

Annex 1

ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2009

MEMBER STATE: REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
FUND: EUROPEAN RETURN FUND
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY: INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS DIRECTORATE-MoI
YEAR COVERED: 2009

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

The projects must meet the following criteria:

- comply with minimum criteria, set in Article 15 of the basic act;
- operate within the given priority target areas envisaged in the MAP and in this AP;
- be aimed at the right target groups defined in Art. 7 of the basic act;
- comply with all RA's formal requirements, such as timely submission, signature by a competent signatory, use of the requisite templates;
- take gender, cooperation, democracy, non-discrimination and children's issues into consideration.

The projects may complement, but not replace, the work and efforts of the government within the areas of action.

When applying the **executing body method**, the procedures that would be used shall be implemented under the national legislation.

Contracts for supply/ services/ works shall be signed after a procurement procedure carried out in accordance with the Public Procurement Act or the Assignment of Small Public Procurement Ordinance.

<http://pravo0.ciela.net/act.aspx?id=0&idna=7F48E8B9&idstr=0&iditem=0&find>
<http://pravo0.ciela.net/act.aspx?id=0&idna=7F4916EA&idstr=0&iditem=0&find>

The Act and the Ordinance are fully harmonized with Directive 2004/18/EC.

When applying the **awarding body method**, the procedures that would be used shall be implemented in accordance with the Manual of Procedures for the Return Fund approved by the Minister of Interior. Chapter IV of the Manual deals with the procedures of project selection, awarding of funds under the Return Fund, monitoring and financial management of projects.

The description of the awarding procedures is as follows:

Organisation of Call for proposals:

RA/MoI International Projects Directorate publishes the calls for proposals on the MoI website and in at least one national newspaper. Application forms and applicants' guidelines are also published on the website. After the announcement of the procedure RA could organize an Information campaign for potential beneficiaries.

The applicants submit proposals, developed in accordance with the requirements as set out in the guidelines, along with relevant annexes to the proposal – all documents required by the applicants' guidelines.

Before submission of project proposals, applicants could ask the RA for procedural clarifications.

All proposals received are registered at the RA office and only the proposals meeting the formal requirements are assessed.

Selection criteria: RA develops selection criteria which are specific for each procedure along with relative weight of every criterion if applicable.

Selection procedure:

The project selection procedures shall be:

- open procedure; and
- pre-selection procedure.

When applying the open procedure every applicant submits project proposal in accordance with the applicants' guidelines. The submitted project proposals are assessed by selection committee. The committee approves proposals which will receive grant. The head of the RA/IPD issues a decision for grant awarding. A grant contract is concluded with the selected applicant/beneficiary.

In pre-selection procedure every applicant submits pre-selection form. The received forms are assessed. Invitations for submission of project proposals are sent only to applicants whose project idea is approved. Committee assesses project proposals. A grant contract is concluded with the selected applicant/beneficiary.

Regarding the project selection manner the open procedure and the procedure with pre-selection may be a competitive selection procedure and a procedure for selection of projects covering certain requirements.

The open procedure and the procedure with pre-selection may also be procedures with a specified application deadline and procedures without a specified application deadline.

Organisation of grants awarding:

When conducting project selection procedure the head of RA/IPD by issuing an order appoints members of the selection committee, which examines the project proposals and assesses them. The committee prepares report on the assessment activities and results and submits a list of projects for funding to the RA head.

Within 30 days after receiving the selection report, the RA head takes a motivated decision. Within 30 days after entering into force of the decision RA draws up and offers to the beneficiaries of projects approved for financing to sign the contracts for award of grant.

After signing of each grant contract RA/IPD publish on the MoI website information including data on:

- beneficiaries;
- location of projects implementation;
- names of projects;
- the total budget and amount of the grant award for each project;
- duration of projects implementation;

After signing grant agreement, grant recipients shall procure supply/services/works as a result of a public procurement according to the Public Procurement Act or the Assignment of Small Public Procurement Ordinance.

2. CHANGES IN THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEMS

N/A

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

The actions set in this annual programme will further develop the measures taken in the field of return. The AP 2009 is directed towards the objectives set in MAP Priority 1 to Priority 4.

