneficiaries of IP, such as language courses and examinations, civic orientation courses, education, preparatory measures to facilitate access to the labor market, housing, medical and psychological assistance, social and work-related counseling, recognition of diplomas and qualifications, providence of information on rights and duties, and possibilities of participation in integration programmes (printed and online);
- Specific measures targeting vulnerable persons and beneficiaries of IP aimed at promoting a more active participation in the Slovenian society, such as the programmes for the promotion of the social inclusion of women, young and elderly people, or the preparation of personal integration plans for beneficiaries of IP;
- Integration assistance including comprehensive inclusion assistance for persons under IP;
- Analysis and evaluation of integration measures aimed at improving integration activities and services available to migrants, for example through external/independent studies;
- Awareness raising activities and information campaigns including all relevant actors (the target audiences being the general public, professional public, and immigrants themselves) with the purpose of informing TCN, raise awareness and sensitize the general public of integration issues;
- Setting-up and continuous implementation of information programmes through various means of communication (brochures, leaflets, website).

<b>National objective</b>	3 - Capacity
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To familiarize TCN and persons under IP with their rights and obligations as well as provide the highest level of their inclusion into integration programmes, an efficient service for TCN needs to be established. This relates both to information provision as well as properly trained personnel from both public and private sectors.

General national priorities, for which Slovenia provides national funding, are:

- Ensuring core infrastructure, i.e. services, improved knowledge and skills of staff, registers, as well as system capacity for integration of persons granted IP and TCN.

Main actions co-funded from AMIF shall encompass:

- Promotion of a practical and sustainable cooperation between relevant authorities and organizations, including cooperation between competent public bodies, NGOs, international organizations, MS' competent authorities and other actors through exchange of information, best practices, development strategies, and implementation of common measures (e.g. forums, consultations, exchange of good practices, etc.);
- Training of staff in public and private services that work on TCN integration issues (inter-cultural competencies) as well as capacity building and training for policymakers;
- Improvement of services and conditions of stay for TCN and persons granted IP in integration houses;
- Upgrading and maintenance of existing registers ensuring efficient statistical recording and adequate information support to integration programmes.

<b>Specific objective</b>	3 - Return
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The Uniformed Police Directorate is the competent body for return-related activities in Slovenia, whilst its tasks are performed by the Aliens centre. The basis for its operation is set forth in the Aliens Act, determining the conditions and ways of entry, departure, and residence of foreigners, as well as the National resolution on migration policy, covering also the activities of competent bodies in the field of suppression of irregular migration. As for return, concrete responsibilities of the Police are further elaborated in the national Integrated Border Management (IBM) strategy.

Future focus will be on a fair and effective return policy to third countries with both its voluntary and forced return components. Given the forced return encompasses only the cases of active resistance to removal and potential use of coercive measures, preferential use of voluntary return in cooperation with NGOs and international organizations will be encouraged. Slovenia has already developed a general voluntary return and reintegration program with special emphasis on vulnerable categories of TCN. All TCN who have been issued a return decision can enter the program designed jointly by an international organization, TCN and the Aliens centre. According to the current program, "in kind" assistance cannot exceed 2.000 EUR (family 4.000 EUR) and "in cash" assistance can amount up to 1.000 EUR. Monitoring of forced return is one of the measures that are yet to be implemented.

Actions will further aim to enhance cooperation with countries of origin, provision of judicial review of detention, as well as analysis and evaluation of return issues encountered by all stakeholders (returnees, state bodies, NGOs). Particular attention will be given to cooperation with other MS (especially in cases where identification of a TCN is difficult) and Frontex.

Improved infrastructure, services and living conditions in the Aliens centre will also be a priority under AMIF. In Slovenia, there is only one detention centre, which hosts four

separated departments, one of which is dedicated to vulnerable groups and unaccompanied minors. The most burdened are the departments housing male occupants. There are already some smaller projects underway financed from the European Return Fund and the External borders fund aimed at improving facilities and equipment.

