

Annex

Annual Programme 2011

MEMBER STATE:	BELGIUM
FUND:	EXTERNAL BORDERS FUND
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY:	BELGIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICE
YEAR COVERED:	2011

1. GENERAL RULES FOR THE SELECTION OF PROJECTS TO BE FINANCED UNDER THE PROGRAMME

A. GENERAL RULES

A general invitation to submit project proposals was addressed to the Federal Police, Federal Public Service (FPS) Foreign Affairs and the ICT Department of the Federal Public Service of Home Affairs.

Given the legal monopoly of the partners in the area of external borders management and control, and considering that the budget of the ICT Department of the FPS of Home Affairs is within the budget of the Immigration Office, selected projects are directly assigned to the partners in line with the method described as “responsible authority acting as an executing body” outlined in the Commission decision 2008/456/EC of 5 march 2008 and in SOLID/2008/2.

A Memorandum of Understanding¹ signed with each partner determines how the MAP and AP are elaborated and how projects are selected.

Negotiations about the projects to be financed under each AP and when they are to be implemented, started when the MAP was drafted and led to an agreement on the type of actions planned and their timing as well as on the general budgetary envelope available for each partner under each AP. Since then, the responsible authority (RA) has been following programming developments on a bilateral as well as on a multilateral basis with partners.

An official invitation to all EBF partners to submit project proposals under AP 2011 was sent by mail on the 5th of May 2010. The RA asked the partners to send a project proposal including a detailed description and a detailed provisional budget for each project they planned to implement under AP 2011 in line with the MAP. Project proposals are discussed on an individual basis with each partner. The RA screens the projects proposals in accordance with the selection criteria defined by the basic Act (Decision 574/2007/EC of the European Parliament and the Council, Article 16/5) and assigns the selected projects directly to the beneficiaries based on the project proposal. The RA establishes a grant agreement for each project to which the project proposal is annexed.

As projects in this programme can not be funded by other European financial instruments, the partners are also requested to describe, in the project proposal, the mechanism they use to ensure that there is no overlapping of European financial instruments.

¹ A Memorandum of Understanding covering the multiannual programming period 2007-2013 outlines how responsibilities are shared between the Responsible Authority and each partner. Such an agreement has been signed with the 3 partners.

The last steering group meetings organised by the RA and attended by all partners took place on the 12th of October 2010 and 15th of February 2011. Its agenda included the finalization of AP 2011 and the approval of the budget plan.

The need to concentrate more resources into the rapid development of biometric passports control and the emphasis on the implementation of the VIS resulted in a supplementary investment of ~EUR 890.000 in priority 4. This will be applied to implement inter alia a new project from the Federal Police 'digital fingerprint scanners'. This change in budget between priorities resulted in postponing a less urgent priority 3 project 'Guarantor database', which entailed in a reduce of ~ EUR 100.000. The intention is to postpone this multiannual action to a subsequent AP, not to cancel the action as a whole. Also the budget for the project 'Field Workers' was reduced because of the mentioned emphasis on the VIS.

Certain projects implemented under AP 2011 are a continuation of projects started under the previous AP's . When this is the case, the project proposal below indicates precisely which part of the action will be achieved under AP 2011.

In the scope of the present AP, all projects are considered as executed by the RA ("responsible authority acting as an executing body"), but they are implemented by the partners (Federal Police, FPS Foreign Affairs and the ICT Department of FPS Home Affairs).

The general rules for the selection of projects financed under the 2011 programme are in conformity with the rules set out in the multi-annual programme (MAP) and in the description of the management and control system.

The RA verifies the application of the Law on Public Procurement and the conditions laid down in article 11 of the implementing rules.

All partners are public institutions and as such bound to the rules of public procurement. The RA requires the partners to follow national and European rules and regulations, including their timeframes. Close monitoring is carried out by the RA: which verifies whether the Accountancy Units, the Inspection of Finances are informed of the procedures and whether the rules on public procurement have been implemented) .

The RA also verifies the adherence to the internal regulations of each partner on the competencies for issuing a tender and the signing of contracts.

As mentioned in the MAP, all partners were closely involved in the elaboration of the MAP and AP 2011.

The actions and objectives for 2011 are a reflection of the needs and priorities of the three stakeholders: Federal Police, FPS Foreign Affairs and ICT Department of FPS Home Affairs. The budget of the AP 2011 was validated by the three partners.

Given the legal monopolies and for security reasons the partnership could not be extended beyond the three partners.

General rules for visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

Recipients are required to ensure an adequate transparency of this financing as part of their contractual obligations with the RA. On every publication or notification, recipients have to mention the support by the European Commission for the activity. The logo of the European Union will be visible on every publication as well as the captions 'with the support of the European Commission' and 'Moving Towards Smarter Borders'.

Recipients will put stickers or a permanent plaque on or near the purchased or installed equipment. If this is not possible, other ways of publicity will be discussed with the partners.

Publicity of European funding of these projects will also be implemented by the "EU Funds Unit" through its website². On its "projects" page, the "EU Funds Unit" website will specifically indicate that the projects are supported by the European Commission. Paper correspondence originating from the "EU Funds Unit" to recipients will bear the European flag logo, as well as the caption 'with the support of the European Commission'.

In order to encourage complementarities and to avoid overlaps between programmes and projects financed by other Community instruments, the project description is communicated to the international affairs coordination units at the Immigration Office, the Federal Police, FPS Home Affairs and FPS Foreign Affairs, the 4 public bodies competent in the area of external borders' management. The project description is also submitted to the thereto appointed officer at the Belgian Representation to the EU. In case of an overlap with other activities financed with European instruments, activities will be reoriented in order to generate positive synergies.