3.1. Actions implementing priority 1 “Support for the development of a strategic approach to return management by the Member States”

Within the framework of Annual Programme 2009 some priority actions are envisaged. These actions are part of the following operational objectives set in the Multiannual Programme 2008-2013:

Objective 1: Support for the voluntary return of persons who do not or no longer fulfil the conditions for stay in the Republic of Bulgaria by providing assistance and conditions for the third-country nationals that voluntarily returned to their country of origin

Objective 2: Measures regarding the specific situation of vulnerable persons subject to return (minors, disabled persons, pregnant women, persons with mental disorder, persons who have been subjected to serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual harassment);

Objective 3: Implementing procedures for forcible return of illegally staying nationals of third countries with which the cooperation in the field of return is extremely difficult, in compliance with the national and international legislation.

The operational objectives will be achieved by the following actions:

3.1.1. Action 1 – Specialised (target oriented) programmes of Migration Directorate, non-governmental and/or international organisations experienced in voluntary return

A. Purpose and scope of the Action

These are programme(s) for cooperation, interaction and division of responsibilities between the Migration Directorate and the organisations as regards voluntary return of third-country nationals.

The elaboration of the programmes will be preceded by working meetings attended by officials of the Migration Directorate and representatives of non-governmental and/or international organisations. This will give the opportunity for a joint discussion and identification of the main problems and target groups of the return procedures. As a result of these meetings, the frameworks of the specialised (target oriented) programmes for cooperation and the criteria they have to meet will be defined. The programme(s) for voluntary return will also include consequent reintegration measures.

The programme(s) will aim at supporting third-country nationals who are without or had lost their legal reasons for stay in Republic of Bulgaria and wish to return voluntarily to the country of origin as an alternative to the compulsory return. The measures envisaged in the programme(s) will give an opportunity for effective and prompt determination of complicated situations.

A monitoring will be performed after the return within the frameworks of the individual reintegration plan and appropriate measures will be taken depending on the conditions and needs of the returnees. The programme(s) will include the requirement for intermediate and final evaluations of the sustainability of return and the possibility of a foreigner to leave their country again.

B. Expected grant recipients

Migration Directorate-MoI, international organizations, NGOs, public or private bodies

C. Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the RA acting as an executing body

N/A

D. Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

The implementation of Action 1 will result in sustainable return to countries of origin while observing humanitarian principles and respecting the dignity of the returnees.

Indicators:

- Number of programmes developed (if more than one);
- Number of third-country nationals voluntarily returned within the framework of the programme(s) developed;
- Increase of the effectiveness and sustainability of return;
- Number of persons informed about the possibilities for voluntary return.

E. Visibility of EC funding

Any notice or publication by the RA and the Beneficiary/ies concerning the above Action, including those given at a conference or seminar, will specify that the action has received EU funding.

The Beneficiary will take all necessary steps to publicise the European Union funding of the actions under the Return Fund MAP/APs. Visibility measures will comply with the relevant rules on the visibility of external actions laid down and published by the Commission.

In particular, the Beneficiary will mention the European Union's financial contribution in information given to the final recipients of the relevant action, in its internal and annual reports, and in any dealings with the media. It shall display the EU logo wherever appropriate.

F. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate

Other EC instruments have not been used for similar actions so far.

G. Financial information

Total: 150.000,00 euro

EC contribution – 75%: 112.500,00 euro

3.1.2 Action 2 – Specialised interpretation services connected with the consultative work for assisting vulnerable persons

A. Purpose and scope of the Action

Interpreters from/to uncommon (rare) languages are necessary at the Temporary Accommodation Centre for Third-Country Nationals in Busmantsi so that specifically tailored assistance and care for the needs of the vulnerable persons is provided when consulting this category of persons. Such interpretation from/to uncommon languages is needed during the accommodation of the foreigners at the Temporary Accommodation Centre for Third-Country

Nationals, as well as during the initially and following interviews, while identifying problems, carrying out further consultations and when medical assistance is needed.

Interpretation services under AP 2009 are in principle the same as the ones under AP 2008 and would be part of each annual programme till the end of the programming period (2008 – 2013). Translation from/to uncommon (rare) languages is also necessary when using medical and other types of documents required by relevant diplomatic services for identification and further proceeding of third-country nationals.

B. Expected grant recipients

Migration Directorate-MoI

C. Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the RA acting as an executing body

Under Action 2 the responsible authority shall act as executing body in compliance with the requirements set forth in Art. 7-8 of the Implementing Rules of Decision 575/2007/EC (IR). The activities will be implemented exclusively by the Ministry of Interior as the sole governmental authority dealing with migration issues.

