

ANNEX

Annual Programme 2011

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| MEMBER STATE: | BELGIUM |
| FUND: | EUROPEAN RETURN FUND |
| RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY: | BELGIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICE |
| YEAR COVERED: | 2011 |

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

Given the legal monopoly of the Federal Public Service Home Affairs and the Federal Police for forced return and for matters linked to forced return, forced return projects will be directly assigned to these authorities as outlined in SOLID/2008/2/REV. For projects in the area of voluntary return, the principle is that they will be awarded after an open call for proposals.

A general invitation for the submission of project proposals in areas where there is a legal monopoly was addressed to the Federal Police, ICT Department of the Federal Public Service (FPS) Home Affairs and the Immigration Office. Projects that are directly assigned to these partners will be considered as executed by the Responsible Authority (RA), but they will be managed by the partners (Federal Police, ICT Department of the FPS Home Affairs and the Immigration Office).

The submitted projects were screened by the RA in accordance with the criteria defined by the basic act (Decision 575/2007/EC, Article 15/5). The inclusion in the annual programme constitutes the decision for project selection in line with a Memorandum of Understanding signed with partners. A contract will be signed for every project with the beneficiary.

In the area of voluntary return the largest part of the budget will be allocated through an open call. A part of the available means for voluntary return will however be allocated through direct assignation. This last part concerns actions that are an integral part of the legal responsibilities of Fedasil (the agency responsible for the coordination of voluntary return) and that involve direct, bilateral co-operation between state actors (e.g.; the Immigration Office and Fedasil)

The procedure for the open call 2011 will be the same as the procedure that was used for the open calls for AP 2008, 2009 and 2010. The Belgian regulation allows such an open call only to be published after receiving the European money. The publication of the open call will thus take place after the approval of this AP and after the payment of the first subsidies to Belgium, it is expected to be launched in the second quarter of 2011. The Open Call will be made public through the RA's website¹ and through the Federal Agency for the reception

¹ www.eu-fonds-dofi.be

of Asylum seekers website² (Fedasil), which is the responsible governmental agency for the coordination of AVR. The open call will also be published in the official journal of the Belgian government (Belgisch Staatsblad – Moniteur Belge), on the official AVR-website (www.vrijwilligeterugkeer.be) and in the official AVR-newsletter, both of which are in fact the result of earlier RF-funded projects .

A selection committee will select voluntary return projects. The selection committee consists of a representative of the Directorate General of the Immigration Office and representatives of Ministers involved in the area of migration (e.g. the Minister of migration and asylum, the Minister of Social integration,...). The RA fulfils the task of secretary and can also proceed to an analysis of the submitted projects.

A contract will be signed for every project with the final beneficiary. A Royal Decree will earmark the content of the contract with the final beneficiaries.

The general rules for the selection of projects co-financed by the 2011 programme are in conformity with those set out in the Multiannual plan and in the description of the management and control system.

The RA will particularly control the application of the Law on Public Procurement and the conditions laid down in article 11 of the implementing rules. The RA will ask the partners to take account of the necessary procedures to be followed according to these regulations in their time schedule. A close monitoring will be carried out by the RA.

The RA will also look at the compliance with the internal regulations of each partner on competencies for issuing a tender and signing of contracts.

When drafting the MAP, we based ourselves on the provisional allocations that appear now to be highly overestimated. As a result all the priorities are less budgeted than foreseen in the MAP, with the exception of priority 4 which has more allocated budget compared to the MAP. The main reason for this is that the imputation of the return directive was not foreseen. The inclusion of one action related to this directive accounts for the rise under priority 4.

As also mentioned in the MAP, the relevant partners for the voluntary return programs were extensively involved in the drawing up of the annual plan 2011. The actions and objectives for 2011 are a reflection of the needs and priorities of the main public stakeholders: Federal Police, Fedasil (PPS Social Integration) and the Immigration Office. Taking into consideration the legal monopolies and given the expertise of Fedasil in coordinating voluntary return, and its broad knowledge of potential final beneficiaries working in the field of voluntary return it was estimated that a collaboration with Fedasil would suffice to draw up the present AP.

2. CHANGES IN THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEMS

None

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

As mentioned in the MAP, the Belgian government has already made considerable investments in return policy over the past decade.

This AP focuses mainly on priorities 1 and 3 but actions under priority 2 and 4 are also included.

² www.fedasil.be.

As explained in former AP's the development on AVR is divided in different areas and it is the intention to develop long term actions to address these areas. The AVR part of the AP 2011 is a combination of:

- The priorities as defined in the MAP, AP 2008, 2009 and 2010
- The result of the first open call (15.05.09 – 15.06.09) (= the way organisations reacted to the priorities defined).

For AP 2011 the areas are defined as:

- A. Information (= assure that the target group and their formal and informal representatives are informed about the existence and the possibilities of AVR)**
- B. Counselling (= assure that persons who consider a return can rely on an accessible network of professional return counsellors)**
- C. Return logistics and reintegration assistance (= Development of the reintegration assistance to a substantial package of sustainable assistance combined with a specific package for priority groups)**
- D. Management (= Development of adapted planning, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to manage the actions in the field of AVR, compatible with the requirements of integrated return management).**
- E. Study and analysis (= Development of tools to study migration patterns and to analyse the impact of actions to decide on which action must / can be taken in different situations).**

An open call will be launched for actions covered by priority 1 and 3 of the strategic guidelines, in 2 main areas: A and C. Actions under B, D and E will be executed by Fedasil under the execution mode due to their legal role as coordinating agency in the field of voluntary return.

Projects selected through the open call will have to meet the priorities set in the strategic guidelines and the national operational objectives defined in the MAP³. Additionally, within each area, priority will be given to actions that meet the purpose and scopes identified hereunder (see actions 1 and 8).

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| 3.1. Priority 1: Support for the development of a strategic approach to return management by Member States |
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National objectives

- Operational objective 1: Additional development of voluntary return programmes and reinforcement of their implementation (information, training, execution and follow-up)

³ Please refer to the RF MAP, p. 34.

- Operational objective 2: Developing an integrated return management approach that is centred on target groups and adapts to the specific needs of each group
- Operational objective 3: Creation of alternative and adapted structures of reception in which the persons can be guided towards return.
- Operational objective 4: Improving reintegration programmes to a more needs-oriented approach, in the perspective of sustainable return
- Operational objective 6: Accelerate the procedures of removal, including the identification by means of a strengthened cooperation with the country of origin.
- Operational objective 7: Increasing the acceptance of return, including that of voluntary return -outside and within the reception network- through the design of a targeted and creative policy of communication, information and training
- Operational objective 9: Creation of instruments of analysis and permanent evaluation that enable to form a more clear image of the population of illegal immigrants and to devise, elaborate and put in place ways of return that are fast, humane and respectful to the person's dignity.

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The following actions will be implemented through the method "RA acting as an awarding body".

Action 1 : Support for the development of a strategic approach to return management

Projects under this action will most likely build upon earlier experiences that were launched under the 2008-09 and 2010 programs. This action is divided in two parts where the first part concerns actions under area "A: information" and the second actions under area "C: Return logistics and reintegration assistance".

Purpose and scope of possible projects in the field of main area A: Information

A large part of the RF-budget is used to increase the available reintegration assistance for migrants that wants to return. All these investments are of no use if the target group is not informed about is. Possible projects in this field have to aim at reaching the target group on different ways. These can for example be:

1. To reach -directly or indirectly- a maximum number of potential beneficiaries via different means and ways of communication.

This translates into different key objectives:

- Develop and maintain (= adapt to the changing program and additional projects) standard information packages on AVR (= what do we want the target group and their representatives to know about AVR).

- Develop and maintain different tools and instruments to reinforce an effective communication on AVR.
 - Develop a registration and evaluation method to keep track of the (result of the) different activities and to assess the impact.
2. To develop an information strategy that assures that the dense and diverse network of social services is correctly informed about AVR and the referral system behind it, enabling them to give correct information and guidance to migrants that consider a return.