B. STATE OF PLAY ON THE FIVE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 2011-2013

1. SIS II project

In Belgium SIS II is being developed with national budget of the Federal Police. For the moment the police doesn't use the External Borders Fund for the implementation of SIS II and it is not foreseen in the future.

The SIS II application is being developed in order to be compatible with the ICD/DTS 3.0. The deadline is foreseen for the beginning of May 2011.

Belgium takes part with 6 other Member States (organized in 'group 2') in compatibility tests and functional tests with the central system (start 15 July – end: 4 October 2011)

Purchase of new hardware and upgrades for software is foreseen where necessary.

2. VIS roll-out

VIS and related projects are the priority of the EBF-funding in Belgium.

Over 5 Annual Programmes there are 8 projects (some of them multi-annual) concerning the VIS funded by the EBF.

The largest projects are the installation of the biometric devices in the consular posts and the development of the software to make the connection to the central VIS.

The Belgian National Implementation of the Central VIS is operational since 12 march 2010. Belgium did not use a big bang scenario to roll-out and start using its BELVIS system immediately worldwide but rather choose to start with a Pilot Consular Post in Asia and proceeding with a gradual roll-out scenario. The First Consular Post was Beijing. The First

² <http://www.eu-fonds-dofi.be/>

roll-zone was Asia, the second zone South America, Third North America, ..., to finally roll-out to the Middle East and Africa. This gradual roll-out was finalized end June 2010. Belgium is a BIODIV II member state and collects Biometric Data in its Consular Posts under the BIODIV II hood as a National project. Belgium is on track to be Ready for the Official "Ready-To-Go-Live" date of 24th June 2011

Regarding the Border preparation, Belgium is on track for the Official 20 days after the "Ready-To-Go-Live" date of 24th June 2011. 3 Pilot Border Posts are already equipped with the Software to handle Territory checks. In 2011 only the visasticker will be used for the border checks against the CS-VIS. Only from 2012 biometric checks will be possible.

For the preparation of the VIS MAIL, Belgium will execute the scenario's as described in the "VIS Mail Application Test Plan-v1.22" which will take place starting from the 21st of March 2011 against Denmark.

Belgium has an operational management Team in place since 12/03/2010, the GO LIVE of their National System. The team is 24/7 available and is currently outsourced to an external service provider. A process of shadow coaching is ongoing to train an internal team. Tasks of the team are: troubleshoot and analyze VIS related items, provide helpdesk service to the national end users, establish operational management tasks and initiate emergency procedures, interact with the CSIS, ...

For 2011-2013 this projects keep on being co-financed by the EBF. For the 2011 AP it concerns the 4 actions under priority 4. (3 of them continued, 1 new)

The consular posts are equipped in order of the European priorities (North Africa, Middle East and Gulf Region)

These posts have been equipped under 2007-2008:

2007: Rabat, Cairo, Tunis, Tripoli, Algiers, Casablanca, Lubumbashi and Yaoundé

2008: Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, London, Beirut, Vienna, Bratislava, Bern, Damascus, Amman, Riyadh, Doha, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, Teheran, Warsaw

These posts will be equipped under 2009: Addis Abeba, Helsinki, Dar Es Salaam, Berlin, Kigali, Bujumbura, Nairobi, Kampala, Brazzaville, Johannesburg, Rome, Dakar, Cape town, Lisbon

Under AP 2009 13 border crossing points are equipped with biometric devices.

3. Consular co-operation programmes.

Under AP 2009 the FPS Foreign Affairs started a co-operation project with France: co-location in Conakry. For the moment the Belgian visa-agent has an office in the building of the French embassy in Conakry, construction works are planned for September 2011 to give the Belgian visa-agent a solid place in the building. The post will be operational from the 15th of June 2011. Biometric devices will be installed and the visa-agent will be on the spot.

There is a new project foreseen under AP 2011, which will be multi-annual. (see action 5)

4. European Border Surveillance System (EUROSUR)

For the moment no projects concerning EUROSUR are co-financed by the EBF. However it is foreseen in the MAP: *Belgium wants to use the Fund in line with the obligations and the policy of the EU. For this reason, Belgium also envisages the implementation of actions under priority 2 in order to be ready to take up responsibilities for a common European surveillance system (EUROSUR). To that end, a provisional allocation has been made from the extrapolation for the year 2013. The concrete content of this action(s) cannot be developed in the absence of a more concrete formulation of the policies and infrastructure*

related to EUROSUR and therefore the MAP has not included actions under this priority at this stage.

During the last steering group meeting the Federal Police mentioned their plans to submit projects concerning EUROSUR for 2012-2013, but no concrete projects were yet announced.

5. State of the art technology

With the co-financing under this priority the Federal Police is able to buy equipment (cameras, small boats,...) to improve the border control. Without the funding this would not be possible. The equipment is (or will be) added to the CRATE-list from Frontex and can easily be used through Frontex.

Concerning “automated border control systems” the Federal Police invests in digital fingerprint scanners for the border posts, scanners to read passports, ...

Concerning mobile equipment the Federal Police purchased/will purchase live scanners, cargo scanner,...

2. CHANGES IN THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEMS

Not applicable.

3. ACTIONS TO BE SUPPORTED BY THE PROGRAMME UNDER THE PRIORITIES CHOSEN

From the MAP it is clear that during the past decade, the Belgian government has already invested considerably in border security.

Under the 2011 programme it is also clear that priority 4 -support in the setting up of IT systems which are required for the enforcement of community legal instruments within the area of external borders and visas- is currently one of the higher priorities.

3.1. Priority 1: Support for the further gradual establishment of the common integrated border management system as regards the checks on persons at and the surveillance of the external borders

This could involve investment in infrastructure, systems and equipment within the framework of the eligibility.

