Evaluation of EPIM III

2012-2015

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Abbreviations

AIDA	Asylum Information Database
AIRE Centre	Advice on Individual Rights in Europe
CIR	Italian Council for Refugees (Consiglio Italiano per i Rifugiati)
ECRE	European Council on Refugees and Exiles
ENoMW	European Network of Migrant Women
EPIM	European Platform for Integration and Migration
FRA	Flemish Refugee Action
IRC	Irish Refugee Council
MdM	Médecins du Monde
PICUM	Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants
SIP	Association for Legal Intervention (Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej)
UM	Undocumented migrants

Summary

The European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM) is a group of European Foundations who pool funding in order to pursue a shared mission: to strengthen civil society organisations in their efforts to advocate for constructive approaches to migration in Europe. This is done through grant-making, capacity development and networking. Between 2005 and 2015, 17 foundations contributed funding to EPIM, together providing €7.2 million of funding for grants.

In 2012 EPIM commissioned RAND Europe to undertake an evaluation of their third funding round, which operated between 2012 and 2015. The aims of the evaluation of EPIM III were to:

1. Assess the progress made at the level of the EPIM III programme as a whole between 2012 and 2015.
2. Identify lessons learned by the grantees about pathways to achieving impact.

Grants in EPIM III were awarded to ten organisations working in the areas of asylum seekers, undocumented migrants and in relation to equality, integration and social inclusion of vulnerable migrants. The grantees (listed below and described in more detail in Appendix B) were diverse in regards to the nature of their projects, their size and the length of time they had been operating.

- Médecins du Monde International Network (MdM) - Project: European advocacy project to improve access to health care for undocumented migrants in Europe.
- ECRE – European Council on Refugees and Exiles - Project: AIDA – Asylum Information Database.
- PICUM – Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants - Project: From Awareness to Commitment: advancing political, institutional and societal responses to the protection of undocumented migrants in Europe.
- Irish Refugee Council - Project: Early Legal Advice for Protection of Applicants.
- Flemish Refugee Action (Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen) - Project: A Face to the Story: the issue of unreturnable persons in detention.
- Italian Council for Refugees (Consiglio Italiano per i Rifugiati, CIR) - Project: Access to Protection: a human right.
- Association for Legal Intervention (Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej, SIP) - Project: For Undocumented Migrants' Rights in Central Europe.
- ENoMW European Network of Migrant Women (ENoMW) - Project: Promoting the Empowerment of Migrant Women in the European Union.
- MIGREUROP - Project: Moving Beyond Borders – Protect undocumented migrants on either side of the European borders.

- The AIRE Centre (Advice on Individual Rights in Europe) - Project: Invisible EU Migrants: Towards a European Policy Response.

The evaluation of EPIM looked for the *contribution* made by grantees and by EPIM III. Achieving changes to policy and practice in the field of migration is challenging. Ideally, an evaluation would be able to understand the unique contribution made by EPIM III to migration policy and practice, isolating the effect of EPIM from other factors that might also have led to changes in this field. In reality, the number and range of factors that can drive or inhibit change make this impractical. They include public opinion, national and international politics, and – particularly relevant at the time of writing this report given the increase in numbers of migrants and refugees arriving on Europe's Mediterranean coast – trends and flows in migration.

The evaluation was based on a clear understanding that it would not be possible to *attribute* changes in policy or practice directly to grantees' work under the EPIM III programme. Rather, the evaluation sought to understand the *contributions* that grantees had made to policy and practice. This was an important aspect of the evaluation, intended to acknowledge the context in which grantees operated while pursuing the best available evidence about their achievements.

The evaluation distinguished different kinds of results and achievements from EPIM III. Throughout this report the terms 'outputs', 'outcomes' and 'impacts' are used to indicate different kinds of results (these are explained in Section 1.2). Outputs refer to the 'products' produced by grantees such as events, reports and databases; outcomes refer to the uptake, use or influence of the outputs by or on policy makers, practitioners and other stakeholders of the grantees; impacts refer to the wider social, economic or legal changes that arise as the result of the outputs and outcomes of the grantees. The terms 'achievements' and 'results' are used to refer collectively to all these different kinds of results.

The evaluation was primarily based on self-reported information from grantees. The data collection approach used in the evaluation is described in detail in Section 1.2. The evidence collected about the achievements of individual grantees was aggregated in order to draw conclusions about the progress made at the level of the EPIM III programme. Limitations to the methods employed in the evaluation largely stemmed from the reliance on self-reported data from grantees and the challenges of evidencing causal contributions to policy and practice change. These limitations are further explained in Section 1.2.

The achievements of the EPIM III programme as a whole

Programme-level achievements of EPIM III are described in Chapter 2 of this report, and Chapter 3 provides the more detailed supporting evidence about grantee-level achievements. The main findings regarding progress made at the level of the EPIM III programme as a whole between 2012 and 2015 are as follows.

The evaluation found that the overall achievements of EPIM III are substantial and have taken place against the backdrop of a difficult political climate. Although aggregating and summing the achievements of the grantees into a single statement about the results of EPIM III is challenging (given the very diverse nature of the projects

undertaken by the grantees, their objectives and approaches), a number of programme-level outcomes and impacts were identified.

EPIM III resulted in capacity-building outcomes and development among all grantees, but particularly among newer and less mature organisations. Capacity building of grantees was central to the EPIM 'funding plus' model (described in Section 1.1). All grantees evidenced outcomes of increased capacity to conduct research, to run advocacy and awareness campaigns and to influence stakeholders. However, for newer organisations the EPIM III grants enabled them to substantially build capacity. **Workshops and conferences organised by EPIM provided grantees with valuable networking opportunities.** Such linkages were welcomed by grantees and appeared to have helped grantees to achieve their outcomes and impacts , not just at the national, but also at the European level. None of the grantees reported disadvantages of or concerns about the capacity-building activities that were part of EPIM III.

Data collection and dissemination featured prominently among grantees' objectives and through supporting these outputs EPIM III added value to other civil society organisations and policy makers. For example, MdM was able to collect data about access to healthcare by vulnerable groups in 26 cities across 11 countries, and ECRE developed the Asylum Information Database (AIDA). While these information sources are not an end in themselves, they provide vital inputs to policy process, and significantly raised the profile of some grantees.

In part as a result of grantee outputs such as data and reports, EPIM III contributed to early steps towards changing policy in a number of areas. Grantees delivered advocacy messages and evidence to policy makers at national and European levels in a manner which could feed into and influence policy change. These were important outcomes for grantees and for EPIM III as a whole. The ability of national-level grantees to reach policy makers at the European level was enhanced by the networks facilitated by EPIM III.

Through the work of some grantees, EPIM III was able to deliver benefits to individual migrants and asylum seekers. These outcomes were primarily as a result of direct service delivery by grantees, or as a result of grantees' engagement with professionals (such as healthcare workers) who were themselves working directly with migrants and asylum seekers.

None of the grantees evidenced impacts on larger groups or categories of beneficiaries. At the time of writing this report, EPIM III had not been shown to have contributed to the kinds of changes that would have widespread impacts. However, this is partly to be expected, given that such impacts can only be realised by significant changes in law or policy (which are time-consuming and challenging to achieve). Some of the impacts of EPIM III might only be realised in the future.

The effect of the political, economic and international context on the progress made by EPIM III was difficult to evidence, but was perceived by grantees to have affected their ability to achieve objectives. The period 2012 to 2015 was marked by significant changes in migration trends to Europe, as the number of people attempting to reach Europe across the Mediterranean Sea increased substantially. Migration and refugee policy

has become a top priority at the European and Member State level. This compounded the effects of the global financial crisis, which grantees had already reported to be affecting their work. While the evaluation cannot determine the extent to which these events hamper (or enhance) the EPIM III mission, they provide an essential context and give cause to adjust expectations about the nature and scale of changes that might be achieved.

Finally, the long-term nature of the funding was recognised as important to the success of grantees in interviews with independent experts. Interviewees observed that long-term core funding is required to allow grantees to establish themselves as experts in an area and thereby to become a trusted resource for government. The stability and continuity provided by longer-term grants is therefore important as it enables grantees to have an impact on policy and practice.

Pathways to outcomes and impacts: lessons for grantees

Addressing the second aim of the evaluation, to 'identify lessons learned by the grantees about pathways to achieving impact', Chapter 4 of this report presents findings from a cross-cutting analysis to identify promising practices and lessons for the future for both grantees and funders.

- **Collecting and using policy-relevant data**. A number of grantees undertook primary data collection – for example, developing information databases or describing national practices. This was resource intensive to undertake in a robust and sustainable way, but grantees who had done this could clearly demonstrate its added value as an input to the policy process and an advocacy tool. When used to best effect, such data were complemented by strategies regarding dissemination to key audiences.
- **Finding common ground with stakeholders holding a range of views**. Even in situations where grantees strongly opposed current policy and practice, some found that tempering critical advocacy messages and highlighting examples of current good practice helped to secure trust with key stakeholders and build longer-term relationships.
- **Making best use of on the ground and specialist legal knowledge**. Grantees built successful advocacy activities from their experience of service delivery (for example legal advice) and were able to make precise diagnoses of problems stemming from national law or practice.
- **Formulating specific or narrow policy demands** that were perceived by policy makers to be tractable and feasible to respond to was a tactic some grantees found effective.
- **Expanding reach and influence** by training volunteers, securing support from 'ambassadors' who could publicise key messages, and joining networks and coalitions working for common goals.
- **Partnering local (especially new) organisations with experienced, European-level organisations** to provide advice about advocacy in Brussels and facilitate access to stakeholders.

In addition, the evaluation team formulate a three-point guideline for grantees about how to evidence the contributions they make (set out in Section 1.2).

Implications of the evaluation findings for future EPIM funding rounds and other funders

While the evaluation does aim to formulate recommendations, the evaluation team highlight the following possible implications of the findings and areas of reflection for EPIM.

- **Reflecting on the pros and cons of funding mature compared to new organisations.** The former might more quickly realise outcomes and impacts for beneficiaries, whereas the latter might enable EPIM to realise goals of capacity building in the NGO sector. EPIM could reflect on the relative advantages and disadvantages of funding newer compared to older organisations, and to adjust expectations of what younger organisations can achieve.
- **Developing the funding plus model to deliver more tailored and targeted capacity building.** Capacity-building outcomes were more pronounced for those grantees that were recently-established organisations. Different grantees had different capacity-building needs. Future EPIM funding rounds might develop different capacity-building offers targeted at different grantees.
- **Facilitating partnership between national and European organisations** was a very tangible way in which EPIM III added value through capacity building. EPIM might therefore reflect on how this can be maintained and enhanced in future funding rounds.
- **Reflecting on the concentration of achievements in year two.** The extent of achievements in the second year could be used as an indicator in future funding rounds of likely achievements across the whole grant period. It could therefore be used to target support on organisations that have not yet evidenced progress towards their goals.
- **Monitoring outcomes and impacts after grants end.** There is a case for developing a mechanism to capture longer-term impacts.
- **Providing practical guidance about how grantees can evidence achievements.** Evidencing the contribution that a grantee's activities made to achievements is challenging (as noted above). EPIM could integrate into the reporting requirements of future grantees some of the practical advice offered by the evaluation team to EPIM III grantees.

Chapter One. Introduction and background

1.1. The European Programme for Integration and Migration

The European Programme for Integration and Migration (EPIM) was founded in 2005 by a group of European Foundations to support the growth of civil society organisations working on issues of migration and integration. EPIM was an initiative of the Network of European Foundations and is currently supported by 12 foundations from across Europe. EPIM undertakes grant-making, capacity development and networking[1] to support civil society organisations in line with its mission:

> *EPIM supports and strengthens NGOs active on migration and integration issues at the European level in order to:*
>
> - *Uphold and defend the European commitment to Universal Human Rights and social justice, to ensure the dignity of all people in the European Union;*
> - *Promote a pragmatic approach to European and national policies on migration and integration;*
> - *Influence, through a grants programme, EU policies and their national implementation in one of three focus areas (Asylum seekers; Undocumented migrants; Equality, integration and social Inclusion of vulnerable migrants).*

Between 2005 and 2015, 17 foundations contributed funding to EPIM, together pooling €7.2 million of funding for grants. A total of 45 grants were made ranging from €20,000 to €280,000.

Since 2005 EPIM has completed three rounds of funding and has just launched the fourth phase of funding for 2016-2018. Between 2005 and 2015, 17 foundations contributed funding to EPIM, together pooling €7.2 million of funding for grants. A total of 45 grants were made ranging from €20,000 to €280,000.

This evaluation report covers the third round of funding – EPIM III. This started in 2012 and awarded grants to ten organisations focusing on one or more of three areas: 1) Asylum seekers; 2) Undocumented migrants; 3) Equality, integration and social inclusion of vulnerable migrants. Figure 1 provides an overview of the projects funded under

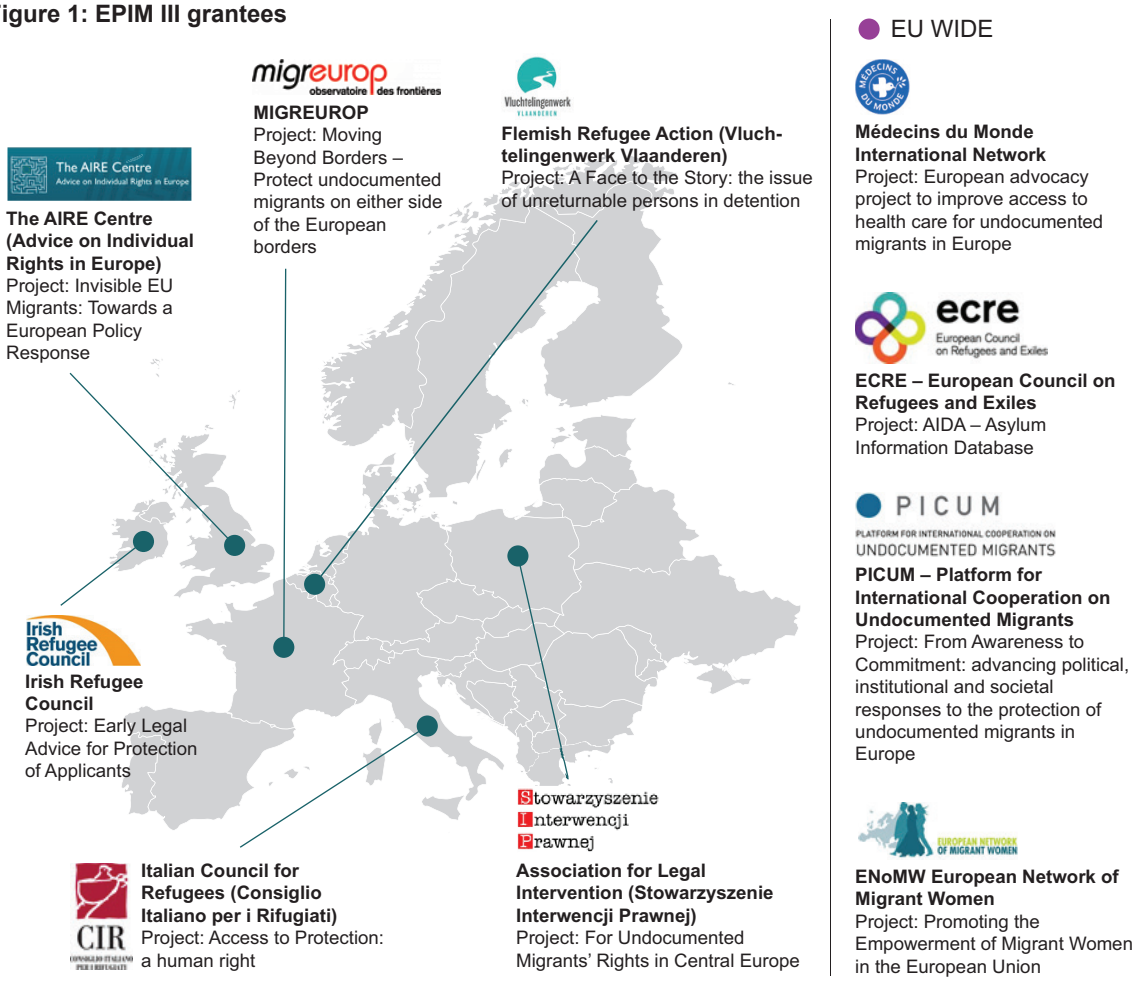
1 For more information see the EPIM Website: http://www.epim.info/what-we-do/grant-making/ http://www.epim.info/what-we-do/capacity-development/ http://www.epim.info/what-we-do/networking/

Grant-giving by EPIM occurs alongside the provision of capacity-building support and opportunities for networking and knowledge sharing as part of EPIM's 'Funding Plus' model.

EPIM III. Appendix B provides more detail about each organisation and the projects they pursued as part of EPIM III. Those funded under EPIM III varied considerably in their size, the length of time they had been in existence and the methods and approaches they used to improve the lives asylum seekers, undocumented and vulnerable migrants.

As well as providing grants to the organisations listed in Figure 1, current and former EPIM grantees could apply for a 'Flexible Funds' facility during 2013 and 2014. This provided 'small amounts of funding in order to be able to respond to emerging and unexpected opportunities and challenges that fall within EPIM's programme objectives.'[2] The Flexible Funds were not within the scope of the evaluation. Of the grantees listed in Figure 1, ECRE and MPG were awarded small grants.

Figure 1: EPIM III grantees



NB: the table shows the lead organisation for each grant. In all cases the lead organisations had partners in the projects.

2 EPIM (2015) EPIM Grant Making 2013-2015, p. 8.

An important feature of EPIM is its 'Funding Plus Model'. This is described by EPIM as:

> *Embedding grant-making into a comprehensive support programme for grantees to achieve sustainable impact … it emphasises and follows EPIM's overall mission to strengthen civil society organisations in their role as advocates for constructive approaches to migration in Europe.*[3]

The Funding Plus approach means that, in addition to the provision of grants to civil society organisations in thematic areas, grantees are provided opportunities for:

- Capacity building: e.g. workshops, joint learning initiatives, evaluation skills.[4]
- Support and monitoring of project work: e.g. networking and knowledge sharing among grantees and wider NGOs, RAND evaluation.
- EPIM programme management and governance: e.g. awareness of EPIM itself through events and outreach.

These element constitute the 'plus', or the intended added value of EPIM funding. This approach to grant giving and the extent to which it built capacity among the EPIM III grantees is covered within the scope of the evaluation.

1.2. Evaluation of EPIM III

In 2012 EPIM commissioned RAND Europe to undertake an evaluation of their third funding round. The aims of the evaluation were to:

1. Assess the progress made at the level of the EPIM III programme as a whole between 2012 and 2015.
2. Identify lessons learned by the grantees about pathways to achieving impact.

This section of the report describes how the evaluation was conducted

Contribution, attribution and causation

An evaluation of any programme – in this case the EPIM III funding programme – requires the identification of a chain of causal processes that link the activities being evaluated to desired outcomes (in this case, to answer the question, 'how did the funding provided by EPIM III lead to changes in migration policy and practice?').

Evaluating the achievements stemming from EPIM III is challenging. It is not possible to causally connect changes in policy and practice in migration directly to EPIM-funding of a grantee. Therefore the evaluation aimed to identify how grantees had contributed to change through activities under their EPIM grant

3 EPIM (2016) *EPIM IV Proposal – Funding Plus*, unpublished report shared with evaluation team.

4 During the EPIM III programme three workshops were held on the following topics (1) 'EU advocacy and messaging' (17-18 July 2013, Lisbon); (2) 'Capturing and making progress: EPIM evaluation and EU fundraising workshop' (23-24 June 2014, Brussels) (3) 'Conveying our narratives in today's media: interview and media training' and 'Drafting successful applications for EU funding: training on project and budget design' (2-3 March 2015, Brussels).

The evaluation was designed on the understanding that *EPIM III could only achieve results through the work of grantees*. Two limitations to this assumption are that for most grantees, EPIM III was one of a number of funding streams, and also that grantees had often been working on these topics for a number of years before receiving their EPIM grant.

Secondly, the evaluation was based on the understanding that *identifying a neat chain of causal processes linking grantee activities to outcomes and impacts in the field of migration was unrealistic*. Changes to migration policy and practice result from a number of factors that interact with each other (which include the media, public opinion, national and international politics, actual flows of migration, as well as the work of organisations such as the EPIM III grantees) This makes it very difficult to directly *attribute* changes in policy or practice to grantees' work under the EPIM III programme. It is hard say with confidence what would (or would not) have happened in the absence of grantees' EPIM-funded work (i.e. it is not possible to identify a clear counterfactual). For example, some grantees sought funding to support ongoing work. As such, their achievements may have been realised anyway, even without EPIM funding. Realising this challenge of showing a causal link, the evaluation sought to understand the potential *contributions* that grantees have made to the field.

It was this search for *contribution* that led the research team to base the evaluation on a 'Theory of Change' approach using logic modelling.

Box 1: Theory of change and logic models

A 'theory of change' is a term for examining and specifying the aims of an initiative (e.g. programme, project), and the perceived steps or building blocks an organisation needs to take to implement changes that can realise those aims.

The evaluation of EPIM III took a 'theory of change' approach. It was based on a 'theory' as to how a pathway or processes will lead to the desired outcomes.[5] The advantage of the Theory of Change approach is that it is a dynamic approach to evaluation that can be tailored to evaluate an organisation's achievements in real time. A theory-based evaluation requires the identification of a chain of (causal) processes that will lead to the desired outcome. The Theory of Change drives the identification of evidence to substantiate the processes in the chain, and thus evidence the link between the activities, the organisation or the intervention being evaluated and the outcomes.

A logic model is a tool used by evaluators to show the intended pathway connecting the inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes and impact of an intervention or programme. Logic models show the building blocks that underlie the theory of change.

Developing measures of success for the EPIM programme

A workshop with EPIM funders was facilitated by the RAND research team at the start of the EPIM III programme in September 2012. The purpose of this workshop was to agree

5 Blamey, A., & MacKenzie, M. (2007) 'Theories of Change and Realistic Evaluation: peas in a pod or apples and oranges?', Evaluation, Vol 13 (4): 439–455; Stern, E., Stame, N., Mayne, J., Forss, K., Davies, R., & Befani, B. (2012) *Broadening the Range of Designs and Methods for Impact Evaluations*, Report of a study commissioned by the Department for International Development, London: DFID; Stern (2015) *Impact Evaluation: A Guide for Commissioners and Managers*, BOND for International Development, London: BOND.

the theory of change for EPIM III, about how the programme could result in outcomes and impacts. A logic model showing this theory of change was agreed, and is set out in Appendix A. The logic model for EPIM III shows how EPIM aimed to generate an impact on migration and integration policy and practice through grants to NGOs.

The cross-cutting vision for EPIM III was agreed at the workshop to be as follows:

- EPIM would stimulate, support and enable the development of a group of strong grantees.
- Across the portfolio of EPIM-funded projects there would emerge coherent streams of work which together and separately would make an impact.
- EPIM would present a genuine learning opportunity for grantees and this would be demonstrated through evidence of capacity building.
- Solid evidence would emerge from the EPIM-funded work about of what had been achieved by grantees, in particular in relation to achievements in influencing policy and in relation to the sustainability of grantees' work.
- That co-operation between Foundations and funders at EU level would continue to grow.

Developing measures of success for EPIM grantees

As mentioned above, the success and impact of EPIM III as a whole was derived mainly from the individual achievements of the grantees.

Accordingly, a workshop was held with each grantee during which a logic model for their EPIM-funded project was developed along with measures and indicators for monitoring progress in achieving the activities, outputs, outcomes and impacts set out in that logic model. While the EPIM grantees have a broad range of ambitious and challenging objectives, overall, these objectives were well aligned with EPIM's programme-level goals.

Data collection for the evaluation and the kinds of evidence required from grantees

Data collection for the evaluation was conducted primarily through a self-reporting process, under which grantees completed a progress reporting template every six months (in March and September). In the template, grantees were asked to provide details of the progress they had made towards the outputs, outcomes and impacts set out in their agreed logic model, using the agreed measures and indicators. For example, the logic model might show that a grantee's planned outputs included the production of reports, organisation of a workshop and launch of a website. The agreed indicators could be the numbers of reports published (and the number of times the report was downloaded); number of workshops organised (number of and feedback from attendees); and evidence that the website was available (and data about number of visits to the site). Additionally, grantees were asked to report on lessons learned in their reporting templates, in order to collect information relevant to the second objective of the evaluation – to Identify lessons learned by the grantees about pathways to achieving impact.

For every round of reporting, RAND reviewed the reporting templates and sought clarifications or additional data if needed. Based on the data received, RAND produced annual progress reports at the end of the calendar year. These reports used the data reported in March and September and were shared with the grantees for validation.

This final report is based on information provided by grantees in all their reporting templates: two in Year 1 (in March and September 2013), two in Year 2 (in March and September 2014) and two in Year 3 (in March and September 2015).

Grantees were required to provide evidence for all their claimed successes and contributions in their reporting templates. The research team evaluated the quality of the evidence provided by grantees on their contributions, and reported back to grantees about this. We considered evidence as being of high quality and as evidencing a *contribution* when it included three elements, as set out in Box 2. It was recognised that wider beneficiary and policy outcomes and impacts (located on the right-hand side of the logic model) were more difficult to achieve and evidence, not least as there may be time-lags between the activities and their outcomes and impacts. The evaluation team were mindful of this when assessing overall achievements and in the standards of evidence demanded.