This translates into different key objectives:

- The general network of first line social services (= every organisation that gets at least from time to time in touch with migrants) is informed of the existence of the program for voluntary return, knows more or less the content of this program and knows whom to refer a migrant to.
 - Social services that work with migrants as (on of their) priority target groups (reception centres, migrant communities,...) are very well and regularly informed about the possibilities of the AVR-program. They can have a first discussion with a migrant that considers a return, giving him or her concrete idea on the different possibilities.
 - A network of return experts is established within the network of social services that work with migrants. These experts follow a permanent training program, enabling them to assure a decent individual return counselling to migrants who prepare their return and at the same time assure a second line assistance towards social services.
3. To allow urban agglomerations to invest, within the local government's structures, in a structural capacity that can be dedicated to AVR and return policy in general. The long term purpose is to develop a network of 15+ national urban agglomerations

This translates into the objective that this capacity should enable the local government to:

- integrate AVR in its social policy towards the target group
- enable them to collect information on this target group, to monitor their profiles and to translate this information into input in the policy development concerning voluntary return and return policy in general.

Expected Results in area A: Information

- A range of 'passive' and 'active' communication tools (flyers, brochures, posters, DVD, newsletter, website, etc...).
- Clear guidelines for return experts on how to use this information tools to their full potential.
- Formal steering groups / information exchange platform in which cities or other first line services discuss their respective realities, evaluate the (potential) impact of actions and give input into the process of policy development.
- A network of return experts is established within the network of social services

Possible indicators in area A: Information

- Number of flyers, brochures, ...
- Number of communication techniques employed.
- Guidelines are developed
- Number of information sessions held.
- The number of cities that participate in this network (criterion: participation at the steering group / information exchange meetings).

Purpose and scope of possible projects in the field of main area C: Return logistics and reintegration assistance

The concept of reintegration assistance (= in kind assistance after the arrival in the country of origin) was implemented in 2006. IOM and Caritas put into operation a general program of post arrival assistance through their worldwide networks of local departments and partner organisations.

The available assistance was set at 700 EUR a person (350 EUR for a minor) + 500 EUR complementary assistance for a vulnerable person. This is considered a decent level of assistance to cover the first reinstallation needs after arrival, but at the same time too limited to guarantee a substantial contribution to a sustainable return.

Nevertheless, this approach might not be the best possible alternative for every migrant. Certain categories have specific needs or live in a specific situation, requiring more tailor made approaches. The aim of this action is to develop an integrated strategy on information, counselling, return and reintegration assistance based on the specific characteristics of certain target groups (based on nationality, administrative situation or other criteria).

The assistance that is developed can be hugely beneficial for the migrant if it can be employed to its full potential. Therefore, an accessible network of professional counsellors, equally spread out over the whole territory, should be guaranteed.

There is a consensus among return experts / return counsellors that adequate and up to date return related information on the countries of origin is an essential tool for pre-departure counselling. Easy access to this information supports the credibility of the AVR program and the counsellors that employs that program.

Possible projects in this area can be:

4. To develop the available assistance further to assure a substantial contribution to a sustainable return.

This translates into different key objectives:

- A needs-based approach (assistance based on the individual needs of a person, rather than on a limited and pre-defined budget).
- The development of methods and schemes to develop micro-business ideas into concrete business plans (including budgets).
- Organise and stimulate networking between EU MS, stimulating a common approach on reintegration assistance and developing and implementing best practices.

- Experimental development of other assistance packages next to the three existing ones (e.g. focussing on education and vocational training).
5. To develop and maintain adequate and up to date return related information (RRI) on the countries of origin.

This translates into different key objectives:

- The development of (a) format(s) of RRI that is based on the assistance packages that are provided in the reintegration program.
 - The development of concepts, together with other EU MS, on how to share the results of different RRI projects.
 - The training of return experts in how to use this information tools.
6. To allow the necessary investments being done to ensure an accessible and professional pre-departure counselling.

This translates into different key objectives:

- The definition of clear quality criteria for pre-departure counselling and the development of tools that assist counsellors to meet these criteria.
 - The empowerment of the network of return partners (so-called REAB-partners). This network of social services, municipalities, reception centres, ... is the 'entry gate' to the AVR-program. As the AVR option is integrated in the regular work of all this different agencies and organisation, they ensure a very accessible entry to AVR. Nevertheless, it is not always easy for them to keep track of the changing programs and projects and to learn to make good use of newly developed tools like RRI or reintegration assistance. Therefore, a empowerment program is necessary, possibly even a internal reorganisation of this network.
 - Develop innovative techniques of direct counselling (= counselling by getting a migrant directly or indirectly (via videoconferences or skype-sessions) in touch with a local reintegration expert).
7. To develop the concept of 'comprehensive, target group return based strategies'.

This translates into different key objectives:

- The development of methods (based on –among others- analysis of the available statistics) to identify target groups. For this purpose, a certain level of co-operation with the Immigration Office should be established (information sharing, common analysis, ...).
- The developing of a specific package of reintegration assistance, based upon the particular needs / characteristics / requirements of the defined target group(s).
- The development, in the country / countries of origin concerned, of operational partnerships with local institutions or associations.

Because of the obvious opportunity to realise economies of scale and to obtain a greater impact, operational co-operation with other EU MS in the organisation of such schemes will be actively encouraged and pursued.

Expected Results in area C: Return logistics and reintegration assistance

- Methods of needs assessment and impact analysis is available.
- An evaluation is done on one or more pilot schemes, testing the feasibility of complementary / additional strands of generic reintegration assistance.
- A clearly defined method that enables a systematic follow-up of the pre-departure counselling' quality level that is attained by different operational partners. The results of this follow-up will help to assess the impact of the different activities taken under this action.
- There are operational contacts with other EU MS through which ways are explored (and if possible implemented) to share the results of the different individual RRI-projects.
- The organisation of at least 6 direct counselling sessions (migrants + local reintegration focal points) and 6 indirect counselling sessions (migrants + local reintegration focal point via video conferences).
- 4 regional focal points for return counselling that ensure a second line assistance towards Local Reception Initiatives. This second line assistance consists of:
 - Regular (twice a year) information sessions.
 - Permanent availability to answer questions or specific queries
 - On the spot counselling on demand
 - Counselling from out 4 regional offices (Ghent, Leuven, Charleroi, Liège).
- At least 2 seminars, organised in co-operation with the local reintegration partners, to facilitate direct interaction between return experts and local reintegration focal points. These interactions can be direct or indirect (via video-conferences).
- At least 10 exchange programs of minimum 5 days each with other EU administrations to compare counselling practices. The lessons learned during these exchange programs are discussed and translated into best practices during an end-of-the year conference.
- The development of tailor made packages of reintegration support. These reintegration packages are integrated in a comprehensive strategy that co-ordinates activities on mapping, communication, pre-departure counselling, follow-up and evaluation.

Possible indicators in area C: Return logistics and reintegration assistance

- The number of operational contacts / common events between local reintegration partners and EU MS.
- specific second line support to return experts is available
- Number of direct/indirect counselling sessions, number of participants.
- Number of information sheets
- Number of training activities/seminars
- Number of individual queries

- Number of regional focal points
- Number of operational contacts and exchange programs with other EU MS.
- Number of target groups identified
- Number of final beneficiaries (= persons who return).

Compatibility with the national operational objectives and with community priorities

This action meets priority 1 of the European return fund and national objectives 1, 2, 4, 7 and 9. This action also meets specific priority 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 for projects meeting the requirements specified in the European strategic guidelines.

Expected grant recipients

To be determined after the open-call. The expected grant recipients are REAB-partner organisations that are actively and operationally involved in AVR, to be divided into NGO's, international organisations and public bodies. Other actors might be involved as grant recipient if their very specific competences can contribute.

Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

On every publication, notification, information activity or any other activity regarding this action, 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 'Progress by Return'.

See part 3.5 of this AP for more details about the general rules for visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

Financial information

Maximum budget for the proposed action: 1.341.804,67 EUR

Maximum EC subsidy :

- Max. 50% for projects meeting the European strategic priority 1
- Max. 75% for projects meeting the specific European strategic priorities 1.1, 1.2 or 1.3.

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The following actions will be implemented through the method of "RA acting as an executing body".

Action 2: Return of families

Purpose and scope of the action

Families who have received a legal decision to leave⁴ the country are given a certain period of legal stay during which they can leave by themselves or choose for regular voluntary return (REAB). If they don't leave the country during their legal stay and are intercepted, they will be legally detained and placed in new reception facilities which have been made available for families. There, they will be closely monitored and informed about voluntary return. The main purpose of the action is to hold families with children, who are particularly vulnerable in closed settings, in a humane and adapted way and to persuade these families to opt for voluntary return. Only the families in these new facilities fall under the scope of this action.