Actions under this priority benefit the following national objectives:

- Improvement of the coordination and flow of information between actors/stakeholders at national level as well as from and between Belgium and other Member States
- A better control of border crossing points (especially traffic and passenger flows at secondary border checkpoints)
- Improved equipment to be deployed during common actions, coordinated by Frontex, especially in the field of maritime control during the night

The national objectives above aim at the gradual realization of an integrated border management system as regards the checks on persons at border points and the effective surveillance of the external borders by means of the integration of international communication and information systems in the national systems. This will necessitate the purchase of equipment to improve the control standard on and along weak borders and which will make it possible for Belgium to participate further in EU Frontex operations. These objectives will be reached through the implementation of the following actions:

Action 1: Better observation at the maritime borders

1. Purpose and scope of the action

This project aims to enhance the control standard of the maritime border-crossing movements, and to contribute to projects concerning European surveillance and patrol systems. The use of observation techniques by air adds significant value to maritime control actions. The purchase of video platform for helicopters is a crucial support for better maritime control and for better cooperation with neighbouring countries. In view of this cooperation an MOU has been concluded with the FRONTEX Agency on 12.10.2007. The helicopters with the purchased video platforms are on the CRATE-list and available for FRONTEX coordinated missions upon simple request.

This is the fourth stage of a multi annual project. Because of its high cost, the purchase of the video platforms were spread over several years: under the previous AP's 2007, 2008 and 2010 three platforms were purchased, under this AP a fourth platform will be purchased.

2. Expected grant recipient

The Responsible Authority acts as grant recipient, but given its legal monopoly, the Federal Police is the final beneficiary. The Federal Police will implement the action as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

3. Expected results

- Purchase of a gyro stabilised multifunctional camera system on public tender
- Increase of the interception of transports by small vessels

4. Indicators

- Successful installation of a camera system
- Number of air controlling activities
- Number of hours of air observation

5. Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

On every publication or notification, the support by the European Commission for the activity will be mentioned. The logo of the European Union will be visible on every publication as well as the captions 'with the support of the European Commission' and 'Moving Towards Smarter Borders'.

A publication in a specialized magazine and the annual activity report is foreseen and a permanent plaque will be put on the purchased equipment, where the support by the European Commission will be clearly visible.

6. Financial information

- For action 1: better observation at the maritime borders, a total budget of EUR 608.597,85 is foreseen. The share of Community contribution will be 75% for this action, as it falls within the specific priority 1.3 of the Fund's Strategic Guidelines as it contributes to the Frontex activities. The video platform is an integrated part of the helicopter that is registered on the CRATE-list.
- The recipient states in the grant agreement that no other Community funding will be used for the implementation of this project.

7. Categorisation of the action according to the typology for the Fund

In the typology of the Fund this action falls under category:
Priority 1 – Surveillance (air surveillance of maritime border) – operating equipment

3.2. Priority 3: Support for the issuing of visas and the tackling of illegal immigration, including the detection of false or falsified documents by enhancing the activities organised by the consular and other services of the Member States in third countries
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Actions under this priority serve the following national objectives:

- Improvement of the coordination and flow of information between actors/stakeholders at national level as well as from and between Belgium and other Member States
- Increasing the fight against visa abuses (“visa-shopping”) and pseudo-legal migration
- Acceleration in the issuing of visas to *bona fide* travellers
- Establishment of economies of scale in the processing and issuing of visas (consular cooperation)

These objectives are to be achieved through the following actions:

Action 2: Border Guard Assistance

This project carries on the projects started under the AP 2008, 2009 and 2010.

1. Purpose and scope of the action

“Border Guard Assistance”, is a multi-annual project started under AP 2008. This project draws its resources from the Belgian Federal Police’s border guards units. “Border Guard Assistance” provides important support in the fight against pseudo legal and illegal migration from non-EU airports into the Schengen-territory. In this project, border guards are responsible for training and informing embassies’ staff, local immigration services and airline companies in detecting false/forged documents. They also participate in the control of travel documents in non-EU airports. “Border Guard Assistance” missions will target countries with a high risk profile for illegal immigration to Belgium (notably Western- and Central Africa).

Cooperation with other EU countries that have representatives in the same country to deploy border guard assistance is a key element in this action.

Border guards will not be hired specifically for this project because it is crucial that the border guard who is sent on mission has extensive experience to share.

2. Expected grant recipient

The Responsible Authority acts as grant recipient, but given its legal monopoly, the Federal Police is the final beneficiary. The Federal Police will implement the action as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

3. Expected results

- At least six missions each year
- Training of consular posts, airline companies and local immigration services in detecting false/forged documents
- A decrease in the number of persons refused (INAD) because they lack valid travel documents, not only at the Brussels airport but also at airports in the entire Schengen territory
- Permanent decrease of passengers coming from the selected airports carrying fraudulent travel documents

4. Indicators

- Number of missions to selected airports

- Number of training of consular services/officers, airline company staff and local immigration services
- Number of pre-boarding controls in the selected airports

5. Visibility of EU funding and complementary with other financial instruments

On every publication or notification, the support by the European Commission for the activity will be mentioned. The logo of the European Union will be visible on every publication as well as the captions 'with the support of the European Commission' and 'Moving Towards Smarter Borders'.

A publication in a specialized magazine, on the police intranet and in the annual activity report is foreseen, where the support by the European Commission will be clearly visible. Also publications in foreign specialized magazines are foreseen.

6. Financial information

- For action 2: border guard assistance, a total budget of EUR 55.744,60 is foreseen. The share of Community contribution will be 50% for this action as this action falls under the general priority 3 of the Fund's Strategic Guidelines
- The recipient declares in the grant agreement that no other Community funding will be used for the implementation of this project.

7. Categorisation of the action according to the typology for the Fund

In the typology of the Fund this action falls under category:
Priority 3 – Document advisors

Action 3: Field Worker

1. Purpose and scope of the action

This project follows on projects started under the AP 2007 and continued under AP 2008 , AP 2009 and AP 2010.