Box 2: three-point guidance for grantees on how to evidence contribution

1. Clear chronology of events: a chronology allows for possible links and associations between an action and the outcome to become clear without claiming that there is a direct causal relationship. The quality of evidence and examples improved when the chronology of the actions and activities was clearly spelled out.
2. Precise identification of the actions and actors: evidence was better quality when actors and actions involved were clearly explained, to clarify the sequence of events and the roles of actors involved.
3. Realistic assessment of the size and scope of the success: good evidence also included an accurate assessment of the size and scope of the success, in which success was described as precisely and clearly as possible. It was not considered useful to either under- or over-state success.

Towards the end of the evaluation the RAND team conducted a number of validation interviews with peers and experts in the field, familiar with but independent of the work of EPIM's grantees. Twelve interviews were conducted with external stakeholders who were familiar with or aware of the impacts each grantee organisation had achieved using their EPIM funding. The aim of these interviews was to seek an external view on each grantee's achievements. In addition to these twelve interviews on specific grantee achievements, five interviews were conducted with practitioners and experts in the field to provide general insights into the work of civil society in the area of integration and migration.

Approach to final assessment of grantees' achievements and achievements of EPIM III

The approach of the evaluation was to assess the EPIM programme as a whole by together considering the achievements of the grantees against their agreed programme-specific objectives, measures and indicators.

The assessment at the grantee level was undertaken as follows: at the end of the evaluation period (and at the end of years one and two), the evaluation team compared the progress reported by grantees in the templates with the intended outputs, outcomes

and impacts outlined in their logic model, and assessed whether the goals had either (i) been achieved (ii) were in progress, or (iii) had not been achieved. The basis on which this assessment was made is explained in the box below.

Box 3: approach to final assessment of grantees' achievements

1. *Goal achieved ('Yes')*: the evaluation team considered a goal to have been reached when the vast majority of the planned activities or impacts had been attained. To continue the above example, when a grantee had produced a report, organised a workshop and launched a website, the outputs were considered to have been achieved.
2. *Goal in progress:* when some activities had started in order to make progress towards an output, outcome or impact, but had not all been completed or achieved, the evaluation team considered the goal to be 'in progress'. For example, a grantee had produced a report, was working on the organisation of a workshop, but had not yet launched a website.
3. *Goal not achieved ('No'):* when there were no or very few indications that the planned activities had been started (at the time of the final data collection from grantees in September 2015) then the evaluation team considered the goal to have not been reached. However, it is noted that these goals might be achieved at some point in the future, beyond the evaluation and EPIM III period.

These three categories are used throughout this report to assess the grantees' final achievements.

This final evaluation report focuses on achievements that relate to grantees' outputs, outcomes and impacts – the final three stages of the logic model. As illustrated in Figure 2, the report looks at:

- One type of grantee output (project activities).
- Three types of grantee outcomes (grantee capacity building; wider policy outcomes; individual-level beneficiary outcomes).
- Two types of grantee impacts (beneficiary and policy impacts).

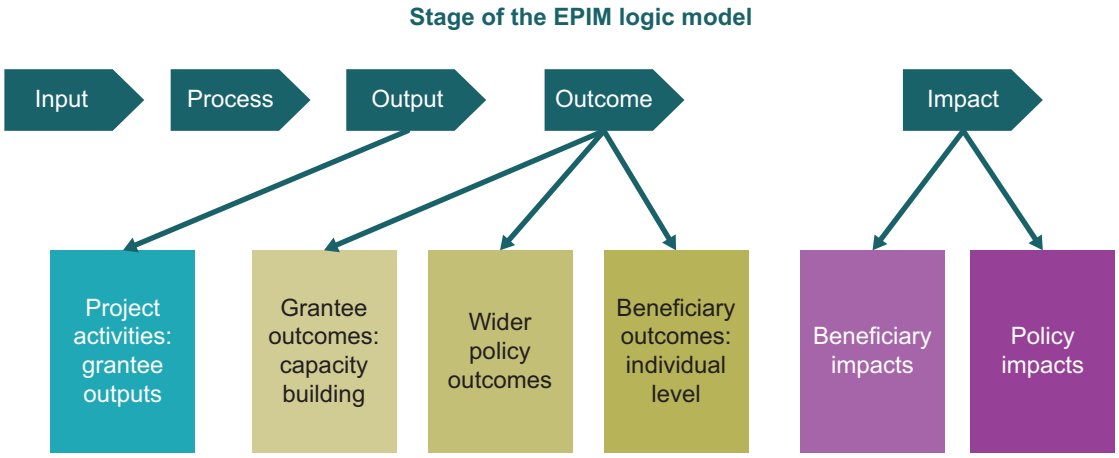
These categories capture the most important types of outcomes and impacts that the grantees were working towards, and by extension the higher-level impacts intended at the level of the EPIM III programme as a whole.

The terms 'achievements' and 'results' are used in this report to refer collectively to 'outputs, outcomes, and impacts'.

Approach to identifying lessons and promising practices

Throughout the report, and particularly in Chapter 4, we will highlight lessons that can be learned from the grantees and practices that appear to be promising. The lessons and promising practices have been identified on the basis of looking for 'positive deviance', that is, instances where things have gone especially well. While the particular instance may be unique to a grantee, it can hold wider insights that could be useful to others. Through exploring cases of positive deviance it is possible to get an idea of what the pathway to success looks like.

Figure 2: EPIM logic model and areas covered in this report



Validation interviews were conducted to provide an external perspective on the achievements of EPIM grantees and the contribution made by EPIM.

Limitations of the evaluation

The evaluation of the EPIM III programme was largely based on grantees' self-reported achievements. The advantage of this approach was that it generated an in-depth description of the activities and accomplishments of the grantees, which would not have been possible through other methods (within the resources available for the evaluation). This approach also had advantages in terms of capacity building for grantees: encouraging grantees to think systematically about the logic and sequence of their actions and the success to which these should lead (i.e. their 'theory of change'), and stimulating grantees to improve the quality and accuracy of their monitoring, data collection and reporting.

The disadvantage of this approach was that it relied on the clarity and accuracy of grantees' self-reported progress. Grantees had an incentive to show as much progress as possible. To militate against this risk the evaluation approach included the following to elements:

- Grantees were required to provide evidence for all the claims to success they made (as described above).
- At the end of the evaluation, the team undertook a number of 'validation interviews' with peers and experts in the field, familiar with but independent of the work of EPIM's grantees. The aim of these interviews was to attempt to validate the progress claimed by grantees' through the use of outside perspectives.

A second limitation stems from the absence of a measurable counterfactual;[6] it is impossible to establish with certainty whether the outcomes and impacts observed can

6 The counterfactual is the question: 'what would have happened in the absence of the grantee activities and the wider EPIM funding?'

be attributed to the activities of the grantees (and by extension the EPIM III programme). To mitigate this, the evaluation uses a theory of change approach (which links activities to outputs and outcomes) and focuses on identifying the contribution, supported by evidence, of grantees.

The third possible limitation is that the evaluation did not capture much evidence about the reasons for the lack of achievements (the focus is on explaining success). It is not necessarily the case that reasons for lack of achievement are the opposite of reasons for success. Additionally, the information from grantees did not include many critical messages about EPIM funding and capacity building. This could have been because they did not perceive any downsides, or that they were reluctant to report them.

1.3. Structure of this report

Following this introduction, this report is divided into four further chapters:

- Chapter 2 addresses the first evaluation question, providing findings on the progress made at the level of the EPIM III programme as a whole between 2012 and 2015.
- Chapter 3 also addresses this first evaluation question, but provides findings about the progress of each individual grantee (which is aggregated in chapter two to derive programme-level findings).

Chapters 2 and 3 follow a similar structure, based on categories of outputs, outcomes and impacts identified in the logic model for EPIM III as a whole and mirrored in the logic models of each of the grantees:

- Progress in achieving outputs
- Progress in achieving outcomes for grantee organisations
- Progress in achieving wider policy outcomes
- Progress in achieving individual beneficiary outcomes
- Progress in achieving beneficiary impacts
- Progress in achieving policy impacts.

An important part of Chapter 3 are the six tables which set out, in some detail, the extent to which each grantee achieved progress towards their objectives. These tables provide the basis for the grantee-level assessments and the assessment of the EPIM III impacts as a whole.

- Chapter 4 addresses the second evaluation question, identifying lessons learned by the grantees about pathways to achieving impact. This chapter sets out ‘cross-cutting insights’ which are relevant to other grantees and funders.
- Chapter 5 provide a short summary and conclusions of the report.

Chapter Two. The achievements of the EPIM III programme as a whole

This chapter addresses the first aim of the evaluation: 'to assess the progress made at the level of the EPIM III programme as a whole between 2012 and 2015.' It is based on evidence about the progress made by each of the grantees individually, which is detailed in Chapter 3. This chapter outlines findings about the scale and scope of achievements at the level of the EPIM III programme. Following a summary of findings, this report is structured according to the categories of outputs, outcomes and impacts identified in the logic model for EPIM III as a whole and mirrored in the logic models of each of the grantees:

- Progress in achieving outcomes for grantee organisations (capacity building)
- Progress in achieving wider policy outcomes
- Progress in achieving individual beneficiary outcomes
- Progress in achieving beneficiary impacts
- Progress in achieving policy impacts.

Summarising the achievements of the different grantees in a single statement about the achievements of EPIM III is difficult, not least because of the very diverse nature of the projects undertaken by the grantees. However, reviewing and aggregating the extent to which the individual grantees achieved their intended outputs and contributed to outcomes and impacts in the migration field, **the evaluation finds that the overall achievements of EPIM III are substantial and have taken place against the backdrop of a difficult political climate.**

2.1. Project activities and outputs as a result of EPIM III

EPIM III provided funding to organisations involved in developing robust, cross-national datasets that provide information for policy makers and other advocacy groups. Such outputs from grantees can be important building blocks for policy change. While EPIM was not the only funder of organisations like for example ECRE and MdM who were engaged in this activity, this was an important contribution from the EPIM III programme to generating datasets that had a wide relevance and use.

Outputs: the Asylum Information Database (AIDA) by ECRE

ECRE received a grant of from EPIM to support their project, AIDA – Asylum Information Database. The overall goal of the project is to contribute to the improvement of asylum policies and practices in the EU Member states and to improve the situation of asylum seekers in the EU by advocating for high standards of protection and fair processes (for reception, procedures, detention, etc.) in national legislation. In order to do this, the project provided advocacy tools to civil society organisations at EU and national level and offered independent, useful, and up-to-date information to the media, researchers, advocates, legal practitioners and the public on asylum practice in EU Member States. AIDA data collection, materials and methodology have been used by ECRE members such as the Estonian Refugee Council, the Croatian Law Centre and the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights for their own national and regional reporting. Interviews with NGOs and policymakers familiar with AIDA further underlined the usefulness of the database as an up-to-date resource into which other advocates can readily tap.

2.2. Capacity-building outcomes as a result of EPIM III

Knowledge and skills

Capacity building of grantees was central to the EPIM funding model. All grantees evidenced increased capacity to conduct research, to run advocacy and awareness campaigns and to influence stakeholders.

As mentioned in Chapter 1, as part of the 'Funding plus model' EPIM III included the organisation of a number of capacity-building activities, including 'Joint Learning Initiatives' and workshops. Feedback on the workshops and initiatives from the grantees was generally positive. At the mid-point of EPIM III, for example, a two-day workshop was organised with sessions run on funding opportunities and showcasing grantee achievements. The feedback forms (collated by EPIM – not part of the evaluation) showed that on a scale from 0 and 4 (0= not at all satisfied; 1= not satisfied enough; 2= satisfied; 3= very well satisfied; and 4= entirely satisfied), most activities were rated around 2.5 and above, indicating satisfied grantees.

In addition, several grantees indicated great appreciation for the Joint Learning Initiatives at the end of EPIM III in their reporting templates. For example, one grantee reported:

> *We remain extremely grateful for EPIM flexibility, approachability and genuine interest in our work on this project. It has been a uniquely positive and productive working relationship with the funders and exercises like the Joint Learning Initiatives are an excellent example of this.… We hope that similar initiatives continue by EPIM in the future as they give the opportunity to small organisations…to come Into contact with their larger counterparts, build their capacity in otherwise neglected areas (such as communications) and learn in practice from each other by cooperation and dialogue.*

None of the grantees expressed negative views about the joint learning initiatives or other EPIM-organised events in their reporting templates.

Interactions and networks

Another important capacity-building achievement was that the EPIM III programme brought grantees into closer contact with each other, for example, linking grantees in

countries such as Poland, Hungary, Italy and Spain. Workshops and conferences organised by EPIM provided grantees with networking opportunities. Such linkages appear to have helped grantees to have impacts, not just at the national but also at the European level.

There are several examples of cooperation between EPIM grantees that enabled the less well-established organisations to gain access to the European institutions. For example, SIP partnered with PICUM to deliver its first event in Brussels. Another example of network building for wider reach in Europe comes from the IRC's partnership with (and membership of) ECRE. The IRC combined the launch of its project's research report in Brussels with an ECRE event, thereby enabling them to target a wider audience and make efficiency savings.

Partnerships with Brussels-based grantees, facilitated by EPIM, enabled nationally-focused grantees to undertake advocacy at the European level. This is an example of the impacts of the networking arm of EPIM's Funding Plus approach

The external evaluation of EPIM III

The evaluation conducted by RAND was intended to be a form of capacity building; part of the additional support and monitoring that EPIM offered to grantees. In a short survey conducted at the end of EPIM III, grantees were asked to comment on the usefulness of a number of aspects related to the evaluation. Most questions were completed by nine participants, others by eight participants. The entire survey was anonymous which means it is unknown which answers correspond to which grantees. All that is known about the participants is that they actively engaged in the EPIM grant and evaluation. The full tables with the survey results are included in Appendix C.

Generally, the survey showed that a majority of participants deemed the evaluation useful, and they continue to use some of the skills and practices developed under the evaluation in their current work. For example, six participants (66%) indicated that they thought the logic model as a tool for progress reporting and project management was useful. The same number of people also indicated that feedback on the six-monthly reporting templates was useful. Less positive were the perceptions of the preparations for the grantee presentations at the mid-term conference (Brussels, June 2014). Only four participants (44%) deemed these useful. With regards to the practices within the organisations, eight out of nine (77%) participants indicated that the evaluation has contributed to the adoption of logic models to plan and manage projects. Finally, six out of eight respondents indicated that the evaluation had contributed to some extent to 'regularly testing our theory of change'.

The first step to achieving policy impacts is to show that advocacy messages were received and understood by those with the power to make change. All EPIM III grantees could provide evidence of this type of outcome, suggesting that EPIM III contributed to these early-stage policy outcomes

Section 3.1 provides details about the capacity-building achievements reported by each grantee.

2.3. Wider policy outcomes as a result of EPIM III

There is evidence that EPIM III resulted in outcomes that constitute the early steps towards broader change (see Section 3.3 for full details of grantees' achievements).

For example, grantees secured attention from policy makers which enabled them to deliver their advocacy messages to key audiences, run successful campaigns that were covered in the media, or show that the reports and data they produced had been received and used by policy makers. Underlying these successes was often relationship-building with policy makers, media, lawyers, law enforcement personnel and others.

Policy outcome: joint letter by PICUM

PICUM received a grant from EPIM to support their project, '*From awareness to commitment: advancing political, institutional and societal responses to the protection of undocumented migrants (UM) in Europe'*. The project built upon PICUM's work over the last decade raising awareness of undocumented migrants and monitoring their human rights.

Through the network function PICUM performs, they were able to build a coalition of 38 European and international migrants' rights and children's rights organisations to sign a joint letter to the European Council, with the objective of influencing the Council Communication on future justice and home affairs policies, and ensuring the adoption of a more coherent and rights-based policy approach towards migrant children. The signed letter in itself constituted a strong statement by civil society and additionally the letter contributed to changes in policy. The European Asylum Support Office (EASO) for example decided to reframe its official focus area on unaccompanied children to include all migrant children irrespective of status. EASO referred to the joint letter when they announced the change in policy, highlighting the contribution made by the PICUM.

As with all achievements discussed in this report, the EPIM-funded grant *contributed* to these outcomes – along with other funding which some grantees secured, the work of other NGOs in the field, plus external factors such as political timetables and interest.

While more difficult to achieve and evidence than out*puts*, these policy outcomes could largely be achieved by grantees delivering and promoting information and services. These outcomes did not require external stakeholders to make significant changes to their views, practices or policy agenda. To this extent, they are easier to achieve than policy impacts.

2.4. Individual beneficiaries' outcomes as a result of EPIM III

The outcomes and impacts listed towards the right hand side of the EPIM logic model (and the logic models of individual grantees) are more difficult to achieve, compared to the outputs more towards the left hand side, because grantees have less direct control over them and there are other factors which can influence their achievement.

However, there is evidence that EPIM III grantees have contributed to outcomes for individual beneficiaries. For example, MdM, AIRE, CIR, ECRE could all evidence that they had improved outcomes for individual beneficiaries through influencing practitioners (such as health care professionals) who provided services to grantees, or through direct provision of information or legal advice to grantees (see Section 4.4 for full details of grantees' achievements).

Several grantees could show that their service delivery work, for example legal advice, had made a difference to the lives of migrants using their services. In this way, EPIM III had contributed to outcomes for individual beneficiaries

Beneficiary outcomes: strategic litigation by the AIRE Centre

On behalf of migrants the AIRE Centre engages in strategic litigation to uphold their individual rights in court. Over the course of the EPIM grant the AIRE Centre engaged in several such cases, a number of which were successful (i.e. won). The outcomes have directly benefitted individuals who for example retained the right to reside in the UK and could not be deported. In other cases the labour rights of migrants were enforced thus forcing back payments to migrants. As some of the cases were fairly specific, it remains to be seen if the cases can be more widely applied to other migrants. For the moment, the successful cases have directly benefitted individual migrants.

2.5. Impacts on larger groups of beneficiaries as a result of EPIM III

Wider beneficiary impacts, which refer to improvements in the lives and rights of large groups of migrants, remain scarcer. Only one grantee, MdM, provided evidence that such impacts were in progress (although not yet achieved). It is perhaps important here to note that, of all EPIM III grantees, MdM was one of the largest and longest-established; its EPIM-funded project built on years of previous work and other projects ongoing at the same time. (See Section 3.6 for full details of grantees' achievements).

Thus EPIM III had not achieved wider-scale impacts on the lives asylum seekers, undocumented migrants and vulnerable migrants, but it is fully acknowledged by the research team that such outcomes are very challenging to achieve in the three-year period of EPIM III.

As might be expected given the challenges in affecting large scale change in migration policy, EPIM III achieved fewer large-scale impacts for migrants. However, some grantees were able to show that such impacts were in progress at the end of the grant period. Over the longer term, therefore, EPIM may contribute to such results.

2.6. Impacts on policy from EPIM III

Regarding policy impacts, none of the grantees could evidence that their work had contributed to a large-scale change in the law, but several were

able to show that such impacts were in progress at the end of the grant period. To this extent, the evaluation found that EPIM III had played a role in the cumulative process of policy change in some areas.

When assessing the achievement of EPIM III in relation to policy impacts, it is important to note that a number of the wider policy impacts that grantees aimed to achieve related to goals and activities that are part of their ongoing work, such as campaigning for access to healthcare or labour rights for migrants and asylum seekers. As such, it was not necessarily expected that wholesale transformation would be achieved at the end of the EPIM grant. Rather, EPIM and individual grantees hoped to – and did – achieve tangible progress and to evidence key achievements on the journey to these long-term goals.

Among the grantees, MdM, ECRE, PICUM, SIP and IRC provided evidence to the research team that policy impacts were in progress, but based on the evidence available (and the time needed to effect impacts) it is not possible to determine the extent to which these have been fully achieved or not at the end of the evaluation period (see Section 4.6 for full details of grantees' achievements).

Policy impact: change in labour inspection in Poland by SIP

SIP received a grant from EPIM to support their project, 'Undocumented Migrants' Rights in Central Europe'. The Association for Legal Intervention (Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej, SIP) is a Polish non-governmental organisation.

In the second year a major policy change was reported in Poland where the Ministry of the Interior officially declared that in 2018 labour inspection will be legally separated from inspections by border guards. SIP observed that when this actually happens it will be of great benefit to undocumented migrants in Poland. This separation was a key success for SIP who noted they were the first NGO to raise this issue on the governmental level, and had persistently advocated for it in meetings with the Ministry and during public consultations. While the implementation is still to follow, it remains a good example of how policy change was clearly in progress.

2.7. Understanding and contextualising the achievements of EPIM III

A number of contextual factors were identified by the evaluation team which are relevant to interpreting the achievements of EPIM outlined in Sections 2.1-2.6.

Barriers and facilitators for EPIM III: political climate, economic challenges and the Mediterranean migration crisis

Migration has always been a topic on which politicians and the public hold strong views. Part of the rationale for EPIM to form and provide funding in this area was the perceived need to advocate for change to protect migrants and asylum seekers and improve their lives.

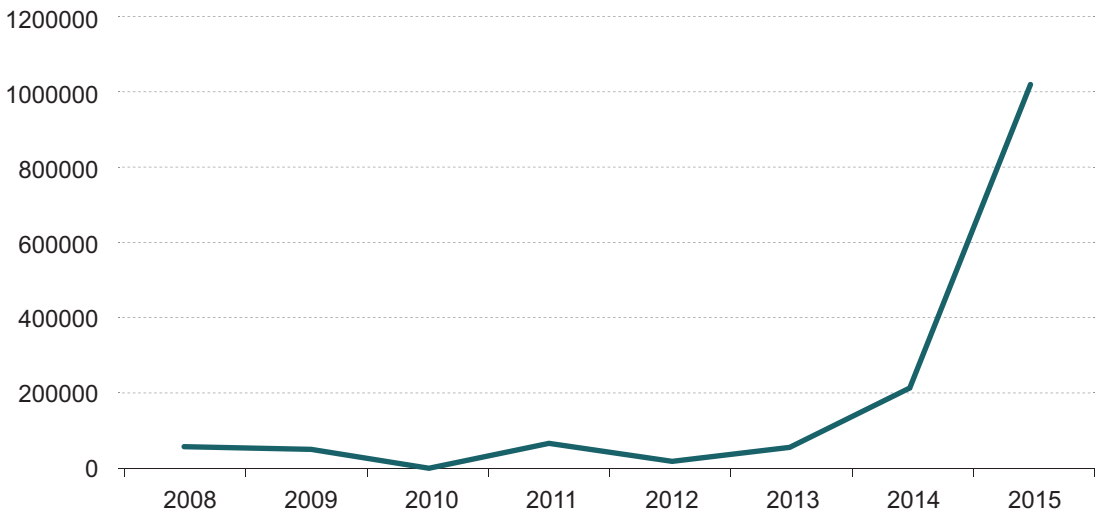
Throughout EPIM III, grantees noted that the changes in policy and practice they would like to see were not in line with what they perceived to be dominant views in the media, among members of the public and politicians. For example, early in the EPIM III grant, IRC noted that the political climate in the UK and Estonia (where IRC had partners) was very challenging for organisations arguing in favour of increased support and services for migrants.

The 2008 financial crisis and resulting pressures on public spending are a second important contextual factor to take into account in assessing the impact of EPIM III. The economic situation meant that there were cuts to public services – such as legal aid – which were relied on by migrants and delivered by some grantees (such as AIRE).

Most recently, the end of the EPIM III period coincided with a time at which attention on migration was at unprecedented levels, in response to the significant numbers of people arriving by sea on Europe's Mediterranean coast in Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain (Figure 3).

The end of the EPIM III period coincided with a time at which attention on migration was at unprecedented levels, This created demand for the skills and knowledge of grantees, but was perceived to have led to a political climate that was less receptive to grantees' advocacy messages.

Figure 3: Number of sea arrivals Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain



Source: UN Refugee Agency (2016)[7]

Figures collected during the course of the UNHCR's border activities. These data relate to sea arrivals only, on the Mediterranean coast.

As a result of the so-called 'refugee crisis' some of the grantees experienced increased attention from the media. The Director of CIR appeared in various radio, TV and print media after the Lampedusa tragedy in October 2013,[8] and later on after the start of the *Mare Nostrum* Operation. ECRE launched a campaign on Syria called 'Syria: Europe Act Now' which resulted in several newspapers articles. Other grantees also observed an increase in requests from the media and a validation interviewee noted how the situation could provide an opportunity to deliver advocacy messages

7 http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/regional.php

8 http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/oct/03/lampedusa-migrants-killed-boat-sinks-italy

However, responding to media requests could be time-consuming. Migreurop, for example, increased their interactions with the media substantially as a result of the attention given to the refugee crisis. They note however, that:

> *for a small organisation as ours, managing media requests was highly time consuming, both for the coordination and for the members. Engaging with the media meant less time and human resources for analysis, mobilization etc. What's more, we had sometimes the feeling of 'running after' the agenda of journalists.*

Grantees observed that journalists often seek an attractive, personal, or emotional story rather than the expert view of the wider situation that the grantees seek to offer.