If however they escape from the above-mentioned facilities, and are intercepted, they will not be put in the same facilities but in a traditional closed facility. These traditional closed facilities have to be adapted to the special needs of families. This adaptation is also a part of this action. The current action does not encompass the forced return of these families held in the traditional closed facilities but it will probably be included in upcoming actions.

The new reception facilities are an alternative to a stay in traditional closed centres as the Belgian Immigration Office wishes to take care in the most humane possible circumstances of families who have to return to their country of origin, to accompany them and to reintegrate them in their country to make their return durable and to give them necessary protection. The new facilities are however legally considered as closed facilities.

The activities under AP 2011, compared to the ones under AP 2008, AP 2009 and AP 2010, comprise a further consolidation of the project containing 10 houses, 6 coaches and 2 supporting staff members. The new component started under AP 2010 (the adaptation of the closed centre to the needs of the families who escaped earlier from the reception facilities) will be further implemented.

The Belgian Immigration Office which holds a legal monopoly in this area, will adapt these new reception facilities to the special needs of families through among others adaptation of the infrastructure, the organisation of adequate coaching and counselling as well as intensive administrative follow up.

Compatibility with the national operational objectives and with community priorities

This action meets specific priority 1.2. of the European Return Fund's strategic guidelines in as much as it targets vulnerable returnees. It also meets national operational objective 2.

Expected grant recipient

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

Expected results under AP 2011

- More than 50 families returned through the described method
- Less resistance amongst the general public towards return of families
- Adaptation of the facilities

Indicators

⁴ As referred to in the MAP (1.1.2.2.e) there are several stages of return.

- Number of families returned through the described method
- Number of coaches active
- Status of adaptation of the facilities

Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

On every publication, notification, information activity or any other activity regarding this action, 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 'Progress by Return'.

See part 3.5 of this AP for more details about the general rules for visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

Financial information

Maximum budget for the proposed action: EUR 800.000 euro.

Maximum EC subsidy: 75 %

Action 3: Return of persons with special needs

Purpose and scope of the action

The project will target the following groups of people with special needs: people who suffer from a medical or physical condition; people with mental or psychological problems including those who show behavioural troubles; elderly people; as well as unaccompanied minors. The Belgian Immigration Office wishes to look after persons with special needs who have to return to their country of origin and provide them with the most humane circumstances possible, to accompany them and to reintegrate them in their country, to make their return sustainable and to give them necessary protection. This will be done by:

- Adapting the reception facilities so that people with special needs will be cared for separately from the other residents of the closed centres, and by organising intensive administrative follow-up.
- Preparing the return by searching adequate reception in the country of origin and by setting up of a reintegration path.
- Organising accompanied return, including for some cases a monitoring of the security situation.
- Setting up reintegration plans in the country of origin in order to make return sustainable.

As referred to in the MAP (1.1.2.2.e) there are several stages of forced return. Whenever possible, potential returnees are encouraged to agree to their return (and therefore benefit from a reintegration programme) rather than to oppose it (and therefore trigger a return process requiring a greater use of force). The scope of this action is to encourage a greater number of people with special needs to return on a cooperative and constructive basis, and to decrease the number of people with special needs that are returned with the use of force.

Although the scope of the action targets forced return, the Immigration Office believes that an indirect effect of the present project of forcibly returning people with special needs will be an increase in AVR of people with special needs in the general illegal population. The reason for this is that the latter are more eager to ask for voluntary return when they feel that forced return is a realistic prospect.

Under AP 2011 following activities will be implemented:

- A psychologist-coordinator will be engaged who will be tasked with the following activities: the coordination and follow up of the special needs habitants of the closed centres, the identification of their needs during return and stay in the country of origin, the coordination and support of the psychologist in other closed centres and the development of best practices in these matters.
- The activities concerning the psychological/psychiatric support within the closed centres and the use of extra interpreters to accompany these persons with special needs will be continued.
- The reintegration module started under AP 2008 will be continued. The return will be prepared by searching adequate reception in the country of origin and by setting up a reintegration path for the persons who return. In order to make return sustainable, reintegration in the country of origin will be set up. This last component will be subcontracted to IOM. This second component will be subcontracted to IOM for the following reasons: first, the Immigration Office doesn't want to undermine the credibility of voluntary return programs and reintegration programs after regular voluntary return by making publicity about reintegration programs after voluntary return from a closed reception facility. For that reason, the reintegration program will not be financed even partially by the existing regular scheme (REAB). Secondly, the Immigration Office and IOM have signed a protocol on the 04.05.2009. This protocol confirms that IOM is entitled to promote and organise voluntary return in and from closed facilities; IOM has access to the closed facilities, is bound to confidentiality of procedures and protection of individual data. Security reasons make that only one partner is allowed to promote and organise voluntary return in the closed facilities: access to the closed facilities is restricted, the migrant who wants to return voluntary is handed over to IOM in the transit zone of the airport and the transit in another airport should be monitored. The protocol between IOM and the Immigration Office only concerns the organisation of the offer of voluntary return in closed facilities. Thirdly, the Immigration Office already has contacted several NGO's (Red Cross, Caritas) to enquire if they are willing to collaborate within a program of reintegration after voluntary return from the closed facilities. There was no willingness from their side to collaborate under these conditions.

Compatibility with the national operational objectives and with community priorities

This action meets specific priority 1.2. of the European Return Fund's strategic guidelines in as much as it targets vulnerable returnees. It also meets national operational objective 2.

Expected grant recipient

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

Expected results under AP 2011

- More than 5 persons returned and received in the country of origin according to their needs
- More returns on a cooperative basis
- Less resistance towards return of persons with special needs
- Adaptation of the facilities
- A more coordinated approach towards the persons with special needs through hiring a psychologist-coordinator

Indicators

- Number of persons with special needs accompanied and returned
- psychologist-coordinator operational
- Number of reintegration paths and activities

Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

On every publication, notification, information activity or any other activity regarding this action, 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 'Progress by Return'.

See part 3.5 of this AP for more details about the general rules for visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

Financial information

Maximum budget for the proposed action: EUR 230.000

Maximum EC subsidy: 75 %

Action 4: Integrated return: support of authorities involved in the return operations

Purpose and scope of the action

The first aim of the project will be to enhance the capacity of the authorities involved in the return operations, and to make their activities more focused, more adapted towards the target groups (including a correct referral for vulnerable groups) and more balanced (including informing the migrants on their rights and promoting voluntary return). This will be done by liaison agents in the most important cities of Belgium. They will liaise between the Immigration Office and the communes and the local police services.

The policy towards the combat against illegal migration is fragmented: several institutions are involved (communes, police forces, public ministry, immigration office, ...). The implementing actors on the field are sometimes not aware of the recent return procedures. Training is not always the sufficient approach to this problem. The collaboration between the different

institutions should therefore more stimulated on the field. This can be done by liaison agents who:

- are charged with information exchange, sensibilisation of the involved institutions concerning procedures of identification, voluntary and forced return;
- orientate and support local control actions;
- act as representatives of the Immigration Office.

This action is complementary to the information campaign financed under AP 2010.

The results will be that more collaboration will grow between the police services, communal administrations and the Immigration Office on the reduction of illegal migration, that the return activities will be more focused and will lead more to correct referrals and voluntary return.

The second aim of the project is the promotion of voluntary return by adding leaflets to the decisions notified to the migrant to leave the Schengen zone. As the Immigration office holds the legal monopoly in issuing these decisions, the leaflets will be added by the IO.

The third aim is to offer basic post arrival assistance (reception during max. 5 days, medical screening and referral, family tracing and mediation) for forced returnees to countries where the basic infrastructure is lacking or where the humanitarian or security situation is such that a follow up and monitoring of forced returnees is needed. This will be done according the Law on Public Procurement and the conditions laid down in article 11 of the implementing rules and according the internal regulations of the Immigration Office on competencies for issuing a tender and signing of contracts.