In posts where the fight against pseudo-legal and illegal migration needs to be strengthened (such as Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Islamabad, Conakry, Yaoundé, Accra, Abidjan, Ankara or Quito for example) demand for field information justifies a full-time dedicated 'field worker' to support consular activity. Field-workers would be employed on a renewable one year contract and could do investigations for different Schengen embassies.

These "field workers" can more effectively check whether documents filed for a visa are authentic and correct. For example: bank statements, marriage certificates, birth certificates, school records,....

The field worker is hired locally, he/she needs to have the necessary specifications, such as expertise in researching documents and other information. The field worker is not necessarily a national of the third country (although for obvious reasons he/she has to be an inhabitant).

The choice of location is decided in collaboration with Member States who participate in the project, on the basis of shared priorities with respect to fighting visa fraud. The purpose is to improve Member States co-operation in specific visa files and involves the sharing of tasks and responsibilities for the benefit of Belgium, France and Luxembourg. France and

Luxembourg have signed a co-operation agreement with Belgium to participate in the project. These countries can ask the Belgian fieldworker to do research for them. Whether the demanding country will have to pay some costs like travel or subsistence allowance will be discussed for every particular assignment.

Under AP 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010, Fieldworkers were recruited in Yaoundé, Abidjan, Quito, Dakar and Shanghai. Under AP 2011 these five will continue their work in the same locations. Except for precise actions that are clearly identified in the AP 2011 project proposal and provisional budget, activities scheduled under AP 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 will need to be finished before activities scheduled under AP 2011 can start.

2. Expected grant recipient

The Responsible Authority acts as grant recipient, but given its legal monopoly, the FPS Foreign Affairs is the final beneficiary. FPS Foreign Affairs will implement the action as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

3. Expected results

- Activities of field workers in 5 posts where the fight against pseudo-legal and illegal migration needs to be improved
- The work of field workers in non-EU countries is expected to lead to an increase in the number of detected fraudulent documents and an increase in the number of detected fraudulent applications

4. Indicators

- Number of contracts with field workers
- Number of controlled documents
- Number of detected fraudulent documents,

5. Visibility of EU funding and complementary with other financial instruments

On every publication or notification, the support by the European Commission for the activity will be mentioned. The logo of the European Union will be visible on every publication as well as the captions 'with the support of the European Commission' and 'Moving Towards Smarter Borders'.

Promotion on European and international forums through presentations, conferences, working groups,... in Belgium and other countries, Schengen meetings in the field,... Results will be bundled in a report for the European Commission and for other Schengen partners.

6. Financial information

- For action 3: Field worker, a total budget of EUR 129.700,00 is foreseen. The share of Community contribution will be 75% for this action, as it falls within the specific priority 3.1 of the Fund's Strategic Guidelines as it aims at improving the cooperation between consular services of several MS.
- The recipient states in the grant agreement that no other Community funding will be used for the implementation of this project.

7. Categorisation of the action according to the typology for the Fund

In the typology of the Fund this action falls under category:
Priority 3 – Document advisors

Action 4: Consular Cooperation

1. Purpose and scope of the action

This project aims at establishing consular cooperation in a third country, and more particular cooperation in obtaining biometric data in order to issue biometric visa by way of collocation. A common location will be rented to house consular offices of several Member States (negotiations are on the way), and devices will be used by all. Agents will be trained and information sessions given (regarding biometric visa)

The project is planned to be executed in the State of Palestine. But first in depth analyses are necessary to find out if this is realistic.

In a first phase the feasibility will be assessed, if there is a green light, the consular cooperation will be executed under AP 2011. If not, another location will be chosen, what that location will be depends on the global political situation of the moment and the Belgian and/or European priorities. Then the process starts again (first analysis of feasibility).

Expenditure would be travel costs for preparatory missions, and once the location is approved staff costs for a visa officer, rental costs for the building, costs for the biometric equipment...

2. Expected grant recipient

The Responsible Authority acts as grant recipient, but given its legal monopoly, the FPS Foreign Affairs is the final beneficiary. FPS Foreign Affairs will implement the action as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

3. Expected results

- Better consular cooperation and better use of resources because one infrastructure can be used for different Member States
- More 'customer friendly' service
- More efficient distribution of visa, less visa shopping
- Better information flow between Member States, accelerated issuing of visa to bona fide persons, increased fight against illegal migration
- Installation of biometric devices

4. Indicators

- Number of common housing for consular services of several MS
- Number of participating MS
- Presence of biometric devices
- Number of formed agents

5. Visibility of EU funding and complementary with other financial instruments

On every publication or notification, the support by the European Commission for the activity will be mentioned. The logo of the European Union will be visible on every publication as well as the captions 'with the support of the European Commission' and 'Moving Towards Smarter Borders'.

Promotion on European and international forums through presentations, conferences, working groups,... in Belgium and other countries, Schengen meetings in the field,...
Results will be bundled in a report for the European Commission, for Belgian consular posts and for other Schengen partners

6. Financial information

- For action 4: Consular cooperation, a total budget of EUR 230.000 is foreseen. The share of Community contribution will be 75% for this action, as it falls within the specific priority 3.2 of the Fund's Strategic Guidelines as it aims at creating collocation.
- The recipient declares in the grant agreement that no other Community funding will be used for the implementation of this project.

7. Categorisation of the action according to the typology for the Fund

In the typology of the Fund this action falls under category:

Priority 3 – setting up of common application centres, organisation of co-location or limited representation.