The contracting procedures will be conducted according to the national legislation in the field of public procurement.

D. Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

As a result of implementing the action, the capacity of the Bulgarian Authorities for providing effective assistance to the vulnerable persons will increase. Thus improved dialogue and more detailed and effective counselling will be achieved, as well as observation of all humanitarian principles will be guaranteed.

Indicators:

- Increased number of consulted persons, speaking uncommon languages.
- Increased number of persons having received specific medical help as a result of counseling using rare languages;
- Number of documents translated from/to rare languages;

E. Visibility of EC funding

Any notice or publication by the RA and the Beneficiary/ies concerning the above Action, including those given at a conference or seminar, will specify that the action has received EU funding.

The Beneficiary will take all necessary steps to publicise the European Union funding of the actions under the Return Fund MAP/APs. Visibility measures will comply with the relevant rules on the visibility of external actions laid down and published by the Commission.

In particular, the Beneficiary will mention the European Union's financial contribution in information given to the final recipients of the relevant action, in its internal and annual reports, and in any dealings with the media. It shall display the EU logo wherever appropriate.

F. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate

The Action is a continuation of Action 2 of Annual Programme 2008 “*Specialised interpretation services connected with the consultative work for assisting vulnerable persons*” financed under the Return Fund.

G. Financial information

Total: 50.000,00 euro

EC contribution – 75%: 37.500,90 euro

3.1.3 Action 3 – Development of a programme for voluntary return of vulnerable persons and measures for assisting returnees in response to their specific needs

A. Purpose and scope of the Action

The action aims at voluntary return of vulnerable persons by informing them about the existing possibilities responding to their needs in the country of origin.

In the process of elaboration of the programme, particular emphasis will be put on the possibility for implementation of an individual approach and observation of the humanitarian principles taking into consideration psychological and mental health status of each returnees. It is envisaged that a part of the measures to be implemented by the respective organisation includes counselling by an expert with the purpose of motivating foreigners for voluntary return, providing medical assistance during return operations, if necessary, reintegration, etc.

If possible, the programme will also envisage measures for reintegration support in countries of origin, incl. accommodation, medical aid, contacts with local organisations, etc.

A monitoring will be performed after the return within the frameworks of the individual reintegration plan and appropriate measures will be taken depending on the conditions and needs of the returnees.

B. Expected grant recipients

Migration Directorate-MoI, international organizations, NGOs, public or private bodies

C. Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the RA acting as an executing body

N/A

D. Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

The implementation of Action 3 will lead to providing assistance to vulnerable third-country nationals willing to return voluntarily to their country of origin. The consequent reintegration measures will guarantee continuance and sustainability of return.

Indicators:

- Number of vulnerable third-country nationals who will take advantage of the possibilities under the programme;
- Number of persons informed and consulted.

E. Visibility of EC funding

Any notice or publication by the RA and the Beneficiary/ies concerning the above Action, including those given at a conference or seminar, will specify that the action has received EU funding.

The Beneficiary will take all necessary steps to publicise the European Union funding of the actions under the Return Fund MAP/APs. Visibility measures will comply with the relevant rules on the visibility of external actions laid down and published by the Commission.

In particular, the Beneficiary will mention the European Union's financial contribution in information given to the final recipients of the relevant action, in its internal and annual reports, and in any dealings with the media. It shall display the EU logo wherever appropriate.

F. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate

Other EC instruments have not been used for similar actions so far.

G. Financial information

Total: 100.000,00 euro

EC contribution – 75%: 75.000,00 euro

3.1.4. Action 4 – Expenditures on the implementation of compulsory administrative measures against nationals of third countries with which the cooperation in the field of return is especially difficult

A. Purpose and scope of the Action

The increasing number of illegally staying nationals of third countries with which the cooperation in the return is especially difficult and the problems that are encountered during the implementation of the return procedures require extension of the realization of this action under Annual Programme 2009 as well. The action reflects the long-term policy of Republic of Bulgaria regarding optimisation of the return processes.

Through the implementation of Action 4 the time for stay of third-country nationals will be decreased and the execution of the effective measures on escorting these persons outside EU will be supported. The expenditures of the Migration Directorate officials on escorting persons to the country of origin or safe third country will be financed.

Compulsory administrative measures under AP 2009 are recurrent during the whole programming period (2008 – 2013) and therefore would be included in each annual programme.