The crisis resulted in a more complex environment for advocacy. The increased number of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers has been met in some instances with anti-migration sentiment, which makes the advocacy messages of grantees harder to deliver. All grantees commented during their reporting on the increasingly difficult environment in which they operated, which limited the opportunities to have an impact on policy or practice. CIR noted for example that:

> *As explained, In the current general socio-economic-political crisis public opinion is usually not interested in issues concerning asylum and migration, since migrants and asylum seekers [are] perceived as a danger for Italians who complain [of] getting less job opportunities and as misused by some politicians.*

The AIRE Centre commented on the increasing uncertainty around the outcomes of strategic litigation resulting from debates between Member States about intra-EU migration, as well as increased migration from outside the EU:

> *It is inherently difficult to predict or steer the outcome of strategic cases, but it is perhaps particularly difficult in the current socio-political climate in the EU Member States to gain positive decisions in relation to access to social assistance / welfare benefits.*

The media opportunities that the refugee crisis offered were accompanied by what grantees perceived as an increasingly hostile political climate and intolerant public opinion towards refugees and by extension migrants. SIP reported on the struggles experienced by their project partner Menedek in achieving change in Hungary in a political climate that was 'cold' towards NGOs.

It is not possible for the evaluation to 'unpick' the impacts of these different political, economic and international contexts on the impacts of EPIM III as a whole. However, this context is important in understanding the scale of the challenge faced by EPIM, and in therefore setting expectations about what EPIM III should achieve.

The pace of progress

Over the course of EPIM III most progress appears to have been made by the grantees during the second year, when many of them finished the production of their initial outputs and intensified their advocacy campaigns through reports, workshops, events and roundtables. Some new outcomes and impacts were reported in year three, but this was

largely spent consolidating efforts to achieve impact. The evaluation team offers three possible explanations for this:

- The grants for CIR, FRA and SIP concluded at the end of the second or early in the third year. This meant that in year three there were fewer grantees to achieve and report on outcomes and impacts, and contribute to the overall achievements of EPIM III.
- The easier-to-achieve outputs and impacts were delivered in the second year, and that, by definition, the longer-term and more difficult impacts remained in year three – and realisation of these takes longer.
- Another possible explanation is that, in year three, grantees shifted focus somewhat from delivering their EPIM III project to seeking and securing funding for the period after the grant.

Some impacts that are 'in progress' at the end of the evaluation and might materialise after EPIM III

At the end of the evaluation period a number of intended policy and beneficiary impacts were assessed as 'in progress' and some grantees continued to work towards achieving these impacts. Currently, EPIM has no mechanism to monitor impacts that might result from the EPIM III grant in future years. This could be a missed opportunity to capture further achievements of EPIM III – in particular, those hardest-to-achieve impacts at the right hand side of the EPIM logic model. This is retuned to in Chapter 5.

Programme level analysis obscures different grantee achievements and could downplay capacity-building successes

Throughout this chapter the focus has been on summarising progress at the level of the EPIM III programme. However, this programme-level view obscures differences between grantees – some of whom were able to evidence more achievements than others. The differences between the grantees are described in Chapter 3.

Based on analysis of the information provided by the grantees over the 2012-2015 period, the evaluation team suggest that the length of time that the organisations had been established was an important factor determining the pace of progress in their EPIM III projects, and therefore a factor driving the overall progress at the programme level. There were different trajectories from the start of the EPIM III grant for different types of grantees, depending on their maturity. When making assessments about whether grantees had achieved expected progress, the diversity of NGOs funded through EPIM III, some more seasoned than others, needs to be taken into account.

Some grantees were relatively new and inexperienced organisations. It is to be expected that such new organisations need time to build capacity, contacts, and networks that are necessary to influence policy makers and engage with important stakeholders. The EPIM III grants enabled several grantees to substantially build capacity in the areas of research and advocacy (see Section 3.1). These developments are the prerequisite for later impacts on policy and practice, yet it would be ambitious to expect these to materialise within the three-year grant period.

While immaturity might decrease the chances that a grantee achieves outcomes and impacts, newer organisations were more likely to demonstrate significant achievements in

relation to capacity building. For a number of relatively smaller or younger organisations capacity building was particularly important in their grant. Only by looking at the grantee (rather than programme) level can some of the most significant gains in relation to capacity building be appreciated. Some grantees, for example SIP and Migreurop, experienced considerable organisational growth.

The importance of assessing capacity building with reference to the maturity of grantees is returned to in Chapter 4.

Differences in the specificity and ambition of grantees objectives

Another factor to take into account is the extent to which the grantees' planned outcomes and impacts differed in their specificity. Some grantees articulated intended policy impacts that were, relatively, concrete (for example, MdM's aim to establish a 'knowledge base on access to healthcare for vulnerable people across Europe'). Others set much broader aims for themselves in terms of policy impacts (for example, ECRE aimed for a 'more receptive political environment'.) The former are, arguably, easier to evidence, and have clearer pathways to success.

The planned outcomes and impacts also differed in their ambition. For instance, Migreurop's objective for Frontex (the European border guard agency) to be sued faced quite different obstacles to success compared to IRC's objective of expanding early legal advice.

The importance of long-term funding

Finally, the long-term nature of the funding was recognised as important to the success of grantees in interviews with independent experts. Interviewees observed that long-term core funding is required to allow grantees to establish themselves as experts in an area and thereby to become a trusted resource for government. A condition of stability and continuity provides grantees with an opportunity to build expertise in an area and to become a legitimate, recognised partner of governments and other stakeholders. Without long-term funding, grantees are more likely to quickly move from one topic to another in response to funding opportunities. This can limit the development of expertise. According to interviewees, longer-term grants are therefore important as they can enable grantees to have an impact on policy and practice.

Chapter Three. Progress of grantees in achieving outputs, outcomes and impacts

This chapter contributes to the first aim of the evaluation: 'to assess the progress made at the level of the EPIM III programme as a whole between 2012 and 2015', by setting out findings about the progress of each individual grantee. As explained in Chapter 2, the data collected for this evaluation was all at the grantee level. Findings relating to the EPIM III level were generated through an analysis, synthesis and aggregation of these data.

As with chapter 3, following a summary of findings this report is structured according to the categories of outputs, outcomes and impacts identified in the logic model for the grantees:

- Progress by grantees in achieving outcomes for grantee organisations
- Progress by grantees in achieving wider policy outcomes
- Progress by grantees in achieving individual beneficiary outcomes
- Progress by grantees in achieving beneficiary impacts
- Progress by grantees in achieving policy impacts.

Each subsection includes a table which shows, for each grantee, their planned achievements, the extent to which these were achieved, and some examples.

This chapter is complemented by information in Appendix B which provides a summary for each grantee giving further details of the evidence supplied by grantees.

3.1. Summary of grantee-level achievements

Findings indicate that there were differences between grantees in the extent to which they achieved their stated goals. However, looking across all ten grantees, overall the evaluation team summarise the grantees' achievements in relation to the goals of the EPIM III logic model as follows (these are shown in Table 1):

- All have evidenced achievements and success in relation to producing the intended outputs from the grant.
- All grantees evidenced capacity building outcomes or showed such outcomes were in progress.
- All provide some evidence of achievements in influencing wider policy outcomes, and several other achievements can be said to be 'in progress' – they look likely to be achieved in the near future based on the current trajectory of grantees' work.

Through research and the associated campaigns a number of grantees have been able to interact with stakeholders and provide information to inform and influence policy and practice.

- The majority (six out of nine) of the grantees have contributed to outcomes for individual beneficiaries – most often as a result of direct service delivery, but also as a result of changes to official policies and practices.
- One grantee, MdM, could evidence that, in part as a result of their efforts, wider beneficiary impacts could be expected from their work.
- Some (four out of nine) evidence strong progress towards achieving policy impacts.

These findings are set out in Table 1 below which is a summary of Sections 4 to 9 of this report. It presents more details about the achievements of each grantee against each element of the logic model.

Table 1: Overall progress by grantees in key areas of outcome and impact (based on data collected in September 2015)

GRANTEE	OUTPUTS[1]	OUTCOMES			IMPACTS	
		GRANTEE OUTCOMES	WIDER POLICY OUTCOMES	BENEFICIARY OUTCOMES (INDIVIDUAL LEVEL)	BENEFICIARY IMPACTS	POLICY IMPACT
	Project activities	Capacity of NGOs	Shaping policy dialogue, policy and legislative practice change; Positive change; No slippage from current position	Improved life for vulnerable migrants and communities (reaching individual migrants)	Improved life for vulnerable migrants and communities (reaching whole groups of migrants on a systematic basis)	Improved life for vulnerable migrants and communities (as a result of changed policy at MS or EU level)
Médecins du Monde	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	In progress	In progress
Advice on Individual Rights in Europe (AIRE)	Yes	Yes	Yes	In progress	No	No
Consiglio Italiano per i Rifugiati (CIR)	Yes	Yes	Yes	In progress	No	No
European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)	Yes	Yes	In progress	In progress	Not applicable	In progress
Flemish Refugee Action (FRA)[9]	Yes	Yes	In progress	Not applicable	No	No
Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Not applicable	No	In progress
Migreurop	Yes	Yes	In progress	No	No	No

9 Progress set out here for FRA is based on data collected in September 2013. No further data collection was possible as FRA's EPIM-funded project came to an end in February 2014.

GRANTEE	OUTPUTS[1]	OUTCOMES			IMPACTS	
		GRANTEE OUTCOMES	WIDER POLICY OUTCOMES	BENEFICIARY OUTCOMES (INDIVIDUAL LEVEL)	BENEFICIARY IMPACTS	POLICY IMPACT
	Project activities	Capacity of NGOs	Shaping policy dialogue, policy and legislative practice change; Positive change; No slippage from current position	Improved life for vulnerable migrants and communities (reaching individual migrants)	Improved life for vulnerable migrants and communities (reaching whole groups of migrants on a systematic basis)	Improved life for vulnerable migrants and communities (as a result of changed policy at MS or EU level)
Association for Legal Intervention (Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej, SIP)	Yes	In progress	Yes	In progress	No	In progress
Irish Refugee Council (IRC)	Yes	In progress	In progress	In progress	No	No
European Network of Migrant Women (ENoMW)[10]	In progress	In progress	-	-	-	-

Explanation of the assessment provided in Table 1

Goal achieved ('Yes'): the evaluation team considered a goal to have been reached when the vast majority of the planned activities or impacts had been attained. To continue the above example, when a grantee had produced a report, organised a workshop and launched a website, the outputs were considered to have been achieved.

Goal in progress: when some activities had started in order to make progress towards an output, outcome or impact, but had not all been completed or achieved, the evaluation team considered the goal to be 'in progress'. For example, a grantee had produced a report, was working on the organisation of a workshop, but had not yet launched a website.

Goal not achieved ('No'): when there were no or very few indications that the planned activities had been started (at the time of the final data collection from grantees in September 2015) then the evaluation team considered the goal to have not been reached. However, it is noted that these goals might be achieved at some point in the future, beyond the evaluation and EPIM III period.

3.2. Progress by grantees in achieving project activities and outputs

Typical outputs produced by grantees included research reports, websites and advocacy materials. As described in Appendix B, these outputs were intended for a range of audiences, including the public, European and national policy makers, journalists and the media, and other NGOs. These outputs were intended to contribute to the long-term intended impacts of grantees through a range of mechanisms, but broadly all (to some extent) outputs were based on an assumption that public opinion and policymaking around asylum seekers, undocumented migrants and vulnerable migrants are often

10 The EPIM grant to ENoMW was ended halfway and therefore ENoMW is not included in all sections of this final report.

based on inaccurate or incomplete information about the nature of these phenomena, the needs and intentions of migrants, the challenges they face, and so on. Outputs filling these information gaps might therefore result in more informed policy making and a richer public debate, and effect change in line with grantees' aims. A number of grantee outputs aimed to ensure that European policy makers had a good understanding of the situation within member states, and therefore could identify when European policy or law was not being applied, or areas that might benefit from European-level action.

Table 2 lists the planned outputs for each grantee and the assessment of the research team about whether these had been achieved (using the approach described in Box 2). This shows that over the course of EPIM III most grantees had achieved all or the vast majority of their planned outputs: their EPIM-funded projects were largely implemented as planned, resulting in work with the intended stakeholders and partners, the delivery of reports and presentations, and attendance at meetings. A few gaps are recorded in Table 2. Migreurop had not achieved planned outputs around providing legal advice and preparing legal action against Frontex. Similarly, SIP's planned outputs regarding providing legal assistance remained in progress or at very early stages by the end of the grant. When EPIM funding for ENoMW ended a number of outputs had not been delivered.

A large proportion of the planned outputs had already been achieved in the first year of the EPIM grant. For example, the data required for FRA's project, which was focused on generating public awareness and influencing policy debates, had nearly all been collected, as of September 2013. Some grantees completed delivery of outputs in the second year. In the third year, grantees either completed the delivery of planned outputs or continued to work on outputs until the end of the projects in Year 3.

Chapter 4 provides some further examples of data collection activities undertaken by grantees in the context of identifying both lessons learned and promising practices.

Table 2: Progress by grantees in achieving expected outputs (based on data collected in September 2015)

GRANTEE & PLANNED OUTPUT	HAVE OUTPUTS BEEN ACHIEVED?[1]	EXAMPLES
Médecins du Monde		
Data collection	**Yes**	Example of data collection: In the final year, 2014-2015, MdM was able to collect data about access to healthcare by vulnerable groups in 26 cities across 11 countries from 23,341 unique patients (up from 18,098 in 2013-2014). In addition, MdM collected 61 testimonies from which the 40 most relevant were used in publications. The data and testimonies have been used to inform MdM's Flagship Report[11] that was presented in London in 2015.
Advocacy work	**Yes**	
Creating opportunities to speak out	**Yes**	
Raising visibility of the issue of access to healthcare	**Yes**	
Project management	**Yes**	

11 https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/pages/publications

GRANTEE & PLANNED OUTPUT	HAVE OUTPUTS BEEN ACHIEVED?[1]	EXAMPLES
Advice on Individual Rights in Europe (AIRE)		
Training: training packs, presentations, attendance lists, feedback forms, reports	**Yes**	Example of litigation: In 2014 and 2015 the AIRE Centre and its consortium partners became involved with three strategic litigation cases. Combined with earlier cases, the EPIM-funded project led to involvement in a total of 22 cases. In addition to these, consortium partners had been active in 'strategic casework' in the UK and Ireland (in which the objective is to have a decision, on for example, welfare benefits overturned through the 'administrative reconsideration process').
Report: online publication	**No**	
Roundtables: presentations; action plans	**Yes**	
Litigation: monitoring documents; legal submissions	**Yes**	
Meetings: minutes, evaluations	**Yes**	
Web updates on past court cases	**Yes**	
Consiglio Italiano per i Rifugiati (CIR) (Grant ended in September 2014)		
On-the-job training: number of staff engaged in on-the-job training	**Yes**	Example of secured positions within CIR: CIR and its partners were able to retain their staff – an important output in the NGO sector. As CIR notes: 'All partners could secure their staff even if no new positions were created. The Maltese partner relied on existing staff but also used the services of their external consultants. ProAsyl as well relied on one existing staff and one external consultant.' Example of the final event: The final event in Brussels was co-organized with ECRE in October 2014. The launch included a number of high-profile speakers and was publicised through the communication channels of both ECRE and CIR, who produced a video to accompany the launch. The launch attracted over 80 participants including amongst others the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Council of Europe, Permanent Representations, and a number of NGOs. The event was streamed live on YouTube and the press meeting attracted over 20 journalists.
Kick-off meeting: number of participants in kick-off meeting	**Yes**	
Empowerment of staff	**Yes**	
Research plan: development of research plan and discussion and agreement of plan with all participants/researchers	**Yes**	
Agreed template for national reports: template developed	**Yes**	
Seven national reports (on legislative practices)	**Yes**	
Plan for stakeholder engagement: plan developed for engagement	**Yes**	
Agreed plan for five stakeholder events: plan agreed for nationals stakeholder events	**Yes**	
Agreed plan for six roundtables with stakeholders: plan agreed for six national stakeholder roundtables	**Yes**	
Agreed plan for EU final event: plan agreed for EU event	**Yes**	
(Online) Review of existing training practices for border police	**Yes**	
Report on compatibility of EU instruments	**Yes**	
Template for letters: development of templates for media engagement	**Yes**	
Timeline for media engagement: agreed plan for media involvement	**Yes**	
Pool to draw from as needed for media engagement (press involvement): development of support network who have agreed to support media engagement (e.g. with media communications and lobbying)	**Yes**	
Secured position/role within CIR: number of jobs secured/protected within CIR	**Yes**	
Other positions protected or jobs created: number of jobs secured/ protected within consortium organisations	**Yes**	

GRANTEE & PLANNED OUTPUT	HAVE OUTPUTS BEEN ACHIEVED?[1]	EXAMPLES
European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)		
Questionnaire to shape national reports	**Yes**	Example of national country reports and annual reports: Country 'one-pagers' were produced in 2014, each highlighting a key national issue and offering a simple informative tool to journalists and stakeholders. Annual reports produced by ECRE have proven useful as an advocacy tool at various events, and launch and dissemination events held for the annual reports have acted as a vehicle for coordinated advocacy with national partners.[12] Example of relationship-building and wider uptake of outputs: AIDA data collection materials and methodology were used by ECRE members such as the Estonian Refugee Council, the Croatian Law Centre and the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights for their own national and regional reporting. Greek member Aitima also plans to use AIDA as a dissemination platform for results from their border monitoring missions.
Biannual national country reports	**No[13]**	
Comparative annual report (including transposition info)	**Yes**	
AIDA website	**Yes**	
Testimonies from asylum seekers/ refugees	**Yes**	
Improved advocacy and media tools for civil society	**Yes**	
Partner relationships maintained and strengthened	**Yes**	
Meetings with national experts conducted	**Yes**	
Administrative tasks accomplished	**Yes**	
Workshop on AIDA held at AGC meeting	**No**	
Evaluation progress reports	**Yes**	
Flemish Refugee Action (FRA)[14] (Grant ended in February 2014)		
Analysis and recommendations	**Yes**	Example of campaigning at national level: The central instrument of the project has been the website, which was launched during the project: www.pointofnoreturn.eu. The website contains the stories from detained migrants who cannot be returned ('unreturnable'). The stories are based on data collection performed by FRA and partners. In addition the website contains the final report and factsheets on the detention on migrants in Hungary, France, Belgium and the UK.
Campaigning and advocacy at national level	**Yes**	
Campaigning and advocacy at EU level	**Yes**	
Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)		
Strategies for membership, communication and evaluation	**Yes**	Examples of policy documents: A key channel for influencing the public was the 'Words Matter!' campaign launched in June 2014 and its associated pocket-sized terminology leaflet, which provides accessible arguments against the use of the term 'illegal migrant', as well as a lexicon with translations of 'undocumented migrant' and/or 'irregular migrant' in all EU languages. In the final year PICUM wrote an article in the British Medical Journal (BMJ) on proposed restrictions on undocumented migrants' access to the UK National Health Service. At the British Medical Association annual representatives meeting in June 2015, the piece was cited when a motion was passed saying that doctors should not be asked to monitor their patients' immigration status.
Press statements	**Yes**	
Background papers	**Yes**	
Website pages	**Yes**	
Newsletter	**Yes**	
Policy documents and briefs	**Yes**	
Workshop reports	**Yes**	

12 http://www.asylumineurope.org/annual-report-20142015

13 The biannual national reports were taken out of ECRE's EPIM III project plan following an adjustment in 2013. The project produced initial national country reports and three updates to those reports (a fourth was in progress at the end of the evaluation period).

14 Progress reported for FRA in Table 1 is based on data collected in September 2013. No further data collection was undertaken as FRA's EPIM-funded project ended in February 2014.

GRANTEE & PLANNED OUTPUT	HAVE OUTPUTS BEEN ACHIEVED?[1]	EXAMPLES
Migreurop		
Advocacy		Example of campaign tools: In March 2014 Migreurop launched a new website which hosts the detention centre database (www.closethecamps.org). The database and website have been continuously updated and at the end of the evaluation period contained data on 619 detention centres, up from 587 in September 2013. Through a special feature on the website, anyone can add information to the database (which is subsequently verified). This was done 129 times since the launch. Example of campaign tools: Migreurop conducted 37 visits to immigration detention camps and centres in a number of countries (21 in 2013, 16 in 2014-2015) under the Open Access campaign. The visits serve to increase the visibility of the detention centres and to demand more access to them to monitor the conditions of migrants. Only five visits were accompanied by journalists, despite requesting access for accompanying in eight out of 21 visits in 2013-2014 and 13 out of 16 visits in 2014-2015.
Campaign tools	**Yes**	
Exhibitions undertaken	**Yes**	
Publications	**Yes**	
Grantee outputs		
Increased opportunities to engage with high-level expertise and decision makers	**Yes**	
Delivery on committed aims for the 2012-2015 grant	**In progress**	
Support and funding base has been diversified	**In progress**	
Involvement in policy meeting and decision making	**Yes**	
Partnership output		
Maintained collaboration among partners	**Yes**	
Data		
Data collection and analysis	**Yes**	
Database constituted	**Yes**	
Legal advice and action		
Open Access: Legal advice provided	**No**	
Frontex: Legal cases built	**No**	
Association for Legal Intervention (Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej, SIP) (Grant ended at the end of 2014)		
Research		Example of research: Client Information Sheets (CIS) have been completed for 178 people. The CIS helps counsellors to provide legal advice, and simultaneously is used to collect data on undocumented migrants which SIP can use to inform its advocacy work. In addition, SIP conducted 94 interviews with 'Employers and employer organisations' within Poland and from 'Project legal counsellors and key informants'. Among these interviewees 26 employers and five legal councillors from SIP also completed a detailed questionnaire to report on the expertise and experiences gained during the provision of legal assistance. The data were used to inform the final report Unprotected and the accompanying event in December 2014 in Brussels.
Agreed approach to research across partners	**Yes**	
Country reports (legal and outcome)	**Yes**	
Seminar in Brussels	**Yes**	
Final report and recommendations	**Yes**	
Legal assistance		
Extent of free legal assistance and administrative offices	**In progress**	
Number of strategic cases brought to courts (e.g. criminal) (min. 20 clients per year)	**In progress**	
Case law developed through examples	**No**	
Number of cases resolved	**No**	
Number of cases brought to courts after project finishes (on-going)	**In progress**	
Advocacy		
Policy makers' feedback on the recommendations	**Yes**	
Number of meetings with decision makers at the national level	**Yes**	

GRANTEE & PLANNED OUTPUT	HAVE OUTPUTS BEEN ACHIEVED?[1]	EXAMPLES
Irish Refugee Council (IRC)		
Research approach: interview questions (common and unique); literature review plan	**Yes**[15]	Example of research report and ELA Manual: The sharing of advance copies of the research report with key stakeholders was reportedly constructive in Ireland but they were not shared in Estonia and the UK, as partners were at different stages in their advocacy around ELA in those countries and it was not considered appropriate. Language barriers also limited the report's reach, as it was not available in Estonian. In the final period IRC highlighted that while the report was initially the primary advocacy tool for ELA, from its launch in November 2015, the newly produced Manual on Providing Early Legal Advice to Persons Seeking Protection would take precedence. Produced during the extended project period in recognition of the need for a guidance tool for practitioners, the Manual will be translated into French and German.
Report on research findings	**Yes**	
Report summaries tailored to audience	**No**	
Advocacy toolkit (six information sheets)	**No**[16]	
European Network of Migrant Women		
Board papers (agenda, minutes etc.)	**Yes**	Example of Policy Pamphlets: Raising awareness has occurred largely through the launch of an EU-wide campaign in Brussels in May 2014 at which a series of three pamphlets was also unveiled. The pamphlets are based on the three working groups within ENoMW - namely Deskilling Prevention, Qualification Recognition and Migrant Women Entrepreneurship. These provide 'working definitions, context, barriers and challenges, recommendations, examples of good practice in the EU.' Feedback to the event was positive and indicates the event was useful to increase the awareness of ENoMW at a European level.
Agreed organisational rules and guidelines	**Yes**	
Interim and annual reports	**Yes**	
Increased secure funding	**No**	
Diversified funding sources	**No**	
Work plan and communication plan	**Yes**	
Social media plan	**No**	
Europe-wide advocacy campaign	**Yes**	
Media coverage of awareness raising campaign and Europe-wide advocacy campaign	**In progress**	
Advocacy/awareness-raising campaign materials	**Yes**	
National awareness raising campaign	**No**	
Policy pamphlet Year 1, 2, 3	**In progress**	
Research publication on one of the four strategic network objectives	**No**	
Training delivered to all network members	**No**	
Advocating for increasing the evidence base on migrant women's contribution	**In progress**	
Improved basic skills of ENoMW members	**In progress**	
Improved efficiency and effectiveness of ENoMW in delivering plans	**No**	
Increased involvement of existing ENoMW network members	**In progress**	

[1] For a description of how the evaluation team assessed whether grantees had achieved their planned outputs, outcomes and impacts please see Box 2.

15 The research approach was adjusted during the course of the EPIM-project. Interviews were not conducted to avoid duplication of efforts with other studies. Instead, some country reporting was based on analysis of existing data.

16 Following an adjustment to the project plan, the Advocacy Toolkit was dropped and replaced by a summary document, which links into the research report.

3.3. Progress in achieving capacity-building outcomes

In line with the EPIM III logic model, an important outcome sought at the programme level was the internal capacity building of the grantees. Capacity building refers to improvements in the ability of grantees to conduct a range of activities, such as research, advocacy, engagement with key stakeholders, expertise in writing grant proposals and securing extra funding and awareness-raising.

Table 3 shows that the majority of grantees were able to evidence capacity-building outcomes from their EPIM grant. Further, at the end of the evaluation period there was evidence from a number of grantees that capacity building was ongoing. All grantees included objectives in relation to capacity building in their logic models, often extending to project partners and other stakeholders. For example, PICUM reported capacity-building outcomes were achieved, not just for PICUM itself but also for member organisations through participation in events organised by PICUM. CIR assessed capacity building in its consortium though requesting feedback and self-evaluation.