3.3 Priority 4: Support for the establishment of IT systems required for implementation of the Community legal instruments in the field of external borders and visas
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Actions under this priority serve the following national objectives:

- Installation of the Visa Information System
- Increasing the fight against abuse in connection with visa applications (“visa-shopping”) and pseudo-legal migration
- Acceleration in the issuing of visas to *bona fide* travellers
- Improvement of the coordination and flow of information between actors/stakeholders at national level as well as from and between Belgium and other Member States

These objectives are to be reached through the implementation of the following actions:

Action 5: VIS (Federal Police)

1. Purpose and scope of the action

This project started under the AP 2009 and continued under AP 2010. In 2011 the European CVIS system should be launched, so the Belgian VIS will be able to connect to it.

This IT action is completely orientated at integrating the national applications in the VIS system. For the Federal Police the scope is the interaction between their national databases (Portal and DVZ Gateway) and the Belvis Message Broker, which in turn interacts with the CS-VIS.

Transmission scheme:

Portal (FedPol) -> DVZ gateway (FedPol) -> Nvis (Belvis DVZ) -> CVis (EU)

(last part = Belvis, action 7)

By way of decision 2008/633 JHA the Federal Police is granted access to the VIS.

To reach this, the following steps will be taken successively, in line with Article 5(1) of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Visa Information System (VIS) and the exchange of data between Member States on short-stay visas (VIS Regulation) :

- Integrating the alphanumerical data and the digital photo
- Introducing biometrical identification elements

At the end of the project, VIS consultation will be integrated in the existing software of the Federal Police, which will be able to consult the VIS system with regard to Article 15 of Regulation (EC) No 767/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Visa Information System (VIS) and the exchange of data between Member States on short-stay visas (VIS Regulation), using its present applications.

2. Expected grant recipient

The Responsible Authority acts as grant recipient, but given its legal monopoly, the Federal Police is the final beneficiary. The Federal Police will implement the action as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

3. Expected results

- Perfect interaction between the national databases of the Federal Police (Portal and DVZ Gateway) and the NVIS through the default Federal Police applications
- Immediate access to the VIS database

4. Indicators

- Number of tests interaction Portal and Gateway with NVIS (Belvis)
- Number of successful test cases and test scenarios
- Number of messages blocked by the Gateway

5. Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

On every publication or notification, the support by the European Commission for the activity will be mentioned. The logo of the European Union will be visible on every publication as well as the caption 'with the support of the European Commission' and 'Moving Towards Smarter Borders'.

A specific communication is foreseen, where the support by the European Commission will be clearly visible.

The results of the project will be available for the operational services of the Federal Police, as for the national and international judicial services.

6. Financial information

- For action 5: VIS (Fed Pol), a total budget of EUR 189.020,00 is foreseen. The share of Community contribution will be 75%, as the action falls within the specific priority 4.2 as identified by the Fund's Strategic Guidelines as it directly linked to the implementation of the VIS.

- The recipient states in the grant agreement that no other Community funding will be used.

7. Categorisation of the action according to the typology for the Fund

In the typology of the Fund this action falls under category:
Priority 4 – VIS

Action 6: Extending of the central system - BELVIS

1. Purpose and scope of the action

BELVIS is the Belgian European Visa Information System (VIS) window. The intention is to set up a central data exchange system (Message Broker) through:

- the implementation of a central data exchange system between the services involved with visa issuance and control
- the implementation of a visa application and issuance system for the Consular posts of FPS Foreign Affairs
- the implementation of a visa application processing and decision system for the Immigration Service and
- the implementation of a visa control system for the border control units of the Federal Police

Each of these implementations consists of a software-window (user-application programme) and a hardware window (purchase of specific equipment for the user applications (servers, PCs but also scanners and cameras).

This action comprises the further financing of the project started under Annual Programme 2007 and which will last till 2013. A detailed advancement report will be asked to ensure transparency of financing between the different AP's. As a general rule, activities scheduled under AP 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 will need to be finished before activities scheduled under AP 2011 can start.

Under AP 2007 and 2008 the infrastructure was bought (servers etc.). The development and maintenance of the Message Broker started under AP 2008 and will be continued under AP 2009, 2010 and afterwards.

Under AP 2011 the Message Broker will be adapted to new technical specifications. Other actions scheduled under the AP 2011 include:

- maintenance and modernization of the purchased equipment
- purchase of server equipment for monitoring the BELVIS project

2. Expected grant recipient

The Responsible Authority acts as grant recipient, but given its legal monopoly, the ICT Department of the FPS Home Affairs will implement this action as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

3. Expected results

- Guaranteed communication with CS-VIS
- minimal changes in the existing ICT-systems of different partners (Immigration Office; Federal Police, Foreign Affairs)

4. Indicators

- Number of successful tests of the message broker
- Number of successful messages between Belgian partners and CS-VIS

5. Visibility of EU funding and complementarities with other financial instruments

On every publication or notification, the support by the European Commission for the activity will be mentioned. The logo of the European Union will be visible on every publication as well as the caption 'with the support of the European Commission' and 'Moving Towards Smarter Borders'.

The support by the European Commission will be clearly mentioned in the annual activity report of the FPS Home Affairs.

A VIS experts working group with representatives from the above-mentioned public bodies, meets on a regular basis to discuss their activities. This working group includes experts who participate on the abovementioned projects, and who are well aware of the obligations in terms of avoiding overlapping financing.

6. Financial information

- For action 6: Belvis, a total budget of EUR 1.091.436,83 is foreseen. The share of Community contribution will be 75%, as the action falls within the specific priority 4.2 as identified by the Fund's Strategic Guidelines as it is directly linked to the implementation of the VIS
- The recipient declares in the grant agreement that no other Community funding will be used for the implementation of this project.