Expenditures for returnees:

- Medical exams before the return operation (these exams are not part of the regular medical assistance provided to returnees. They will be an exceptional one-off examination intended to prepare the return and exclude any potential medical emergencies during the operation);
- Translation of documents (for identification of the third-country nationals, medical statements, etc.);
- Transport tickets to the country of origin or safe third country;
- Visas;
- Daily allowances.

Expenditures for escort team:

- Transport tickets to the country of origin or safe third country and back;
- Visas;
- Daily allowances;
- Medical insurance;
- Accommodation;
- Communication expenditures;
- Other type of expenditure related to the practical arrangement of the return operation with authorities of the country of origin, former stay or transit;
- Medical personnel and interpreters costs, if needed (transport, visas, daily allowances, insurance, accommodation).

B. Expected grant recipients

Migration Directorate-MoI

C. Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the RA acting as an executing body

Under Action 4 the responsible authority shall act as executing body in compliance with the requirements set forth in Art. 7-8 of the Implementing Rules of Decision 575/2007/EC (IR). The activities will be implemented exclusively by the Ministry of Interior as the sole governmental authority dealing with migration issues.

The contracting procedures will be conducted according to the national legislation in the field of public procurement.

D. Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

The result of the envisaged action will be an increase of the effectiveness of the Migration Directorate concerning the compulsory escort of nationals of third countries with which the cooperation in the field of return is especially difficult.

Indicators:

- Decreased period of stay in the Temporary Accommodation Centre for Third-Country Nationals in Busmantsi (based on average statistical data);
- Number of escorted third-country nationals to countries with which the cooperation in the field of return is especially difficult;

E. Visibility of EC funding

Any notice or publication by the RA and the Beneficiary/ies concerning the above Action, including those given at a conference or seminar, will specify that the action has received EU funding.

The Beneficiary will take all necessary steps to publicise the European Union funding of the actions under the Return Fund MAP/APs. Visibility measures will comply with the relevant rules on the visibility of external actions laid down and published by the Commission.

In particular, the Beneficiary will mention the European Union's financial contribution in information given to the final recipients of the relevant action, in its internal and annual reports, and in any dealings with the media. It shall display the EU logo wherever appropriate.

F. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate

The Action is a continuation of Action 4 of Annual Programme 2008 “*Expenditures on the implementation of compulsory administrative measures against nationals of third countries with which the cooperation in the field of return is especially difficult*” financed under the Return Fund.

G. Financial information

Total: 100.668,00 euro
EC contribution – 75%: 75.501,00 euro

3.2. Actions implementing priority 2 Support for the cooperation between Member States in return management

Actions under Objective 4 from the Multiannual Programme 2008-2013 shall be implemented within this priority:

Objective 4: Implementing procedures for return of third country nationals in cooperation with other Member States and where appropriate with the FRONTEX agency and other organizations

3.2.1. Action 5 – Development of an integrated return plan in cooperation with other Member States

A. Purpose and scope of the Action

The elaboration of the plan will be performed with the involvement of experts from the migration services of MS. The purpose will be a development of an integrated return plan in cooperation with other EU countries which are confronted with the same problems as ours. This plan will also cover the realization of joint operations on return of third-country nationals to their countries of origin. This will facilitate the successful realization of the return procedures to third countries and/or regions with which cooperation is difficult as well as the implementation of best practices in the field of return. The plan will be approved by representatives of the relevant MS involved and its implementation will begin in 2010.

This Action is not building upon Action 5 from AP 2008. The latter is the basis for Action 9 from 2009 AP. Action 5 from 2009 AP is aiming at developing an integrated return plan in cooperation with other MS and would be used for escorting purposes only.

This action would focus on elaborating practical guidelines to escorting operations/plans while Action 9 from AP 2009 is more broad and aiming at changes in the regulatory framework and overcoming administrative constraints.

Migration Directorate will invite all MSs to participate in joint development of the plan. Experts from MS having expressed willingness to cooperate and having similar migration problems (issues related to identification and/or removal of third-country nationals, interaction with third-countries’ authorities, etc.) will participate in the process of developing the plan. As a result improved cooperation on EU level in implementing joint return operations is expected.

B. Expected grant recipients

Migration Directorate - MoI

C. Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the RA acting as an executing body

Under Action 5 the responsible authority shall act as executing body in compliance with the requirements set forth in Art. 7-8 of the Implementing Rules of Decision 575/2007/EC (IR). The activities will be implemented exclusively by the Ministry of Interior as the sole governmental authority dealing with migration issues.