Measurable targets during the programming period are:

- Increased number of TCN included into Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (hereinafter AVRR) projects to 30 % of all returned TCN by the Aliens centre;
- Upgrading of the living conditions in the detention centre, which includes the renovation of the rooms, common room, bathrooms and safety systems, focusing on the department housing men;
- Provision of specialist training for the entire staff of the Aliens centre (communication skills, language courses, trainings on treatment of vulnerable categories of TCN such as trafficked people, addicts, etc., police tactics courses etc.).

<b>National objective</b>	1 - Accompanying measures
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Actions will be focused on services related to the operation of the Aliens centre and special facilities for refused TCN at international airports. AVRR related actions should be amended according to the findings of the VREG working group within the European Migration Network (EMN).

General national priorities, for which Slovenia provides national funding, are:

- Provision of basic administrative functions for the design and implementation of return measures;
- Improvement and strengthening of cooperation with all partners involved in the pre-return and return activities;
- Improvements services for detained TCN;
- Design and implementation of alternatives to detention in the Aliens centre;
- Exchange and transfer of know-how and best practices in terms of return measures in other MS;
- Provision of judicial review of detention, in full compliance with the Return Directive safeguards in both law and practice.

Main actions co-funded from AMIF shall encompass:

- Information campaigns for TCN on voluntary return and effective programmes to assist voluntary return (i.e. translation services, legal assistance during the return procedure on the entire territory of the country, social care, working with minors, etc.);
- Strengthening of a monitoring system for forced return through involvement of impartial parties in forced return operations (e.g. NGOs and/or international organizations);

- Improvement of infrastructure, living conditions and running costs of detention facilities and special facilities for refused TCN;
- Social, psychological, and medical assistance for detained persons, and special assistance to vulnerable persons;
- Capacity building and training of staff and other officers involved in return procedures (e.g. language courses, human rights and liberties trainings, cultural awareness and intercultural competencies oriented trainings, regular trainings for escorts, etc.);
- Expansion of the network of translators and interpreters.

<b>National objective</b>	2 - Return measures
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The return measures will be focused on (preferred use of) voluntary return, cooperation with countries of origin, and post-return assistance.

General national priorities, for which Slovenia provides national funding, are:

- Preparation and implementation of specific voluntary return and reintegration programs for returns of vulnerable categories of TCN and returns to certain countries;
- Provision of appropriate care and assistance in cases where return or removal is not possible (due to objective reasons);
- Provision of basic coercive means and equipment for the implementation of return measures.

Main actions co-funded from AMIF shall encompass:

- Implementation of voluntary return and reintegration projects for TCN;
- Cooperation with consular authorities and immigration services of third countries (including through utilization of advanced parties) with a view to obtain travel documents and facilitate return and readmission;
- Preparation and enforcement of return operations (administrative and staff costs, travel costs, accommodation, medical costs, and other costs related to successful and safe operation);
- Post-return assistance in both voluntary and forced return (providing of means for secondary transportation, first necessary housing, medical assistance, etc.).

<b>National objective</b>	3 - Cooperation
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Cooperation will focus on other MS and Frontex.

General national priorities, for which Slovenia provides national funding, are:

- Strengthening of cooperation with diplomatic missions and consular posts of third countries in Slovenia and other EU MS;
- Strengthening of cooperation with IOM and other international organizations;



- Setting-up contacts with administrative and other bodies of third countries with the aim of identifying undocumented TCN;
- Strengthening of cooperation with local providers of services for detainees (such as local primary school, health centre, social service, etc.).

Main actions co-funded from AMIF shall encompass:

- Cooperation with EU MS and Frontex agency in executing joint return flights, identification projects, and other activities relating to the return of TCN (organization of charter flight to third countries and/or participation in joint return flights);
- Cooperation with international organizations, NGOs, and other partners in terms of providing appropriate services for TCN during detention and with the aim of facilitating voluntary return programs, including pre-return and reintegration assistance;
- Cooperation with EU MS as regards exchange of good practices in all fields of return-related measures (identification, trainings, expert meetings, etc).