7. Categorisation of the action according to the typology for the Fund

In the typology of the Fund this action falls under category:
Priority 4 – VIS

Action 7: Extending the network for the collection of biometric data (Visabio@Bel)

1. Purpose and scope of the action

The network of Belgian posts where the collection of biometric data from visa applicants can take place, has to be extended to all visa issuing consular posts (~100). This action comprises the further financing of the project started under Annual Programme 2007 and which will last till 2013. (see 1B for an overview of equipped posts)

Under AP 2011 the FPS Foreign Affairs wishes to equip 20 extra embassies in the regions labelled as priority regions by Europe as far as these have not yet been equipped under previous AP's. (Such as: Abidjan, Ankara, Astana, Athens, Baku, Hong Kong, Islamabad, Istanbul, Kinshasa, Kiev, Manila, Moscow, Tangier, Belgrade, Zagreb, Hanoi, Lima, Seoul, Singapore, Bucharest) This list can be affected by political changes in the countries/regions.

After procurement there were two types of photo devices purchased: a light photobooth (96), and a heavy photobooth (22), also a fingerprint scanner and a signature pad per post.

The scope of the action is the installation of biometric devices in the consular posts in order to deliver biometric visa. Therefore installation missions are organised, staff is trained and the public is informed.

2. Expected grant recipient

The Responsible Authority acts as grant recipient, but given its legal monopoly, the FPS Foreign Affairs is the final beneficiary. FPS Foreign Affairs will implement the action as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

3. Expected results

- Analysis and preparatory activities for equipping 20 extra consular posts with biometric devices, public tender thereto
- Start of operation in these posts
- Training of staff;
- Better/faster identification and verification of visa applicants;

4. Indicators

- Number of Belgian posts that are equipped, so the collection of biometric data from visa applicants can take place
- Number of staff trainings
- Number of issued biometric visa

5. Visibility of EU funding and complementarities with other financial instruments

On every publication or notification, the support by the European Commission for the activity will be mentioned. The logo of the European Union will be visible on every publication as well as the caption 'with the support of the European Commission' and 'Moving Towards Smarter Borders'.

Recipients will put stickers or a permanent plaque on or near the purchased or installed equipment.

Promotion on European and international forums through presentations, conferences, working groups,... in Belgium and other countries, Schengen meetings in the field, contact with local partners,...

Results will be bundled in a report for the European Commission, Belgian consular posts, other Schengen partners

A VIS experts working group with representatives from the above-mentioned public bodies, meets on a regular basis to discuss their activities. This working group includes experts who participate on the abovementioned projects, and who are well aware of the obligations in terms of avoiding overlapping financing.

6. Financial information

- For action 7: Biometric data, a total budget of EUR 600.000,00 is foreseen. The share of Community contribution will be 75%, as the action falls within the specific priority 4.2 as identified by the Fund's Strategic Guidelines as it is directly linked to the implementation of the VIS
- The recipient declares in the grant agreement that no other Community funding will be used for the implementation of this project.

7. Categorisation of the action according to the typology for the Fund

In the typology of the Fund this action falls under category:
Priority 4 - VIS

Action 8: VIS - Digital fingerprint scanners

1. Purpose and scope of the action

This action is aimed at buying equipment to scan the fingerprints of visa holders and compare it with the biometric information of the VIS at the border control posts.

The action is a direct result of the European VIS-regulation 767/2008 concerning the Visa Information System (VIS) and the exchange of data between Member States on short-stay visas.

All border control post have to be equipped to read the fingerprints and the biometric visa and to verify the identity of the visa holder in the VIS. Purchasing such equipment is thus directly related to the implementation of the European legislation. The present project aims to allow faster and better passports control in a manner that is coherent with other member states. This project is a multi-annual project, starting in 2011 and continuing in 2012 and 2013.

Under AP 2011 125 scanners will be purchased.

2. Expected grant recipient

The Responsible Authority acts as grant recipient, but given its legal monopoly, the Federal Police is the final beneficiary. The Federal Police will implement the action as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

3. Expected results

- Fingerprints can be scanned at the border control posts
- Better examination of the migrants holding a biometric visa
- Purchase of 125 scanners

4. Indicators

- Number of purchased equipment

5. Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

On every publication or notification, the support by the European Commission for the activity will be mentioned. The logo of the European Union will be visible on every publication as well as the captions 'with the support of the European Commission' and 'Moving Towards Smarter Borders'.

Publications in specialized magazines are foreseen, where the support by the European Commission will be clearly visible. A permanent adhesive label will be put on the purchased equipment.

6. Financial information

- For action 8: digital fingerprint scanners, a total budget of EUR 260.398,07 is foreseen. The share of Community contribution will be 75% for this action, as it falls within the specific priority 4.2 of the Fund's Strategic Guidelines as it is directly linked to the implementation of the VIS
- The recipient declares in the grant agreement that no other Community funding will be used for the implementation of this project.

7. Categorisation of the action according to the typology for the Fund

In the typology of the Fund this action falls under category:

Priority 4 – VIS

3.4 Priority 5: Support for effective and efficient application of relevant Community legal instruments in the field of external borders and visas, in particular the Schengen Borders Code and the European Code on Visas.

Actions under this priority serve the following national objectives:

- Training, education and exchange of best practices in the area of visa policy and border management

Action 9: Creation of an image of cross-border air traffic by the General Aviation

1. Purpose and scope of the action

The aim of this project is to create a clear image of the air-traffic between the Schengen territory and the UK through mapping of the risk areas and tracing of illegal border crossings by way of controls in smaller airports. The results will be integrated in the monthly report the Federal Police sends to Frontex. This action will make it easier to refine the 'Air Border Surveillance'. It will also make the surveillance activities more efficient and targeted. The purpose is to decrease and manage the border crossings through non-recognised border posts at the smaller airports and heliports (i.e. traffic from "General Aviation").