The contracting procedures will be conducted according to the national legislation in the field of public procurement.

D. Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

The implementation of this activity will lead to improvement of the cooperation with other Member States which will increase the effectiveness of the joint return operations.

Indicators:

- Integrated return plan developed;
- Type of resources, skills and experiences pooled.

E. Visibility of EC funding

Any notice or publication by the RA and the Beneficiary/ies concerning the above Action, including those given at a conference or seminar, will specify that the action has received EU funding.

The Beneficiary will take all necessary steps to publicise the European Union funding of the actions under the Return Fund MAP/APs. Visibility measures will comply with the relevant rules on the visibility of external actions laid down and published by the Commission.

In particular, the Beneficiary will mention the European Union's financial contribution in information given to the final recipients of the relevant action, in its internal and annual reports, and in any dealings with the media. It shall display the EU logo wherever appropriate.

F. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate

Other EC instruments have not been used for similar actions so far.

G. Financial information

Total: 41.370,00 euro

EC contribution – 75%: 31.027,00 euro

3.2.2. Action 6 - Implementation of joint return operations - joint flights or joint removals by land in cooperation with other MS, and where appropriate, the FRONTEX Agency.

A. Purpose and scope of the Action

As a follow-up of the joint cooperation programme with a MS regarding particular countries or regions of origin and/or former stay (see Action 7 under AP 2008), this Action envisages

carrying out of joint operations with this MS. The cooperation with the migration service of the relevant MS, and where appropriate, the FRONTEX Agency will speed up the return procedures. As a result the time for organizing the implementation of imposed compulsory administrative measures will be shortened.

By pooling skills, experiences and resources of the competent authorities of the two MS, the effectiveness in the removal of third-country nationals or stateless persons residing illegally on the territory of Republic of Bulgaria will be increased.

The joint operations will contribute to successful resolution of complicated cases of removal, will optimize the expenses related to them and will enhance the preventive role of the migration policy.

The cooperation between the two MS and, where appropriate, the FRONTEX Agency will increase the effectiveness of work of the authorities engaged with return procedures.

This Action is a follow-up of Action 7 from AP 2008 and is targeting on the implementation of joint return flights with the MS selected under AP 2008. The selection criterion will be based on the principle “MS with migration and structural model most similar to the Bulgarian one”. For example Belgium is a country that meets this criterion.

B. Expected grant recipients

Migration Directorate - MoI

C. Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the RA acting as an executing body

Under Action 6 the responsible authority shall act as executing body in compliance with the requirements set forth in Art. 7-8 of the Implementing Rules of Decision 575/2007/EC (IR). The activities will be implemented exclusively by the Ministry of Interior as the sole governmental authority dealing with migration issues.

The contracting procedures will be conducted according to the national legislation in the field of public procurement.

D. Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

The implementation of the Action shall lay the foundations for further development of good working relations with MS and FRONTEX Agency and shall increase the effectiveness of management of return process.

Indicators:

- Increased number of information exchanged with other MS regarding the return procedures;
- Number of joint return operations conducted;
- Shortened time limits for implementation of compulsory administrative measures.

E. Visibility of EC funding

Any notice or publication by the RA and the Beneficiary/ies concerning the above Action, including those given at a conference or seminar, will specify that the action has received EU funding.

The Beneficiary will take all necessary steps to publicise the European Union funding of the actions under the Return Fund MAP/APs. Visibility measures will comply with the relevant rules on the visibility of external actions laid down and published by the Commission.

In particular, the Beneficiary will mention the European Union's financial contribution in information given to the final recipients of the relevant action, in its internal and annual reports, and in any dealings with the media. It shall display the EU logo wherever appropriate.

F. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate

The Action is a continuation of Action 7 of Annual Programme 2008 “*Joint programme with MS for implementation of best practices regarding particular states or regions of origin and/or former stay*” financed under the Return Fund.

G. Financial information

Total: 110.000,00 euro

EC contribution – 75%: 82.500,00 euro

3.3. Actions implementing priority 3 Assistance for specific innovative national/international instruments for the return management

The operational objectives under the Multiannual Programme 2008-2013 that will be prioritized in 2009 are:

Objective 5: Informing and consulting people subject to return in respect of the situation of their country of origin or third safe country

Objective 6: Development of the cooperation between the Bulgarian Authorities and the consular and diplomatic services in order to speed up the process of documenting the returnees

3.3.1. Action 7 – Setting up a counselling and reintegration programme aided by a network of public authorities, NGOs and/or international organizations created for this purpose.