SIP and IRC did not evidence the achievement of capacity-building outcomes, but both grantees evidenced they were in progress. For example, for SIP, capacity building was developing in respect of capacity of the network to engage with national governmental agencies. In the case of IRC, progress was most notable in Ireland, but was more limited in other jurisdictions, although there was some progress at both national and EU levels in relation to their goal of improving understanding of early legal advice.

Migreurop, one of the newer organisations supported by EPIM III, showed a number of achievements, evidencing progress in relation to building capacity within and the stabilisation of its network of national members. At the end of the evaluation period it was not possible to assess some capacity-building outcomes (for example, relating to increased collaboration between partners in the South and North), although they appeared to be in progress.

Table 3: Progress by grantees in achieving expected grantees outcomes – capacity building (based on data collected in September 2015)

GRANTEES AND PLANNED GRANTEE OUTCOMES	HAVE OUTCOMES BEEN ACHIEVED?[1]	EXAMPLES OF GRANTEES ACHIEVING THEIR CAPACITY-BUILDING OUTCOMES
Médecins du Monde		
Capacity building	**Yes**	Example – training volunteers: Within MdM the capacity to advocate has been strengthened through the training of volunteers in the UK, Greece and France (around 20 in total). The coordinators of the European, EPIM-funded, project have spent time with the new volunteers to familiarise them with advocacy skills and to support them to initiate activities. Example – data collection: Data collection about the access to healthcare by vulnerable groups was at the core of MdM's EPIM-funded project. There was considerable capacity building in data collection and sampling methods among MdM core staff and among the MdM partners across countries.
Enabling each MdM and MdM international network to effectively implement, sustain and participate in a common European advocacy strategy	**In progress**	

GRANTEES AND PLANNED GRANTEE OUTCOMES	HAVE OUTCOMES BEEN ACHIEVED?[1]	EXAMPLES OF GRANTEES ACHIEVING THEIR CAPACITY-BUILDING OUTCOMES
Advice on Individual Rights in Europe (AIRE)		
Provision of a replicable model for other NGOs in Europe who provide advice and assistance to marginalised EU migrants	**Yes**	Example – actions taken by NGOs trained by AIRE: Two complaints have been made to the European Commission by NGOs that have attended AIRE and/or partner training. Complaints are formal letters written to the lawyers of the European Commission, encouraging the Commission to start infringement proceedings against Member States who have not implemented or correctly applied European law. Through communications received from the European Commission, AIRE has reason to believe that such proceedings were started against the UK following complaints made by these NGOs attending the AIRE training. Example – collaboration between law firms: Through continued collaboration with international law firms the AIRE centre continued to build internal capacity. Interactions with these firms and collaboration on strategic litigation cases enabled AIRE Centre staff to learn practical skills required in dealing with courts and government legal services in England and Wales.
A network of trusted informal partners in a range of Member States and at the EU level	**Yes**	
Cases successfully taken forward and participated in by AIRE and partners in UK, Ireland and Belgium	**Yes**	
Consiglio Italiano per i Rifugiati (CIR) (Grant ended in September 2014)		
Improved learning among partners and others: Demonstrate improvement with data gathered through a self-evaluation questionnaire completed by September 2014 (at end of project)	**Yes**	Example of learning and development among partners: Information gathered from self-evaluation questionnaires completed by CIR's partners showed that the EPIM-funded project 'was extremely important in terms of improving [partners'] competences in conducting more effective and fruitful raise-awareness [sic] and advocacy activities as well as in acquiring technical know-how.' (CIR progress reports)
Multiplier effect of team learning: Level of participation in a number of relevant meetings	**Yes**	Evidence of the growth in technical knowledge of the protection of migrants was that CIR and partners received requests to provide technical information on these issues, for example to the Human Rights Commission of the Italian Senate and to the International Court of Justice mission to Italy.
European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)		
Robust data collection process	**Yes**	Example – building a database: The experience of developing the Asylum Information Database (AIDA), which was in part supported by the EPIM grant, led to capacity building within ECRE around web development and website management as well as in relation to practicalities of collecting complex Europe-wide asylum data and statistics. Example – further funding secured: In 2014 ECRE received additional funding from the Adessium Foundation and UNHCR, which enabled a number of activities intended to strengthen the work supported by the EPIM grant. These include the addition of four countries to AIDA, the development of pilot country missions to investigate asylum challenges particular to specific countries and the production of legal briefings. Funding was secured from UNHCR to continue AIDA beyond the EPIM grant.
Attraction of further funding	**Yes**	

GRANTEES AND PLANNED GRANTEE OUTCOMES	HAVE OUTCOMES BEEN ACHIEVED?[1]	EXAMPLES OF GRANTEES ACHIEVING THEIR CAPACITY-BUILDING OUTCOMES
Flemish Refugee Action (FRA)[17] (Grant ended in February 2014)		
Among the planned outputs and outcomes, none relate directly to capacity building; however, a review of the evidence provided by FRA indicates some capacity building was achieved as a result of activities under the EPIM grant.		Example of capacity building: FRA mentioned that through the project they have 'increased learning on EU lobbying'.
Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)		
Events are held which focus on topics of interest to members	**Yes**	Example – positive feedback from events for members: PICUM organises an Annual Workshop and General Assembly, and meetings of thematic working groups for its members, to enable information sharing and interaction between member organisations, and to address EU-level issues of concern (such as undocumented children and families, and monitoring of the Employers' Sanctions and Returns' directives). Surveys completed by members at these events indicated their value to members in terms of capacity building. Example – training workshops for members: PICUM held training workshops for members around the transposition of the Victim's Directive, which led to bilateral advocacy meetings between PICUM's national members and government authorities in Sweden, Italy, Spain and the Czech Republic.
Better engagement with a range of organisations and within the PICUM network	**Yes**	
Continued growth in membership	**Yes**	
PICUM members operating at the national level are facilitated to reach and engage with the EU policy level	**Yes**	
Strengthened effectiveness and coordination of national organisations to respond to the urgent human rights issues facing irregular migrants	**In progress**	
Migreurop		
Increased awareness among national and EU foundations	**Yes**	Example – stabilisation and sustainability of the network through securing funding: In May and July of 2014 Migreurop secured additional funding from three separate sources. One €5000 grant was received for an exhibition entitled 'Moving beyond borders' which focused on the journey of migrants, showing the factors and risks associated with crossing the Sahara, the Mediterranean Sea and the eastern borders of the European Union. The exhibition comprises map-based videos, photographs and soundscapes. After it was launched in Brussels in June 2015, it was open in Calais from 2 to 17 December 2015. Two other grants were received to translate Migreurop's report on the Greek-Turkish border into Greek and to print copies of the report in French and English. Example – training volunteers: Within the Frontexit campaign, capacity building occurred through the training of volunteers in European and African countries from civil society organisations by members of the Migreurop steering committee. Over the course of the EPIM grant 15 training sessions were organised under the Frontex project, reaching a total of 426 volunteers. Training included sessions for members of staff from African civil society organisations about Frontex and how civil society can advocate against it.
South/North increased collaboration	**In progress**	
Stabilisation and sustainability of the network	**In progress**	
Migreurop works as a network and in a partnership	**Yes**	
Increased visibility in EPIM and to other funders	**In progress**	
Enhanced communication and advocacy capacity	**Yes**	
Stronger internal evaluation capacity; cultural change in evaluation practice	**In progress**	

17 Progress set out here for FRA is based on data collected in September 2013. No further data collection was possible as FRA's EPIM-funded project came to an end in February 2014.

GRANTEES AND PLANNED GRANTEE OUTCOMES	HAVE OUTCOMES BEEN ACHIEVED?[1]	EXAMPLES OF GRANTEES ACHIEVING THEIR CAPACITY-BUILDING OUTCOMES
Association for Legal Intervention (Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej, SIP) (Grant ended at the end of 2014)		
Network of NGOs from CEE region (initiated through partners)	**In progress**	Example – conducting advocacy: The capacity among SIP's members in Poland to plan and execute advocacy activities has been established and strengthened as a result of the EPIM-funded project - particularly in relation to advocacy at a European level. This was new to many of SIP's partners, who previously engaged largely or only in advocacy at the national level. A European-level campaign was a new experience. Example – national collaborations: Through ongoing consultation and campaigning, various consortium partners have built collaborations with national agencies such as the labour inspectorates in Poland and Hungary. These collaborations are ongoing and allow the partners to remain in constant discussion with policy makers.
Securing additional sources of funding, e.g. from other funding bodies	**No**	
Long-term collaboration with: Partners and new NGOs National Labour Inspectorates National and EU policymakers Other stakeholders	**In progress**	
Irish Refugee Council (IRC)		
Better understanding of ELA (and how it can operate in different jurisdictions) EU level National level (Ireland, UK, Estonia)	**In progress**	Example of enhanced understanding of ELA in different contexts: Interactions with project partners in UK and Estonia and visits to other countries were reported to be useful in understanding the landscape and barriers to the implementation of ELA in other national contexts. For example, workshops and a reception centre visit in Portugal led to research on EU alternative models of detention, which was drawn on for a 2013 IRC report: *Direct Provision: Framing an alternative reception system for people seeking international protection*. Collaboration with ECRE and stakeholders on the European level also reportedly provided valuable insights for IRC on conducting EU-wide projects and advocacy.
Take-up of advocacy toolkit	**No**	
European Network of Migrant Women		
Strengthened role of national platforms	**No**	Example of capacity building: Capacity building has mainly been based on training. Specific mention was made of lunchtime training at the Social Platform which has been attended by the Coordinator and which has focused on applications to different sources of funding. Information and notes taken at presentations and conferences were shared on the Intranet to ensure that it could serve as a capacity-building tool for the wider network.

[1] For a description of how the evaluation team assessed whether grantees had achieved their planned outputs, outcomes and impacts please see Box 2.

The advocacy toolkit was replaced by a summary document linked to the research report.

At the point the funding ended ENoMW had made some, but not substantial, progress towards capacity building.

3.4. Progress by grantees in achieving wider policy outcomes

Wider policy outcomes refer to the initial effects grantees have on policy making through their project. The types of outcome can include grantees securing or increasing their contact with key policy makers, providing information and evidence to policy makers, influencing the issues that policy makers are paying attention to and influencing the language used in policy circles.

Table 4 shows how several grantees provided evidence that their actions and activities were likely to have contributed to policy outcomes. The majority of planned outcomes were assessed to be achieved or in progress, with a minority assessed not to have been

achieved. It is worth highlighting the case of Migreurop, where policy outcomes were achieved or in progress in relation to the most immediate and tangible project goals, but given the ambitious nature of other goals, it was not expected that these would be achieved within the period of the EPIM grant. The examples in Table 4 indicate the many types of stakeholder with which EPIM III grantees engaged, and by extension the scale of the contribution made by EPIM to these policy outcomes.

Table 4: Progress by grantees in achieving wider policy outcomes (based on data collected in September 2015)

GRANTEES AND PLANNED POLICY OUTCOMES	HAVE OUTCOMES BEEN ACHIEVED[1]	EXAMPLES OF GRANTEES ACHIEVING THEIR WIDER POLICY OUTCOMES
Médecins du Monde		
EU institutions and Member States increasingly expressing support for health protection for all	**Yes**	Example – engagement with European Commissioners: In the second and the third year of the EPIM grant, MdM had increasing interaction with Commissioners at DG SANCO. In the second year, it was reported that there was good reason to assume that Commissioner Borg mentioned in a speech undocumented migrants as a group being refused treatment as a result of campaigning by MdM. In the third year, a delegate of MdM met with the new Commissioner (Andriukaitis) who shared the concerns raised by MdM about migrants' access to healthcare. Several further interactions with Commissioner Andriukaitis followed this meeting. As with all of MdM's activities, it is important to recall that the EPIM III grant was just one source of support for their work. This to some extent dilutes the contribution made by the EPIM.
Improved evidence base in EU public health and health-care policy	**Yes**	
The EU establishing a more consistent public health policy in terms of prevention and treatment of infectious diseases	**In progress**	
Improved understanding of how best to balance national and EU priorities	**No**	
Advice on Individual Rights in Europe (AIRE)		
AIRE's improved visibility and links with the European Commission	**In progress**	Example – proceedings against the UK: After AIRE had informed the Commission, infraction proceedings were lodged against the UK in relation to the 'automaticity of the "right to reside" test'. At the end of the evaluation period a date for the hearing was yet to be set. Example – links with the Commission: One of the most important stakeholders with which the AIRE Centre interacted has been the European Commission. Through training events and informal networking, contacts with the Commission were established and maintained.
Complaints to the EC result in infringement proceedings or letter of formal notice	**Yes**	
Consiglio Italiano per i Rifugiati (CIR) (Grant ended in September 2014)		
Correct definitions of migrants used by authorities (e.g. 'clandestine', 'irregular')	**In progress**	Example of independent monitoring of practices: CIR was able to monitor how the Italian coastguard, Navy and police implemented operation *Mare Nostrum* which was a year-long naval operation to deal with the increased immigration to Europe. CIR noted that, working with UNHCR and other organisations, the monitoring role allowed them to highlight to the Italian authorities that it was important that, following interception and rescue, migrants should be disembarked and subject to specified procedures and procedural guarantees. CIR reported that *Mare Nostrum* operations between October 2013 and October 2014 were carried out in line with this policy.
Increased awareness among stakeholders	**Yes**	
(National) Policy change/ guidance on border control: Existence of national guidance on advanced border control	**No**	
Independent monitoring of practices: Existence of independent monitoring	**In progress**	

GRANTEES AND PLANNED POLICY OUTCOMES	HAVE OUTCOMES BEEN ACHIEVED[1]	EXAMPLES OF GRANTEES ACHIEVING THEIR WIDER POLICY OUTCOMES
European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)		
ECRE seen as a credible source of information to more people	**Yes**	Example – use of AIDA by Member States and EU agencies: ECRE's policy outcomes stemmed from the use of the information in AIDA by a range of stakeholders to inform policy making and in court cases. Uptake was particularly evident among EU stakeholders. However, national authorities (in Belgium, Germany, Italy and the UK) have included the AIDA reports in their internal databases or on their websites. AIDA country reports, prepared by ECRE's national partners, provide an overview of asylum procedures, reception conditions and detention of asylum seekers in participating countries. In an email a Deputy Head of a Unit of DG Home noted: 'we find these reports extremely useful for our work here – as you know, we are still building up our fact-finding/intelligence-gathering capacities and have a lot of 'black holes' when it comes to our knowledge of what is happening across the EU.' Example – use of AIDA in national and European litigation: AIDA country information was cited in national and European-level litigation, mainly in cases challenging transfers under the Dublin Regulation. In many cases, applicants successfully challenged the execution of transfers. AIDA reports were cited in court proceedings in: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Canada, the UK, Switzerland, Hungary and the European Court of Human Rights, as well as in a UN Human Rights Committee Communication.
Take-up of advocacy tools (EU and national)	**Yes**	
Improved national litigation	**Yes**	
AIDA deliverables used by policy makers in national legislation	**Yes**	
Flemish Refugee Action (FRA) (Grant ended in February 2014)		
Increased momentum among policy makers at national level	**Yes**	Example of momentum among policy makers: After attendance at the events of the FRA, the Belgian Green Party and Christian Democrats asked for solutions (permit to stay) in their political manifestos. This policy request was a response to the issue of 'unreturnable' migrants' that the FRA had campaigned for.
Good (and bad) practice shared between partner countries and beyond	**Yes**	
Increased momentum among EU policy makers	**No**	
Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)		
Raised awareness among EU and national policymakers of PICUM and the issues it promotes	**Yes**	Example – recent contributions to EU consultations: PICUM responded to policy consultations such as the European Commission Consultation on Undeclared Work and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Consultation on *Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders*. Example – increased presence in media: PICUM's proactive outreach to journalists was reported to have increased visibility and media engagement. In 2015 PICUM media uptake significantly increased in relation to migrant deaths in the Mediterranean and proposals to restrict UK National Health Service access for undocumented migrants. PICUM received 13 media requests and 114 mentions between April and August 2015. In terms of social media, PICUM published three blogs and saw a significant increase in Twitter and Facebook followers and Twitter mentions.
Raised awareness among journalists	**Yes**	
Increased presence in media	**Yes**	
PICUM makes high-quality contributions to key consultations on thematic issues	**Yes**	
PICUM members operating at the national level are facilitated to reach and engage with the EU policy level	**Yes**	

GRANTEES AND PLANNED POLICY OUTCOMES	HAVE OUTCOMES BEEN ACHIEVED[1]	EXAMPLES OF GRANTEES ACHIEVING THEIR WIDER POLICY OUTCOMES
Migreurop		
Advocacy (across both Frontexit and Open Access campaigns)		Example – contributions to a Commission proposal: Within the Frontexit campaign, Migreurop provided recommendations to a European Commission proposal on maritime intervention. While not all recommendations made by Migreurop and other civil society organisations were taken on board, Migreurop felt that the text had been improved, and that as a result the text can now be used in practice by NGOs and lawyers as a basis on which to challenge perceived human rights violations by Frontex. Example – visits to detention centres: Under the Open Access campaign, Migreurop was able to organise 37 visits to detention centres over the course of the grant. Combined with the database of detention centres, this has increased the transparency and visibility of detention centres.
Increased awareness about UM rights among policymakers and the public (EU and national levels)	**Yes**	
Frontex (campaign specific)		
Working arrangements between Frontex and Third Countries overseen by European Parliament	**No**	
Frontex is sued	**No**	
Frontex is more transparent and accountable	**In progress**	
Open Access (campaign specific)		
Full Access: to detention centres	**In progress**	
Information about detention centres is available	**In progress**	
Association for Legal Intervention (Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej, SIP) (Grant ended at the end of 2014)		
Proposed recommendations on the employment needs of undocumented migrants	**In progress**	Example – partners join EU advocacy campaigns: The EPIM-funded project has enabled the project partners to cooperate with other European NGO's (e.g. PICUM) and to start advocacy campaigns at a European level (e.g. statements to the European Commission and meetings with MEPs). In 2014 these advocacy activities resulted in 'EC representatives inviting SIP to a meeting during their visit in Poland.' Example – national advocacy on migrant rights: The project partners of the EPIM funded-project were (and continue to be after the end of the EPIM grant) involved in national campaigns on migrant rights. For example, in Poland SIP was the first NGO to actively campaign for the rights of undocumented migrants. These campaigns resulted in changes to policy such as the removal of responsibility from labour inspectorates to check the legality of employment, which will now only be checked by the border agencies.
Improved knowledge and awareness of migrants' rights (employers and migrants)	**In progress**	
Proposed modifications and amendments to the EU Directive 2009/52/EC	**Yes**	
Insight into new legislation, e.g. by providing clarity on the situation of undocumented migrants in the EU	**Yes**	
Irish Refugee Council (IRC)		
Understanding at national level that ELA is efficient	**In progress**	Example of a national understanding of ELA: In Ireland, the commitment to ELA in principle was reported to have grown considerably during the period of the project among key stakeholders and sections of government. The Irish Refugee Applications Commissioner was a planned speaker at the ELA *Manual* launch event (held in November 2015). Additionally, recommendations for ELA were included in the *Working Group on the Protection Process* report given to the Irish Minister for Justice in June 2015.
Understanding at EU level that ELA is best practice	**No**	

[1] For a description of how the evaluation team assessed whether grantees had achieved their planned outputs, outcomes and impacts please see Box 2.

It was difficult to assess the scale of progress, as limited information was available from IRC. Overall it appeared that progress was made in Ireland only, and to a modest degree.

3.5. Progress by grantees in achieving individual beneficiary outcomes

Whereas policy changes occur at the institutional level (e.g. European Commission, Labour Inspectorate), beneficiary outcomes refer to improvements experienced by individual migrants as a result of actions and activities undertaken by the grantees. Beneficiary outcomes would result from grantee's work with a particular individual that results in them having access to services or lega l protections that they would not otherwise have been given. These outcomes can result from direct service provision to migrants by grantees – for example, through legal advice – or could result from changes in policy and practice.

Table 5 shows that several, but not all, grantees demonstrated beneficiary outcomes, or evidenced that achievement of such goals was in progress. A number of these (for example, as evidenced by AIRE, CIR and ECRE) stemmed from legal challenges to legislation or taking individual cases to court. Relatedly, SIP's provision of services to migrants allowed them to achieve these outcomes. On the other hand, planned outcomes which required more tangible changes in the ways in which authorities worked were not achieved, for example by AIRE (they were not able to achieve a shift in focus among European Institutions) and CIR (they were not able to secure access for migrants to an independent advisor).

Table 5: Progress by grantees in achieving individual beneficiary outcomes (based on data collected in September 2015)

GRANTEES AND PLANNED BENEFICIARY OUTCOMES	HAVE OUTCOMES BEEN ACHIEVED?[1]	EXAMPLES OF GRANTEES ACHIEVING INDIVIDUAL BENEFICIARY OUTCOMES
Médecins du Monde		
Growing advocacy and commitment of health professionals through networks, alliances and other collaborative opportunities	**Yes**	Example – MdM's contributions to the Granada Declaration: MdM achieved outcomes that could benefit individual beneficiaries through securing commitments from a range of health professionals to migrants' healthcare. An important contribution to advocacy and securing commitment of health professionals has been the Granada Declaration. This Declaration was launched by the three Presidents of the Organising and Scientific Committee of the 5th European Conference on Migrant and Ethnic Minority Health. It called for the better protection of migrants' healthcare and was signed by various NGOs and international organisations. MdM provided significant input to the declaration and all MdM organisations signed and distributed the Declaration.
Promotion of an EU-wide policy on infectious diseases that takes into account access to treatment and social determinants	**Yes**	

GRANTEES AND PLANNED BENEFICIARY OUTCOMES	HAVE OUTCOMES BEEN ACHIEVED?[1]	EXAMPLES OF GRANTEES ACHIEVING INDIVIDUAL BENEFICIARY OUTCOMES
Advice on Individual Rights in Europe (AIRE)		
Complaints to the European Commission result in infringement proceedings or letter of formal notice	**Yes**	Example – outcomes from a case taken by AIRE's partner: Beneficiary outcomes were achieved in several individual cases through strategic litigation. In the second year, Belgian project partner L'ADDE served as 'amicus curiae' to a case of residence rights, in which the Court of Justice of the European Union granted permanent residence to the applicant. Example – AIRE representing EU citizens: Illustrative of the work of AIRE is a case that the Centre took against the UK government in the third year of the EPIM grant. AIRE was successful in securing permanent resident status for 'an EU citizen with a patchy work history in the UK.'
European institutions will focus their efforts on problems that vulnerable and marginalised EU migrants face, especially on: Social assistance benefits Social security benefits (including healthcare) Social housing Residence documentation Reunification of EU migrants with non-EU family members Expulsion from the host Member State	**No**	
Consiglio Italiano per i Rifugiati (CIR) (Grant ended in September 2014)		
Information provided; access to legal counselling; access to translation	**Yes**	Example of improved information provision: In Spain CEAR – one of CIR's partners – achieved a change in policy as a result of a claim filed at the Immigration Detention Centre Surveillance Court. The claim concerned the lack of information provided to migrants in detention centres in Madrid and Barcelona. In response the court ordered the provision of information about protection, asylum application and access to procedures in a leaflet for migrants.
Clarity about the way that information is provided (e.g. wearing of uniform); Female/male staff, as appropriate; Overall process applied consistently	**Yes**	
Clear two-way dialogue between migrants and authorities	**No**	
Access of independent people to migrants (migrants can contact and speak to an independent advisor)	**No**	
European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)		
ECRE provides a voice for refugees/asylum seekers (through media)	**Yes**	Example – use of AIDA in Dublin Regulation appeals: Progress was made towards beneficiary outcomes as a result of the use of AIDA in court proceedings. Information from AIDA national reports was used in appeals against transfers under the Dublin Regulation. For example in Germany, 'AIDA reports were quoted in 7 rulings from Administrative courts, all on Dublin cases'. The Hungarian report was quite extensively quoted in an ECHR decision from July 2014 which rejected the claim that the return of the applicant to Hungary under the Dublin Regulation would amount to ill treatment. Example – reaching the media and providing a voice for refugees/ asylum seekers: ECRE reported increased media citations, social media engagement and website visits over the course of the project. Between January and August 2015, the website recorded 332,094 views, more than in the years 2013 and 2014 combined, indicating the strengthened presence of AIDA among public information networks. Asylum seeker and refugee video testimonies were also made available on YouTube and the AIDA website.
AIDA deliverables used in court proceedings	**Yes**	
AIDA deliverables used by researchers	**Yes**	
AIDA deliverables used by policy makers in national legislation	**Yes**	

GRANTEES AND PLANNED BENEFICIARY OUTCOMES	HAVE OUTCOMES BEEN ACHIEVED?[1]	EXAMPLES OF GRANTEES ACHIEVING INDIVIDUAL BENEFICIARY OUTCOMES
Association for Legal Intervention (Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej, SIP) (Grant ended at the end of 2014)		
Improved understanding of (employment) needs of undocumented migrants	**In Progress**	Example – SIP's caseloads increase in 2014: Through interactions with beneficiaries, SIP increased its understanding of the needs of migrants and has been able to provide advice. Provision of legal assistance within the project increased from a total of 266 in 2013 to 298 in 2014, of which 136 are undocumented migrants.