2. Expected grant recipient

The Responsible Authority acts as grant recipient, but given its legal monopoly, the Federal Police is the final beneficiary. The Federal Police will implement the action as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

3. Expected results

- Tracing of illegal border crossings
- Mapping of the risk areas
- Relevant and up to date information to put in the monthly report for Frontex (within the framework of the CIRAM model)
- Development of a permanent national aviation information network (LIK)
- Exchange of Best practices between Belgium, France and The Netherlands
- Discouragement of illegal immigration

4. Indicators

- Number of detected breaches
- Number of monthly reports with integrated information

- Recommendations for General Aviation and Air Border Surveillance are made

5. Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

On every publication or notification, the support by the European Commission for the activity will be mentioned. The logo of the European Union will be visible on every publication as well as the captions 'with the support of the European Commission' and 'Moving Towards Smarter Borders'.

There will be briefings with partners, internal communication, information sessions and sensitizing activities of responsible persons (e.g. pilots, passengers, small airport managers,...) where the support of the European Commission will be clearly visible. Publication in press and in specialized police-magazines is foreseen.

6. Financial information

- For action 9: creation of an image of cross-border air traffic by the General Aviation, a total budget of EUR 86.618,39 is foreseen. The share of Community contribution will be 75% for this action, as it falls within the specific priority 5.2 of the Fund's Strategic Guidelines as it will enhance the quality of the national input into the common integrated risk analysis model.
- The recipient declares in the grant agreement that no other Community funding will be used for the implementation of this project.

7. Categorisation of the action according to the typology for the Fund

In the typology of the Fund this action falls under category:

Priority 5 - Risk Analysis

Action 10: Second line control

1. Purpose and scope of the action

This action started under AP 2009 and was continued under AP 2010.

The project aims at improving the exchange of information between the different second line control posts of the different Schengen Partners. Until now the second line control posts of every country work separately and has for that reason a rather flat learning curve. An exchange of information between the different second line control posts will boost the level of knowledge of all the different second line posts. This exchange will be made through training sessions and exchange of experts between the different posts.

By doing so, they can learn from each other's experience, best practices, etc. and as a consequence they are able to improve the quality of control, discover 'black holes' in their procedures, get a European perspective of the problem and will so be more able to define an appropriate risk analysis.

Under AP 2009 3 missions have taken place. These missions are done in cooperation with neighbouring countries like Germany and France. Under AP 2010 four separate missions take place. Under AP 2011 another 4 missions are foreseen. Currently the Federal Police is negotiating with several Member States about where the new missions will take place (possibly France, the Netherlands, Germany,...).

2. Expected grant recipients

The Responsible Authority acts as grant recipient, but given its legal monopoly, the Federal Police is the final beneficiary. The Federal Police will implement the action as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

3. Expected results

- A more efficient and uniform second line control at the airports. This should lead to better decisions and minimized shifting of the illegal migration flow from 'harder' airports to 'softer' ones
- A systematic exchange of experiences and best practices between the teams of the different Member States.

4. Indicators

- Number of missions (exchanges)
- Files with best practices examples and relevant information are available

5. Visibility of EU funding and complementarities with other financial instruments

On every publication or notification, the support by the European Commission for the activity will be mentioned. The logo of the European Union will be visible on every publication as well as the captions 'with the support of the European Commission' and 'Moving Towards Smarter Borders'.

Files with best practices will be handed out to Immigration Services of other Member States, where the support by the European Commission will be clearly visible.

6. Financial information

- For action 10: second line control, a total budget of EUR 59.662,62 is foreseen. The share of Community contribution will be 50%, as the action falls under priority 5.
- The recipient declares in the grant agreement that no other Community funding will be used for the implementation of this project.

7. Categorisation of the action according to the typology for the Fund

In the typology of the Fund this action falls under category:

Priority 5 - Risk Analysis

Action 11: conceptualization and control of illegal border crossing movements in non-recognised border post harbours (SPN)

1. Purpose and scope of the action

The purpose of the project is to decrease and manage the border crossings through non-recognised border posts at the smaller harbours.

The aim is to create a clear image of the maritime traffic from outside the Schengen area through mapping of the maritime border crossing movements by way of controls in non-recognised border post harbours. The results will be integrated in the monthly report of the federal Police which will be sent to Frontex. This action will make it easier to refine the sea border control and to execute more efficient and targeted surveillance activities.

2. Expected grant recipient

The Responsible Authority acts as grant recipient, but given its legal monopoly, the Federal Police is the final beneficiary. The Federal Police will implement the action as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

3. Expected results

- Mapping of the maritime border crossing movements outside of the Schengen border posts
- Recommendations for a structural approach of the phenomenon
- Relevant and up to date information to put in the monthly report for Frontex (within the framework of the CIRAM model)
- Sensitizing activities towards entering persons through controls

4. Indicators

- Number of detected breaches
- Number of monthly reports with integrated information
- New structural approach is developed

5. Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

On every publication or notification, the support by the European Commission for the activity will be mentioned. The logo of the European Union will be visible on every publication as well as the captions 'with the support of the European Commission' and 'Moving Towards Smarter Borders'.

There will be briefings with partners and publications in the press and in specialised professional journals, where the support of the European Commission will be clearly visible. Publication in press and in specialized police-magazines is foreseen.

6. Financial information

- For action 11: conceptualization and control of illegal border crossing movements in non-recognised border post harbours (SPN), a total budget of EUR 86.845,28 is foreseen. The share of Community contribution will be 75% for this action, as it falls within the specific priority 5.2 of the Fund's Strategic Guidelines as it will enhance the quality of the national input into the common integrated risk analysis model.
- The recipient declares in the grant agreement that no other Community funding will be used.