A. Purpose and scope of the Action

The Action is targeting on the information and counselling of third-country nationals as a precondition for the return procedure. Here the focus is by direct contacts with returnees to provide information and counselling on the situation in the country of origin, and encourage their voluntary return. The network would provide support, information and counselling on the advantages, conditions, procedures and reintegration measures of countries of origin. Reintegration actions that could be undertaken are:

- developing methods of need analysis;

- complementary assistance (financial, in kind, counselling) for persons with reintegration projects (micro-business development, vocational trainings, ect.) who are considered feasible by a local reintegration partner;
- specific, additional assistance packages for vulnerable groups;
- assessment of the capacity of the existing institutions to cover the psychological and mental health needs of the returnees.

The impact of these additional innovative activities should be monitored, measured and evaluated via a combination of reporting and on the spot follow-up.

As a result the foreigners subject to return will receive information for the situation in the relevant third country as well as the possible follow-up activities after the return.

In its specifics the activity is innovative for Bulgaria as it is joining the efforts of the governmental and non-governmental bodies involved in informing persons subject to return. The work performed so far in this area by each authority will be optimized as the process will be coordinated and unified.

The implementation of the Action will be monitored and due measures depending on the specific needs of returnees will be set up.

B. Expected grant recipients

Migration Directorate-MoI, international organizations, NGOs, public or private bodies

C. Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the RA acting as an executing body

N/A

D. Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

The information campaign will be targeted to acquaint third-country nationals with the situation in the country of origin increasing their personal motivation to return. The human rights and dignity principles will be respected. The implementation of this action will contribute to assisting the returnees. The applied subsequent reintegration measures will aim at guaranteeing sustainability of returns.

The Action will introduce innovative means of informing and emotionally influencing the potential returnees so that the number of third-country nationals informed will be increased and the choice of voluntary return will be given preference to.

Indicators:

- number of persons informed;
- number of persons willing to return.
- number of persons assisted after return;
- number of returnees proposing a reintegration project;
- number of sustainable returns.

E. Visibility of EC funding

Any notice or publication by the RA and the Beneficiary/ies concerning the above Action, including those given at a conference or seminar, will specify that the action has received EU funding.

The Beneficiary will take all necessary steps to publicise the European Union funding of the actions under the Return Fund MAP/APs. Visibility measures will comply with the relevant rules on the visibility of external actions laid down and published by the Commission.

In particular, the Beneficiary will mention the European Union's financial contribution in information given to the final recipients of the relevant action, in its internal and annual reports, and in any dealings with the media. It shall display the EU logo wherever appropriate.

F. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate

Other EC instruments have not been used for similar actions so far.

G. Financial information

Total: 123.000,00 euro

EC contribution – 75%: 92.250,00 euro

3.3.2. Action 8 – Support of the identification procedures for nationals from Iran, Afghanistan, Palestine, Lebanon, Nigeria.

A. Purpose and scope of the Action

Because of recurrent problems linked with identification of nationals from the above-mentioned countries, the Migration Directorate wants improve the relations with their consular or local authorities by exchange information activities and setting-up identification teams.

Meetings of the working group comprising officials of Migration Directorate-MoI and representatives of the relevant diplomatic and consular missions will be held periodically with a view to outlining new effective methods of identification of nationals from the above-mentioned countries.

If possible, cooperation with other EU countries confronted with the same problems will be set up.

These activities will be assisted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria.

B. Expected grant recipients

Migration Directorate-MoI

C. Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the RA acting as an executing body

Under Action 8 the responsible authority shall act as executing body in compliance with the requirements set forth in Art. 7-8 of the Implementing Rules of Decision 575/2007/EC (IR). The activities will be implemented exclusively by the Ministry of Interior as the sole governmental authority dealing with migration issues.

The contracting procedures will be conducted according to the national legislation in the field of public procurement.

D. Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

The relations with the diplomatic representatives of the countries with highest migration potential will be intensified and will further speed up the identification of persons. Better coordination while resolving difficult cases will be achieved and as a final result - utmost effectiveness in return procedures will be targeted.