Compatibility with the national operational objectives and with community priorities

The action meets general priority 1 of the European Return Fund's strategic guidelines because it fits within an integrated concept of return in which actions enhancing the capacity of authorities involved in the return operations are eligible. It also meets national operational objective 7

Expected grant recipients

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

Expected results under AP 2011

- More targeted and tailored interception actions (these interception actions are not part of this action)
- More vulnerable persons detected and receiving adequate reception
- More migrants informed on voluntary return
- More than 5 migrants received/monitored upon return

Indicators

- Number of forced and assisted voluntary returns
- Number of detected and referred vulnerable persons

- Number of liaison agents operational
- Number of leaflets translated and distributed
- Number of migrants received/monitored upon return

Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

On every publication, notification, information activity or any other activity regarding this action, 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 'Progress by Return'.

See part 3.5 of this AP for more details about the general rules for visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

Financial information

Maximum budget for the proposed action: EUR 220.000

Max. EC subsidy: 50%

Action 5: Improvement of identification-schemes for foreigners within the authorities of the Belgian Federal Government

Purpose and scope of the action

An interdisciplinary working-group between the Immigration Office, the National Civil Registry, the Federal Police, DG Consular Affairs and the FPS Justice (prisons) clearly pointed out that there exist a lot of vulnerabilities in the existing registration systems for identities of foreigners.

This has clear obstructive consequences in the field of identification for (forced) return schemes.

The information that is stored in the different registration systems is in many cases not compatible with each other, nor based on the same registration-criteria with regard to liability and security of the information.

In this regard, step by step action is needed to make maximal use of the existing registrations, and this at the different stakeholders involved.

This action aims at promoting and implementing activities that can be developed to improve the communications between the different registration systems, and improve the quality of the information within the systems, with a special focus on the use of biometrics.

This can be done by a general feasibility-study (financed by other means) on system-integration or direct implementation of well-defined infrastructure updates/extensions.

This project aims at the improvement of communication between different registration systems in order to speed up and render more reliable the identification of illegally residing foreigners in Belgium. The main activities under this AP will probably be the creation of a link between the Immigration Office and the FPS Foreign affairs as the latter holds a database of

all visa-applicants and this link allows the Immigration Office to check easily whether an intercepted illegal or an asylum seeker previously demanded a visa, leading to better identification and faster procedures (asylum, return decision, identification,...).

Other projects will only be allowed under this action in the case that they can prove to fall under the scope of the RF. For the moment there are no other specific actions envisaged under this action. In case other actions will be included under this action, the European Commission will be informed with a revised AP.

Only the parts of this project directly linked to return will be charged to the European Return Fund. Statistics will show the share linked to return.

Compatibility with the national operational objectives and with community priorities

The action meets general priority 1 of the European Return Fund's strategic guidelines. It also meets national operational objective 6.

Expected grant recipients

The Responsible Authority acts as grant recipient, but given its legal monopolies, FPS of the Interior, the FPS Foreign Affairs, the Belgian federal Police and the FPS Justice are the final beneficiaries. They will implement the action as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

Expected results

- Better and correct communication between the different stakeholders on illegally residing foreigners
- A more effective identification procedure compared to the situation in 2010
- More returns of illegally residing foreigners

Indicators

- Verification links realised between different stakeholders is operational
- Number of positive identifications
- Number of returns

Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

On every publication, notification, information activity or any other activity regarding this action, 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 'Progress by Return'.

See part 3.5 of this AP for more details about the general rules for visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

Financial information

- Maximum budget for the proposed action: EUR 200.000
- Maximum EC subsidy: 50 %

Action 6: observation and analysis of the target group for AVR

This action falls in the field of main area E, described in part 3.

One of the basic objectives of the RF, as can be seen in the actions that are developed in this AP, is to continue the development of the AVR-option. To assure a decent basis for this development, it is important to have a good understanding of the potential case load and on the needs and migration motives of the target group.

It is foreseen that this action will become a part of the recurrent activities of Fedasil after the end of this European Return Fund action.

Purpose and scope of this action

The general purpose of this action is to develop instruments, methods and practices to monitor and analyse the target group of migrants who (might) apply for AVR.

This translates into the following objectives:

- Optimize the methods that were developed and are used to map the profile of migrants applying for AVR. This method is based on an anonymous questionnaire. An implementation of the same practice for the forced return might be considered.
- Develop the methods and insights that are used to analyse this information by comparing the methods with practices in other EU MS and by looking for other, complementary sources of information.
- The results of this mapping and analysis should contribute to the quality of the policy preparation and development.
- Maintain and reinforce structural links of information exchange between different EU MS to make sure that the information that is collected on a national level can be analysed against the background of the situation elsewhere.
- Establish and maintain structural links between the different national administrations considered (in particular the Immigration Office) to make sure that all the available information is used to complement the analysis. The possibility to create a “national observatory for return” might be considered under this action.

Compatibility with the national operational objectives and with community priorities

This action meets general priority 1 of the European Return Fund's strategic. It also meets national operational objective 7.

Expected grant recipients

The Responsible Authority acts as grant recipient, but given that this action involves the process of policy development and preparation, as well as direct and structural co-operation between state agencies (which are both responsibilities of the government), Fedasil is the final beneficiary. Fedasil will implement the action as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

Expected results

- The target group of migrants eligible / applying for AVR is constantly monitored;
- The results of this monitoring process (= a regular report) generates input into the process of annual/periodical policy preparation (developed under action 9).
- There is a regular flow of key statistical information between (at least a certain number of) EU MS.
- The information that is available within different government agencies is integrated in the constant monitoring of needs and migration motives of the target group.
- The possibility to invest in a structural capacity on a national level to monitor return migration in the broad sense of the word (migration flows, migration motives, specific needs of migrants that want to return, ...) is assessed.
- Cooperation with other administrations in the field of return (e.g. the Immigration Office)

Indicators

- The number of types of statistical data that is regularly monitored.
- The rhythm of statistical updates.
- The number of conclusions / recommendations in the regular analysis reports.
- The number of statistics that are shared between EU MS.
- Number of cooperating administrations.

Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

On every publication, notification, information activity or any other activity regarding this action, 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 'Progress by Return'.

See part 3.5 of this AP for more details about the general rules for visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

Financial information

- Maximum budget for the proposed action: EUR 100.000
- Maximum EC subsidy: 50 %

3.2. Actions implementing priority 2: Support for the co-operation between Member States in return management

National objectives

Operational objective 5 : Supporting forced return programmes and strengthening their implementation (information, training, cooperation, execution and evaluation)

The following action will be implemented through the method of “responsible authority acting as an executing body”.

Action 7: Common flights

Purpose and scope of the action

The Belgian approach is to organise common flights only when it is not possible to remove returnees by regular flights, either because:

- no seats are available on regular flights;
- no airlines or no airline routes are available to the destination;
- and mostly when returnees’ personal behaviour (violent or disrupting behaviour) or condition (medical or physical condition) is incompatible with a removal by regular flight .

Common flights need to be organised to additional destinations given the increase of illegal migrants who are difficult to remove on regular flights via regular return operations. A dedicated team at the Immigration Office will detect new destinations and negotiate the feasibility of organizing a common flight. The flights will be organised by the Belgian Immigration Office and seats will be made available to interested member states through FRONTEX.

Violent or disturbing behaviour can cause removal operations on regular flights to be cancelled; this is not the case on common flights. It is generally observed that organising common flights decreases the incentive for returnees to show violent or difficult behaviour. For this reason, increasing the number of common flights is expected to cause a decrease in violent resistance to return.

Although the scope of the action focuses exclusively on forced return, the Immigration Office believes that an effect of forcibly returning people through common flights will increase the incentive for voluntary return in the general illegal population. The reason for this is that illegal people on the territory will be more eager to ask for voluntary return if they feel that forced return is a real impending risk.

Compatibility with the national operational objectives and with community priorities

This action meets specific priority 2.1. of the Return Fund’s strategic guidelines as it will cooperate with FRONTEX and national operational objective 5.

Expected grant recipients

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

Expected results

- At least 1 common flight
- more destinations where returnees can be returned to
- more collaboration with EU Members States
- less returnees showing violent behaviour

Indicators

- Number of successful negotiations
- Number of common flights
- Number of returnees
- Number of participating EU countries

Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

On every publication, notification, information activity or any other activity regarding this action, 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 'Progress by Return'.