[1] For a description of how the evaluation team assessed whether grantees had achieved their planned outputs, outcomes and impacts please see Box 2.

The outcomes of these cases were not always available to the evaluation team, so it is difficult to assess the scale of the achievement.

Assessment of FRA is based on data collected in September 2013. No further data collection was undertaken after FRA's EPIM-funded project ended in February 2014.

ENoMW is not included in this table as there was no evidence of progress towards beneficiary impacts when the funding ended.

3.6. Progress by grantees in achieving beneficiary impacts

The scale at which the impact occurs differentiates beneficiary impacts from beneficiary outcomes. Impacts are structural, long term and might affect whole communities, groups or populations, whereas outcomes, while important, are more incidental and have a smaller reach.

Beneficiary impacts generally take time to be achieved, but as Table 6 shows, one grantee provided evidence that such impacts have been achieved and others were in progress (and therefore might be expected in the near future). MdM provided evidence that progress was being made towards beneficiary impacts at the end of the evaluation period. Wider (more ambitious) European-level impacts were not achieved

No evidence of progress was reported by AIRE, IRC, Migreurop, CIR, SIP, PICUM or FRA in achieving beneficiary impacts. While beneficiary impacts are among the goals of these grantees, these had not been achieved at the end of the evaluation period. ECRE did not interact directly with migrants as part of their EPIM-funded project, and therefore the 'Beneficiary Impacts' were not applicable.

Table 6: Progress by grantees in achieving beneficiary impacts (based on data collected in September 2015)

GRANTEES AND PLANNED BENEFICIARY IMPACTS	HAVE IMPACTS BEEN ACHIEVED?[1]	EXAMPLES OF GRANTEES ACHIEVING THEIR BENEFICIARY IMPACTS
Médecins du Monde		
Improved access to healthcare for vulnerable groups at a European level	**No**	Example - advocacy results in policy changes in Spain (continued from 2014): MdM reported that a particular campaign in Spain (the 'derecho a curar' campaign), which was in part supported by the EPIM grant, had enabled many health professionals in Spain to object to restrictions in access to health care. According to the Spanish Association of Family and Community Doctors, more than 1,650 doctors lodged an objection). Thanks to advocacy of MdM-Spain and partners, the autonomous regions of Andalucía, Aragon, Asturias, Basque country, Canary islands, Catalonia, Galicia, Navarra and Valencia made changes in their policy on allowing undocumented migrants to access healthcare.
Improved access to healthcare for vulnerable groups at a national level	**In progress**	
Increased awareness among the health and justice professions of the need to protect seriously ill foreigners	**In progress**	

1 For a description of how the evaluation team assessed whether grantees had achieved their planned outputs, outcomes and impacts please see Box 2.

Assessment of FRA is based on data collected in September 2013. No further data collection was undertaken after FRA's EPIM-funded project ended in February 2014.

ENoMW is not included in this table as there was no evidence of progress towards beneficiary impacts when the funding ended.

3.7. Progress by grantees in achieving policy impacts

Policy impacts are similar to beneficiary impacts in the sense that they would **not be expected in the short term**. Policy impacts would include a change in the law or a significant change in policy to which the grantee contributed, for example, through outputs such as research reports or advocacy materials. Policy impacts are ambitious goals and are hard to achieve. Accordingly, it was not expected that policy impacts would be achieved during the period of the EPIM grant.

Table 7 shows that MdM, ECRE, PICUM, SIP and IRC provided evidence that some of their planned impacts were in progress - i.e. could be expected to result in the short to medium term.

Some of the intended impacts were challenging, particularly in the political climate towards the end of 2015 – for example, ECRE's intention to change the views of public and politicians.

No evidence of progress was reported by AIRE, Migreurop, CIR or FRA[18] in achieving policy impacts. While policy impacts were among the goals of these grantees, it would have been premature to expect that these wider impacts would have arisen during the evaluation period.

18 FRA's progress reporting is based on data collected in September 2013. No further data collection was possible as FRA's EPIM-funded project came to an end in February 2014.

Table 7: Progress by grantees in achieving policy impacts (based on data collected in September 2015)

GRANTEES AND PLANNED POLICY IMPACTS	HAVE IMPACTS BEEN ACHIEVED?[1]	EXAMPLES OF GRANTEES ACHIEVING THEIR POLICY IMPACTS
Médecins du Monde		
Established knowledge base on access to healthcare for vulnerable people across Europe	**In progress**	Example - MdM may have influenced thinking of a high-level EU policy official: Progress was being made towards policy impacts through high-level interactions with officials at the European level. Isabel de la Mata ('Principal advisor with special interest in Health' at DG SANCO) highlighted the fact that undocumented migrants and destitute EU citizens often face barriers in access to healthcare during the opening plenary of the Granada conference. MdM note that proving a link between their advocacy activities and this statement is difficult, but that they were 'certain that the specific statements of Isabel de la Mata are a direct result from our interaction with her, as she also confirmed to us at several informal contact occasions.'
NGOs will be better able to formulate EU-wide policy solutions to the problems particularly vulnerable and marginalised EU migrants face	**No**	
NGOs will be able to communicate those problems more effectively to the European institutions and other stakeholders (notably local governments)	**No**	
European officials will continue to tackle those problems, without the need for further instigation from civil society	**No**	
European Council on Refugees And Exiles (ECRE)		
Shift in public opinion	**No**	Example – engagement with the EASO: ECRE made progress towards longer term policy impacts through its contact with European agencies responsible for asylum policy. The EASO informed ECRE of its intention to explore the complementarity between AIDA and its own Information Documentation System (IDS). ECRE also reported that as a result of ECRE input, the EASO now fully acknowledges information provided by NGOs with regard to Member State practice as one of the sources upon which the Early Warning Mechanism must be based. Example – engagement with the European Commission: ECRE reported that the Commission found AIDA reports useful for their monitoring of the application of EU law. It was difficult to show tangible examples of how this had impacted on practices. ECRE noted that the 'continuing relevance of AIDA reports as an authoritative source of evidence for litigation purposes confirms the predominant value of the database as a tool for legal practitioners.'
More receptive political environment	**No**	
Improved asylum policies and practices	**In progress**	

GRANTEES AND PLANNED POLICY IMPACTS	HAVE IMPACTS BEEN ACHIEVED?[1]	EXAMPLES OF GRANTEES ACHIEVING THEIR POLICY IMPACTS
Platform For International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM)		
UM have more than basic fundamental rights, enjoying full protections	**No**	Example – changing the discourse: Through their media campaign PICUM made progress towards policy impacts in the form of some changes in the terms of the discourse around undocumented migrants. As a result of efforts surrounding the 'Words Matter!' campaign, PICUM reported that a shift in terminology used had taken place among media outlets and commentators. Indeed, the *Guardian* newspaper was moved to publically debate their use of the term. Example – progress with European policymakers and agencies: After years of sustained engagement, and following a recommendation from PICUM, the European Parliament decided to commission an independent and comprehensive report on the human rights impact of the Facilitation Directive. Additionally, the European Asylum Support Office decided to reframe its official focus area on unaccompanied children to include all migrant children irrespective of status. EASO referred to a PICUM-coordinated joint open letter to the European Council when they announced the change in policy.
Terms of public discourse and debate about UM is transformed	**In progress**	
Improved used of terminology by EU and national agencies	**In progress**	
Commitment in both legislation and practice which bridges gap between EU policy and international human rights standards	**In progress**	
Commitment on part of national and local policy makers, trade unions, media and other civil society actors across the EU to prevent discrimination against irregular migrants	**In progress**	
The 2015 Commission Home Affairs Framework uses appropriate language, tone, discourse	**No**	
Association For Legal Intervention (Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej, SIP)		
Central and Eastern European countries' own voice on migration (common voice)	**In progress**	Example – Poland may remove labour inspection from the remit of border agency: Through capacity building of the partners, and through interactions and cooperation with governmental agencies, SIP has been able to make initial progress towards their policy impacts. In Poland' the Ministry of the Interior has officially declared that in 2018, labour inspection will be legally separated from border guards. SIP noted that if this happens it will be of great benefit to undocumented migrants in Poland. This separation would be a key success for SIP who note they were the first NGO to raise this issue at the governmental level. Example – amendments to the Alien Act in Romania In Romania the consortium partner ARCA was to contribute to amendments to the Aliens Employment Act through advocacy. One of the major changes involved 'the obligation to inform irregular migrants objectively and systematically about their right to receive outstanding remuneration before the enforcement of the return decision by the General Immigration Inspectorate or the Labour Inspectorate.'
Policy change through implementing amendments: national and EU level	**In progress**	

GRANTEES AND PLANNED POLICY IMPACTS	HAVE IMPACTS BEEN ACHIEVED?[1]	EXAMPLES OF GRANTEES ACHIEVING THEIR POLICY IMPACTS
Irish Refugee Council (IRC)		
To demonstrate ELA as effective, fair and efficient	**In progress**	Example – funding and endorsement of ELA in Ireland: IRC reported some progress towards expanding the practice of ELA in Ireland and gaining support among key stakeholders, including UNHCR, the Legal Aid Board and the Refugee Applications Commissioner. IRC reported that pressure they exerted resulted in the Irish Legal Aid Board providing limited funding to private practitioners for ELA. Furthermore, the Department of Justice gave funding to the IRC for ELA, and the Refugee Applications Commissioner showed support for it and engaged heavily with IRC on the issue.
Culture change – more early communication, less adversarial	**No**	
Raising standards of practice of all stakeholders	**No**	
ELA introduced or confirmed among national partners	**In progress**	
ELA confirmed or introduced in other countries	**No**	

[1] For a description of how the evaluation team assessed whether grantees had achieved their planned outputs, outcomes and impacts please see Box 2.

ENoMW is not included in this table as there was no evidence of progress towards beneficiary impacts when the funding ended.

Chapter Four. Cross-cutting insights and lessons learned for grantees and funders

This chapter addresses the second aim of the evaluation, to 'identify lessons learned by the grantees about pathways to achieving impact'. In addition, it includes learning about how to evidence impact, gained during the evaluation. Findings in this chapter stem from:

- Learning points expressly identified by grantees in their reporting templates.
- Findings from the validation interviews conducted towards the end of the evaluation with external stakeholders.
- Lessons that the research team have identified from analysis of the information provided by grantees.

This chapter is divided into two sections, outlining lessons primarily directed at the grantee-level and those more relevant to funders.

The lessons about achieving impact have been identified on the basis of looking for 'positive deviance', that is, instances where things have gone especially well. While the particular instance may be unique to a grantee, it can hold wider insights that could be useful to others. Through exploring cases of positive deviance it is possible to get an idea of what the pathway to success looks like.

An interim report from the evaluation of EPIM III,[19] published in 2015, outlined emerging lessons that grantees had reported up to that point. The lessons from that interim report are repeated here, to bring findings from all parts of the evaluation together in one place and to ensure that none of the insights generated over the course of the evaluation is lost.

4.1. Lessons for grantees

This section highlights eight lessons of relevance to a range of organisations undertaking advocacy or working in the fields of asylum seekers, undocumented and vulnerable migrants. Each lesson is illustrated with examples to enhance their relevance to other grantees and the sector more widely, and for each lesson a number of promising practices are suggested.

19 Scraggs, E., Disley, E., Rubin, J., Krapels, J., and Baruch, B. (2014) Evaluation of EPIM III Emerging Insights from the evaluation so far'. Cambridge: RAND Europe. Available at: http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR789

4.1.1. Adding value to data to support advocacy

Research and data collection were key components of many of the EPIM III grants (see the information about the grantees' projects in Appendix B). Grantees collected data of various types, ranging from cross-national primary statistics on access to healthcare (by MdM) to in-depth qualitative narratives of migrants (by FRA). To be useful to policy makers (and therefore to generate policy and beneficiary impacts), something more needed to be done to the data apart from their collection and reporting. As one of the validation interviewees noted:

> *[Data] is only an effective tool if it is translated in a way that policymakers cannot only digest and understand it but also use it in something tangible… it means going through the exact challenges or priority areas of the European Commission in a subject area and then for every single one giving a tangible solution and explaining how that solution is based on the data… [the data] is a means to an end, and the end is an actual policy solution.*

Three examples from grantees serve to illustrate this point. First, over the course of their grant, MdM collected data during patient consultations to generate new insights into access to healthcare by the most vulnerable groups. This MdM survey expanded substantially over the three years of the EPIM III grant and grew from 7 to 11 countries and from 14 to 26 cities. The latest report from MdM included data from 23,341 patient consultations. An important element of their EPIM III grant was to ensure and enhance data quality by training those collecting it. Once the data were collected, MdM undertook a dissemination campaign. First, a visually attractive report was produced which contained the core statistics as well as narratives from individuals of vulnerable groups to enhance the message of the report. The report was then launched during an event at which health professionals and policy makers were invited to speak and comment on the topics contained in the report. Once substantial publicity was generated, MdM used the facts in their advocacy campaigns. Through the combination of active dissemination and rigorous data collection, MdM generated a resource that is unique and useful to both academics and policy makers.

Second, cross-country data collection was a key part of the EPIM III grant to the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) which was used to support the creation of the Asylum Information Database (AIDA). With its national partners, ECRE developed and refined a standardised data collection questionnaire and a methodology to gather regularly updated, comparable information on asylum practice in a number of Member States. Importantly, ECRE invested in presenting these data in an accessible and user-friendly format via a comparator tool on their website. This dual emphasis on rigorous data collection methodology and user-friendly presentation appeared to have been key to AIDA's influence and uptake with key stakeholders. Indeed EASO, the European Commission and UNHCR have highlighted the value of the database in their work. Additionally, with their Legal Briefings, ECRE used AIDA data to produce a focused advocacy tool aimed at legal professionals and policymakers. With regard to the Briefings, one interviewee commented on the value-added of quality national data:

> *you have a good picture of the situation on the ground because of reports submitted for the AIDA project…that is a very good way of doing things that you*

look at a legal provision or a legal concept and you analyse it with a very good understanding of how things [actually work] in practice.

Third, the 'A Face to the Story' campaign developed by the FRA and partners included visual testimonials from unreturnable migrants. Through these individual accounts the project aimed to move beyond (and add value to) the statistics, to humanise the experience of migrants living in detention. Politicians were reached in Belgium in various events organised by the FRA, and the topic was adopted by key political parties in election manifestos.

Adding value to data to support advocacy - promising practices

- Undertaking primary data collection – especially across Member States – was resource intensive to do robustly but was a clear way in which grantees added value. It often required trusted partners to contribute to data collection.
- The most impactful data outputs, such as AIDA, were designed to inform policy making processes – their structure and content reflected this.
- Investing in dissemination campaigns, launch events and accessible visualisations, targeted at key stakeholders, maximised the promotion and profile of data collection and provided a focal point for advocacy.
- For general public audiences, film, theatre and other non-traditional formats were found to be successful modes of engagement.
- Robust and quality data collection enabled grantees to develop their profile as a trusted information source. In turn, this resulted in policymakers pro-actively approaching grantees with information requests.

4.1.2. Taking a constructive approach to stakeholder engagement

Advocacy campaigns undertaken by the EPIM III grantees were (by definition) critical of current policy and practice. Learning emerges from EPIM III about how positive messaging and a constructive approach can be used to deliver such messages in a way that still enables engagement with those being criticised. Some examples illustrate this approach.

Civil society engagement in policy making is a relatively new phenomenon in Central and Eastern Europe. The Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej (Association for Legal Intervention, SIP) in Poland and its project partners have been at the forefront of building civil society organisations around issues of migration and integration in several Member States in the region. The project partners achieved several modifications to the practices of labour inspectorates and border patrols in a political climate which was not naturally receptive to SIP's calls for change. Patience and continuous consultation appear to have been key to these successes. Keeping the conversation going, even when little progress was being made, was crucial. As SIP observes:

This [policy change] is a result of SIP`s persistent advocacy in this area. SIP has raised this issue during numerous meetings with the Ministry of Interior e.g. during public consultations of the new law on aliens. SIP has also addressed this issue in our recommendations to the implementation of the Polish migration

> *policy in February 2014. Actually SIP was the first NGO to raise this issue on the governmental level.' In turn, SIP's prominent role as a civil society actor was recognised by a government official in a validation interview, who deemed the changes achieved by SIP as a 'gigantic success.*

For PICUM, some of the most concrete achievements evidenced during the EPIM III grant were in relation to child rights, child poverty and access to healthcare, in which the organisation had maintained a strategic focus over several years, and in which PICUM had built recognised expertise. It was reported that continuously engaging on these issues allowed them to incrementally build strong and multi-level stakeholder networks and increase their profile as topic experts. A validation interviewee speaking about PICUM emphasised the benefits of building alliances and suggested that a 'step by step' approach, which found a middle ground with policymakers for incremental progress, could be successfully adopted by other organisations.

Finally, as one of the larger NGOs with a presence in many European countries, MdM highlighted the importance of 'positive' rather than 'negative' communication several times over the course of the grant. This consisted of highlighting things that are going well, rather than just denouncing what is going wrong. It does not mean that the critical messages are dropped – it simply means that through (initial) positive communication there will be more room for an in-depth discussion. This strategy was maintained over the course of the grant. As MdM observed:

> *It is important to acknowledge that we are speaking of widely 'unpopular' issues, so we have to stick to hard facts, never being ideological. Our expression must always be positive, showing possible and rather simple solutions. Accusing systems and stakeholders doesn't bring people to listen to our arguments. That is why we use individual stories and try to bring public opinion to more solidarity.*

A similar example can be drawn from ECRE's experience; they reflected that it was important that the AIDA annual report include examples of good practice as well as highlighting what was not working.

Taking a constructive approach to stakeholder engagement – promising practices

- In countries where civil society engagement with policy and practitioners was new, EPIM grantees provided examples of how to initiate and grow constructive relationships with policy makers and practitioners.
- Grantees demonstrated successes from a 'step-by-step' approach to negotiating and engaging with policy makers – accommodating compromises in demands for change in the short and medium term in order to develop a longer-term relationship. This long-term focus also allowed grantees to establish themselves as experts in the field.
- Even in situations where grantees strongly opposed current policy and practice, some found that tempering critical advocacy messages by highlighting examples of good practice helped to secure trust with key stakeholders.

4.1.3. Maximising the impact of on-the-ground knowledge and expertise

An example of how grantees were able to build advocacy on their knowledge gained from specific and tangible advocacy comes from the AIRE Centre (Advice on Individual Rights in Europe).

The AIRE Centre uses strategic litigation to enforce the rights of marginalised individuals, and through their work they built a portfolio of real legal cases which they used in advocacy directed at the European Commission and national and local government. On the basis of evidence provided by the AIRE Centre, infringement proceedings were started by the Commission against Member States to uphold the rights of citizens. The real-world evidence the AIRE Centre provided, combined with their knowledge of the technical legal challenges experienced by individuals at the national level, was a prerequisite for the engagement of stakeholders. As one validation interviewee observed:

> *In this area of [law] and the way it links to immigration law and the way it links to social security rights, it's absolutely vital that you do have specialist bodies who know what the issues are, who can advise on the law, and that have both contacts in the national judiciary and at EU level...You need to combine it [strategic litigation] with advisers on the ground, advising migrants themselves or advising people who work in shelters or outreach centres...You need a high-level litigation strategy, but also a practical advice aspect.*

The importance of linking European and national policy to local, real, examples was strategy that resonated more widely with the interviewees, as one interviewee observed:

> *The European level is important for funding and general policy support/direction, but to have a tangible effect of upholding undocumented migrants' rights it has to be at the local level. Translating the regional to the local is a challenge, but effectiveness happens more at a local level.*

Maximising the impact of on-the-ground knowledge and expertise – promising practices

- EPIM III grantees achieved success and added value when they capitalised on the knowledge they have which policymakers do not, for example, 'on the ground' information about the experiences of migrants and asylum seekers, or knowledge stemming from legal expertise.

4.1.4. Targeting advocacy on specific and practical demands

To capture the interest and attention of policy makers, grantees found it was important to provide tangible and specific messages, or evidence that they can immediately utilise.

As part of their EPIM-funded work, PICUM attempted to change the discourse around undocumented migrants through the 'Words Matter!' campaign and showed how focus on a specific point of change which is workable for policymakers, and within their realm of influence, can be met with success. The campaign challenged the use of exclusionary terminology ('illegal' migrants) to describe undocumented migrants in the media, the public and on the political stage. PICUM produced and disseminated pocket-sized leaflets in a number of languages and easy-to-grasp campaign messages and the campaign

gained significant traction on social media. While the shift in terminology that was detected was inevitably brought about by a confluence of factors which made it attractive for key stakeholders, the campaign triggered significant public and media debate, and key European stakeholders and bodies, including Jean-Claude Juncker, opted to use more neutral terminology.

Targeting advocacy on specific and practical demands – promising practices

- While there is value in advocating for large-scale change, EPIM III grantees demonstrated how campaigns focused on relatively small reforms and changes can generate results and provide opportunities to develop contacts with policy makers and other advocacy organisations.

4.1.5. Increasing the capacity and reach: training volunteers and professionals, using ambassadors and building coalitions and networks

Compared to other lobbying or advocacy groups, advocacy in the field of migration and integration is, as two validation interviewees observed, 'an under-resourced field'. To expand their activities, many grantees worked with and relied on the efforts of volunteers. Several grantees reported this was a successful strategy that both engaged citizens in civil society action and contributed to the mission of the organisation. Engaging volunteers was, however, not always straightforward and generally some training or education was required to familiarise the volunteer or participant with the topics the grantee worked with and the challenges it faced. Some examples from grantees serve to illustrate the point that organisational capacity can be expanded through the training of volunteers and professionals.

The Irish Refugee Council (IRC) engaged in training lawyers and legal professionals to deliver Early Legal Advice (ELA) to asylum seekers. The capacity- and network-building opportunities this created were reported by IRC to be key to progress towards the objectives of their EPIM-funded project on 'Early Legal Advice for Protection of Applicants'. Training provided a forum for relationship-building which allowed IRC to consolidate support for ELA among relevant stakeholders and helped to ensure that capacity to deliver ELA existed within the legal profession in Ireland.

Migreurop expanded their capacity to advocate through the training of volunteers both in Europe and in Africa. The aim was to strengthen civil society and to enable more civil society organisations to run informed campaigns, for example under the Frontexit project. Volunteers were trained by the Steering Committee members of Migreurop. Over the course of the EPIM grant 15 training sessions were organised under the Frontex project, reaching a total of 426 volunteers.

Our previous report contains further examples from CIR and the AIRE Centre. CIR provided training to border police in Italy on the rights of migrants. The AIRE Centre ran training sessions attended by NGOs, local councils and housing providers in the UK. The training to local councils by the AIRE Centre was very well received, as reported by a member of staff in one of the validation interviews.

The interim report also showcased an example of employing ambassadors – 'Securing

the support of individuals who are well-known or influential in the field to present, publicise and promote grantees' messages' (interim report, p. 10). The sample comes from the experience of MdM, and builds on their work with healthcare professionals, who are trained to deliver advocacy messages. The advantage is that such people 'speak with an authentic voice and can draw on their own experience to deliver the message'.

Lastly, the interim report from the evaluation outlined another way in which grantees were able to extend their reach: through forming networks and coalitions with other civil society actors. All EPIM grantees collaborated, to some extent, with other NGOs and partners and several examples were given of the 'multiplier' effects and benefits of participating in network such as the Social Platform on Migration (PICUM and ENoMW). Some larger and more established grantees had themselves taken the lead in building a coalition. PICUM reported on their experience of building a coalition of 38 European and international migrants' rights and children's rights organisations to sign a joint letter to the European Council, with the objective of influencing the Council Communication on future justice and home affairs policies, and ensure the adoption of a more coherent and rights-based policy approach towards migrant children.

While a successful approach overall, PICUM warned that developing multi-party groups posed a number of challenges; it was time consuming and required extensive communication with all parties involved to retain engagement and to avoid estrangement.

Increasing the capacity and reach – promising practices

- Through delivering training to professionals such as healthcare workers, lawyers, and law enforcement actors, EPIM III grantees enhanced their reach and impact and developed their networks.
- Securing support from influential individuals who had a voice and could publicise the message of grantees proved to be an effective way to raise awareness for MdM.
- Coordinating advocacy activities with networks and coalitions added value by demonstrating that a particular point was more broadly supported than by just an individual NGO or grantee. Building large coalitions of organisations and stakeholders can be a powerful way to communicate a message. However, reaching consensus within a large coalition was time and resource intensive.

4.1.6. Partnering with European-level organisations to support advocacy in Brussels

For an advocacy campaign to be successful in Europe, as one of the validation interviewees observed, it is essential for organisations to have supporters and contacts in relevant, senior positions within policy making organisations. Building a network to establish such connections takes time, perhaps several years. The grantees funded by EPIM III differed in the extent to which they were established and networked into the European scene. Some had routes through which they could ensure access to high-level policy makers, while others need more time and help to engage European institutions.

There were several examples of cooperation between EPIM grantees that enabled the less well-established organisations to gain access to the European institutions.

For example, SIP partnered with PICUM to deliver its first event in Brussels. At the event SIP's report *Unprotected* was presented and discussed by a panel that included representatives from DG Home, the ILO and the ITUC. The support received from PICUM enabled this, as SIP reported:

> *We would definitely recommend to anybody partnering with a more experienced organization from Brussels (as we did with PICUM) to avoid unnecessary trips to Brussels and not to waste time on making beginner`s mistakes.*

Another example of network-building for wider reach in Europe came from the IRC's partnership with (and membership of) ECRE. The IRC combined the launch of its project's research report in Brussels with an ECRE event, thereby enabling them to target a wider audience and make efficiency savings. As a national NGO with limited previous experience of Europe-level work, the IRC found strategic relationship-building challenging. In this regard their relationship with ECRE was also important and they benefitted from ECRE's advice on who to target in their advocacy, and utilised their established dissemination channels.

