**Concept note template – ERRIN Facility**

Organisations that want to put forward a project-idea or concept to the ERRIN Facility must do so via this template. The Concept Note must answer six sections in a maximum of 3000 words.

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| 1. **Summary of the concept** | | |
| *Introduce the project-idea (max. 600 words), starting from the problem that it wants to address.* | | |
| Information and counselling are key aspects of the return process. Migrants can only opt for voluntary return if they are aware that such assistance exists and if they know how to access it.  Certain target groups are easy to reach. Asylum seekers in reception centres can be informed during their regular interactions with the authorities or reception centres’ staff. Migrants in irregular stay, however, are much more difficult to connect with. They live a hidden life in the main urban agglomerations. Others are on the move throughout the EU (of which the route to the UK is only the most visible example).  Notwithstanding this difficult setting, an effective outreach strategy to this group of migrants is a key challenge for an effective return policy. The direct impact of such a strategy on the number of returns is difficult to assess, but it is clear that without correct information and easy to access AVR-services, uptake of AVR would always be lower than what is potentially possible.  As a national migration agency, it is not easy to reach out directly to this target group. Agencies working on a national level do not have the necessary links and networks, nor the credibility to get the message across. Challenge is to develop the right methods and techniques to approach migrants and to identify stakeholders that have the necessary links and that are credible.  This is what this project wants to do: 1) develop the right strategies, attitudes and approaches, and 2) bring together relevant stakeholders capable and willing to reach out to this target group.  This project is not limited to establishing networks and developing practices. Networks and practices are not objectives as such, but necessary tools for a clear result-driven focus. Outreach practices will be implemented and, during this implementation, a monitoring and evaluation cycle will ensure evidence based learning.  The project will focus on the two target groups defined above:   1. Migrants in irregular stay that settled in urban agglomeration across Europe. Some of them have an administrative background in Europe (failed asylum application, return decision…), others did not leave any administrative trail. To reach out to these migrants, partnerships will be developed with municipalities. 2. Migrants on the move through Europe. Initial focus is on the transit route to the UK (affecting France and Belgium), but this scope can be enlarged to the routes starting at the disembarkation points along the Mediterranean coast. | | |
| 1. **Expected results** | | |
| *Describe the results and long term impacts the project can achieve (max. 600 words). Please be specific. Results and outcomes must be measurable.* | | |
| Objective 1: develop and implement effective outreach strategies to irregular migrants in urban agglomerations, using operational practices and projects implemented by city councils.  European cities are faced with the challenge of irregular migrants on their territory. They are obliged to ensure basic social services. Within this context, they can provide information on return and refer to relevant programs. Quite a few European cities developed operational strategies that go far beyond just providing information, including pro-active counselling and follow-up.  This project brings these cities together, assesses their approaches and facilitates projects to improve their magnitude and/or effectiveness.  Activities and results:   * Reach out to cities that have operational projects on (voluntary) return.   Deliverable: network of cities that are operationally involved in outreach and referral on (voluntary) return.   * Establish a community of practices (involving national migration agencies and the above mentionned cities).   Deliverable: overview of practices, assessment of success factors   * Explore and implement possibilities to reinforce existing practices (ex. native counselor contributing to outreach strategies in other cities) and enlarge scope of running projects (ex. local reintegration projects for spcific target groups are accessible from other cities).   Deliverable: increase effectiveness of existing practices and projects.  Objective 2: develop and implement effective outreach strategies to irregular migrants that are transiting through Europe on their way to the UK.  Transit migration is a very visible phenomenon. The routes pass along ‘hot spots’ (harbours, highway parkings). The biggest challenge is not to find these migrants on the move and to reach out to them, but to use the time-limited and often stressed moments of contact to ensure maximum transfer of information. Simple information and clear referral strategies are only two of the necessary conditions that need to be in place to get the maximum out of these very limited interactions.  Activities and results:   * Establish a community of practices involving the migration agencies of the countries affected (tentatively: UK, BE, FR), and their operational stakeholders that are involved in dealing with this phenomenon (NGO’s, police…).   