

European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM): Thematic Fund on the long-term prospects and protection of children and youth on the move in Europe

Terms of Reference for an External Progress Evaluation

BACKGROUND

The [Thematic Fund on the long-term prospects and protection of children and youth on the move in Europe](#) is a collaborative funding initiative of 15 European foundations established in EPIM.

Since 2016, the fund aims to support civil society organisations and public bodies/authorities seeking to address policy and practice issues arising from increasing arrivals of children and youth in Europe, and the struggle for communities to provide adequate protection as well as long-term perspectives for their life in Europe.

As part of this Thematic Fund, **four strands of interlinked interventions** are building up on and strengthening each other:

1. **Grant making in four focus countries** ([Italy](#), [Greece](#), [Germany](#) and [Belgium](#)) to support 19 civil society or public-private partnership projects that demonstrate promising practice in:
 - child supportive reception (includes family- and community-based reception facilities and multi-dimensional services), and
 - accompanying and facilitating the transition to adulthood/autonomy (accompany children and youth in the process of becoming autonomous with services that make no differences when youth turn 18 and older).
2. **Grant-making at EU level** to support civil society organisations' [EU advocacy project](#) that strengthens the collaboration among a diverse set of stakeholders in the child's rights and migration areas.
3. **Research and evaluation** supporting the projects' sustainability and the significance of their impact. A research piece (to be commissioned in the second half of 2018) will aim to strengthen the evidence-base for the long-term impact of individualised, family- or community-based care on children and youth on the move in Europe.
4. **Capacity and network development activities** stressing the links between projects and encouraging peer-to-peer learning at national and Pan-European level with links to countries of origin and transit in order to foster strong advocates and support systems for children and youth on the move.

PURPOSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

By commissioning a progress evaluation, EPIM would like to assess the progress made towards achieving outcomes and impact of the Thematic Fund across the various interventions of its Thematic Fund, in the period 2016-2018. This would be done with the aim to inform grant-making and decision-making processes within EPIM as well as to support civil society with evidence to strengthen and sustain their practices and solution-based advocacy.

The external progress evaluation is a **second-level evaluation** that will draw on, integrate and **analyse existing monitoring and evaluation data** from the various interventions. The information for this

assignment should be based on the existing knowledge of the evaluator, a review of existing documents (see below) and stakeholders' interviews.

The evaluation will aim to:

- draw **cross-cutting learnings on success factors, replicable practices and challenges** across EPIM interventions;
- assess the **links between the national and the EU-level** interventions;
- assess the extent to which EPIM interventions altogether have **contributed to systemic changes**.

As much as possible and based on the availability of data, the evaluation will assess the progress achieved towards the outcomes and impact of the Thematic Fund by answering evaluation questions, including:

- ? Have individualised, family and community-based, holistic service/care models supported under the Thematic Fund contributed to ensure the transition of children and youth to an autonomous life with long-term prospects?
- ? Have these services been recognised, scaled up, replicated and supported by policy-makers, CSOs, public and private funders?
- ? Have policy-makers at the EU and national levels worked towards greater policy coherence, inter-institutional coordination and integrated approach to the fulfilment of child rights, including through dedicated funding?
- ? Is there an increased capacity of civil society actors to carry out evidence-based child-focused advocacy and to highlight solutions both at EU and national level and of policy-makers to develop policies based on existing data and evidence?
- ? Is there a deepened and strengthened collaboration between EU institutions and Member States in protecting children's rights?
- ? Are CSOs more empowered and is there increased collaboration at local, national and Pan-European level to influence policy-making and practices that enhance respect of children's rights and best interest?
- ? Do practitioners working with children on the move have the knowledge and tools to protect and inform them about their rights?

ROLE OF THE CONSULTANT

The consultant will work in close collaboration with the EPIM Secretariat to:

- Refine the framework and process for the assignment.
- Analyse and draw conclusions from the information contained in the key documents of reference (to be provided by EPIM), and from interviews with relevant stakeholders on the basis of an agreed methodology.
- Prepare a second-level evaluation report that addresses the above objectives.

DOCUMENTS OF REFERENCE

The second-level progress evaluation will rely on available sources of information, including:

- Data, findings, baseline and evaluation reports from the country programme evaluations;
- Interviews with relevant stakeholders and boundary partners to complement existing information;
- Grantees' project Logic Models;
- Grantees' interim and final narrative reports;
- Grantees' reports from the learning grants;
- Conference and workshop reports, feedback of conference participants;
- Thematic Fund Logic Model and strategy papers;
- EPIM annual progress report;

- Etc.

PROFILE OF THE CONSULTANT

The consultant should have:

- **strong analytical skills;**
- a solid **expertise in the issue area of children and youth in migration** in order to draw informed conclusions based on a deep understanding and analysis of the issues at hand;
- a strong **knowledge of EU-level and global developments** for children and youth in migration;
- excellent English writing skills; and
- experience in the **evaluation of projects and grant-making strategies.**

Knowledge of French, Italian and/or German is of added value.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

An evaluation report, around 15 pages, with an executive summary and addressing the above-mentioned objectives. A first draft of the report will be submitted in electronic version to EPIM for feedback.

INDICATIVE TIMEFRAME

Deadline to submit a proposal	24 June 2018
Decision by the Selection Committee	6 July 2018
Development and validation of the framework and process	July 2018
Research and drafting of the paper	July-October 2018
First draft to be submitted to EPIM	October 2018
Final paper to be submitted to EPIM and presentation of the results to the Thematic Fund Committee	November 2018

INDICATIVE BUDGET

Budget of around 15,000 EUR for work days (to be discussed based on the proposal).

HOW TO APPLY

Please send the following documents to fanny.georges@epim.info **by Sunday, 24 June:**

- 1) A short proposal (max. 4 pages) with a tailored methodology and timetable
- 2) A writing sample you wrote for a similar evaluation assignment, in English
- 3) Your CV
- 4) Indicative budget in Euro, stating the consultant's daily rate and indicating the number of days needed for this work. Where applicable, VAT should be budgeted. Eventual travel costs will be reimbursed separately and should not be taken into account.