

Annex III

Annual Programme 2010

Initial version ()

MEMBER STATE:	BELGIUM
FUND:	EXTERNAL BORDERS FUND
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY:	BELGIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICE
YEAR COVERED:	2010

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

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

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

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

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

An official invitation to all EBF partners to submit project proposals under AP 2010 was sent by mail on 11th of Augustus 2009. The RA asked the partners to send a project proposal including a detailed description and a detailed provisional budget for each project they planned to implement under AP 2010 in line with the MAP. Project proposals are discussed on an individual basis with each partner. The RA screens the projects proposals in accordance with the selection criteria defined by the basic Act (Decision 574/2007/EC of the European Parliament and the Council, Article 16/5) and assigns the selected projects directly to the beneficiaries based on the project proposal. The RA establishes a grant agreement for each project to which the project proposal is annexed.

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

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

The last steering group meeting attended by all partners and by the three management and control authorities (RA, CA and AA), took place on 8th October 2009. Its agenda included the preparation of AP 2010. After that, several meetings were held with the different partners, to finalize the annual programme.

The need to concentrate more resources into the rapid development of biometric passports control and the implementation of the “live scan” project under AP 2010 instead of AP 2009 resulted in a supplementary investment of ~EUR 120.000 in priority 4.

The need to modify the annual programme to the actual allocations, which were ~EUR 120.000 lower than the MAP estimate and the priority given to the biometric passports control, resulted in postponing less urgent priority 3 project ‘Consular collaboration’, which entailed in a reduce of ~ EUR 370.000. The intention is to postpone this multiannual action to a subsequent AP, not to cancel the action as a whole.

Certain projects implemented under AP 2010 are a continuation of projects started under the AP’s 2007, 2008 and 2009. When this is the case, the project proposal below indicates precisely what part of the action will be achieved under AP 2010. The important delay in starting AP 2007 and AP 2008, is expected to influence the actions started under the previous AP’s that are to be continued under AP 2010.

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

The general rules for the selection of projects financed under the 2010 programme are in conformity with the rules set out in the multi-annual programme (MAP) and in the description of the management and control system.

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

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

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

As mentioned in the MAP, all partners were closely involved in the elaboration of the MAP and AP 2010.

The actions and objectives for 2010 are a reflection of the needs and priorities of the three stakeholders: Federal Police, FPS Foreign Affairs and ICT Department of FPS Home Affairs. AP 2010 was validated by the three partners.

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

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

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

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

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

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

² <http://www.eu-fonds-dofi.be/>

2. CHANGES IN THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEMS

Not applicable.

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

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

In the 2010 programme it is also clear that priority 4 -support in the setting up of IT systems which are required for the enforcement of community legal instruments within the area of external borders and visas- is currently one of the higher priorities.

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

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

Actions under this priority benefit the following national objectives:

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

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

Action 1: Better observation at the maritime borders

Purpose and scope of the action

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

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

Expected grant recipient

The Federal Police will be the beneficiary of the action since it has the legal monopoly on the protection of borders and it started this project under the previous AP's. It will implement it as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

Expected results

- Purchase of a gyro stabilised multifunctional camera system on public tender
- Increase of air control
- Increase of the interception of transports by small vessels between the mainland and the UK

Indicators

- Successful installation of a camera system
- Number of air controlling activities
- Number of extra hours of air observation
- Number of detected suspect vessels

Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

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

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

Financial information

- For action 1: better observation at the maritime borders, a total budget of EUR 695.415,35 is foreseen. The share of Community contribution will be 75% for this action, as it falls within the specific priorities 1.3 of the Fund's Strategic Guidelines
- The recipient states in the grant agreement that no other Community funding will be used.

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

Actions under this priority serve the following national objectives:

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

- Establishment of economies of scale in the processing and issuing of visas (consular cooperation)

These objectives are to be achieved through the following actions:

Action 2: Border Guard Assistance

This project was previously known as “document advisor”. Because of the misunderstanding this term led to, the project manager decided to change the name to “Border Guard Assistance” which reflects the action’s scope better.