<b>Specific objective</b>	4 - Solidarity
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Slovenia has the legislative framework for implementing relocation activities (International Protection Act and implementing regulation), accommodation and other capacities, as well as experiences gained in the relocation process in Malta. The decision to participate in relocation programmes is subject to political consensus and approval, which at the moment does not indicate that Slovenia will take part in these projects in the forthcoming years. However, unstable and rapidly changing situation in certain regions could lead to the adoption of a different policy decision in the future.

<b>National objective</b>	1 - Relocation
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Slovenia has the legislative framework for implementing relocation activities (International Protection Act and implementing regulation), accommodation and other capacities, as well as experiences gained in the relocation process in Malta. The decision to participate in relocation programmes is subject to political consensus and approval, which at the moment does not indicate that Slovenia will take part in these projects in the forthcoming years. However, unstable and rapidly changing situation in certain regions could lead to the adoption of a different policy decision in the future.

## 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	Assistance and support to asylum seekers	2014	2015	2023
SO1 - Asylum	NO1 - Reception/asylum	2	Strengthening of competent services involved in processing asylum applications	2014	2015	2023
SO1 - Asylum	NO1 - Reception/asylum	3	Development of reception infrastructure, services and conditions of stay	2015	2016	2023
SO1 - Asylum	NO2 - Evaluation	1	National reception capacity monitoring system	2014	2015	2023
SO1 - Asylum	NO2 - Evaluation	2	National system of evaluation of the asylum procedures	2017	2018	2019
SO1 - Asylum	NO2 - Evaluation	3	Implementation of a contingency planning system	2016	2017	2023
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO1 - Legal migration	1	Info-point for TCN	2014	2015	2023
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO2 - Integration	1	Implementation of programmes for basic assistance and services for TCN	2014	2015	2023
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO2 - Integration	2	Specific measures targeting vulnerable persons	2014	2015	2023
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO2 - Integration	3	Analysis and evaluation of integration measures	2017	2018	2019
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO3 - Capacity	1	Sustainable cooperation	2016	2017	2020
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO3 - Capacity	2	Training of staff and policy makers	2014	2015	2023
SO2 - Integration/legal migration	NO3 - Capacity	3	Improvement of services and conditions of stay	2016	2017	2018
SO3 - Return	NO1 - Accompanying measures	1	Improved infrastructure, living conditions, running costs at the Aliens centre	2016	2017	2020
SO3 - Return	NO1 - Accompanying measures	2	Social, psychological and medical assistance for detained persons	2014	2015	2023
SO3 - Return	NO1 - Accompanying measures	3	Capacity building and training of staff of the Aliens centre and other officers	2014	2015	2023
SO3 - Return	NO2 - Return measures	1	Implementation of voluntary	2015	2016	2023

Specific Objective	NO/SA	Main action	Name of action	Start of planning phase	Start of implementation phase	Start of closing phase
			return and reintegration projects for TCN			
SO3 - Return	NO2 - Return measures	2	Cooperation with consular authorities & immigration services of third countries	2014	2015	2023
SO3 - Return	NO2 - Return measures	3	Preparation and enforcement of return operations	2014	2015	2023
SO3 - Return	NO3 - Cooperation	1	Cooperation with EU MS and Frontex	2014	2015	2023
SO3 - Return	NO3 - Cooperation	2	Cooperation with international organizations, NGOs and other partners	2014	2015	2023
SO3 - Return	NO3 - Cooperation	3	Cooperation with EU MS as regards exchange of good practices	2014	2015	2023