See part 3.5 of this AP for more details about the general rules for visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

Financial information

Maximum budget for the proposed action: 80.000 EUR

Maximum EC subsidy : 75 %

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|---|
| 3.3. Priority 3: Support for specific innovative (inter)national tools for return management |
|---|

National objectives

Operational objective 1: Additional development of voluntary return programmes and reinforcement of their implementation (information, training, execution and follow-up)

Operational objective 2: Developing an integrated return management approach that is centred on target groups and adapts to the specific needs of each group

Operational objective 3: Creation of alternative and adapted structures of reception in which the persons can be guided towards return.

Operational objective 4: Improving reintegration programmes to a more needs-oriented approach, in the perspective of sustainable return

Operational objective 6: Accelerate the procedures of removal, including the identification by means of a strengthened cooperation with the country of origin.

Operational objective 7: Increasing the acceptance of return, including that of voluntary return -outside and within the reception network- through the design of a targeted and creative policy of communication, information and training

Operational objective 9: Creation of instruments of analysis and permanent evaluation that enable to form a clearer image of the population of illegal immigrants and to devise, elaborate and put in place ways of return that are fast, humane and respectful to the person's dignity.

§

The following actions will be implemented through the method "RA acting as an awarding body".

Action 8: Support for specific innovative tools for return management

Purpose and scope of the action

The purpose and scope of this action is basically the same as for action 1.

However, the distinction between action 1 (priority 1) and action 8 (priority 3) is made to allow a more precise and accurate ordering of the projects (that will be selected with an open call for proposals).

Whereas priority 1 seems most fit for projects contributing to the general strategic organisation of the return management, priority 3 fits projects implementing innovative ways to organise the return process. As it is unknown whether actions submitted for the open call will fit under priority 1 or 3, we choose to create an opening for both priorities. In case that the result of the open call is that there are no projects for priority 3, this will be modified with a revision of this AP.

Compatibility with the national operational objectives and with community priorities

This action meets priority 3 of the European return fund and national objectives 1, 2, 4, 7 and 9. This action also meets specific priority 3.1 insofar that projects falling under this action meet the requirements specified in the European strategic orientations.

Expected grant recipients

To be determined after the open-call. The expected grant recipients are REAB-partner organisations that are actively and operationally involved in AVR, to be divided into NGO's, international organisations and public bodies. Other actors might be involved as grant recipient if their very specific competences can contribute.

Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

On every publication, notification, information activity or any other activity regarding this action, 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 'Progress by Return'.

See part 3.5 of this AP for more details about the general rules for visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

Financial information

Maximum budget for the proposed action: 596.143,28 EUR

Maximum EC subsidy :

- Max. 50% for projects meeting the European strategic priority 3
- Max. 75% for projects meeting the specific European strategic priorities 3.1.

§

The following actions will be implemented through the method of "RA acting as an executing body".

Action 9: Support of the identification procedures

Purpose and scope of the action

Because of recurrent problems linked with identification of persons to be removed, the Immigration Office wants to improve the relations with their consular or local authorities by organising information activities, setting-up identification teams and the developing working methods.

The scope of the action is to improve relations with consular or local authorities in target countries. These countries will be chosen according to the specific needs or situations at the time of the implementation of this action. The information gathered under action 6 will also be used in deciding what the target countries for a certain year/period will be. As a consequence of this action, a greater number of returnees will be provided with identity documents and the number of people who are forcibly deported to the target countries will increase.

This will be done by the organisation of a consular event which supports the relations between the Immigration Office and the embassies and by setting up and supporting new procedures of identification. The consular events were also organised under previous AP's and were considered to be successful. Regarding the new procedures of identification a pilot project is being implemented under AP 2010, using native speakers to determine the origin of the person to be identified. If this project is evaluated positively, it will be continued under AP 2011.

Compatibility with the national operational objectives and with community priorities

This action meets specific priority 3.2 of the European Return Fund's strategic guidelines as it will test new working methods to speed up the process of documenting returnees in cooperation with the consular authorities and local services of third countries. It also meets specific priority 1.3 as it targets the return of third-country nationals or stateless persons not covered under Community readmission agreements or national bilateral readmission agreements. It also meets national operational objective 6.

Expected grant recipients

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

Expected results under AP 2011

- more irregular migrants returned to their country of origin compared to the situation in 2010

Indicators

- Number of positive identifications
- Number of forced and assisted returns

Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

On every publication, notification, information activity or any other activity regarding this action, 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 'Progress by Return'.

See part 3.5 of this AP for more details about the general rules for visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

Financial information

Maximum budget for the proposed action: EUR 150.000

Maximum EC subsidy: 75 %

Action 10: Speeding up return procedure through ICT support: TARAP (Immigration office)

Purpose and scope of the action

TARAP (“Transmission automatisée des rapports administratifs de la police”) is an ICT application whose purpose is to speed up communication between the Immigration Office and the Federal Police, in regards to administrative reports. The purpose of this action is to speed up pre-return procedures. The present action is implemented by the ICT Department of the FPS Home Affairs. The period between interception and the Immigration Office’s decision is limited by law: when documents are available the maximum period is 12 hours and 24 hours when no documents are available. During this interval, the Immigration Office must take one of the following decisions: detention, immediate expulsion, an order to leave the country, or release because of legal stay. Because of the short legal timeframe, speeding up the decision procedure and speeding up communication regarding the decision, is central to the good management of return. This improvement can be achieved with an electronic treatment of the interception reports sent by the police services to the Immigration Office and of the answer by the latter to the Police.

TARAP started under AP 2008 with planning and analysis. Basic infrastructure has been developed. Development, tests, implementation of the corrections and follow up happened under AP 2010. Under AP 2011 final corrections will be made, further adaptation to the needs of the users will be implemented.

Compatibility with the national operational objectives and with community priorities

This action meets general priority 3 of the European Return Fund’s strategic guidelines. It also meets national operational objective 6.

Expected grant recipients

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

Expected results under AP 2011

- Speedier decisions after interception compared to the situation in 2010
- Reliable statistical data
- Shorter detention periods for the residents in the closed centres compared to the situation in 2010
- More efficient interception actions

Indicators

- Duration of detention period
- Duration of decision procedure after interception (duration between interception and decision concerning return)
- Number of illegal’s intercepted who are released because the decision procedure exceeded the legal period

Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

On every publication, notification, information activity or any other activity regarding this action, 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 'Progress by Return'.

See part 3.5 of this AP for more details about the general rules for visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

Financial information

Maximum budget for the proposed action: EUR 50.000

Maximum EC subsidy: 50 %

Action 11: Analysis tool - Business Intelligence Application (BIA)

Purpose and scope of the action

The Immigration Office is competent for, and is involved in the decision process of all aliens' access, stay and establishment applications, as well as in the removal of illegal aliens. Hence, the Immigration Office possesses very precise information on individual aliens. This information is embedded in a work-flow database. Data has to be extracted from the work-flow and a tool for analysis needs to be developed before a general picture can be drawn on the basis of individual data.

The scope of this action is to centralise all the available information on entry, visa, removal orders (after visa overstay, police interception, or after a refusal to grant regularisation or asylum etc), analyse and interpret it in order to map the illegal population in real time. Of course, this map will only cover illegal people that have been in contact with the Immigration Office and will ignore those who have never been in contact with it. Nevertheless, the Immigration Office believes that the margin of error would be limited and in the absence of other tools, BIA would greatly improve knowledge of the population concerned with return and help shaping a more effective return strategy.

The resulting analysis drawn with BIA will be made available to the Immigration Office, the Federal Police, the National statistics institute, Fedasil, the Public Service for Social Integration and the General Commissioner's Office for Refugees and Stateless persons.

The analysis will reveal weak points in the procedures and will help the competent authorities to focus their actions to problem areas. This should lead to a better follow up of the migrants and an increase in actual returns (in the longer term). The target group are migrants who received the decision to leave the territory, so this action should lead to better follow up of this target group resulting in more returns (forced and voluntary).

The project will be developed over a 4 years period. It started under AP 2009 with planning and analysis. In 2008 basic infrastructure has been installed. Development, tests, implementation of the corrections and follow up will happen under AP 2010 (purchase extra storage, maintaining, installation and applicative support, programming within two parts of the BI tool). Under AP 2011 further modules will be developed with extra analysis capacities: interceptions, expulsions, identification.