Purpose and scope of the action

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

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

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

Expected grant recipient

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

- Risk analysis reports and at least six missions each year
- Border Guards Assistance will lead to a decrease in the number of persons refused (INAD) because they lack valid travel documents, not only at the Brussels airport but also at airports in the entire Schengen territory
- Permanent decrease of passengers coming from the selected airports carrying fraudulent travel documents

Indicators

- Number of training of consular services/officers, airline company staff and local immigration services
- Number of pre-boarding controls in the selected airports
- Number of missions to selected airports
- Number of passengers arriving in the Schengen territory with fraudulent travel documents

Visibility of EU funding and complementary with other financial instruments

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

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

Financial information

- For action 2: border guard assistance, a total budget of EUR 58.567,78 is foreseen
The share of Community contribution will be 50% for this action
- The recipient declares in the grant agreement that no other Community funding will be used

Action 3: Field Worker

Purpose and scope of the action

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

Deployment of specialised immigration officials called 'field workers', in support of consular office(s) in third countries. Their activity will be specifically focussed on sensitive or unclear/incomplete files (in order to obtain more information in respect of a specific visa file). These "field workers" can more effectively check whether documents filed for a visa are authentic and correct. For example: bank statements, marriage certificates, birth certificates, school records,....

In the past, immigration officers on visits to third countries regularly committed part of their time collecting specific information on individual files: collecting field information has proved to be a very efficient means to unblock problematic files. At the moment, consular staff are in charge of this. It would be more efficient to deploy specialised field workers for these enquiries.

To perform their tasks successfully, field workers in the consular posts will be trained by immigration, experienced in controlling visa related matters.

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

The choice of location is decided in collaboration with Member States who participate in the project, on the basis of shared priorities with respect to fighting visa fraud. The purpose is to improve Member States co-operation in specific visa files and involves the sharing of tasks and responsibilities for the benefit of Belgium, France and Luxembourg. France and Luxembourg have signed a co-operation agreement with Belgium to participate in the project, hence the immigration officials' salaries are eligible for funding by the project.

Under AP 2007, 2008 and 2009, Fieldworkers were recruited in Yaoundé, Abidjan and Quito. Under AP 2010 these three will continue their work in the same locations and two additional field workers will be hired. Except for precise actions that are clearly identified in the AP 2010 project proposal and provisional budget, activities scheduled under AP 2007, 2008 and 2009 will need to be finished before activities scheduled under AP 2010 can start. The location where the extra two field workers will be hired is still to be determined in collaboration with Member States who participate in the project.

Expected grant recipient

Given its legal monopoly, FPS Foreign Affairs is the final beneficiary. FPS Foreign Affairs will implement the action as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

Expected results

- Training of 2 field workers
- Activities of field workers in 5 posts where the fight against pseudo-legal and illegal migration needs to be improved
- The work of field workers in non-EU countries is expected to lead to an increase in the number of detected fraudulent documents and an increase in the number of detected fraudulent applications

Indicators

- A decrease in visa-shopping
- Quicker decision in the visa files as a result of strengthened local investigation and consular collaboration
- Number of detected fraudulent documents,
- Number of detected fraudulent visa applications
- Number of controlled documents

Visibility of EU funding and complementary with other financial instruments

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

A conference will be held to publicize the results of this project (together with the other projects implemented by the FPS Foreign Affairs) where the support by the European Commission will be clearly visible.

Financial information

- For action 3: Field worker, a total budget of EUR 150.000,00 is foreseen. The share of Community contribution will be 75% for this action, as it falls within the specific priorities 3.1 of the Fund's Strategic Guidelines
- The recipient states in the grant agreement that no other Community funding will be used

Action 4: Guarantor database

Purpose and scope of the action

This is the first phase of a multi-annual project starting under AP 2010 and to be continued in the forthcoming AP's

When applying for short time visa, a guarantor is required. The Immigration Services observes regularly abuse of this system. At present the information about the guarantors is introduced in an application of the FPS Foreign Affairs system known as VISANET. These data are transmitted to the EVIBEL data application on immigrants of the Immigration Service. The link between the guarantor and the immigrant however is unclear and difficult to ascertain. This creates possibilities for abuse as one individual can be guarantor for a number of applicants and can thus enable a form of organised visa abuse. This project will link immediately the applicants to the guarantor. This will enable the officials treating visa applications to detect whether there is a high risk of visa abuse or not.

The purpose of the project is the creation of a simple and unified system that includes both guarantor and guarantee so that it becomes easy for the Immigration Service to link both. The guarantor database as it is planned will only hold data concerning short term visa.