## **4. SPECIAL CASES**

### **4.1 Resettlement**

**Justification of the number of persons to be resettled**

**Pledging plan**

<b>Vulnerable groups and Common Union resettlement priorities (Lump Sum 10 000€per person resettled)</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>2018-2020</b>

### **4.2 Transfer of beneficiaries of international protection**

	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>2018-2020</b>
Number of persons	0		

## 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	2,100.00	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	203.00	Project reporting on improvement of existing capacity and accompanying facilities (1 Asylum home)
C2.2 - The percentage in the total reception accommodation capacity	%	0.00	100.00	Project reporting on improvement of existing capacity and accompanying facilities (1 Asylum home)
C3.1 - Number of persons trained in asylum-related topics with the assistance of the Fund	Number	0.00	140.00	Project reporting
C3.2 - That number as a percentage of the total number of staff trained in those topics	%	0.00	67.00	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	3.00	Project reporting
C6 - Number of persons resettled with support of this Fund	Number	0.00	0.00	Authority in charge of transferring the persons

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	13,000.00	Project reporting
C3 - Number of local, regional and national policy frameworks/measures/tools in place for	Number	0.00	28.00	Project reporting

Specific objective	2 - Integration/legal migration			
Indicator	Unit of measure	Baseline value	Target value	Source of data
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				
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	3.00	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	150.00	Project reporting
C2 - Number of returnees who received pre or post return reintegration assistance co-financed by the Fund	Number	0.00	500.00	Project reporting
C3 - Number of returnees whose return was co-financed by the Fund, persons who returned voluntarily	Number	0.00	1,000.00	Project reporting
C4 - Number of returnees whose return was co-financed by the Fund, persons who were removed	Number	0.00	100.00	Project reporting
C5 - Number of monitored removal operations co-financed by the Fund	Number	0.00	50.00	Project reporting
C6 - Number of projects supported under the Fund to develop, monitor and evaluate return policies in Member States	Number	0.00	0.00	Project reporting

Specific objective	4 - Solidarity			
Indicator	Unit of measure	Baseline value	Target value	Source of data
C1 - Number of applicants and beneficiaries of international protection 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 first draft national programme was prepared in written consultation with competent public authorities and sent on 6 January 2014 to the European Commission for informal review and comments. It was also published on the website portal of the responsible authority (along with the official version of the minutes from the policy dialogue) where it was subject to public review and comments. On the basis of comments received, second draft was unofficially sent to the Commission on 28 May 2014. In parallel, a public debate with all partners (including NGOs and private sector representatives) took place on 27 May 2014 and written consultations were open until 16 June 2014. Based on Commission comments and information received from partners, Slovenia performed another round of consultation with competent public authorities (direct meeting with key stakeholders took place). All versions of the programme were regularly published online and subject to public scrutiny. The partnership principle in the preparation of the programme was observed also through the role of the Inter-ministerial Working Group and the Monitoring Committee, discuss the programmes on their sessions and are able to make comments and drafting suggestions to the wording proposed. Another form of partnership involvements are public information events (organized annually, now encompassing both SOLID funds as well as AMIF and ISF funds).

### **6.2 Monitoring Committee**

The Monitoring Committee has been established by Government Decision No. 06001-3/2013/7 from 8 May 2014. The members are representatives of relevant authorities, i.e. ministries (interior, finance, justice, foreign affairs, education, science and sport, culture, labor, family, social affairs and equal opportunities, defense) and the Government office for development and European cohesion policy. Key responsibilities of the Monitoring committee are:

- Evaluation of activities and projects, allocation of funds;
- Monitoring of implementation and achievement of AMIF and ISF goals using indicators;
- Review of monitoring and realization reports;
- Monitoring of the management and control system;
- Informing the government of the implementation of the objectives.

Based on above responsibilities, the Monitoring Committee will provide a mechanism for prevention of double financing, as it will discuss and approve annual action plans (lists of projects to be implemented), which will have to be cross-checked for double-funding at the level of individual authorities before adoption. The expert basis and proposals for decisions for the Monitoring committee are prepared by the Inter-ministerial working group, which is a body composed of experts from all listed ministries.