Partnering with European-level organisations – promising practices

- Partnership with European-level advocacy organisations to plan and run events in Brussels provided organisations unfamiliar with European instructions and practices with essential knowledge and access to key stakeholders.

4.1.7. Evidencing contribution to demonstrate achievements

The lessons described above relate to achieving the goals of the EPIM III-funded projects. This lesson and the next relate to evidencing impact.

All EPIM III grantees were keen to show their achievements and measure their outcomes and impacts, but found it challenging to evidence how their activities led to outcomes and impacts, given the constraints of time and resources under which they operated. Work with grantees undertaken by the evaluation team during the EPIM III evaluation highlights some relatively straight-forward ways in which grantees can map their *contribution* to policy and practice change, and therefore produce evidence of their achievements:

1. *Showing a clear chronology of events:* a contribution can usually only be claimed where a grantee's activity occurred before a key change or result. And the evidence might be more compelling in cases where the activities happened close in time to the change.
2. *Telling a clear 'story' of actions taken and actors involved:* precision in describing what the grantee did, the people involved and their roles, can clarify the sequence of events and show how a contribution was made. This might include the role played by other advocacy organisations.
3. *Making a realistic assessment of the size and scope of the success:* a clear description of what was achieved and changed, and the effect of this, is the final link showing the contribution.

Evidencing contribution – promising practices

- To show how the activities of a grantee have contributed to key outcomes, it can be helpful to use the three-step approach of explaining the chronology of events, explaining exactly what the activities involved were, and clearly explaining the nature of the change. This should allow the role played by the grantee to be evident, and their added value apparent.

4.1.8. Aligning performance indicators to ensure correspondence with the changing strengths and focus of an organisation

A second lesson for organisations in the sector stemming from the experience of conducting the evaluation of EPIM III relates to ensuring that performance measures are aligned.

As described in Section 1.2, the evaluation of EPIM III started with workshops with grantees to develop logic models for their projects and agree indicators of success. Over the three years covered by the evaluation, some grantees made changes to their planned activities and goals, which created some misalignment with the logic model and indicators against which they were being evaluated.

While it is important to set targets at the start and monitor progress along the way, there are good reasons why indicators and the logic model require continuous review over the course of a grant. First, logic models and indicators are based on assumptions about what the world looks like. Over the course of a project the world may change, causing the grantee to revisit the assumptions and adjust the logic model. The scale of the refugee crisis of the last year, for example, was largely unexpected and substantially changed the world in which the grantees operated.

Second, as a project unfolds, grantees may realise that some actions or activities are more successful or necessary than others, leading them to shift their planned approach.

It may, therefore, be necessary for grantees to review their logic models and indicators annually and in consultation with the evaluator.

A mismatch can lead to an oversight of the main contributions made by grantees. For example, a grantee may be strongest and add most value in its function as a networking organisation, providing opportunities for various stakeholders to meet and interact. When the indicators for such an organisation are focused on direct policy impact or changes in practice, there is a risk that the important networking function is overlooked. Accurate indicators are therefore needed to not only do justice to the efforts of the grantee, but also to capture more widely all the achievements of a funding programme such as EPIM III.

Reflecting annually on logic models and indicators can also provide an opportunity for grantee organisations to take stock and review their strategic direction.

Aligning performance indicators – promising practices

- As part of evidencing the contribution made to the achievement of key project goals, it is good practice to review the continued relevance of the original goals, and the usefulness of performance indicators used to measure those goals. This ensures that changes in the focus of a project are reflected in the agreed metrics, and that the key results can be captured.

4.2. Lessons for future EPIM rounds and other funders

The pros and cons of funding mature or new organisations

Evaluation findings could prompt EPIM to reflect on the relative advantages and disadvantages of funding newer compared to older organisations in terms of achieving their programme-level objectives .

Some grantees, such as PICUM and MdM, were well-established organisations which could immediately start with advocacy work using their established networks, while others were newer organisations and still needed to build capacity and work on their network, which meant some delay in achieving outcomes and impacts. This might cause EPIM to reflect on the relative advantages and disadvantages of funding newer compared to older organisations, and to adjust expectations of what younger organisations can achieve.

In part this will depend on the objectives that EPIM want achieve in future funding. For example, if the objective is to improve the lives of as many migrants as possible as quickly as possible, funding more established organisations which work at the impact end of the logic model would be a sensible strategy. Alternatively, if the objective is to develop new organisations and engage in building capacity (perhaps where there are particular gaps), the strategy could involve supporting newer, smaller organisations and moderating expectations of outcome and impact achievements in the short term. It is likely that EPIM wants to achieve both objectives, but consciously deciding on the balance and acknowledging the implications could be of value.

Developing the funding plus model to deliver tailored and targeted capacity building (and critical feedback)

EPIM could explore whether capacity-building support should be tailored to the needs of each grantee.

The evaluation found consensus among grantees that the capacity-building activities provided under EPIM III were welcomed and useful. The evaluation also found that the capacity-building outcomes were more pronounced for those grantees that were recently established organisations. The implications of this could be:

- To capture the results of capacity building at the programme level, it could be useful for EPIM to look separately at different types of grantees.
- Expectations of capacity building at the outset of a grant could be adjusted – setting higher expectations for new grantees, and anticipating more modest or smaller capacity-building effects for mature organisations.
- A greater proportion of capacity-building resources at the programme level could be directed to newer new organisations.
- The types of capacity-building activities could be different for older and newer organisations. The former might benefit from general support regarding advocacy tools, developing networks and contacts etc. The latter might benefit from more niche forms of support targeted on capacity gaps.

Facilitating network-building between national and European organisations

The evaluation found that new, nationally-based, grantees benefited from connections with European-level organisations such as ECRE and PICUM. This was a very tangible way in which EPIM III added value through capacity building, and it is recommended that facilitating links with European organisations should continue to be a key part of future EPIM rounds, or even that this element is strengthened.

EPIM adds value by introducing national and European level organisations

Reflecting on the implications of the trajectories of achievements

In Section 2.7 it was noted that the second year of EPIM III was the point at which several grantees evidenced most of their achievements (particularly in terms of outcomes). Year three was commonly spent consolidating. The implications of this could be that funders might use the extent of achievements in the second year as an indicator of likely achievements across the whole grant period. Such an indicator could be used to target support to organisations that have not yet evidenced progress towards their goals. A second possible implication is that funders (or future evaluation) could investigate why the pace of achievements appeared to stabilise or reduce in the final year. Is there scope for funders to intervene to support grantees to realise further outcomes and impacts in year three?

Monitoring outcomes and impacts after grants end

This evaluation reports achievements up to September 2015, but it is acknowledged that the goals of the EPIM grant might be further achieved at some point in the future, beyond the evaluation and EPIM III period (this was noted in Section 2.7). There is a case for developing a mechanism to capture longer-term impacts, recognising that any such mechanism would need to impose a minimal burden on grantees. It could take the form of a short annual survey (electronic or conducted by phone).

EPIM could develop approaches to monitor outcomes and impacts realised after the end of the grant, and could disseminate guidance about how grantees can evidence their achievements.

Supporting grantees to evidence achievements

In Section 4.1 practical guidance was provided for grantees about how to evidence achievements. This guidance could be integrated into the reporting requirements that EPIM imposes on future grantees.

Chapter Five. Conclusions and recommendations for future monitoring and evaluation of grant-funding programmes

5.1. Evaluation conclusions

This report has presented findings from an independent evaluation of the EPIM III programme – a grant-giving programme providing support to ten civil society organisations operating in a number of European Member States and at the European level. All these organisations were working in the field of asylum, undocumented and/or vulnerable migrants. The objectives of the EPIM III programme were set out in a logic model, developed by the evaluation team in collaboration with EPIM (Appendix A).

The objective of the evaluation was to assess the progress of the EPIM III programme against the outcomes and impacts set out in the logic model, and to identify lessons learned by the grantees about pathways to achieving impact.

The approach taken by the evaluation was to collect detailed information from all ten grantees across the life of the EPIM III programme (through biannual reports submitted to the evaluation team by grantees) to chart their progress against planned achievements, and record emerging lessons and insights. These data enabled an assessment of each grantee, the findings from which could then be aggregated to formulate conclusions about the programme-levels impacts of EPIM.

Given the complex network of factors that enable and act as a barrier to policy change, the evaluation aimed to identify the *contribution* made by grantees (rather than seeking to attribute change entirely to the work of one grantee).

Overall, the evaluation found substantial achievements resulting from EPIM III. These are detailed in Chapter 2, with supporting evidence about grantee-level impacts in Chapter 3. Comparing the achievements described in this report with the high-level vision articulated for EPIM III at the start of the evaluation (during a workshop facilitated by the evaluation team, see Section 1.3), the evaluation has indicated that:

- **EPIM III has stimulated, supported and enabled the development of a group of strong grantees.** Development and capacity building was particularly evident among newer, less mature grantees who benefitted from the opportunities to learn from, and develop networks with, other grantees.

- **Across the EPIM III-funded projects there were coherent streams of work and evidence of achievements against planned objectives:** All grantees provided some evidence of achievements in influencing wider policy outcomes, and several other achievements can be said to be 'in progress'. The majority of the grantees contributed to outcomes for individual beneficiaries.
- **EPIM had presented genuine learning opportunities for grantees.** Grantees reported an increase in their levels of knowledge regarding, for example, conducting research and advocacy, and also reported favourably on the workshops and conferences organised by EPIM as a forum for learning and networking.
- **Evidence has emerged from the EPIM-funded work about what has been achieved by grantees:** as part of this evaluation, grantees provided descriptions, supported by evidence, of their activities and achievements. Analysis of this evidence resulted in the identification of lessons and promising practices that are of use to other grantees and funders (these are set out in Chapter 3).

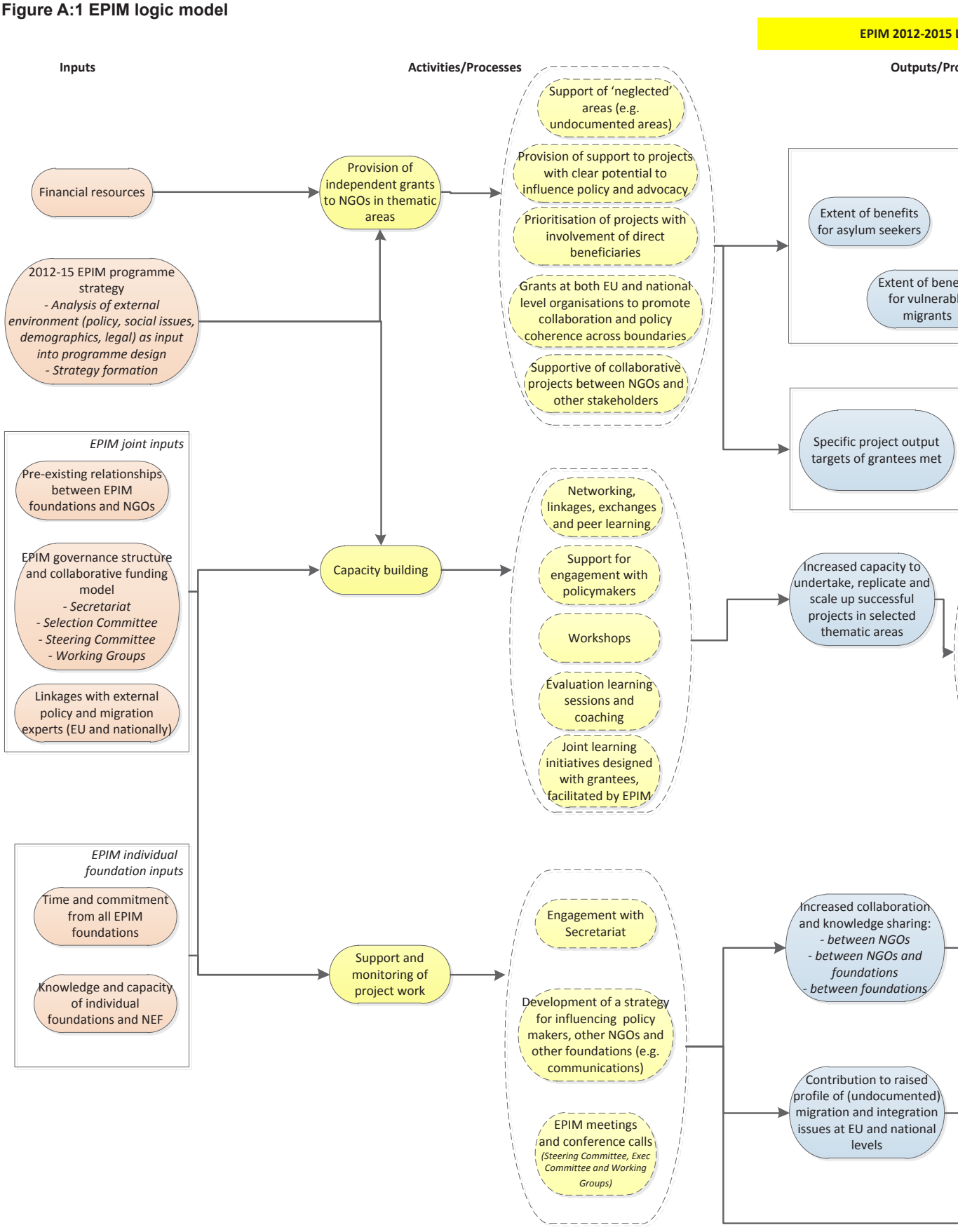
Importantly, these achievements have taken place in the context of a political, economic and international climate in which advocating for change in migration law and policy is extremely challenging.

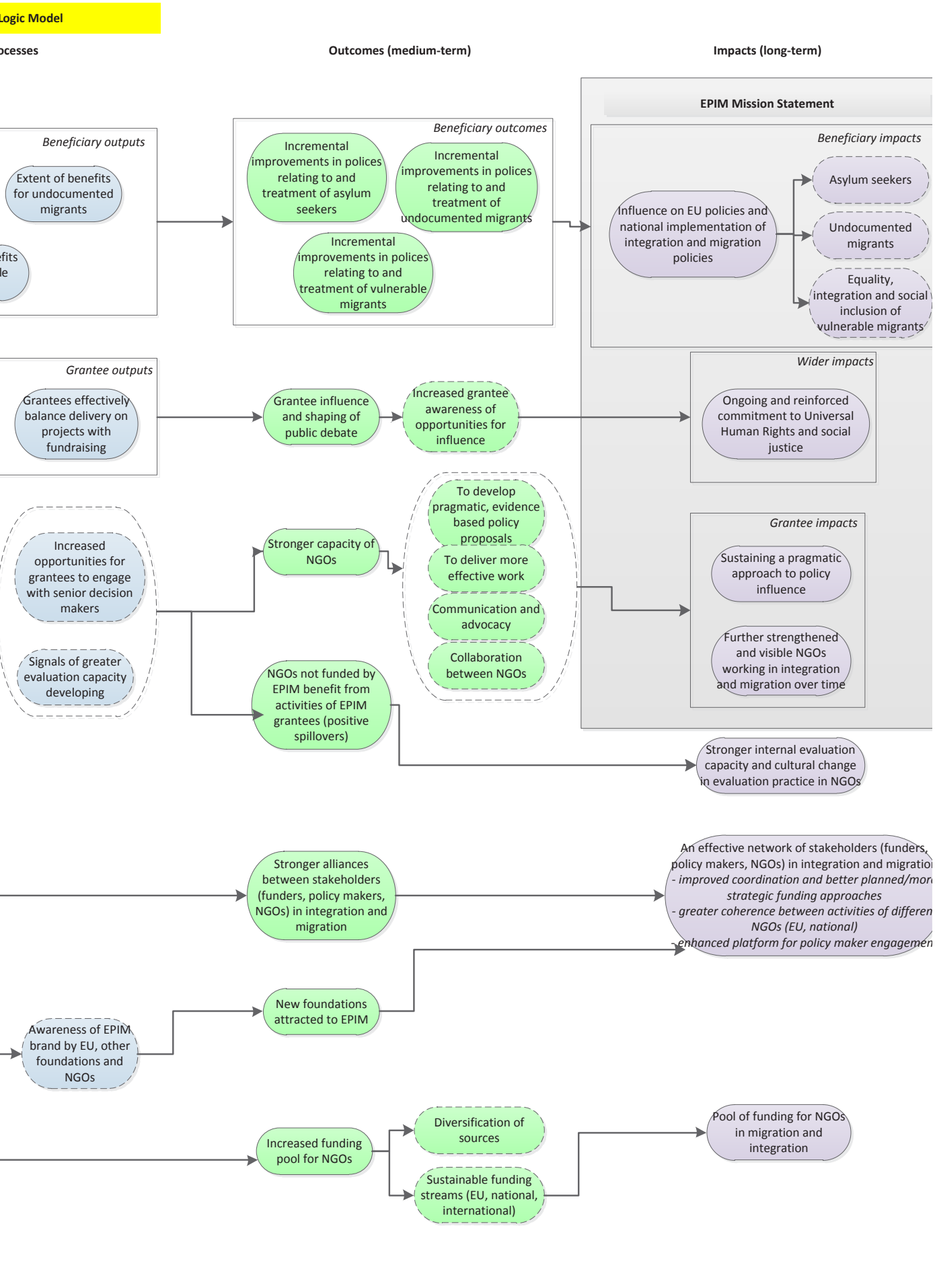
From a cross-cutting analysis of data collected from grantees and via validation interviews, Chapter 4 highlighted promising practices for grantees: these spanned practical advice on advocacy tools and approaches, as well as practical advice about measuring outcomes.

Chapter 4 also highlighted possible implications of the evaluation findings for EPIM's Funding Plus model, and other funders. These prompt considerations of how support for grantees and the achievements expected might be further tailored and adjusted to account for the particular needs and characteristics of different grantees.

APPENDIX A: EPIM logic model

Figure A:1 EPIM logic model




Logic Model
ocesses
Outcomes (medium-term)
Impacts (long-term)
EPIM Mission Statement
Beneficiary outputs
Extent of benefits for undocumented migrants
efits
le
Beneficiary outcomes
Incremental improvements in polices relating to and treatment of asylum seekers
Incremental improvements in polices relating to and treatment of undocumented migrants
Incremental improvements in polices relating to and treatment of vulnerable migrants
Beneficiary impacts
Influence on EU policies and national implementation of integration and migration policies
Asylum seekers
Undocumented migrants
Equality, integration and social inclusion of vulnerable migrants
Grantee outputs
Grantees effectively balance delivery on projects with fundraising
Grantee influence and shaping of public debate
Increased grantee awareness of opportunities for influence
Wider impacts
Ongoing and reinforced commitment to Universal Human Rights and social justice
Increased opportunities for grantees to engage with senior decision makers
Signals of greater evaluation capacity developing
Stronger capacity of NGOs
To develop pragmatic, evidence based policy proposals
To deliver more effective work
Communication and advocacy
Collaboration between NGOs
Grantee impacts
Sustaining a pragmatic approach to policy influence
Further strengthened and visible NGOs working in integration and migration over time
NGOs not funded by EPIM benefit from activities of EPIM grantees (positive spillovers)
Stronger internal evaluation capacity and cultural change in evaluation practice in NGOs
Stronger alliances between stakeholders (funders, policy makers, NGOs) in integration and migration
An effective network of stakeholders (funders, policy makers, NGOs) in integration and migratio
- improved coordination and better planned/mor
strategic funding approaches
- greater coherence between activities of differen
NGOs (EU, national)
enhanced platform for policy maker engagemen
New foundations attracted to EPIM
Awareness of EPIM brand by EU, other foundations and NGOs
Increased funding pool for NGOs
Diversification of sources
Sustainable funding streams (EU, national, international)
Pool of funding for NGOs in migration and integration

APPENDIX B: Grantee progress summaries

A summary of each detailed grantee progress report is presented below.

B1. Médecins du Monde – Doctors of the World International Network (MdM) Progress Summary January 2016

MdM received a grant from EPIM to support their 'European advocacy project to improve access to healthcare for undocumented migrants'. MdM is an international humanitarian organisation providing medical care to vulnerable populations affected by war, natural disasters, disease, famine, poverty or exclusion. The EPIM-funded project aimed to ensure the equal rights and effective access to health care of undocumented migrants by carrying out a global advocacy strategy towards EU and national institutions and policy makers. The project partners included: Médecins du Monde in Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK.

The activities:

The main activities undertaken by MdM can be summarised under five main headings:

Data collection: using an agreed approach and template for data collection (including standardised indicators), MdM has collected data on access to healthcare by vulnerable populations across Europe using patient consultations. In addition, some patient consultations have been developed into larger 'testimonies' which provide a more in-depth narrative of patients from vulnerable groups on their access to healthcare.

Advocacy work: in a number of countries, MdM produced campaign materials, such as leaflets that inform doctors of the possibility to treat all patients, including undocumented migrants. Furthermore, MdM has aimed to bring together specialists and specialist bodies in the field to support their campaign. A major achievement in this respect was the Granada Declaration which called for the better protection of migrants' healthcare and was signed by various NGOs and international organisations. MdM provided significant input to the declaration and all MdM organisations have signed and distributed the Declaration.

Creating opportunities to speak out: the communication plan developed for the project guided the activities. Among the communication activities undertaken were meetings with high-level policy makers, and meetings of doctors from MdM with members of the European Parliament.

Raising visibility of the issue of access to healthcare: through publications such as the annual report on the data collected and (online) articles, MdM aimed to raise visibility. The launch of the annual report was also used to host the media.

Capacity Building: the project allowed MdM teams in various countries to further develop their capacity to collect high-quality data and to engage in meetings with high-level policy makers.

Key successes:

Data collection: through its network of members across Europe, MdM has been able to set up an annual survey to collect data on access to healthcare by vulnerable groups. The data provide a unique source for policy makers, academics and other stakeholders. The extensive media attention at the launch of the annual report of the data highlights its importance.

Capacity building: over the course of the grant there have been two continuous streams of capacity building that are still ongoing. First, over the entire course of the project, MdM has worked to strengthen the capacity to advocate through the training of volunteers (in the UK, Greece, France, The Netherlands, Spain and Germany). Second, as data collection has been at the core of the project, there has been genuine capacity building in data collection and sampling methods among MdM core staff and among the MdM partners. The expansion to new countries and the introduction of the random sampling methodology are signs of increases in data collection quality. In turn, that the MdM data are increasingly used in official (research) reports seems to suggest the data are widely perceived as valuable and unique.

Influencing stakeholders: the influence on stakeholders seems to have increased with the duration of the project as the evidence reported in the last year is more substantial than in the first years. We can summarise the influence of stakeholders through the identification of three major stakeholder groups:

- DG SANCO/SANTE Commissioner: over the course of the second and third years, MdM have increasingly had interactions with the old and the new Commissioner of DG SANCO/SANTE. MdM met with both Commissioners, and the Commissioners attended MdM events. There were also indications that through MdM's advocacy the Commissioners paid attention to the topic of access to healthcare.
- European Commission and European institutions more widely: beyond the Commissioners, MdM have also had interactions with officials from the European Commission and other European institutions. Under the EPIM grant, some these interactions have been ongoing for more than one year and have resulted in good working relationships through which MdM is able to inform policy makers of its ideas and concerns.
- European healthcare community: increasingly over the course of the grant, MdM has been engaging with the wider European healthcare community. Increasing numbers of references to MdM's flagship report in academic and policy documents (examples include references in the *British Medical Journal*[20]; WHO report *Economic Crisis, Health Systems and Health in Europe: impact and implications for policy*[21]; and the

20 http://www.bmj.com/content/350/bmj.h2681

21 http://www.euro.who.int/en/about-us/partners/observatory/publications/policy-briefs-and-summaries/economic-crisis,-health-systems-and-health-in-europe-impact-and-implications-for-policy

European Health Forum in Gastein)[22] are evidence that this engagement is resulting in greater awareness and coverage of MdM's messages and work.

Changes to migration and immigration policy: in the second year a number of examples were provided to highlight changes in policy and in the third year some of the 'changes in practice' actually appear to overlap with changes in policy. Some of these examples are discussed below, others can be seen as clear changes to policy:

- France: change in the law whereby 'insured patients do not have to advance costs any more to later get reimbursed by their insurer. Instead, healthcare providers get reimbursed directly by the insurance.' Previously this was a barrier for poor patients, and the change in the law has been an advocacy point of MdM for years.
- Greece: an expansion of access to healthcare and a repeal of mandatory HIV tests. Both issues have been central to MdM's advocacy campaign both in Europe generally and Greece specifically.
- Community of Madrid and others: After campaigning for access to healthcare, MdM was able to convince the vast majority of political parties to sign up to a declaration.[23] When political power changed after the election, the new governing parties at regional level introduced measures in this direction, in line with MdM's campaigning. Current political changes at the national level seem to have put the roll-out of these policies on hold, however.
- Sweden: the Swedish Social Board confirmed 'that undocumented EU citizens can use the same scheme as undocumented third-country nationals and asylum seekers in accessing healthcare'. This follows intensive advocacy by MdM.