Under AP 2010 an analysis of the existing tools will take place and standards for the new system will be determined. During the following AP's the development and implementation will take place.

Expected grant recipient

Because ICT Department of FPS Home Affairs is responsible for the detailing of the national window of the VIS for Belgium, this component will be directly assigned to ICT Department of FPS Home Affairs.

ICT Department of FPS Home Affairs will implement this action as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

Expected results

- Analysis of the existing system in order to develop a guarantor databank with the data on the guarantor as well as the data of individual(s) who applied for short time visa(s) through the guarantor.

Indicators

- Analysis finished

Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

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

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

Financial information

- For action 4: guarantor database, a total budget of EUR 100.000 is foreseen. The share of Community contribution will be 50% for this action.
- The recipient states in the grant agreement that no other Community funding will be used.

3.3 Priority 4: Support for the establishment of IT systems required for implementation of the Community legal instruments in the field of external borders and visas

Actions under this priority serve the following national objectives:

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

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

Action 5: VIS (Federal Police)

Purpose and scope of the action

This IT action (from the Federal Police) is completely orientated at integrating the national applications in the VIS system.

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

- Integrating the alphanumeric data and the digital photo
- Introducing biometrical identification elements
- Scanning and processing of evidence material

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

The Federal Police is responsible for the border control which includes (in Belgium) the issuance of visa in Schengen transit posts. The Federal Police will thus consult the VIS in the capacity of visa issuing authority. For illustration: in 2008 more than 9000 visa were issued in Antwerp and more than 8000 at the national airport.

This is the second part of the project started under AP 2009 and will be continued under AP 2011.

Expected grant recipient

The Federal Police is the final beneficiary of this action. This partner will implement actions as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

Expected results

- Perfect interaction between the national database (ANG) and the CVIS through the present Federal Police applications
- Immediate access to the VIS database

Indicators

- Number of checked persons at the border posts
- Number of transactions between the ANG and CVIS

Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

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

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

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

Financial information

- For action 5: VIS (Fed Pol), a total budget of EUR 239.270,99 is foreseen. The share of Community contribution will be 75%, as the action falls within the specific priority 4.2 as identified by the Fund's Strategic Guidelines.
- The recipient states in the grant agreement that no other Community funding will be used.

Action 6: Extending of the central system - BELVIS

Purpose and scope of the action

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

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

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

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

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

Under AP 2010 the Message Broker will be adapted to new technical specifications. Other actions scheduled under the AP 2010 include:

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

Expected grant recipient

Because ICT Department of FPS Home Affairs is responsible for the detailing of the national window of the VIS for Belgium this component will be directly assigned to ICT Department of FPS Home Affairs.

ICT Department of FPS Home Affairs will implement this action as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

Expected results

- Implementation of the link between BELVIS and the internal operational network of the Federal Police
- Phase 1 of the subproject VISMAIL, connecting Belgium with other Member States through the VIS-mail infrastructure.

Indicators

- Tests of the message broker
- Tests whether messages can be sent with VISMAIL to and from other Member States

Visibility of EU funding and complementarities with other financial instruments

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

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

A VIS experts working group with representatives from the above-mentioned public bodies, meets on a regular basis to discuss their activities. This working group includes experts who

participate on the abovementioned projects, and who are well aware of the obligations in terms of avoiding overlapping financing.

Financial information

- For action 6: Belvis, a total budget of EUR 313.828,29 is foreseen. The share of Community contribution will be 75%, as the action falls within the specific priority 4.2 as identified by the Fund's Strategic Guidelines
- The recipient declares in the grant agreement that no other Community funding will be used

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

Purpose and scope of the action

The network of Belgian posts where the collection of biometric data from visa applicants can take place has to be extended to all visa issuing consular posts (~100).

This action comprises the further financing of the project started under Annual Programme 2007 and which will last till 2013. The important delay in launching AP 2007 and AP 2008, has delayed the start of the project. A first public tender to purchase biometric data equipment and install it in consular posts has been launched under AP 2007 and 2008. This procedure has to follow the applicable rules and timeframes. The tendering procedure for the purchase and installation of biometric data equipment has been finalized in 2009.

The contract has been attributed to the winning company on September 18th 2009.

The tender concerns a multiannual tender: equipment will be purchased and sent to consular posts over a period of several years.

The equipment for the consular posts in Northern Africa has partially been purchased and sent to the posts. The equipment to capture 'live' photographs will have to be sent on a later stage.