7. Categorisation of the action according to the typology for the Fund

In the typology of the Fund this action falls under category:
Priority 5 - Risk Analysis

4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Scope and objective

Technical assistance will be used to cover the costs of the RA

Staff at the RA will perform the following tasks: launch and conclude grant procedures, preparing invitations and contracts, selection, supervision and evaluation of projects, monitoring and on the spot checks, adapting and further developing the internal rules of procedure in collaboration with partners, publicity of the programme, translations, updating the internet site, inform and guide partners and beneficiaries etc.

TA will also cover staff costs at the CA and AA. These costs will be distributed between EBF and RF, which share the same CA and AA.

An information activity is foreseen in 2011. The scope is to present the activities implemented during the year and the achievements of the programme. This information session will be open to a wide audience, including representatives from other Member States. On the same day, the main partners will meet for a working session to comment on the results and achievements of the annual programmes 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. The idea of this working session is to learn from the experiences.

Additionally, steering group meetings and information activities will be organised in the course of the year, on a regular basis and when requested by partners.

Expected results under AP 2011

- Internet site up-dated with information on activities and useful tools for partners and beneficiaries
- Spot checks on projects implemented under EBF AP 2011 and monitoring reports on these projects
- Information, advisory and steering meetings with partners and project beneficiaries
- Informal meetings with other RA
- Submission of the progress reports, payment requests and final report to the Commission, on the basis of the Intermediate reports, declarations of expenditure and final reports established by the final beneficiaries
- Submission of the certified declaration of expenditure to the European Commission
- Submission of the audit plan, report and summary
- Meeting(s) to evaluate the present annual programme
- Meetings with main partners to prepare EBF AP 2012
- Submission of AP EBF 2012 to the European Commission
- Information activity foreseen in 2011
- Stationary, stickers, flyers, folders with the European flag for publicity

Indicators

- Number of allocated projects
- Number of signed grant agreements with partners
- Number of monitoring visits

Visibility of EU funding and complementarities with other financial instruments

On every publication or notification, the support by the European Commission for the activity will be mentioned. The logo of the European Union will be visible on every publication as well as the caption 'with the support of the European Commission'.

The following publicity measures are planned/will be organised by the 'Unit European funds' using technical assistance:

- publication of an article in the Immigration Service's annual report
- an annex to every grant agreement stating the beneficiary's obligations towards transparency of EU subsidization
- information on the projects on the website of the Immigration service's EU funds Unit and link to this information on the Immigration Service's website
- an information activity is foreseen in 2011 to present the activities implemented during the year to a wide audience including representatives from other Member States

On the website and on every publication or notification from the RA, the logo of the European Union will be visible as well as the caption 'with the support of the European Commission'.

To check compatibility and/or overlap with other EU instruments, the AP is circulated to the Belgian Representation to the EU. It is also circulated to the FPS Home Affairs' International Unit (*Cellule Internationale*), to the Federal Police and FPS Foreign Affairs which share a legal competence on external borders' management. In the occurrence of an overlap with actions financed with European instruments, actions would be reoriented in order to generate positive synergies.

Annual Programme - Draft Financial Plan Table 1 - Overview table									
Member State: BELGIUM Annual programme concerned: 2011 Fund: EBF									
<i>(all figures in EUR)</i>	Co-Financing %	Ref. priority	Ref. specific priority (a)	Community Contribution (1)	Public Allocation (2)	Private Allocation (3)	TOTAL (4) = (1+2+3)	%EC (5) = (1)/(4)	Share of total (4)/ Total(4)
Priority 1: Integration international systems in national systems with intention toward a joint integrated border management system									
Action 1: Better observations at maritime borders (video platform)	75%	1	3	456.448,39	152.149,46	0,00	608.597,85	75,00%	17,22%
Sub-total:				456.448,39	152.149,46	0,00	608.597,85	75,00%	17,22%
Priority 3: 3.1. Fight against misuse of visa									
Action 2: Border Guard Assistance	50%	3		27.872,30	27.872,30	0,00	55.744,60	50,00%	1,58%
Action 3: Field Worker	75%	3	1	97.275,00	32.425,00	0,00	129.700,00	75,00%	3,67%
Action 4: Consular cooperation	75%	3	2	172.500,00	57.500,00	0,00	230.000,00	75,00%	6,51%
Sub-total:				297.647,30	117.797,30	0,00	415.444,60	71,65%	11,75%
Priority 4: ICT – VIS									
Action 5: VIS (Federal Police)	75%	4	2	141.765,00	47.255,00	0,00	189.020,00	75,00%	5,35%
Action 6: Extending of the central system -BELVIS	75%	4	2	818.577,62	272.859,21	0,00	1.091.436,83	75,00%	30,88%
Action 7: Visabio@bel	75%	4	2	450.000,00	150.000,00	0,00	600.000,00	75,00%	16,98%
Action 8: VIS - Digital fingerprint scanners	75%	4	2	195.298,55	65.099,52	0,00	260.398,07	75,00%	7,37%
Sub-total				1.605.641,17	535.213,72	0,00	2.140.854,89	75,00%	60,57%
Priority 5: application of relevant Community legal instruments									
Action 9: Creation of an image of cross-border air traffic by the General Aviation	75%	5	2	64.963,79	21.654,60	0,00	86.618,39	75,00%	2,45%
Action 10: second line control	50%	5		29.831,31	29.831,31	0,00	59.662,62	50,00%	1,69%
action 11: conceptualization and control of illegal border crossing movements in non-recognised border post harbours (SPN)	75%	5	2	65.133,96	21.711,32	0,00	86.845,28	75,00%	2,46%
Sub-total				159.929,06	73.197,23	0,00	233.126,29	68,60%	6,60%
Sub-total (All Priorities)				2.519.665,92	878.357,71	0,00	3.398.023,63	74,15%	96,15%
Technical Assistance (T.A.)				136.236,08	0	0	136.236,08	100,00%	3,85%
TOTAL				2.655.902,00			3.534.259,71		100%

Date 15/03/2010

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