Change in migration and immigration practice: a change in practice was reported early on in the grant. In the first year MdM noted how its advocacy had enabled many health professionals in Spain to object to restrictions affecting their medical ethics. Further differences in the Spanish government's practice that flowed from MdM's work were changed practices such as an instruction not to charge undocumented migrants for emergency care and instructions to care for chronic diseases.

In the second year no changes to practice were reported, yet in the final year several examples were provided:

- UK: charges for GP and nurse visits which had been planned have been put on hold in line with the campaigning by MdM and other groups. In addition, new guidelines for access to GPs will be published, also in line with MdM campaigning.
- Netherlands: in Amsterdam MdM and others successfully campaigned to keep access to medication free to undocumented migrants. Dutch regulation states migrants should pay €5 when medication is delivered to a pharmacy. Civil society organisations were covering these costs in 2014, and the municipality has now decided to reimburse their costs and itself cover the costs from 2015 onwards.

22 http://www.ehfg.org/fileadmin/ehfg/Website/Archiv/2014/EHFG_2014_Conference_Report.pdf

23 See: Declaración Institucional por la Universalidad del Derecho a la Salud

B2. The AIRE Centre (Advice on Individual Rights in Europe) Progress Summary January 2016

The AIRE Centre received a grant to support their project, 'Invisible EU Migrants'. The AIRE Centre offers legal advice to EU migrants and their families on issues like benefits, healthcare and labour market. They take cases to UK tribunals and courts and the European court and make complaints to the Commission in cases where the UK is not compliant with EU law. The project's overall objective is to broaden the policy response of the European institutions when dealing with the problems of EU citizens who exercise their free movement rights in other Member States, with a particular focus on vulnerable and marginalised migrants. The project partners included: Forum réfugiés-Cosi (France), Hungarian Helsinki Committee, Irish Refugee Council.

The activities:

The main activities undertaken by the AIRE Centre can be summarised under four main headings:

Strategic litigation: in the first year common frameworks were developed on the basis of which cases for strategic litigation could be identified by all consortium partners. The AIRE Centre and the consortium partners subsequently engaged in a number of strategic litigation cases. Over the course of the grant 21 core strategic litigation cases were or are currently supported though the Invisible EU Migrants project. In addition to these strategic litigation cases, consortium partners have been active in 'strategic casework' which relates to the attempt to get a decision overturned through the administrative reconsideration process.[24]

Training: over the course of the grant the AIRE Centre has provided training both as part of the original project and in response to various requests for training. The training has been targeted at NGOs, local government and legal professionals, to improve their knowledge and understanding of EU law on the rights of vulnerable and marginalised EU migrants. Furthermore, the training provided participants with an introduction to EU advocacy techniques. Most training events were organised in the UK, but some took place in Ireland.

Awareness-raising: apart from direct advocacy through strategic litigation, the project also included broader awareness-raising activities. Roundtables were organised which brought together policymakers, NGOs and practitioners. The roundtables tended to follow training events and provided an opportunity for diverse stakeholders to discuss the topic of invisible migrants.

Data collection: to monitor the core activities undertaken, the AIRE Centre has collected data on attendance rates at training and roundtables, feedback on training, and on the social media presence.

24 As AIRE explains: 'this relates to better decision making by administrative rather than Court bodies – reducing preventable demand, through the taking of early action to ensure the Home Office, DWP, and local decision makers get decisions about individuals right first time, and through developing good law. This obviously reduces the number of individuals who need to go through the tribunals and courts system – thereby leading to cost saving for the state.'

Key successes:

Capacity building: on the basis of the reports provided over the course of the grant, the AIRE Centre seems to have gone through two phases of capacity building. In the first year the AIRE Centre highlighted the development of new evaluation skills and an increased understanding of the working of the EU. In the second year a transition was visible to more capacity building around strategic litigation; events and training attended by the AIRE Centre provided knowledge and contacts for strategic litigation cases, and through attendance at this training the capacity of the Centre to engage in strategic litigation was strengthened. In the second year the collaboration with law firms was also mentioned for the first time. The skills learned through working with these firms were re-iterated in the third year and illustrate that the focus of capacity building has shifted to strategic litigation.

Influencing stakeholders: over the course of the grant AIRE seems to have sought to influence three main types of stakeholders:

- European Commission: one of the most important stakeholders with which the AIRE Centre has interacted has been the European Commission. Through training events and networking reported in years 1 and 2, contacts with the Commission were established and maintained. Evidence of formal and informal communication in the second year showed that the AIRE Centre had influenced the views of the Commission. In the third year this became more difficult through caution on the part of the Commission, yet two complaints were made to the Commission between April and September 2015.
- Other NGOs: mainly through training events the AIRE Centre has also sought to influence and empower other NGOs to take action. In the second year AIRE was able to report on other NGOs who had filed complaints to the Commission after attending AIRE training, which partly followed from training sessions in the first year.
- Courts: most recently, in September 2015, the AIRE Centre reported what appears to be an indication of wider influence: ‘based on our previous interventions under this project, the project manager was recently contacted by an Upper Tribunal Judge who wished to know if we would be interested in intervening in another pending case that raises issues under the CJEU’s judgment in Saint Prix.’ This example demonstrates that there can be significant time-lags between grantees’ actions and impact.

Difference to policy and practice: strategic litigation has been the main vehicle through which the AIRE Centre has aimed to make a difference to migration/integration policy and practice. Over the course of the grant the AIRE Centre has kept a log of cases engaged in under the EPIM grant. The majority of the cases were started in 2014, during the ‘core months’ of the EPIM-funded project. A number of these cases have already been successful and resulted in tangible impacts, mainly to the practical circumstances of individuals. Examples of these successes are listed in the table below.

Partner	Case	Reported	Outcome	Impact
AIRE	CJEU C-507/12 Saint Prix v SSWP	Sep-13	Right to reside for client who temporarily stopped work in late stages of pregnancy/just after birth	UK Income Support regulations amended to include a 'right to reside' for pregnant EU citizen women during the late stages of pregnancy and in the 15 weeks following the birth of the child.
AIRE	CJEU C-400/12 MG v UK	Sep-13	Client cannot be deported under EU law	The UK authorities have not sought to appeal the Upper Tribunal's judgment, following the reference to the CJEU. Therefore, MG cannot be deported and future EU citizens will be able to rely on the principles elucidated by the CJEU and the positive application of those principles found in the Upper Tribunal's subsequent determination.
AIRE	First Tier Tribunal	Sep-13	Client awarded backdated payments of essential support and has a recognised right to reside	SSHD has not appealed to Upper Tribunal, therefore the decision is binding, but there is no broader precedent. However, we relied on this case to support our legal arguments in the Supreme Court intervention in Mirga and Samin.
L'ADDE	Belgium 'Chen Parent'	Sep-14	The outcome was successful, meaning that the CJEU had made a decision which was to grant permanent residence to the applicant who had not yet had her private or family life interfered with. Rather, permanent residence was granted so that the applicant could enjoy those rights.	
AIRE	First Tier Tribunal	Sep-14	SSHD did not appeal the decision and it has therefore been implemented in the client's favour	SSHD has not appealed to Upper Tribunal, therefore the decision is binding, but there is no broader precedent. However, we relied on this case to support our legal arguments in the Supreme Court intervention in Mirga and Samin.
AIRE	First Tier Tribunal	Nov-14	SSHD did not appeal the decision and it has therefore been implemented in the client's favour	SSHD has not appealed to Upper Tribunal, therefore the decision is binding, but there is no broader precedent.

B3. Consiglio Italiano per i Rifugiati (CIR) Progress Summary January 2016

CIR received a grant to support their project, '*Access to Protection: a human right'.* CIR is an independent, humanitarian, non-profit organisation, founded in 1990 under the patronage of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. CIR provides social protection and legal assistance to refugees and asylum seekers throughout Italy. The EPIM-funded project aimed to bring national/EU policies and practices in line with the obligations set out in European instruments on Human Rights and, in particular, by the Strasbourg Court in the Hirsi case in relation to access to territory and protection. The project partners included: Hungarian Helsinki Committee; The People for Change Foundation (Malta); Greek Refugee Council, Pro Asyl (Germany); Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado; Portuguese Council for Refugees.

The activities:

The main activities undertaken by CIR can be summarised under three main headings:

Data collection and reporting: the project set out to achieve three data collection milestones. The first milestone related to the collection of information on national legislation and practices relating to migration for each of the seven countries covered by the project. For each country the results were reported in a national report, presented at a national event. The country reports in turn fed into the Asylum Information Database (AIDA) maintained by the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE). The second milestone related to the review of EU legislation and regulatory instruments and resulted in the publication of the report *Access to Protection: Bridges not Walls*. The report was based on desk research by CIR and on input from all partner organisations, collected through a standard template and the national reports. In addition, the report builds on interviews with stakeholders and interviews at the roundtables and on meetings with the UNHCR, AI, academics, police authorities, the Navy, the Coast Guard, lawyers and judges. Finally, the third data collection milestone was achieved through the publication of the report *Border Guard Training on Human Rights: A Mapping Paper Focusing on Selected EU Member States' Practices*. This report, produced by project partner The Hungarian Helsinki Committee, is based on a mapping exercise of existing training materials and tools for border guards, and identifies gaps in existing training tools.

Awareness-raising: the main awareness-raising activities with regard to the reports produced by the project were national roundtables, national report launches and a final event in Brussels. The roundtables served the dual purpose of engaging stakeholders and raising awareness, while at the same time allowing for data collection from the participants through interviews. The national events were then used to launch the national reports which are based on the data collection. The final event in Brussels was co-organised with ECRE in October 2014. The launch included a number of high-profile speakers and was publicized through the communication channels of both ECRE and CIR, who produced a video to accompany the launch. The launch attracted over 80 participants including amongst others the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Council of Europe, Permanent Representations, and a number of NGOs.

Participation in civil society: over the course of the grant CIR have actively engaged with wider (civil) society through participation in NGO platforms and through an active media presence. The Director of CIR appeared in various radio, TV and print media after the Lampedusa tragedy in October 2013, and later on after the start of the *Mare Nostrum* Operation. Additional media interest was generated through participation in a campaign launched by ECRE on Syria called 'Syria: Europe Act Now', and resulted in several newspapers articles.

Key successes:

Capacity building: within the consortium capacity building has mainly occurred through development of new skills, mainly in research and advocacy, and through new knowledge acquired on protection issues at national and European levels. New in-depth knowledge encompasses knowledge of border surveillance, human rights, and the 'non-refoulement'

principle. The new skills and the new knowledge acquired formed the foundation of the publications that were produced under the grant.

Working with and influencing stakeholders: over the course of the grant interactions with a broad range of stakeholders were reported. A number of cases of successfully influencing stakeholders can be identified:

- After interviews with the police at Fiumicino airport and the round table, CIR was invited to provide training to border police on migration and refugee issues in Italy. While the training only lasted from October 2013 to January 2014, due to a lack of funds, it provided CIR with the opportunity to deliver lectures twice per month (six lectures in total) which emphasized possible violations at border points.
- CIR advocacy activities on the protection and assistance of unaccompanied minors with Save the Children and other NGOs have resulted in the left-wing politicians taking on some of the ideas in Italy. Furthermore, at the time of reporting (late 2014) Parliament was discussing a draft text on unaccompanied children which incorporated several of the suggestions made by CIR.
- In a judgment of the European Court of Human Rights (Sharifi and others v. Italy and Greece) the decision made several mentions of CIR reports in which practices carried out by Italian authorities at Adriatic ports are denounced.
- Finally, a range of stakeholders voiced their appreciation for the Final Report published by CIR and partners and launched in Brussels in October 2014. Appreciation was expressed by Mrs Tineke Strik, Rapporteur of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE); Mr. Stephen Augustine Ryan, Deputy Head of the Asylum Unit, DG Home of European Commission; and by the Italian Minister of the Interior.

Influencing public opinion: the launch of the Final Report *Access to Protection: Bridges not Walls* coincided with the announcement that Frontex would start 'Operation Triton', effectively replacing the large scale rescue operation *Mare Nostrum* by the Italian coastguard. This substantially increased the attention for the launch, at which the Italian Admiral Filippo Maria Foffi was a speaker. The conference of the launch was covered by various mainstream European media including: the Guardian, the Independent and the BBC in the UK; the Irish Times in Ireland; and the Volkskrant in the Netherlands.

Difference to policy/practice: in Spain, CEAR managed a change in policy through a claim filed at the Immigration Detention Centre (CIE) Surveillance Court concerning the lack of information provided at the CIE in Madrid and Barcelona. In response the court has ordered the inclusion of information about protection, asylum application and access to procedures in a leaflet for migrants. Furthermore it is noted that: 'In case of illiteracy the information will be offered orally, "with calm, no hurry and in an understandable way".' Thus, it is the expectation that in practice migrants will receive information in greater detail and with more patience.

B4. Association for Legal Intervention (Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej, SIP) Progress Summary January 2016

The Association for Legal Intervention (Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej, SIP) received a grant to support their project, *Undocumented Migrants' Rights in Central Europe (UMRCE)*. SIP offers legal assistance free of charge to foreigners. Their mission is to help anyone in threat of marginalisation by providing social and legal aid. Their EPIM-funded project focused on monitoring the implementation and enforcement of provisions of the Directive 2009/52/EC (which provides for minimum standards on sanctions and measures against employers of illegally-staying third-country nationals) in five countries in Central Europe: Poland, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia and Hungary. The project partners included: ARCA (Romania), MENEDEK (Hungary), Society of Goodwill (Slovakia), Association for Integration and Migration (Sdružení pro integraci a migraci) (Czech Republic).

The activities:

The main activities undertaken by SIP can be summarised under four main headings:

Data collection and reporting: the project relied on a number of data collection methods such as interviews (e.g. Client Information Sheets), statistical analysis and desk research. A Client Information Sheet is a form combining survey questions and open-ended questions filled in by a lawyer or a person working in the field who encounters undocumented migrant workers under the project. SIP collected 178 such sheets over the course of the grant. In addition, in 2014 SIP collected data from 'Employers and employer organisations' and from 'Project legal counsellors and key informants'. In total, 94 interviews were conducted, of which 26 were with employers.

Provision of legal assistance to undocumented migrants: the EPIM grant contributed to one of the core tasks of SIP which is the provision of legal assistance to migrants. Over the course of the grant legal assistance was provided to 298 migrants, of whom 136 were undocumented.

Awareness-raising and advocacy among national policy makers: the project partners have sought to raise awareness of the rights of undocumented migrants and have advocated for changes in policy and practice to uphold these rights. At the national level the partners have focused their efforts on border police and labour inspectorates, and Ministries of Labour and the Interior.

Awareness-raising and advocacy among European policy makers: in addition to the awareness and advocacy campaigns at the national level, the project partners have worked with ECRE in Brussels to develop a European campaign. Towards the end of the grant a large event was organised in Brussels at which the core publication of the grant, *Unprotected*, was presented and discussed by a panel that included representatives from DG Home, the ILO and the ITUC.

Key successes:

Capacity building: SIP reports on several areas in which the consortium partners have been able to build capacity. First, through the project the capacity to plan and execute

advocacy activities has been established and strengthened, particularly at a European level. The project has enabled the partners to cooperate with other European NGOs (e.g. PICUM) and to start advocacy campaigns at a European level (e.g. statements to the European Commission and meetings with MEPs). Second, the project has enabled consortium partners to develop their knowledge and understanding of the Sanctions Directive through which they have become recognised as experts in the field. In Poland and the Czech Republic, partners have been invited by the government to contribute to consultations in this area. Finally, a third area in which capacity was built over the course of the project has been national advocacy campaigns. In the first years of the project SIP learned to successfully run a campaign at national level targeted at the Ministry of the Interior. In the final year, the partners report on the success of ARCA in Romania, where ARCA contributed to amendments of the Aliens Employment Act.

Influencing national and international stakeholders: To influence stakeholders was an important goal of the project. Several key achievements were highlighted for the different project partners.

- SIP: important stakeholders with whom SIP has engaged over the course of the grant include the Ministry of Labour and the Labour Inspectorate in Poland. In the second year, SIP reported on success in changing policy through consultation with the Ministry, and in the third year, connections with the Ministry and the Labour Inspectorate have been maintained and have intensified. In the final year, for example, SIP reported the potential to start a joint project with the Labour Inspectorate, and was treated by the Ministry as one of the leading NGOs in the area of migrants and labour.
- SIMI: the main topic on which SIMI engaged with stakeholders was the Sanctions Directive. In the second year SIMI joined a government-initiated committee on the Sanctions Directive. In the early days of this committee it was difficult for NGOs to engage with the government. In the final year, however, there were signs that engagement by the government with NGOs on the Sanctions Directive was increasing.
- ARCA: in Romania, ARCA has engaged with some success with the General Inspectorate for Immigration and the Labour Inspectorate. In the second year they were able to get a new topic on their agenda, namely ‘the notification obligation and agreeing on the responsible institution to provide migrants with relevant information before the enforcement of the return decision.’
- Menedek: over the entire course of the grant Menedek has had less success in engaging with stakeholders compared to other project partners. It has been reported that the environment in Hungary is (even) more difficult for NGOs focusing on migration than in other countries.
- For all partners: nearly all of the project partners have tried to engage with the trade unions in their countries. Trade unions have generally been reluctant to engage as their aim has often been the protection of the domestic workforce. In the final round of reporting, however, SIP and SIMI were able to report progress in their engagement with the trade unions.

Changes to policy: In the first year, two examples of changes to policy were reported. In the Czech Republic SIMI was successful through participation in a government

consultative body in removing a ban on business trips by foreign workers. The second example came from Poland where SIP had been active in public consultations on the transposition of the Sanctions Directive into Polish law. A number of the amendments suggested by SIP, aimed to safeguard the rights of migrant workers, were adopted.

In the second year the main policy change reported came from Poland where the Ministry of the Interior had officially declared that in 2018 labour inspection will be legally separated from border guards. SIP noted that if this actually happens it will be of great benefit to undocumented migrants in Poland. This separation was a key success to SIP who noted they were the first NGO to raise this issue at the governmental level, and had persistently advocated for it in meetings with the Ministry and during public consultations.

In the third year ARCA was able to report on success in changing policy in Romania. Through advocacy efforts, ARCA was able to contribute to an amendment to the Aliens Employment Act. The changes came into force in November 2014.

Changes to practice: the majority of the changes made to practice were reported towards the end of the second year. Examples provided in the second year related to successes resulting mainly from interactions of the consortium partners with labour and immigration inspectorates. The following were mentioned in particular:

- **Poland**: labour inspectorates inform migrants about NGOs that can help them and provide them with SIP's leaflets.
- **Romania**: the General Inspectorate for Immigration will provide undocumented migrants with information on complaint mechanisms, however this is not yet country wide.
- **Hungary**: labour inspectorates continue to provide information about the possibility to claim back payments and about the services provided by Menedek.

B5. Vluchtelingenwerk Vlaanderen (Flemish Refugee Agency, FRA) Progress Summary January 2016

FRA received a grant to support their project, 'A Face to the Story: the issue of unreturnable persons in detention'. Their main work is in campaigning, policy work, supporting those who help refugees, helping with reception of asylum seekers, and facilitating networks to improve the policy and practices relating to refugees and asylum seekers. Their EPIM-funded project was intended to raise public awareness and to stimulate policy debate around the issues relating to unreturnable migrants. The project partners included: France Terre d'Asile, MENEDEK (Hungary), Detention Action (UK), ECRE (Pan-European).

The activities:

The main activities undertaken by FRA can be summarised under three main headings:

Data collection and reporting: in terms of data collection, four milestones were specified by FRA: desk research; interviews; selecting stories; and a research report. The desk research provided the basis for the report through a review of the relevant literature.

Interviews were conducted with unreturnable migrants (39 completed in total). The partners made a selection of the interviews to include as 'stories' in the report. At the end of 2013 the report 'Point of No Return: the futile detention of unreturnable migrants' was published, summarising the data collected throughout the report.

Awareness-raising and advocacy: to disseminate the findings of the research and to promote the report, national dissemination strategies were constructed for each partner. These strategies contained the actions of the project partners to raise awareness and included the organisation of a 'public evening' (Detention Action); the organisation of a 'breakfast meeting for a mixed public' (France Terre D'asile); the organisation of a conference and workshops (Menedek); and lunch meetings with politicians (FRA). In addition, project partner ECRE supported awareness-raising through promotion of the report at the EU level.

Media and outreach: the project partners, and particularly FRA, conducted media and outreach events to promote the report. They organised a 'Week of Action', developed a flyer for policy makers and the public, and developed of a website. During the 'week of action' all project partners launched an active social media campaign and organised the awareness-raising events.

Key successes:

Engaging website: The central instrument of the project has been the website, which was launched during the project: www.pointofnoreturn.eu. The website contains the stories from detained migrants who cannot be returned ('unreturnable'). The stories are based on data collection performed by FRA and partners. In addition, the website contains the final report and factsheets on the detention of migrants in Hungary, France, Belgium and the UK.

Policy engagement: the 'A Face to the Story' campaign developed by the FRA and partners included visual testimonials of individual unreturnable migrants. Through individual accounts of unreturnable migrants the project aimed to move beyond the statistics to humanise the fate of migrants living in detention. Showing the people behind the statistics constituted the added value of the campaign. The testimonials were used to raise awareness among policy makers of the fate of this group of migrants. Politicians were reached in Belgium at various events organised by the FRA, and the topic was adopted by key political parties in election manifestos.

B6. European Network of Migrant Women (ENoMW) Progress Summary January 2016

ENoMW is the European Network of Migrant Women whose mission it is to promote equal treatment, equal rights and better integration for migrant women in Europe. ENoMW received a grant to support their project, 'Empowering Migrant Women in the European Union'. The EPIM-funded project aimed to consolidate ENoMW as a well-functioning, efficient and democratic organisation. A part-time coordinator was recruited to work in Brussels and training was planned for delivery to all the network members on a yearly basis during the AGM. The aim of the project was to advocate and campaign

to improve migrant women's access to the labour market and to decent jobs. The EPIM grant to ENoMW was ended halfway and therefore the activities and achievements that ENoMW was able to report were less extensive than for other grantees. This update covers only the period when ENoMW still received funding from EPIM.

The activities:

The main activities undertaken by ENoMW can be summarised under three main headings:

Grow and develop the organisation: to support the growth of ENoMW quite a number of the activities and planned outputs aimed to develop organisational capacity to become sustainable and to set up advocacy and awareness campaigns. Examples of these activities and outputs are a work plan and communication plan, a social media plan, and a Europe-wide advocacy campaign. In addition, ENoMW included a number of objectives aimed at strengthening the organisation's sustainability, such as 'Increased secure funding', and 'Diversified funding sources'. Finally, capacity building of the network members through training courses was included as an important component of the development of ENoMW.

Data collection and reporting: in line with the focus on the growth of the organisation, the main data collection and reporting objectives were also targeted at organisational development. Data collection was oriented toward member feedback on the 'relevance and use of plans' and on the 'quality of training delivered'. Reporting similarly was initially focused on interim and annual reports to document progress and development.

In addition, from the start of the project, the ENoMW secretariat did also collect data on the changing policy environment, through a monitoring of official documentation and the media. National organisations – ENoMW's members – in turn provided updates from their respective countries.

Advocacy campaigns: through European level Brussels-based events, ENoMW sought to generate awareness among policy makers of migrant women's access to the labour market and decent jobs. To support the campaigns, ENoMW developed materials, such as pamphlets, to provide further information and background to the topics they addressed in the campaigns. Additional research reports had been planned but could not be delivered over the course of the project.

Key successes:

Launch event in Brussels: Raising awareness has occurred largely through the launch of an EU-wide campaign in Brussels in May 2014 at which a series of three pamphlets was also revealed. The pamphlets are based on the three working groups within ENoMW – namely Deskilling Prevention, Qualification Recognition and Migrant Women Entrepreneurship. These provide 'working definitions, context, barriers and challenges, recommendations, examples of good practice in the EU.' Feedback to the event was positive and indicates the event was useful in increasing the awareness of ENoMW at a European level.

Working with European stakeholders: through interactions with ENoMW, the FEMM committee of the European Parliament adopted a project plan on 'Care Economy

and Domestic Work' which opened up as a call for proposals. Further, the ENoMW coordinator worked closely with the rapporteur of the European Economic and Social Committee on an 'opinion on migrant women in the labour market', the contribution of which will be recognised in the *Journal of the European Union*. Further details on both these interactions are however not known.

B7. Migreurop Progress Summary January 2016

Migreurop received a grant from EPIM to support their project, Moving Beyond Borders (MBB). Migreurop is a European and African network of activists and researchers whose aim is to achieve policy change at a European level to ensure the protection of undocumented migrants. The MBB project supported two key Migreurop campaigns conceived to address this aim. The first was on the Frontex agency (Frontexit), aiming to abrogate the rules creating Frontex and, in the meantime, make Frontex more transparent and accountable. The second focused on immigration detention (Open Access Now) and demanded the closure of all camps – in Europe and beyond. At the same time, Open Access Now worked to ensure that more information about the camps is made public and to obtain access for people to engage with those in the camps. In addition, but related to both campaigns, the MBB project developed an exhibition on detentions and borders. The exhibition focuses on the journey of migrants, showing the factors and risks associated with crossing the Sahara, the Mediterranean Sea and the eastern borders of the European Union. It comprises map-based videos, photographs and soundscapes. The exhibition launched in Brussels in June 2015, subsequently moving to Calais for a two-week spell in December 2015.[25]

The activities:

Migreurop undertook the following activities over the course of the grant:

Data collection: Migreurop worked to successfully meet two major data collection milestones: firstly, the development of a database of the information collected on detention centres; secondly, the collection of information about Frontex operations and activities, as well as reported/ alleged human rights violations during Frontex operations. The final progress reports show that both these data collection milestones have been achieved, or are part of wider ongoing data collection. Given the success in achieving the data collection milestones, the evaluators have suggested it may be useful for Migreurop to consider cost-effective ways to continue data collection after completion of the grant, thereby helping to make project deliverables sustainable.