Under AP 2009 the FPS Foreign Affairs planned to equip 25 extra posts in Africa and the Middle East with specialized equipment to collect biometric data, scanners for capturing digital fingerprints and photo booths to capture digital photos, and to renew the software licenses for the collection of biometric data in the existing posts.

Under AP 2010 the FPS Foreign Affairs wishes to equip 25 extra embassies in the regions labelled as priority regions by Europe (for the moment: Northern Africa, Middle-East and the Gulf region)

Expected grant recipient

FPS Foreign Affairs is the final beneficiary of this action. This partner will implement actions as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

Expected results

- Analysis and preparatory activities for equipping 25 extra consular posts with biometric devices, public tender thereto
- Start of operation in these posts
- Training of staff; better identification and verification of visa applicants;
- Detection of identity fraud
- Detection of fraudulent asylum applications through which a larger number of asylum applications can be processed more quickly

Indicators

- Number of Belgian posts where the collection of biometric data from visa applicants can take place
- Number of staff trained
- Number of visa applications processed through the system

Visibility of EU funding and complementarities with other financial instruments (for all actions under priority 4)

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

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

A conference will be held to publicize the results of this project (together with the other projects implemented by the FPS Foreign Affairs) where the support by the European Commission will be clearly visible.

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

Financial information

- For action 7: Biometric data, a total budget of EUR 750.000,00 is foreseen. The share of Community contribution will be 75%, as the action falls within the specific priority 4.2 as identified by the Fund's Strategic Guidelines
- The recipient declares in the grant agreement that no other Community funding will be used

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

Actions under this priority serve the following national objectives:

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

Action 8: Creation of an image of cross-border air traffic by the General Aviation

Purpose and scope of the action

The purpose of the project is to decrease and manage the border crossings through non-recognised border posts at the smaller airports and heliports (i.e. traffic from "General Aviation"). The aim is to create a clear image of the air-traffic between the Schengen territory

and the UK. The created image will make it easier to refine the 'Air Border Surveillance'. It will also make the surveillance activities more efficient and targeted.

Expected grant recipient

The Federal Police will be the beneficiary of the action since it has a legal monopoly on the protection of borders. It will implement it as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

Expected results

- Tracing of illegal border crossings
- Mapping of the risk areas
- Development of a permanent national aviation information network (LIK)
- Exchange of Best practices between Belgium, France and The Netherlands
- Follow-up through the database of Belgocontrol

Indicators

- Number of coordination meetings with the partners involved
- Number of detected breaches

Visibility of EC funding and complementarity with other financial instruments

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

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

Financial information

- For action 8: creation of an image of cross-border air traffic by the General Aviation, a total budget of EUR 87.511,93 is foreseen. The share of Community contribution will be 75% for this action, as it falls within the specific priorities 5.2 of the Fund's Strategic Guidelines as it will enhance the quality of the national input into the common integrated risk analysis model.
- The recipient declares in the grant agreement that no other Community funding will be used.

Action 9: Second line control

Purpose and scope of the action

This action started under AP 2009 and aims at improving the exchange of information between the different second line control posts of the different Schengen Partners. Until now the second line control posts of every country works separately and has for that reason a rather flat learning curve. An exchange of information between the different second line control posts will boost the level of knowledge of all the different second line posts. This exchange will be made through training sessions and exchange of experts between the different posts.

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

Under AP 2009 1 mission has taken place and two more will take place. These missions are done in cooperation with neighbouring countries like Germany and France. Under AP 2010 four separate missions are foreseen. Currently the Federal Police is negotiating with several Member States about where the new missions will take place (possibly France, the Netherlands, Germany,...).

Expected grant recipients

The Federal Police is the final beneficiary of this action; they will implement the action as executing body in association with the RA (Article 8/3 of the Implementing Rules).

Expected results

- A more efficient and uniform second line control at the airports. This will lead to better decisions and minimized shifting of the illegal migration flow from 'harder' airports to 'softer' ones

Indicators

- Decrease in wrong final decisions concerning the acceptance of the travel motive of passengers wanting to enter the Schengen territory
- Number of missions (exchanges)

Visibility of EU funding and complementarities with other financial instruments

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

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

Financial information

- For action 9: second line control, a total budget of EUR 28.613,27 is foreseen. The share of Community contribution will be 75%, as this action falls within the specific priorities 5.2 as identified by the Fund's Strategic Guidelines as it will enhance the quality of the national input into the common integrated risk analysis model.
- The recipient declares in the grant agreement that no other Community funding will be used.