Compatibility with the national operational objectives and with community priorities

This action meets general priority 3 of the European Return Fund's strategic guidelines. It also meets national operational objective 9.

Expected grant recipients

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

Expected results under AP 2011

- Reliable statistical data
- Better knowledge of the illegal migrant population in real time
- Objective basis for a more effective return strategy and targeted return initiatives (AVR and forced return)

Indicators

- Number of statistical analysis circulated to different administrations (Immigration Office, the Federal Police, the National statistics institute, Fedasil, the Public Service for Social Integration and the General Commissioner's Office for Refugees and Stateless persons)

Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

On every publication, notification, information activity or any other activity regarding this action, 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 'Progress by Return'.

See part 3.5 of this AP for more details about the general rules for visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

Financial information

Maximum budget for the proposed action: EUR 300.000

Maximum EC subsidy: 50 %

Action 12: Speeding up return procedure through ICT support: TARAP (Federal Police)

Purpose and scope of the action

TARAP (“Transmission automatisée des rapports administratifs de la police”) is an ICT application whose purpose is to speed up communication between the Immigration Office and the Federal Police, in regards to administrative reports. The purpose of this action is to speed up pre-return procedures by enabling faster and better removal decisions. This will lead to an increase in removal decisions and as a result of that in more returns. The present action is implemented by the Federal Police.

TARAP started under AP 2008 with planning and analysis. Development started under AP 2009 and will be extended under AP 2010 and 2011. Under AP 2011 the application will be integrated with some other applications to further increase the capacity to identify persons. One example is the application ‘Braingate’ that allows for falsified ID documents to be checked or consulted using the TARAP application.

Compatibility with the national operational objectives and with community priorities

This action meets general priority 3 of the Return Fund’s strategic guidelines. It also meets national operational objective 6.

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).

Expected results

- Integration of ISLP/FEEDIS (Application used by the local and federal police) leading to a decrease in double registrations.
- The exploitation of operational statistics
- Exchange protocol with the Immigration Office
- Integration of new initiatives to increase the fight against fraudulent documents

Indicators

- Number of registrations
- Number of double registrations
- Number of reports on the statistics
- The exchange protocol is ready
- Number of new initiatives integrated

Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

On every publication, notification, information activity or any other activity regarding this action, 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 ‘Progress by Return’.

See part 3.5 of this AP for more details about the general rules for visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

Financial information

Maximum budget for the proposed action: 189.020,00 EUR

Maximum EC subsidy : 50 %

Action 13: Implementation of a specific approach towards persons that are about to lose their right to remain on the territory.

This action falls in the field of main area B, described in part 3.

This is the first phase of a multi-annual action. In the first phase the methodology will be developed and the implementation will be started. According to the results and experiences the action will be continued in the same form (executing mode) or be made open in the awarding mode.

With support of the European Return Fund the AVR-programs are more and more developed into a viable alternative migration project. This is a very positive evolution, not only for the migrant, but also for the country of origin and for the host society (as there is a feasible and humane alternative to forced removal).

In order to maximise the result of these investments, the AVR-option should be brought under the attention of the target group in a pro-active way.

Purpose and scope of the actions

The general purpose of this action is to develop and implement a concept of 'coaching' that motivates a person whose leave to remain is about to expire to at least consider a return as an alternative migration project.

The envisaged target group are those who received a return decision and are according to the return directive (Art. 7.1) provided with an appropriate period for voluntary return. They are labelled: persons who are about to lose their right to stay in the territory as they received the decision to leave but they also are entitled to stay a certain period to prepare the return. During this appropriate period they will be coached to 'promote' the voluntary return option.

To achieve this general purpose, the principle of 'intensive, individual coaching' will be developed and implemented within the open reception network.

Within this action, a certain level of exchange and co-operation with the Immigration Office will be established. This is necessary to avoid that the practices that are developed within the open, closed and semi-closed reception infrastructures prove mutually incompatible or incoherent. Due to the need to cooperate closely with the Immigration Office (this action will use, among other things, the best practices learned in the 'return of families' project of the IO) and the fact that Fedasil has the legal mandate to manage the 'open' reception facilities, Fedasil is the best placed to set up this action. Once developed however, and when possible, other partners could be involved.

New reception facilities will not be created under this action, it is foreseen that several existing places will be made available for the envisaged target group. The main focus of this action is the development (and start of implementation) of the methodology for the staff in the reception centres that have to deal with the target group. The main cost of this action will thus be staff cost.

Compatibility with the national operational objectives and with community priorities

This action meets general priority 3.1 of the Return Fund's strategic guidelines as it aims at developing an innovative method of coaching for potential returnees. It also meets national operational objective 7.

Expected grant recipients

The Responsible Authority acts as grant recipient, but given its legal responsibility concerning the organisation of the reception network, the development of the assistance project and concepts that are implemented within this network, must therefore be considered as a legal monopoly of Fedasil. Fedasil is the final beneficiary and will implement the action as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

Expected results under AP 2011

- The concept of intensive, individual coaching is translated into written guidelines.
- A reception capacity that is specifically developed and dedicated to persons who lost or who are about to lose their right to stay on the territory. (this concerns not new capacity but the dedication of already existing capacity) The precise number of reception places will have to be decided, based on the situation on the ground at the moment of implementation. A total number of between 250 and 500 reception places is likely.
- A team of 'coaches' (developed within the existing social services or a newly developed social service).
- A specific training program for the persons that are accommodated in this specific reception capacity. The trainings that are developed focus on the reality in the countries of origin and on a return as a possible alternative migration strategy.

Indicators

- Guidelines are finished
- Number of reserved reception places.
- Total number of persons accommodated.
- Number of social workers that implement the 'coaching' concept.
- Number of trainings.
- Number of persons participating in the trainings.
- Number of persons that get a training-certificate.

On the mid-term, a method will be developed to measure the impact of this strategy on the return decision and on the sustainability of return.

Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

On every publication, notification, information activity or any other activity regarding this action, 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 'Progress by Return'.

See part 3.5 of this AP for more details about the general rules for visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

Financial information

Maximum budget for the proposed action: EUR 200.000

Maximum EC subsidy: 75%

3.4 Priority 4: Support for Community standards and best practices on return management

National objectives

Operational objective 8: Reinforcement of the cooperation and communication between the authorities on the national level in view of developing a more integrated return policy including the voluntary return, the forced return and the long term reintegration in line with the communal standards.

Operational objective 10: Additional investments in new and existing forum where Member States can exchange information, develop new practices and develop new operational cooperation models.

The following action will be implemented through the method of "RA acting as an executing body".

Action 14: Common programming and evaluation zone

Purpose and scope of the action

This is the second part of a multi-annual project, started under 2010 and is successful, continued under the forthcoming AP's.

Under AP2010 following actions have been implemented: the preparation (five countries are joining the project: BEL NLD FRA GER and SWE), a meeting on planning has been held and a meeting on evaluation; a project identification form has been developed and an evaluation method has been discussed, three missions have been organised to AVRR projects (Kosovo (GER Ura 2 project), Moldova (FRA OFII project) and Serbia (SWE Roma project)). In January 2011 a planning meeting will be organised comprising the comparative analysis of the three projects and the development of a common project. Further on the evaluation

method will be developed and finalised. The study on inflation effects will be finalised and a conference organised at the end of the year.

The main objective of the Decision 575/2007/EC is the promotion of integrated return management. Member states are also encouraged to strengthen the complementarity of forced and voluntary return. Finally, the strategic guidelines promote the cooperation between member states in managing returns and innovative national tools specifically designed for the management of returns.

Finding innovative projects covering integrated return and cooperative projects requires a more efficient system than the present one (network of permanent representations or informal multilateral networks).

The evaluation of projects in the field of return, especially if they are innovative, requires specific knowledge which may not necessarily be available in the private sector, or for which costs are too high.

It is feared that increased reintegration offers financed by the RF program may cause effects of inflation in the programs of voluntary return and reintegration.

It is necessary that countries seek tools to create economies of scale, e.g. reintegration programs or projects such as creating a database of medical information in countries of origin.

The project aims to remedy this situation by developing common evaluation criteria and by peer evaluation of projects and programs of a member state by another member state. The project also will measure the effects of the growing availability of reintegration and try to mitigate the negative effects, and will find methods to create economies of scale.