Deliverable: a common approach on how to engage with transitmigrants, based on a clear package of information.   * Activate two multinational outreach teams to reach out to transitmigrants.   Deliverable: 100 migrants / week are informed and counselled.   * Compile and analyse profile data of migrants that are counselled.   Deliverable: reasoned report on the profile of transit migrants, incl. recommendation to improve outreach strategies.  The scope of this objective can be enlarged to other transit-routes.  Objective 3: quick learning through the implementation of a monitoring and evaluation cycle that focusses on impact measurement and covers all activities in this project.  This project should lead to an increase the uptake of voluntary return. To achieve this result, it is important to have from the very first beginning a clear idea of what works and what does not.  Activities and results:   * Establish (through the community of practices) a set of indicators, common to all project activities, to measure impact. * A 6-monthly overview of indicators. | | |
| 1. **Implementation methodology** | | |
| *Describe the activities that will be implemented to achieve the expected results and outcomes (max. 1.000 words). Please include indicative timeframe.* | | |
| Objective 1   * Kick-off meeting with cities and ERRIN Members to launch community of practices. * Overview of practices and possibilities to co-operate is ready after 6 months of implementation. * Every city develops an activity in which its own practices, assets and projects will benefit other cities. These activities are funded through the project.   Examples:   * + Antwerpen: Other cities can ReMa service delivery is opened up for other cities   Objective 2   * Kick-off meeting to define an outreach strategy. * Recruit 4 outreach-officials (2 multinational teams). * Effective counselling from the 4th month onwards.   Objective 3   * Kick-off meetings are used to define the impact assessment methodology. * Initial input from ERRIN-members and operational stakeholders is assessed and further developed by external experts. | | |
| 1. **Environment and potential complementarities** | | |
| *Describe the environment of the project (max. 500 words), focusing on:*  *- ERRIN Members that have shown interest in the concept (if any)*  *- Organisations that could be involved (if any)*  *- Potential funding sources for (parts of) the action (if any)*  *- Complementarities with existing activities (if any)* | | |
| Objective 1  A partnership with EUROCITIES will be developed.  EUROCITIES, based in Brussels, is a network of 140 European cities. Their objective is to reinforce the role of local governments in multilevel governance structure. ‘Migration and integration’ is one of the 6 permanent thematic forums that EUROCITIES hosts.  Up to now, 6 cities that run operational projects on return outreach have confirmed interest: Gent, Antwerpen, Helsinki, Munchen, Milan and Newcastle. Discussions are ongoing with Utrecht, Groningen, Madrid and Athens.  Objective 2  FRA and UK have shown active interest in this component, as this phenomena of transit migration clearly affects their territory.  Objective 3  External, potentially academic, advice will be contracted to ensure solid and credible impact assessment strategies | | |
| 1. **Organisational capacities** | | |
| *Describe the experience of your organization in operational project management in the field of return / return-related activities (max. 300 words)* | | |
| Fedasil (Federal Agency for the Reception of Asylum Seekers) is the government agency responsible for the development and implementation of an AVR strategy in Belgium.  In 2011, Fedasil started to work on partnerships with cities. In 2018, Fedasil has agreements with xxx cities. All partnerships are centered around 3 objectives:   1. Outreach to migrants in irregular stay by using existing networks. 2. Ensure accessibility of AVR from within the social services of the city. 3. Input and operational involvement in reintegration project development (so that the assistance offered corresponds to the actual needs of the target group).   Within these three objectives, significant results have been achieved.   * Antwerpen: Tailor made reintegration services + native counselling for irregular Moroccans in homeless care led to return rate of 27% (counselled vs. departed). * Gent: counselling to migrants * Oostende: Gambia.   To ensure coherence between the different local situations and strategies, Fedasil ensures central co-ordination (based on regular co-ordination meetings, operational exchange and joined project development).  These partnerships are funded through the national AVR-budget. The budget per project ranges from 25.000 to 80.000 EUR per annum. | | |
| 1. **Estimated budget** | | |
| *Provide an estimation of the budget that is needed for this project, incl. an (indicative) breakdown in major budget-headings.* | | |
| 1. [Heading name] | | [Amount in EUR] |
| 2. Staff co-ordination, 1 FTE | | 50.000 EUR |
| 3. Outreach teams, 4 FTE | | 240.000 EUR |
| 4. Meetings and travel | | 50.000 EUR |
| 5. Small scaled city projects | | 5 x 20.000 EUR = 100.000 EUR |
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| (add as many rows as needed) | |  |
| **Contact person** | | |
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