### **6.3 Common monitoring and evaluation framework**

The Responsible authority (Project Unit for Internal Security and Migration Funds within the MoI) is the main body responsible for the preparation of annual implementation and

evaluation reports. These reports will be based on common and specific programme indicators specified in this programme. Gathering of data will be arranged through a continuous process of information exchange between the Responsible authority, delegated authorities and final beneficiaries. Reported data will be transmitted to the Project unit via electronic system for financial management, control and monitoring of funds (second generation of the MIGRA system will be developed). Interim and ex-post evaluation reports will be coordinated by RA and prepared by an independent external evaluator. Throughout the process of monitoring and evaluation, the Inter-ministerial working group and the Monitoring committee will provide guidance and proposals for improvements. All findings and reports within the common monitoring and evaluation framework will be forwarded to the Audit authority and published on the website portal of the Responsible authority. Details rules on the implementation of the common monitoring and evaluation framework will be set forth in the Rules of procedure of the Responsible authority.

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

The basic tool is publicity, ensured through publishing of all relevant information online and organization of at least annual public information events. The Inter-ministerial Working Group and the Monitoring Committee will constantly monitor the implementation of the programme and provide guidance and advice.

The main partners are state authorities and other public entities (ministries, the Police, local authorities, social service centers, health centers, primary schools), NGOs, religious communities, non-profit private legal persons, and scientific and research institutions (involved in the preparation of expert studies and analysis). Important partners are EU Agencies and networks (Frontex, EASO), EU delegations in countries of origin (particularly relevant in the return process) as well as key international organizations and associations (such as IOM and ICMPD). Partnership will be maintained with users of facilities financed with the assistance from Home Affairs funds, providing first-hand information on the needs and expectations (e.g. asylum seekers, border guards, TCN, etc.), as well as companies, chosen in public procurement procedures providing works and services (architects, engineers, constructors, managers, maintenance personnel, etc.). The involvement of non-state actors (NGOs and the private sector) will be ensured through regular, at least annual information events, covering all phases of the programme implementation, as well as direct meetings on as-needed basis.

As regards selection of projects to be implemented under awarding body mode, the suggestions and proposals of partners will be taken on board prior to publishing public calls for proposals for the selection of projects (these are prepared and implemented by the Public Procurement and Purchasing Service, an organizational unit within the MoI). In all phases of the process, the principles of equal treatment and non-discrimination against all applicants will be respected.

#### **6.5 Information and Publicity**

Information and publicity will be supported through:



- complete, accurate and timely publication of all relevant materials and information on the web site of the Responsible authority (e.g. national programmes, lists of actions, projects and grant recipients supported by the fund, information on funding opportunities, eligibility rules, manuals and guidelines) and publication of calls for proposals and calls for tenders;
- coordination within the Monitoring committee in order to ensure adequate involvement of various stakeholders;
- organization of annual public events (round tables, information events, public consultation) for all interested stakeholders; events should cover all aspects of preparation, implementation and evaluation of national programmes, whilst adequate media coverage should be ensured;
- regular exchange of opinions and information via telephone or e-mail at the side of the Responsible authority;
- establishment of a comprehensive project-level reporting system on information and publicity measures by beneficiaries.