This is a pilot project which is part of a logical multiannual partnership with a growing number of MS. A handbook will be produced and distributed.

The main objective of this project is to develop a European platform to improve and harmonize the programming of integrated return projects by improving the quality and consistency of the RF programme, especially by:

- developing innovative and integrated projects in the field of voluntary return and forced return
- improving coherence at national and transnational levels between the various actions funded by the RF including enhancing opportunities for economies of scale and mitigate the negative effects of competition related to the rapid growth and substantial offer of reintegration
- improving the quality assessment of projects and programs through the development of evaluation criteria focused on innovative Integrated Return projects and peer review of other MS.

This will be done by following activities:

Preparation

1.1 contact with interested MS

1.2 comparison of annual plans, detection of innovative projects and/or projects of integrated return, development of standard procedures for the monitoring of projects, calendar for monitoring and evaluation visits, choice of participating experts; choice of themes of the conference, indicators to measure the impact of the growing offer of reintegration

Planning

2.1 visits of innovative/integrated return projects

2.2 meetings to find and create innovative and/or projects of integrated return and to create opportunities for scale effects

2.3 regular information exchange on innovative projects and projects of integrated return

Evaluation

3.1 meeting to develop an evaluation methodology

3.2 evaluation visits of innovative/integrated return projects

3.3 common evaluation meetings on national actions and on the implementation of the annual plans

3.4 regular information exchange on evaluation methods

Impact analysis

4.1 registration of indicators to measure the impact of the growing offer of reintegration in the participating Member States

4.2 review of the information and analysis of the impact on national and European level of the growing offer of reintegration in the participating Member States

Conference

5.1 conference on integrated return on national and European level, exchange of ideas on the effects (negative/positive) of the growing offer of reintegration support by the RF

Final Evaluation

6.1 common evaluation

Compatibility with the national operational objectives and with community priorities

This action meets specific priority 4.2 of the European Return Fund's strategic guidelines in as much as it seeks to ensure an effective implementation of best practices and common standards of return. It also meets national operational objective 10.

Expected grant recipients

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

The Immigration Office will manage the project together with Germany, Netherlands, Sweden and France. The action has started under AP 2010 (1.1, 1.2, 2.1 and 3.1) and will be continued under AP 2011.

Expected results under AP 2011

- Development of a methodology, a European network, common evaluation criteria, durable instruments to create lasting effects of scale and mitigate the negative effects of the growing availability of reintegration, this will be laid down in a handbook
- Harmonization of the annual programme of participating states
- Peer reviews of other MS of innovative projects and / or Integrated Return
- Promoting good innovative and/or integrated projects

Indicators

- Number of innovative projects assessed
- Manual written and distributed
- Study on the impact of effects of the growing availability of reintegration is finished
- Number of common innovative and integrated projects developed
- Number of current projects/activities of one MS made available to other MS

Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

On every publication, notification, information activity or any other activity regarding this action, 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 'Progress by Return'.

See part 3.5 of this AP for more details about the general rules for visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

Financial information

Maximum budget for the proposed action: EUR 100.000

Maximum EC subsidy: 75 %

Action 15: Increase of the capacity of controls on forced returns

Purpose and scope of the action

Belgium doesn't want to create a new body for the monitoring of forced return. The aim of this project is to increase the efficiency of the Inspection Services of the Belgian Police of controls on forced return. The General Inspection Services of the Federal Police, an independent body, will continue to carry out the existing monitoring activities. This projects aims at reinforcing the capacities of this body and to increase the monitoring activities by engaging and training two more agents. This will be done by the General Inspection Services of the Federal Police and not by the Immigration Office in order to guarantee their independency. This action is implemented in order to increase the capacity to monitor the forced return to comply with the Return Directive (Article 8(6)).

This project will be financed under AP 2011 and 2012.

Compatibility with the national operational objectives and with community priorities

This action meets specific priority 4.2 of the European Return Fund's strategic guidelines in as much as it seeks to ensure an effective implementation of the return directive. It also meets national operational objective 8.

Expected grant recipients

The Responsible Authority acts as grant recipient, but given its legal monopoly The General Inspection of the Police is the final beneficiary (They have been designated to act as controlling body of the forced return according to the Return Directive. In this respect and in order to guarantee its independence as controlling body, they hold a monopoly and they will be the only grant recipient). The General Inspection of the Police will implement the action as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

Expected results under AP 2011

- 2 More agents engaged
- More forced returns controlled compared to 2010
- More knowledge acquired

Indicators

- Number of extra personnel
- Number of controls realised
- Number of meetings with colleagues of other MS

Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

On every publication, notification, information activity or any other activity regarding this action, 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 'Progress by Return'.

See part 3.5 of this AP for more details about the general rules for visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

Financial information

- Maximum budget for the proposed action: EUR 345.000
- Maximum EC subsidy: 75 %

Action 16: Methodology development in the area of AVR and reintegration

This action falls in the field of main area D, described in part 3.

With the implementation of the national reintegration program (2006) and the European Return Fund (2009) the organisation of AVR became ever more complex. The program developed, the number of activities and partners increased, the funding sources diversified and the activities of other EU MS became more important for the own national context.

This context creates tremendous opportunities to increase the development rate of the national return policy. To be able to realise these opportunities to their full potential, it is necessary to assure a strong co-ordination of the different objectives and activities.

It is foreseen that this action will become a part of the recurrent activities of Fedasil after the end of this European Return Fund action.

Purpose and scope of the action

The general purpose of this action is to develop and maintain a method of co-ordination (planning – follow-up – evaluation / content – financial aspects), on a policy level as well as on an operational level, based on a long term strategy, of the voluntary return policy development and implementation.

This general objective can be translated to the following objectives:

- Development of a tool that allows the planning, follow-up and evaluation to be done based on the expected results, rather than on program vs. project management or national funding vs. RF-funding management.
- Development of a standard kit of indicators to monitor and evaluate the result and the impact of the different activities and to compare their impact with similar activities in other EU MS.
- Development and maintenance of an extensive statistical tool about all things related to voluntary return. Like for example: the effect or impact of certain actions in the voluntary return or on the returned persons, the trends in voluntary return,...
- A central co-ordination on mission to third countries. The objective is to increase the outcome of these missions by harmonising the reports and increasing their outreach and by including them in the process of quality control of the RRI and assessment of the impact of reintegration assistance.

Obtaining maximum compatibility between the national management and control systems and the systems of other EU MS. This should allow for a maximal consolidation between results in different EU MS.

The statistical tool in this action is aimed at the voluntary return, so there is no overlap with the statistical tool mentioned under action 11 as that is related to the forced return.

Compatibility with the national operational objectives and with community priorities

This action meets specific priority 4.1 of the European Return Fund's strategic guidelines in as much as it aims at evaluating the progress and implementation of the return programme. It also meets national operational objective 10.

Expected grant recipients

The Responsible Authority acts as grant recipient, but given its legal responsibility concerning the policy development and the central management of AVR, activities to support this responsibility will be assigned directly to Fedasil. Fedasil is the final beneficiary and will implement the action as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

Expected results under AP 2011

- A set of indicators used for planning (AP), follow-up and evaluation.
- An annual overview of objectives in 5 different fields (information, counselling, return and reintegration, management, study and analysis).
- A three monthly follow-up of the activities in the above mentioned 5 different fields.
- A three monthly interim report.
- A final report, comparing results with initial objectives.
- A set of tools to follow-up activities on a micro (individual files), meso (reintegration partners and local reintegration focal points) and macro (return policy) level.

- A method to verify, control and audit the content of different reports, including on-the-spot verifications.
- A co-ordinated planning of missions to third countries.
- Consolidated reports on the outcomes of these missions.
- A comprehensive and regularly updated statistical tool.
- A method to audit the expenses and control the activities of the local reintegration focal points.
- Operational contacts with other EU MS to develop and compare the respective national management systems.

Indicators

- Number of reports of the different control- and evaluation-missions.
- Number of reports on the different meetings that are held with the operational partners to follow-up the activities and the reporting.
- Number of operational contacts between EU MS.

Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

On every publication, notification, information activity or any other activity regarding this action, 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 'Progress by Return'.

See part 3.5 of this AP for more details about the general rules for visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

Financial information.

