

Coordination group on migration under the NDICI - Global Europe and the Member States' bilateral cooperation instruments

Background

Recital 50 of the Regulation establishing NDICI-GE establishes that migration-related actions *“should contribute to the effective implementation of EU agreements and dialogues on migration with third countries by encouraging cooperation relying on a flexible incitative approach and supported by a coordination mechanism within this Instrument. This mechanism should enable to address ongoing and emerging migration challenges within this Regulation using all appropriate components through flexible funding while respecting its financial envelopes and relying on their flexible implementation”*.

As a reflection of the approach described in this recital, the related Commission declaration sets out that *“in order to ensure the most efficient and impactful use of these funds, in line with the Union’s and partner countries’ policy priorities, the European Commission will actively implement these priorities using all relevant Union instruments and participate in the coordination with the Member States in a synchronised and efficient manner”* and that the European Commission will *“ensure that the European Parliament and the Council are closely and regularly informed, allowing for exchanges of views”*.

Composition

To enact the approach presented by recital 50 and the related Commission’s declaration, and in view of establishing a place and mechanism allowing for a coordination between the European Commission and EU Member States, it is appropriate to set up a coordination group.

This group will be an informal special group created by the Commission.

This group would be composed of the relevant European Commission’s services and the EEAS, and the relevant EU Member States’ authorities. Each Member State would nominate two representatives.

Objectives

The objective of such a group would be to exchange information and views to ensure coordination and coherence between the use of NDICI – Global Europe funds to support external migration-related actions and Member States’ migration-related actions.

This would help ensure consistency and effectiveness of Union actions in the use of these funds, in line with the strategic discussions taking place in the Working Party on External Aspects of Asylum and Migration (EMWP) and the subgroup on NDICI-Global Europe of the Working Party on development cooperation and international partnerships (CODEV-PI NDICI-GE sub group).

This would:

- meet Member States’ expectations to have migration-related actions under the NDICI – Global Europe supported by a coordination mechanism (recital 50);
- ensure maximum synergies and coherence within NDICI migration-related actions as well as with Member States own related actions, notably through Team Europe Initiatives;
- contribute to the governance of the EU external action on migration, in an operational and balanced manner, in line both with policy priorities and the NDICI-GE.

More specifically, three types of items could be discussed in this coordination group:

- ***Exchange on the implementation orientations:*** The members of the group would exchange upstream on the use of NDICI-GE in the area of migration and forced displacement.
- ***Coordination discussions in view of future projects:*** The Commission services and the EEAS could present ideas for possible new actions on migration and forced displacement and seek Member States' reactions and information on their own ongoing or planned bilateral projects, as well as possible synergies in line with the Team Europe approach.
 - This would allow for testing possible new actions in an indicative manner at an early stage.
 - Member States would be invited to proactively provide information on projects they may have under consideration for possible financing under their bilateral cooperation, in particular under Team Europe Initiatives.
 - Participants would contribute to the discussion by updating the group
 - a) on the technical cooperation projects on migration ongoing with targeted third countries,
 - b) on the specific challenges to be addressed in this technical cooperation and the improvements possibly sought,
 - c) on the planned next steps to accompany related negotiations with operational actions
 - d) on the projects to be considered - at EU and bilateral level - in view of better engaging the relevant third countries, on the basis of the political and strategic discussions taking place in the Council on migration cooperation as well as on incentives and leverages (notably in EMWP and CODEV-PI NDICI-GE subgroup).

Discussions in this coordination group would help understand how the specific projects under consideration under NDICI-GE and Member States' bilateral funds may be synchronised with – and bring their contribution to- the common efforts.
 - The discussions would contribute to inform the Commission's decision as regards the initiatives it would subsequently submit to the NDICI Committee for formal opinion as relevant.
- ***Information on approved projects:*** As the instrument is progressively implemented, the Commission services and the EEAS could use coordination meetings to present, in a synthetic manner, information on multiannual indicative programmes and actions and measures documents specifically related to migration and forced displacement having been approved to date, through the NDICI Committee, in the various countries and regions. The information shared with the Member States on the state of play would also be made available to the Council and in a written form to the European Parliament.
 - This would allow to inform on the overall NDICI – GE contribution (including through any of its geographic or thematic programmes or rapid response actions) in the field of migration and forced displacement.
 - Participants would receive an update on the progress being made towards reaching the related 10 % spending target of the NDICI-GE.

Practical aspects

This Coordination group could meet either in presence or virtually two times a year or, if needed, more frequently. The Commission could cover the participant fees of Member States' representatives up to twice per year.