Awareness raising: Migreurop conducted a large number of awareness-raising activities. Through the MBB exhibition, participation in events such as public debates, and training, the campaigns have been able to spread their messages. These messages have

25 Further details on the Brussels' launch are available at http://www.migreurop.org/article2609.html; and on the Calais staging at http://www.migreurop.org/article2602.html

been transmitted to the general public (the latter through public exhibitions), as well as to more targeted audiences ranging from MEPs, hospital workers and university students. In addition, having raised others' awareness and knowledge of campaign-related issues, these individuals have been enabled to raise awareness within their own networks. Between 2013 and 2015, Migreurop conducted 37 visits to immigration detention camps and centres in a number of countries, although only five of these were accompanied by journalists, despite having requested access for accompaniment in approximately half of the visits. Migreurop has looked for other avenues of awareness raising, for instance meeting with MEPs in relation to the Frontexit campaign. Finally, Migreurop have produced a substantial number of leaflets, posters and flyers under the Frontexit campaign, of which the majority have been distributed.

Advocacy: Advocacy activities by Migreurop focused largely on the EC and on MEPs. Within the Open Access Now campaign, a meeting was held with representatives of the EC on the 'Return Directive', and it appeared the EC was going to act on information Migreurop supplied on systematic problems with the implementation in Member States. However, at the end of the grant period, the opinion held by Migreurop on the Return Directive was not shared by the EC, despite steering committee letters and meetings with officials. In the grant's final year, advocacy actions were mainly focused on the European Parliament, including roundtables under different MEPs' patronage and joint appeals on the Mediterranean migrant crisis.

Advocacy activities in both campaigns comprised developing and disseminating a number of documents. In the Open Access Now campaign, 'The hidden face of camps' document was distributed personally to over 20 MEP in bilateral meetings. However, Migreurop reported that policy makers are currently focusing on the issues stemming from increased migration across the Mediterranean and this means that the issue of detention centres, on which the Open Access Now campaign focused, are not central to policy makers' key concerns. For instance, at the April 2015 roundtable, the focus of discussions was on recent shipwrecks of boats carrying migrants. Based on this, Migreurop shifted its focus to influencing public opinion, with a view to indirectly influencing policy makers (rather than directly influencing policy makers' opinions). The rationale for this has been that citizens would 'modify the way they vote' if they agreed with Migreurop's messages.

Despite this shift, Migreurop has continued to target MEPs and national members of Parliament with documents on issues surrounding Frontex and human rights (2014), the Maritime Interception Regulation (2014), and Frontex's cooperation with external countries (2015).

Media engagement: In terms of media engagement, under the Open Access Now campaign, Migreurop continued its efforts in France to assist journalists to gain legal access to detention centres. However, the majority of journalists' applications for access have been refused (see above under Awareness raising). Migreurop's efforts to obtain clarity on the process by which institutions provide permits for access have not been successful to date.

In relation to the Frontexit campaign, the media and political attention resulting from increasing migrant movement across the Mediterranean has resulted in Migreurop receiving an increased number of approaches by media, given their expertise on

migrants' experiences in crossing borders and in detention centres. Requests included invitations for participation in television and radio shows, and Migreurop responded to as many of them as they could, given the limited number of qualified representatives available. Other ad-hoc reasons for journalists submitting enquiries to Migreurop included instances of revolts in Italian detention centres. In some cases Migreurop members were able to respond to this kind of inquiry and/or provide journalists with local partner details. Migreurop has also responded to the revolt-specific requests by developing a database and online timeline of protests and their consequences.

Engaging stakeholders: Given the diversity of the MBB project, the range of stakeholders with which Migreurop needed to engage was also diverse, although the EC and MEPs were particularly important. Within the Open Access Now campaign a crucial way to engage with Commissioners and MEPs was through arranging visits for these groups to detention centres. While these reduced in the last reporting period for reasons including the European Parliament elections, Migreurop continued the engagement with other NGOs, most prominently through an international meeting co-organised with Observatoire de l'Enfermement des Etrangers. Within Frontexit, successful engagements took place both with national parliamentarians in France and MEPs (for example, through meetings with MEPs and through parliamentary questions asked at the LIBE Committee).

Key successes:

Migreurop had the following key successes over the course of the grant:

Capacity building: Migreurop built the capacity of their network of organisations and individuals across 17 countries, through the exchange of knowledge in various meetings and interactions: for instance, training activities on both Open Access Now ('peer to peer' training) and Frontexit ('train the trainer' activities) campaigns provided capacity-building opportunities. In addition, within the Frontexit campaign, capacity building occurred in large part through the training of volunteers by members of the steering committee. Training included sessions on African civil society. Migreurop has occasionally been able to point to specific impacts of training, as in a 2014 training session in France that led to newly-trained volunteers approaching their MP about Frontex, and asking relevant questions in a debate with candidates for the European Parliament elections. In addition, training sessions delivered to the 'mapping group' (including members of the MBB steering committee) resulted in nine migration-related maps being produced in the last reporting period.

Influencing stakeholders: Both campaigns have sought to influence stakeholders at the EC, the European Parliament, and national government levels. Within the Frontexit campaign, Migreurop has sent letters with questions to Frontex, asking it to be more specific in its answers as the questions Migreurop had posed had become increasingly precise following data collection activities. Evidence of stakeholders viewing Migreurop as an authoritative voice in the field was shown by increased requests for input from the media and politicians, as well as an invitation by Frontex to a meeting in January 2015.

Influencing public opinion: As indicated above, public opinion has become increasingly important for Migreurop. Much of Migreurop's effort to generate this influence has centred on social media. Interest in the information provided by Migreurop through their social

media online activities has substantially increased over the course of the grant. That said, influencing public opinion is particularly susceptible to external developments. For example, shipwreck tragedies in the news have meant an increased focus on the Frontexit campaign compared with the Open Access Now campaign, as the focus of the media has shifted to the borders rather than the situation of migrants within Europe. Naturally, the focus of current events is continually developing, and there was a greater emphasis in media reporting on integration issues towards the end of the last reporting period. Migreurop has built on the various developments by increasing its use of social media and its own publications uploaded to its website.

Difference to migration/integration policy: During the grant period, several consortium partners were engaged in processes to make legal amendments to help achieve the aims of the project:

- Spain: in March 2014, a national regulation was approved on the functioning of immigration detention centres. While it still has many drawbacks, it has been observed that the regulation improved after consultation with, among others, NGOs.
- Italy: the Senate approved a reduction in the maximum length of detention from 18 months to 90 days, and now requires approval from the Chamber of Deputies.
- EC: within the Frontexit campaign, Migreurop has provided recommendations on maritime intervention. While not all civil society recommendations were adopted, it is believed that the text was improved, and can now be used in practice by NGOs and lawyers to address human rights violations by Frontex.
- France: There has been a (limited) degree of success in the campaign to grant journalists free access to detention centres.

B8. European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) Progress Summary January 2016

ECRE received a grant from EPIM to support their project AIDA – Asylum Information Database. The overall goal of the project was to contribute to the improvement of asylum policies and practices in the EU Member states and to improve the situation of asylum seekers in the EU by advocating for high standards of protection and fair processes (for reception, procedures, detention, etc.) in national legislation. In order to do this, the project provided advocacy tools to civil society organisations, at EU and national level and offered independent, useful, and up-to date information to the media, researchers, advocates, legal practitioners and the public on asylum practice in EU Member States.

The activities:

The main activities undertaken by ECRE can be summarised under four headings:

Data collection: Questionnaires were sent to national experts in three rounds and used as a base to write the national reports and updates for AIDA. The questionnaire was refined as the project progressed to improve the quality and scope of data collected. A number of video testimonies from asylum seekers/refugees were also produced, though

some of those planned were not completed due to problems gaining consent to be filmed, as well as a lack of video production equipment and skills. Fact-finding visits to Greece and Hungary were conducted by ECRE in coordination with national experts, with the aim of producing country report addressing particular challenges relating to asylum. Furthermore, thanks to extra funding from Adessium Foundation and UNHCR, four additional countries were added to the database (Croatia, Cyprus, Switzerland, Turkey) and an additional update to the initial 14 country reports was added, to be completed by the end of 2015.

Raising visibility and awareness: Throughout the course of the project, ECRE was proactive in seeking new avenues and approaches to raising visibility. The value of the AIDA website and its clear design was underlined by ECRE and improvements to website functionality also reinforced this. Annual reports were launched electronically and through an event in Brussels, targeting journalists, EU policy makers and NGOs, and complemented by coordinated national and EU press work. The national report updates, Annual Reports and other materials were publicised via social media (including with infographics), articles on the website, the EDAL website, in ECRE's Weekly Bulletin and ELENA Weekly Legal Updates. National uptake and translation of news items around national report updates were limited due to the time lags between national developments occurring and their recording in the AIDA updates. However, ECRE found that AIDA is more useful as background information to answer media enquiries and inform journalists than as a development in itself to trigger press coverage.

Advocacy work: The annual reports and their launch appear to have formed the key component of advocacy activity, acting as a vehicle for coordinated advocacy with national partners, and allowing ECRE to deliver timely policy messages and generate media interest. ECRE also published a number of information notes on the recast Asylum Procedures Directive, the recast Reception Conditions Directive, the recast Dublin Regulation and the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) Regulation, as well as Comments on the European Commission's Staff Working Document on fingerprinting under the Eurodac Regulation. Advocacy was also strengthened through the development of Legal Briefings, which combined AIDA research with legal and policy analysis and were aimed at legal professionals and policymakers. The briefings were made possible by additional funding from UNHCR, and three were published in 2015.

Network-building: ECRE's network-building activities focused primarily on the European level institutions. Commission and EASO staff were reported to have offered positive feedback on AIDA, finding it useful in their monitoring of the implementation of EU legislation at national level. Engagement with UNHCR also progressed and the Agency has provided funding for the development and maintenance of AIDA from January–December 2015. The need for AIDA as an independent civil society voice was emphasised by UNHCR representatives, both privately and publicly at the EASO Consultative Forum meeting in December 2014. Engagement with national government stakeholders was also reported, but appeared to be much more limited in nature.

Key successes:

Capacity building: Key successes resulting from increased capacity building of national and ECRE staff included ECRE staff's increased confidence with web development,

which allowed them to add country pages to the website without external support, and improved understanding and knowledge of data collection processes for ECRE and national partners alike. Media officers from all AIDA national partners benefited from video editing, online campaigning, and storytelling training developed in the framework of the EPIM Joint Learning Project as well as under the EPIM grant. The AIDA methodology and improvements made to the data collection approach were valuable for initiatives external to AIDA. The Estonian Refugee Council is using the AIDA questionnaire to produce a report on asylum in Estonia, and the Croatian Law Centre is using the AIDA data collection and reporting methodology for a regional project with the Belgrade Centre for Human Rights, aiming to publish the first regional report on asylum. ECRE also noted the contribution AIDA made to increasing the profile of ECRE as a reliable source of information, and considered this to have reinforced their wider position as an advocate for asylum seekers and refugees. As a result of this impact and the value of AIDA to ECRE's ongoing work, they decided to continue the AIDA database as a core activity after the EPIM project period ends.

AIDA as a reliable resource for policymakers: AIDA outputs were referenced by a number of actors and national governments, and European institutions showed interest in using AIDA as a tool to inform their own work. EASO informed ECRE of its intention to explore the complementarity between AIDA and its own Information Documentation System (IDS) and in their communication on Early Warning, EASO '*now fully acknowledges information provided by NGOs with regard to Member State practice as one of the sources upon which the EWM must be built, which was not the case before.'* Stakeholders from UNHCR and DG HOME also gave positive feedback on AIDA's value to their work. Additionally, some national authorities (in Belgium, Germany, Italy and the UK) have included the AIDA reports in their internal databases or on their websites. AIDA reports were cited in documents published by EU institutions and other stakeholders such as the research institute MPI Europe, and the Annual Report 2013/2014 was quoted in public speeches by German and Italian politicians. ECRE noted that national partners seem to use AIDA less in their own advocacy, and the fact that the database is only available in English was a key barrier to uptake.

Increasing web media presence: Though they noted that it is *'extremely difficult'* to assess the influence of the project on public opinion, ECRE measured increased media citations, social media engagement and website visits over the course of the project. Indeed, they noted that between January and August 2015 the website recorded 332,094 views, more than in the years 2013 and 2014 combined, indicating the strengthened presence of AIDA among public information networks. ECRE also used the number of times the six video testimonies were viewed on YouTube as further evidence that their outputs were reaching the public. These activities and indicators of improved visibility are impressive. It is not possible to identify any shift in public attitudes as a result of ECRE's work on AIDA, but this is to be expected given that such changes can take a long time to occur, are difficult to measure, and given the current climate in which migration is a contentious and topical issue.

AIDA's contribution to legal practice and monitoring: AIDA country information was widely cited in national and European-level litigation, mainly for cases challenging transfers under the Dublin Regulation. In many cases described by ECRE, applicants successfully challenged the execution of transfers. AIDA reports were cited in court

proceedings in: Austria, Belgium, Germany, Canada, the UK, Switzerland, Hungary and the European Court of Human Rights, as well as in a UN Human Rights Committee Communication. ECRE also reported that the Commission found AIDA reports useful for their monitoring of the application of EU law, but that it was difficult to show tangible examples of how that impacts on practices. ECRE noted that the '*continuing relevance of AIDA reports as an authoritative source of evidence for litigation purposes confirms the predominant value of the database as a tool for legal practitioners.'*

B9. Irish Refugee Council (IRC) Progress Summary January 2016

The Irish Refugee Council (IRC) received a grant from EPIM to support their project, '*Early Legal Advice for Protection of Applicants*'. With the help of project partners Asylum Aid, COMPAS and the Estonian Human Rights Centre, this project combined research in Ireland, UK and Estonia on the understanding and practice of early legal advice (ELA) for asylum seekers. Advocacy tools were then developed to seek change at both EU and national levels. The project's main objective was to demonstrate ELA as effective, fair and efficient in the determination of protection claims at the initial stage.

The activities

The main activities undertaken by IRC and partners can be summarised under three main headings:

Data collection: Most of the data collection activities were undertaken early on in the project in each of the three countries. Once a definition of ELA was established, EU and national-level literature reviews and secondary data analysis were conducted in order to understand the policy and practice landscape. Although national stakeholder interviews were initially planned, they were not carried out in order to avoid duplication of effort with other similar studies.

Advocacy tools and outreach: EU- and national-level research fed into a number of advocacy materials. A project report was launched in Brussels and shared with national policymakers and influencers, e.g. national UNHCR representatives and legal aid bodies. A summary discussion document of the key findings from each country on the understanding and practice of ELA was produced and translated into Estonian. It was used with organisations in EU member states where the re-cast directive was to be transposed. Finally, during a project extension in 2015, the IRC produced an ELA guidance tool for practitioners: the *Manual on Providing Early Legal Advice to Persons Seeking Protection*. This was intended to replace the project report as the primary advocacy tool and will be translated into French and German. The Manual was launched at a high-profile event in Dublin with speakers including the Refugee Applications Commissioner and a former Supreme Court judge. Advocacy plans at the European level did not advance as planned, as national-level work took precedence.

Engaging key stakeholders: Most of the stakeholder engagement reported took place in Ireland, where ELA was endorsed by a number of key actors. The long-running

training work of the IRC law centre was important for its established networks among legal practitioners. IRC reported that it primarily engaged with UNHCR and although the Agency endorsed ELA, their relationship was at times strained. Other key stakeholders which engaged with IRC around ELA included the Refugee Applications Commissioner and staff, and to some extent the Irish Legal Aid Board.

Key successes:

Organisational learning for international work: IRC reported that learning around EU-level funding and project management was particularly useful. While EU projects were challenging due to the need to 'replicate' across differing country contexts, IRC developed valuable experience in pan-EU applications and projects. Interactions with project partners in other countries were also useful to understand the landscape in other national contexts.

Influencing stakeholders in Ireland: In Ireland the commitment to ELA in principle was reported to have grown considerably during the period of the project among key stakeholders such as the Legal Aid Board and sections of government. IRC's input to the Working Group on the Protection Process led to the Group's recommendation to the Minister for Justice that ELA be implemented. However, policy impact was not seen as the new International Protection Bill reportedly contains none of the Working Group's recommendations. The Refugee Applications Commissioner was a planned speaker at the ELA Manual launch event and the Department of Justice give funding to the IRC for ELA.

Expanding the implementation of ELA in Ireland: IRC reported that as a result of the EPIM-funded work, the Refugee Applications Commissioner, UNHCR, and the Legal Aid Board had introduced ELA to a limited degree. The Legal Aid Board provided a small amount funding to private practitioners to undertake ELA. The IRC's *Providing Protection* report and a joint IRC/EPIM conference which took place in Dublin in November 2014 were reported to have been instrumental in the Board's decision to take this step.

B10. Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) Progress Summary January 2016

PICUM received a grant from EPIM to support their project *From Awareness to Commitment: advancing political, institutional and societal responses to the protection of undocumented migrants (UM) in Europe*. The project built upon PICUM's work over the last decade raising awareness of UM and monitoring their human rights. It had five partners and a number of thematic working groups: Children, Women, Fair working conditions, Health and Legal strategy.

The activities

The main activities undertaken by PICUM can be summarised under four main headings:

Data collection: PICUM undertook continuous information gathering on key international, European and national developments to feed into a regular email bulletin and a quarterly

multilingual newsletter. PICUM also undertook topic-specific research for a wide range of policy submissions to UN and EU consultations over the course of the project, including consultations on the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Advocacy: Awareness-raising and advocacy activities throughout the project period have been targeted at policymakers and civil society stakeholders and have taken place via meetings, events, campaigns and EU-led stakeholder consultations and fora. This included providing support to member-led activities on the national level in Germany and Belgium, co-hosting a range of workshops and conferences, as well as participation in the UN High-Level Dialogue on Migration and Development, membership meetings and direct advocacy. PICUM also developed close advocacy collaborations through its work with the Social Platform, and with Migrant Forum in Asia.

Media outreach: PICUM targeted both mainstream and social media through its blog, Twitter and Facebook platforms. During the project, PICUM began to proactively reach out to migration correspondents at the EU and national levels and promoted itself as a credible source. It released topical statements, including a highly impactful opinion piece in the *British Medical Journal* on restricting NHS access for undocumented migrants in the UK.

Network-building: The importance of collaborative networks for PICUM's project was reflected in its strategic, productive and multi-level collaborations with key stakeholders and with its own membership. Engagement with stakeholders targeted local and regional authorities, health authorities, legal professionals, trade unions, civil society actors, UN agencies and EU institutions. Collaboration with the Social Platform in particular was found to be useful, facilitating the development of joint strategies and cooperation with other EU networks and alliances.

Key successes:

Capacity building: As a result of support from EPIM's Joint Learning Initiative funding, PICUM engaged ODS Consultancy to improve its internal management and governance structure, which reportedly significantly improved efficiency and coordination. Examples of improvements included setting meeting agendas and using more formalised action points, weekly supervision meetings for staff and a more participatory approach to developing its work programme for 2016. The EPIM-funded project also reportedly strengthened members' ability to engage in EU policy making processes and explore opportunities for joint actions via regular meetings, collaborations and communication. A particular example of capacity building among members was the training workshops PICUM held for members around the transposition of the Victim's Directive, which led to bilateral advocacy meetings that were arranged with Swedish, Italian, Czech, and Spanish authorities by PICUM and their members.

Influencing stakeholders: Key achievements in terms of influencing key stakeholders included the establishment of a Eurocities sub-group on undocumented migrants, following about ten years of cooperation and engagement with the organisation. In addition, Words Matter! appears to have achieved some impact: Jean-Claude Juncker, who was targeted on social media by the campaign, has only referred to 'irregular migrants' since his 'Call for collective courage' on 9 August and the Parliamentary

Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted a resolution on 22 May 2015 calling on governments to use neutral terminology. Important progress was also made with health professionals. For example, in the final year, PICUM's high-impact *British Medical Journal* piece on proposed UK NHS restrictions for undocumented migrants triggered discussions among health professionals. At the British Medical Association annual representatives meeting, the piece was cited when a motion was passed saying that doctors should not be asked to monitor their patients' immigration status.

Difference to policy on undocumented migrants: There were a number of strong examples of the progress PICUM made towards changing migration policy during the course of the project. PICUM's sustained advocacy and engagement were reported to have helped to bring about a number of important policy developments, including:

- European Parliament decision to commission an independent and comprehensive report on the human rights impact of the Facilitation Directive.
- An expansion of the scope of the new European Migration Forum to look at labour migration channels, with specific focus on labour exploitation and precarity.
- The specification of the importance of access to prevention and treatment services for all migrants (including undocumented migrants) in the EU Commission's Action Plan on HIV/AIDS.
- EASO's decision to reframe its official focus area on unaccompanied children to include all migrant children irrespective of status (EASO referred to the joint open letter coordinated by PICUM when they announced the change). The amendment to the Victims' Directive making it applicable to all regardless of residence status was adopted by the European Parliament.

Progress was also seen on the national level, and in Sweden PICUM reported that its advocacy had helped to bring about a new law in 2013 which granted significantly wider access to healthcare for undocumented adults, and equal entitlements for undocumented children to those for Swedish children. Overall, while PICUM showed that they delivered advocacy messages to decision makers that were reflected in their policy agendas, it was difficult to appreciate tangible changes in policy or direct linkages between project activities and any policy outcomes. Impacts in this area are often difficult to fully attribute to specific actions and may only be visible in the longer term.

Difference to migration/integration practices: In terms of the rights of migrant children, PICUM reported that work in this area has begun to influence the way that migrant children are addressed within the structures of the European Commission. Although joint advocacy efforts did not influence the content of the European Commission Communication and European Council Conclusions on the future of EU home affairs policy, DG Justice has declared it will look at the situation of migrant children and adopt a child-rights approach. PICUM also reported that by alerting her to the process, they enabled the DG Justice Child Rights Coordinator's engagement in the development of strategic guidelines for future EU migration policy. Following awareness-raising for the Child Rights Manifesto in the Parliament, PICUM was asked to support the establishment of the European Parliament Intergroup on Children's Rights, which has stated that migrant children are among its priorities.

Additionally, PICUM's membership of the Frontex Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights (CF) since its establishment in October 2012 has been a key productive area of work. As the first of its kind, PICUM reported that the CF has reinforced cooperation between Frontex and civil society. PICUM led the CF's input as part of the 'Joint Air Operation VEGA Children' to ensure respect of children's rights at the external air borders of the EU, the first operation where Frontex has requested the active involvement of civil society organisations at the external air borders of the EU. As part of 'VEGA Children', PICUM members and other representatives of the CF were deployed at participating airports, with the role of observing, advising and assisting Frontex's deployed officers, and testing the relevance of VEGA Children Handbook recommendations.

APPENDIX C: Short survey results

Could you indicate the extent to which you found the following aspects of the RAND evaluation useful or not:	Very useful	Useful	Not useful	Not at all useful	Response Total
The logic modelling workshop with the RAND research team at the start of the grant	3 (33%)	5 (55%)	0	1 (11%)	9
The logic model as a tool for progress reporting and project management	1 (11%)	5 (55%)	2 (22%)	1 (11%)	9
The 6-monthly reporting templates (completed by the grantee and returned to RAND)	0	6 (66%)	3 (33%)	0	9
The yearly progress report (produced by RAND)	0	5 (55%)	3 (33%)	1 (11%)	9
The mid-term Emerging Insights report (produced by RAND in 201 4)	0	6 (75%)	2 (25%)	0	8

To what extent were the following interactions with the RAND team useful or not:	Very useful	Useful	Not useful	Not at all useful	Response Total
Guidance and steering at the logic modelling workshop	3 (33%)	4 (44%)	2 (22%)	0	9
Feedback on the 6-monthly reporting templates	1 (11%)	5 (55%)	3 (33%)	0	9
Discussions about the yearly progress reports	1 (11%)	4 (44%)	4 (44%)	0	9
Preparations for the grantee presentations at the mid-term conference (Brussels, June 2014)	2 (22%)	2 (22%)	4 (44%)	1 (11%)	9

To what extent, if any, has participation in the EPIM grant, and specifically the RAND evaluation, influenced the following practices in your organisation:	A great extent	Some extent	Little extent	Very little extent	Response Total
The adoption of logic models to plan and manage projects	4 (44%)	3 (33%)	1 (11%)	1 (11%)	9
The use of indicators to measure progress	3 (33%)	4 (44%)	1 (11%)	1 (11%)	9
The use of regular data collection and monitoring to measure the progress of projects	5 (55%)	1 (11%)	2 (22%)	1 (11%)	9

To what extent has the evaluation contributed to the following:	A great extent	Some extent	Little extent	Very little extent	Response Total
Regularly testing our theory of change	0	6 (75%)	1 (13%)	1 (13%)	8
Our understanding of the pathway by which we can have an impact on policy and practice	1 (13%)	3 (38%)	3 (38%)	1 (13%)	8
Our capacity to evidence and show our contribution to a change in policy or practice	1 (13%)	4 (50%)	3 (38%)	0	8