Maximum budget for the proposed action: EUR 200.000

Maximum EC subsidy: 75%

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

Beneficiaries are required to assure an adequate transparency of community financing. In respect of whatever notification and/or publication by the recipient concerning the action, as well as notifications and publications during conferences or seminars, they will have to mention the captions 'with the support of the European Commission' and 'Progress by Return'.

Guidelines concerning the visibility of funding for material purchased with European funds (such as stickers with a European flag to be put on equipment, or a information board

bearing a European flag logo) and additional publicity of European funding for activities are discussed with stakeholders for each project.

Special care is given to visibility of EU funding: an annex to the grant agreement with each final beneficiary indicated the rules they must comply with.

Proper publicity of European funding for these projects will also be implemented by the “EU Funds Unit” through its website (www.eu-fonds-dofi.be) . On its “projects” page, the website will specifically indicate that the above projects are supported by the European Commission. Paper correspondence originating from the “EU Funds Unit” to recipients will bear a European flag logo.

No other Community instrument will be drawn upon to finance actions included in the present AP. To exclude risks in that regard, project application forms requires potential beneficiaries to sign a declaration to that effect. Moreover, grant agreements preclude overlaps with other community instruments. Finally, special attention is given to circumscribe target groups to the group indicated in article 7 of the Basic Act.

In the area of voluntary return, complementarities with other financial instruments is assured by the involvement of FEDASIL in drawing up the AP. FEDASIL coordinates voluntary return activities in Belgium, co-finances activities in this area and is well informed of initiatives at national level. In the area of forced return, projects are selected in coordination with different departments at the Immigration Office, the Federal Police and the ICT department of FPS Home Affairs which are involved in the coordination of other European projects, so that complementarities can be drawn upon, while overlaps can be avoided.

4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Scope and objective of the actions

Technical assistance will serve for the working costs of the RA such as: yearly costs for an internet site domain name, personnel, monitoring missions, etc.

Staff at the RA will perform the following tasks: launch and conclude grant procedures, preparing invitations and contracts, supervision and evaluation of projects, 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.

Technical assistance can also be invested to train personnel recruited by the principal beneficiaries. These costs will be distributed between EBF and RF, which are both managed by the Immigration Office.

TA will cover also staff costs of the CA and AA.

An information activity is scheduled to present this AP 2011 to a wide range of organisations, institutions and potential beneficiaries. The focus will be on presenting the programme, the

European strategic objectives, the needs at Belgian level and the Open Call for proposal launched under AP 2011, as well as the rules to follow.

An additional 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. On the same day, the main partners will meet for a working session to comment on the results and achievements of the programme in 2009 and 2010. The idea of this working session is to tap on the experience of AP 2008, 2009 and 2010 and build it into the proposed Annual Programme for 2012.

Additionally, other information activities will be organised in the course of the year, at the request of partners and beneficiaries and preventively (before reports are due for example).

Expected results under AP 2011

- Further development of the RA's internal rules of procedure;
- Internet site up-dated with information on activities and useful tools for partners and beneficiaries
- On the spot checks of projects implemented under RF AP 2011 and monitoring reports on these projects;
- Information, advisory and steering group meetings with partners and project beneficiaries;
- 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, and audit report and audit summary;
- Meeting to evaluate the present annual programme;
- Evaluation meetings with other MS
- Meetings with main partners to prepare RF AP 2012; submission of AP RF 2012 to the European Commission
- Information activity 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
- Number of on the spot checks

Visibility of EU funding and complementarities with other financial instruments

The following publicity measures are planned/will be organised by the 'Unit European funds' using technical assistance: publication of an article in the Immigration Office's annual report, an annex to every grant agreement will indicate that the beneficiary's obligation towards transparency of EU subsidization, including information on the projects on the Immigration Office 'website and on the website of the Immigration Office's EU funds Unit.

To check compatibility and/or overlap with other EU instruments, the AP is circulated to the Belgian Representation of the EU, to the FPS Home Affairs International Unit (*Cellule Internationale*) and to FEDASIL which coordinates actions in the area of voluntary return at national level.

Annual Programme - Draft Financial Plan Table 1 - Overview table

Member State: BELGIUM Annual programme concerned: 2011 Fund: RF

| <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) |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Actions implementing priority 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Action 1: Support for the development of a strategic approach to return management | 75% | 1 | 1 | 1.006.353,50 | 335.451,17 | 0,00 | 1.341.804,67 | 75,00% | 25,41% |
| Action 2: Return of families | 75% | 1 | 2 | 600.000,00 | 200.000,00 | 0,00 | 800.000,00 | 75,00% | 15,15% |
| Action 3: Return of persons with special needs | 75% | 1 | 2 | 172.500,00 | 57.500,00 | 0,00 | 230.000,00 | 75,00% | 4,35% |
| Action 4: Integrated return: support of authorities involved in the return operations | 50% | 1 | | 110.000,00 | 110.000,00 | 0,00 | 220.000,00 | 50,00% | 4,17% |
| Action 5: improvement of identification schemes | 50% | 1 | | 100.000,00 | 100.000,00 | 0,00 | 200.000,00 | 50,00% | 3,79% |
| Action 6: Observation and analysis of the target group for AVR | 50% | 1 | | 50.000,00 | 50.000,00 | 0,00 | 100.000,00 | 50,00% | 1,89% |
| Sub-total: | | | | 2.038.853,50 | 852.951,17 | 0,00 | 2.891.804,67 | 70,50% | 54,75% |
| Actions implementing priority 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Action 7: Common flights | 75% | 2 | 1 | 60.000,00 | 20.000,00 | 0,00 | 80.000,00 | 75,00% | 1,51% |
| Sub-total: | | | | 60.000,00 | 20.000,00 | 0,00 | 80.000,00 | 75,00% | 1,51% |
| Actions implementing priority 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| Action 8: Support for specific innovative tools for return management | 75% | 3 | 1 | 447.107,46 | 149.035,82 | 0,00 | 596.143,28 | 75,00% | 11,29% |
| Action 9: Support of the identification procedures | 75% | 3 | 2 | 112.500,00 | 37.500,00 | 0,00 | 150.000,00 | 75,00% | 2,84% |
| Action 10: Speeding up return procedure through ICT support : TARAP (imm. Office) | 50% | 3 | | 25.000,00 | 25.000,00 | 0,00 | 50.000,00 | 50,00% | 0,95% |
| Action 11: Business Intelligence Application | 50% | 3 | | 150.000,00 | 150.000,00 | 0,00 | 300.000,00 | 50,00% | 5,68% |
| Action 12: Speeding up return procedure through ICT support : TARAP (Federal Police) | 50% | 3 | | 94.510,00 | 94.510,00 | 0,00 | 189.020,00 | 50,00% | 3,58% |
| Action 13: specific approach towards persons about to lose their right to remain on the territory | 75% | 3 | 1 | 150.000,00 | 50.000,00 | 0,00 | 200.000,00 | 75,00% | 3,79% |
| Sub-total | | | | 979.117,46 | 506.045,82 | 0,00 | 1.485.163,28 | 65,93% | 28,12% |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|---|---|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|---------------------|---------------|----------------|
| Actions implementing priority 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| Action 14: Common programming and evaluation zone | 75% | 4 | 2 | 75.000,00 | 25.000,00 | 0,00 | 100.000,00 | 75,00% | 1,89% |
| Action 15: Increase of the capacity of controls on forced return | 75% | 4 | 2 | 258.750,00 | 86.250,00 | 0,00 | 345.000,00 | 75,00% | 6,53% |
| Action 16: Methodology development in the area of AVRR | 75% | 4 | 1 | 150.000,00 | 50.000,00 | 0,00 | 200.000,00 | 75,00% | 3,79% |
| Sub-total | | | | 483.750,00 | 161.250,00 | 0,00 | 645.000,00 | 75,00% | 12,21% |
| Sub-total (All Priorities) | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | 3.561.720,96 | 1.540.246,99 | 0,00 | 5.101.967,95 | 69,81% | 96,60% |
| Technical Assistance (T.A.) | | | | 179.655,04 | 0 | 0 | 179.655,04 | 100,00% | 3,40% |
| TOTAL | | | | 3.741.376,00 | 1.540.246,99 | 0,00 | 5.281.622,99 | 70,84% | 100,00% |

Date 16/02/2011

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