

Call for Proposals (Deadline for Concept notes: 8 April 2022)

## Building inclusive European societies: Decent Work and Adequate Housing for All

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Everyone aspires to live and work decently. Without the prospect of being treated with dignity, equally and fairly, without feeling safe at work, without a place to call home, how can one participate economically, socially and politically? And how can our societies then be truly inclusive and genuinely thrive?

Covid and its consequences have put these interconnected topics at the centre stage. The pandemic has further exposed the challenges posed by a changing economy and shown the necessity to rethink the [future of work](#). It has also once again brought to light the [widening gaps](#) between those who can access adequate housing and those who cannot. These situations continue to raise questions on the application of principles of human dignity, security and equity in both areas, and draw attention on the urge to find alternatives to current decent work and housing deficits.

Among those particularly exposed to these shortcomings are people who have migrated to or within the EU. Foreign-born workers continue to be particularly exposed to precarious working conditions, undeclared work, [exploitative practices](#), and discriminations. While better documented in certain sectors or geographies, these issues are in fact cross-sectoral, far from being limited to certain European regions, and go beyond seasonal work. Migrants in the EU have also been twice as likely to live in [overcrowded conditions](#), while shrinking investments in social housing and rising rent prices resulted in [growing homelessness](#) among all vulnerable groups. This in turn has put pressure on social services, but also increased the amount of income in taxes lost in the regular economy because of irregular employment conditions.

The complexity of the regulatory frameworks, the interplay between various policy areas and sectoral interests, the relative absence of labour migration pathways, and the absence of scale of promising initiatives that may provide alternatives to existing challenges, have contributed to the current situation. Solutions and opportunities require all concerned parties (i.e., people concerned by the issues, civil society organisations, social partners, EU, national and local authorities, and private sector) to speak to each other, coordinate, and join forces to ultimately solve challenges on the ground. Ensuring decent work and adequate housing for people who have migrated to or within the EU ultimately concerns us all, as this is about the cohesiveness and overall well-being of our societies, as well as the prosperity of our economies.

## 1. Objectives

Through this Call for Proposals, EPIM will support civil society initiatives aimed to **ensure decent work<sup>1</sup> and adequate housing<sup>2</sup>** for all in the European Union, with a **specific focus on people who have migrated to/within the EU** regardless of their ethnic origin, socio-economic status, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, (dis)ability, and migration status.

In this regard, EPIM wishes to support initiatives aimed to **create or enhance opportunities and conditions for decent work and adequate housing** for people who have migrated to or within the European Union, by **focusing on multi-stakeholder coordination, collaboration and/or dialogue** between concerned parties. Grants awarded under this call for proposals can support the **testing, implementation and/or replication** of these coordination efforts. These efforts can be action-driven or purposefully aim to build structural and sustainable trust relationships between the actors involved.

EPIM particularly encourages initiatives that take place **across sectors** (e.g., migration and agri-food, care, housing, platform work, transportation etc.), **between non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other actors** (e.g., local authorities, corporate sector, trade unions etc.), **across borders** and **involve people who are directly concerned** by the targeted issues.

## 2. Eligible applicants

- Applicants must be registered as **non-profit and non-governmental organisations**. Non-profit organisations active **at EU, national, regional and/or local levels** are eligible for this call for proposals.
- **Eligible applicants may submit or partner in more than one concept note** under this call for proposals.

## 3. Eligible project proposals

- Applications **must address the objectives outlined in this Call for Proposals** (see section 1) and explain how they aim to implement one or more of these.
- Projects should be **implemented in Europe**. Projects can be implemented in non-EU countries as long as it has a European dimension (see section 4).
- Applicants **can apply alone or in partnership**. However, in line with the objectives of the call for proposals, EPIM encourages projects focusing on multi-stakeholder coordination, collaboration and dialogue.
- EPIM is **not prescriptive** regarding the type of activities that can be supported under this Call for Proposals, as long as they are relevant to the objectives of the call for proposals.
- Applications for standalone trainings or individual academic study/research/travel are not eligible.
- Funds cannot be provided for physical capital projects. Instead, funds may support **direct costs**, including staff time, travels, meetings, consultancies, communications costs etc., as well as **indirect costs** in the form of overheads.

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<sup>1</sup> The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines decent work as *'productive work for women and men in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity'*. According to the [European Commission](#), work is considered as decent when 'it pays a fair income, guarantees a secure form of employment and safe working conditions, ensures equal opportunities and treatment for all, includes social protection for the workers and their families, offers prospects for personal development and encourages social integration, and where workers are free to express their concerns and to organise'.

<sup>2</sup> The United National Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights sees *'adequate housing'* as the *'right to live somewhere in security, peace and dignity'*.