## **6.6 Coordination and complementarity with other instruments**

Coordination with other funds is ensured through expert consultation within the Inter-ministerial working group and the Monitoring committee. Both bodies are comprised of competent representatives of public authorities from all related areas (namely the MoI (including the Police), Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of education, science and sport, Ministry of culture, Ministry of labor, family, social affairs and equal opportunities, Government office for development and European cohesion policy, and the Ministry of defense). Due to reorganization of government after 2014 elections and also upcoming elections during the programming period, the names of participating ministries and their competencies are likely to be changed in the future. The complementarities with EU Structural and Investment Funds at the planning phase are ensured via close cooperation with the Managing Authority which is also represented in the Inter-ministerial working group and the Monitoring committee. The future Operational Programme for Structural and Investment Funds and National Programmes for AMIF and ISF have been cross-checked for possible double financing. At the implementing phase the Monitoring Committee will annually approve lists of projects to be implemented under AMIF and ISF (action plans), which will have to be cross-checked for double-funding at the level of competent authorities before adoption. These action plans will further be discussed at the Monitoring Committee meetings, where representatives of various authorities (as well as Managing Authority) will also be able to detect any possible synergies and complementarities with other initiatives and projects within their respective departments.

Slovenia will explore and ensure synergies and complementarity with EU policies and financial instruments in third countries. To develop those synergies and complementarities, coordination with EU delegations in the implementation phases of the relevant actions will take place, where appropriate.

## **6.7 Beneficiaries**

### **6.7.1 List of five main types of beneficiaries of the programme**

1. State authorities
2. NGOs
3. International Public Organizations (UNHCR, IOM)
4. Education/research organizations
5. Social partners (especially trade unions and employers' representatives)

### **6.7.2 Direct award (if applicable)**

Certain state authorities will be allocated funds directly (i.e. without a call for proposals) due to de jure or de facto monopoly: MoI (housing and care of applicants for IP, management of procedures for granting IP, integration of persons with IP, the implementation of measures in the field of legal migration and integration of TCN) and Police (return of TCN illegally staying in the territory of the Republic of Slovenia). Where there is no such justification projects shall be carried out on the basis of calls for proposals.

## 7. THE FINANCING PLAN OF THE PROGRAMME

**Table 1: AMIF Financial plan**

<b>Specific objective / national objective / specific action</b>	<b>Total</b>
SO1.NO1 Reception/asylum	3,035,160.00
SO1.NO2 Evaluation	193,734.00
SO1.NO3 Resettlement	0.00
<b>TOTAL SO1 Asylum</b>	<b>3,228,894.00</b>
SO2.NO1 Legal migration	516,623.00
SO2.NO2 Integration	4,236,309.00
SO2.NO3 Capacity	413,298.00
<b>TOTAL SO2 Integration/legal migration</b>	<b>5,166,230.00</b>
SO3.NO1 Accompanying measures	2,034,203.00
SO3.NO2 Return measures	2,034,203.00
SO3.NO3 Cooperation	452,046.00
<b>TOTAL SO3 Return</b>	<b>4,520,452.00</b>
SO4.NO1 Relocation	0.00
<b>TOTAL SO4 Solidarity</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Technical assistance	1,809,901.00
<b>TOTAL Special Cases</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,725,477.00</b>

**Table 2: Special case pledges**

Special case pledges	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Resettlement total	0.00	0.00						0.00
Transfer total	0.00	0.00						0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>						<b>0.00</b>

**Table 3: Total Annual EU commitments (€)**

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
Asylum and solidarity	478,580.25	478,578.00	515,391.00	478,578.00	589,019.00	515,391.00	625,832.00	3,681,369.25
Integration and return	1,435,734.75	1,435,734.00	1,546,175.00	1,435,734.00	1,767,057.00	1,546,175.00	1,877,498.00	11,044,107.75
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,914,315.00</b>	<b>1,914,312.00</b>	<b>2,061,566.00</b>	<b>1,914,312.00</b>	<b>2,356,076.00</b>	<b>2,061,566.00</b>	<b>2,503,330.00</b>	<b>14,725,477.00</b>
	13.00%	13.00%	14.00%	13.00%	16.00%	14.00%	17.00%	100.00%

**Justification for any deviation from the minimum shares set in the Specific Regulations**

**Documents**

Document title	Document type	Document date	Local reference	Commission reference	Files	Sent date	Sent By
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