4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Scope and objective

Technical assistance will aim to purchase the necessary computer equipment and related materials for the RA such as: yearly costs for an internet site domain name and IT-equipment. The TA will also cover the staff costs for the personnel working for the RA. The hiring of an extra staff member is also scheduled to take place in 2010.

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

TA will cover staff costs at the CA and AA, and will serve to purchase the necessary equipment for additional staff recruited by the CA and AA in 2010 (e.g. PC, telephone and printer). These costs will be distributed between EBF and RF, which share the same CA and AA.

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

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

Expected results under AP 2010

- Hiring of 1 extra staff for the RA
- 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
- Spot checks on projects implemented under EBF AP 2010 and monitoring reports on these projects
- Information, advisory and steering 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, report and summary

- Meeting(s) to evaluate the present annual programme
- Meetings with main partners to prepare EBF AP 2011
- Submission of AP EBF 2011 to the European Commission
- Information activity December 2010
- Stationary, stickers, flyers, folders with the European flag for publicity

Indicators

- Number of staff hired for the RA
- Number of allocated projects
- Number of signed grant agreements with partners

Visibility of EU funding and complementarities with other financial instruments

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

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

- publication of an article in the Immigration Service's annual report
- an annex to every grant agreement stating the beneficiary's obligations towards transparency of EU subsidization
- information on the projects on the website of the Immigration service's EU funds Unit and link to this information on the Immigration Service's website
- an information activity is foreseen in 2010 to present the activities implemented during the year to a wide audience including representatives from other Member States

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

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

Annual Programme - Draft Financial Plan Table 1 - Overview table									
Member State: BELGIUM Annual programme concerned: 2010 Fund: EBF									
<i>(all figures in EUR)</i>	Co-Financing %	Ref. priority	Ref. specific priority (a)	Community Contribution (1)	Public Allocation (2)	Private Allocation (3)	TOTAL (4) =(1+2+3)	%EC (5) =(1)/(4)	Share of total (4)/ Total(4)
Priority 1: Integration international systems in national systems with intention toward a joint integrated border management system									
Action 1: Better observations at maritime borders (video platform)	75%	1	3	521.561,51	173.853,84	0,00	695.415,35	75,00%	28,70%
Sub-total:				521.561,51	173.853,84	0,00	695.415,35	75,00%	28,70%
Priority 3: 3.1. Fight against misuse of visa									
Action 2: Border Guard Assistance	50%	3		29.283,89	29.283,89	0,00	58.567,78	50,00%	2,42%
Action 3: Field Worker	75%	3	1	112.500,00	37.500,00	0,00	150.000,00	75,00%	6,19%
Action 4: Guarantor database	50%	3		50.000,00	50.000,00	0,00	100.000,00	50,00%	4,13%
Sub-total:				191.783,89	66.783,89	0,00	308.567,78	62,15%	12,73%
Priority 4: ICT – VIS									
Action 5: VIS (Federal Police)	75%	4	2	179.453,24	59.817,75	0,00	239.270,99	75,00%	9,87%
Action 6: Extending of the central system -BELVIS	75%	4	2	235.371,22	78.457,07	0,00	313.828,29	75,00%	12,95%
Action 7: Visabio@bel	75%	4	2	562.500,00	187.500,00	0,00	750.000,00	75,00%	30,95%
Sub-total				977.324,46	442.558,71	0,00	1.303.099,28	75,00%	53,78%
Priority 5: application of relevant Community legal instruments									
Action 8: Creation of an image of cross-border air traffic by the General Aviation	75%	5	2	65.633,95	21.877,98	0,00	87.511,93	75,00%	3,61%
Action 9: second line control	75%	5	2	21.459,95	7.153,32	0,00	28.613,27	75,00%	1,18%
Sub-total				87.093,90	29.031,30	0,00	116.125,20	75,00%	4,79%
Sub-total (All Priorities)				1.777.763,76	712.227,74	0,00	2.423.207,61	73,36%	100,00%
Technical Assistance (T.A.)				166.068,24			166.068,24		9%
TOTAL				1.943.832,00			2.589.275,85		100%

Date .../.../2010

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