- **English** is the working language of EPIM. Only applications in English will be accepted. Furthermore, the organisation's staff communicating with the EPIM team and participating in EPIM capacity and network development programmes will be expected to work in English.

## 4. Selection criteria

**Clear identification of the change(s) you want to contribute to through your project:** the project should indicate the concrete and realistic changes it will aim for. Those can include changes of policies, practices, behaviours, relationships etc. It should also specify the concrete changes you wish to see for the people whose situations you ultimately wish to change.

**Multi-stakeholder coordination, collaboration and/or dialogue:** The project should focus on the testing, implementation or replication of promising stakeholders' coordination, collaboration and dialogue between concerned parties, across sectors (e.g., migration and agri-food, care, housing, platform work, transportation etc.), types of organisations (e.g., non-governmental organisations, EU, national, local authorities, corporate sector, trade unions etc.), and/or decision-making level (e.g., EU and national/local levels). These efforts can be action-driven and/or purposefully aim to build sustainable and structural trust relationships between the actors involved.

**European dimension:** The project should have a European dimension, by linking the content, objectives, and actions of the project to broader EU frameworks that are relevant to decent work and housing. This can include for example exchanges and coordination across various European national contexts, or between EU-level actors and national/local actors or engaging with EU policies or institutions.

**Meaningful participation and representation of people directly concerned by the issues that are addressed by the project:** The project should foresee the meaningful participation of people concerned. By meaningful participation and representation, EPIM refers to the agency of the people involved, their preparedness and choice for being involved, and the safety of their involvement.

**Timeliness:** the applicant should explain why the proposal is timely given the current context (e.g., specific needs on the ground or policy opportunities have emerged).

**Value/need for EPIM funding:** The need for EPIM's funding in light of other sources of public and private funding should be demonstrated.

**Potential for sustainability:** The project should plan for the sustainability of the project outcomes beyond the project period.

## 5. Duration of projects

The project begins after the signature of the contract at a date agreed upon with EPIM. Projects should have a **minimum duration of 12 months**.

## 6. Budget

Concept notes do not need to be accompanied by a budget proposal. Shortlisted applicants for the full application phase will be invited to submit a budget proposal within the **maximum budget of 120,000 EUR**. EPIM currently has a total budget of 240,000 EUR for this call for proposals.

## 7. How to apply

The application process consists of a two-step process:

**STEP 1:** Applicants are invited to submit a Concept Note, in the form of a project idea, **by 8 April 2022, 23.59hrs, CET**. If you consider applying for this Call for Proposals, please use our online application system to submit a proposal. To access the application form, please visit the website <https://nef-europe.optimytool.com/en/> and click on the tab 'Submit an Application'.

**STEP 2:** Following site-visits or online interviews, pre-selected applicants will be invited to submit a full application together with a budget proposal.

## 8. Review and decision-making

1. **Eligibility check:** All submitted applications will be reviewed by EPIM for compliance with the eligibility criteria. If an application does not include all required information or supporting documents, EPIM can notify the applicant to complete the proposal by submitting the missing documents in due time.
2. **Selection:** Each concept note that meets the eligibility criteria shall be reviewed by EPIM as well as independent and impartial experts. The experts shall separately and independently score the project according to selection criteria. Following this review, EPIM will conduct follow-up online interviews or site visits to shortlisted applicants. As a result of these conversations, pre-selected applicants will be invited to submit a full application.
3. **Decision:** Funding decisions are the exclusive discretionary competence of the EPIM Selection Committee, which consists of members of the Foundations involved in EPIM's Thematic Fund on Building Inclusive European Societies, based on the recommendations of independent experts and the conversation with EPIM.

Applicants will be kept informed at each step of the process and a specific timeframe will be communicated to them regarding the selection and decision-making process, upon receipt of their application. All applicants will be informed about the decision by email. All selected projects will be announced on the EPIM website.

## 9. Any need for additional support?

In view of making this Call for Proposals more accessible, in particular for organisations that are less familiar with the legal and policy context of the EU on the topic, EPIM has commissioned a **Policy Insights paper** to the European Policy Centre. The document can be found [here](#) and aims to provide applicants with an overview of the existing EU policy framework, highlight some of the challenges and gaps and point to some existing opportunities for engagement.

Additionally, EPIM will organise two **one-hour information sessions** on the call for proposals and application process on

- 8 March 2022, from 11.00hrs to 12.00hrs (Brussels time).
- 10 March 2022, from 14.30hrs to 15.30hrs (Brussels time).

The calls will take the form of Questions and Answers sessions with the EPIM team and will be the opportunity for participants to ask clarification questions on the content of the call for proposals. Please click [here](#) to register for one of these sessions **by 4 March 2022**.

Please refer any questions you might have to EPIM Senior Programme Manager, Sophie Ngo-Diep at [sophie.ngo-diep@epim.info](mailto:sophie.ngo-diep@epim.info).