Indicators:

- number of meetings held with diplomatic and consular services;
- number of new methods for collaboration with the diplomatic and consular services of the a.m. countries implemented in practice;
- number of identified persons as a result of new methods implemented;
- EU countries involved.

E. Visibility of EC funding

Any notice or publication by the RA and the Beneficiary/ies concerning the above Action, including those given at a conference or seminar, will specify that the action has received EU funding.

The Beneficiary will take all necessary steps to publicise the European Union funding of the actions under the Return Fund MAP/APs. Visibility measures will comply with the relevant rules on the visibility of external actions laid down and published by the Commission.

In particular, the Beneficiary will mention the European Union's financial contribution in information given to the final recipients of the relevant action, in its internal and annual reports, and in any dealings with the media. It shall display the EU logo wherever appropriate.

F. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate

The Action is a continuation of Action 9 of Annual Programme 2008 “*Creation of new and more effective methods of work with representatives of diplomatic missions in Bulgaria while exchanging information regarding return*” financed under the Return Fund.

G. Financial information

Total: 10.000,00 euro.

EC contribution – 75%: 7.500,00 euro

3.4. Actions implementing priority 4 - Support for developing Community standards and best practices on return management

The Actions implementing this priority in 2009 will be in line with Objective 7 of the Multiannual Programme 2008-2013:

Objective 7: Strengthening the administrative capacity of the national stakeholders in the field of migration policy and improving the regulatory framework on national level (**Specific priority 4.2** *Measures taken at national level to ensure a fair and effective implementation of common standards on return, as established under Community legislation on return, including the training of practitioners.*)

3.4.1. Action 9 – Development of Integrated Return Management Strategy aiming at introduction of regulatory framework changes and overcoming the administrative practical constraints at national level in cooperation with international organisations and NGOs

A. Purpose and scope of the Action

Action 5 under Annual Programme 2008 envisages development of Analysis of the situation in Bulgaria, other MS and states of origin on the grounds of studying the main trends in the field of migration and return management. The working group set up under Action 5, AP 2008, will define the gaps in the management of illegal migration process. Taking into account the results and assessments of the Analysis, the working group implementing Action 9 in 2009 will draft Integrated Return Management Strategy for Bulgaria. The Strategy will outline the priorities and future measures in the field as well as initiatives for specific amendments of the regulatory framework related to voluntary return.

Once developed, the Integrated Return Management Strategy will be subject to monitoring. Working meetings will be held between state officials, representatives of NGOs and international organizations to monitor the progress in implementation of the Strategy.

The implementation of the Strategy will aim at increasing the transparency of the return procedures and improving the credibility in the public and non-governmental bodies.

B. Expected grant recipients

Migration Directorate-MoI

C. Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the RA acting as an executing body

Under Action 9 the responsible authority shall act as executing body in compliance with the requirements set forth in Art. 7-8 of the Implementing Rules of Decision 575/2007/EC (IR). The activities will be implemented exclusively by the Ministry of Interior as the sole governmental authority dealing with migration issues.

The contracting procedures will be conducted according to the national legislation in the field of public procurement.

D. Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

The implementation of Action 9 will strengthen the relations of Migration Directorate-MoI with NGOs and international organizations and will increase the effectiveness of the return procedures.

Indicators:

- Integrated Return Strategy developed;
- number of legislative/normative amendments proposed;
- number of legislative/normative amendments adopted;
- 2010 Integrated Return Management Strategy Implementation Plan drafted
- scope of dissemination of the Integrated Return Management Strategy.

E. Visibility of EC funding

Any notice or publication by the RA and the Beneficiary/ies concerning the above Action, including those given at a conference or seminar, will specify that the action has received EU funding.

The Beneficiary will take all necessary steps to publicise the European Union funding of the actions under the Return Fund MAP/APs. Visibility measures will comply with the relevant rules on the visibility of external actions laid down and published by the Commission.

In particular, the Beneficiary will mention the European Union's financial contribution in information given to the final recipients of the relevant action, in its internal and annual reports, and in any dealings with the media. It shall display the EU logo wherever appropriate.

F. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate

The Action is a continuation of Action 5 of Annual Programme 2008 “*Elaboration of comprehensive assessment (analysis) of the situation in the Republic of Bulgaria, other member states and countries of origin in relation with the migration processes, as a precondition for the development of Integrated Return Management Strategy*” financed under the Return Fund.

G. Financial information

Total: 30.000,00 euro.

EC contribution – 75%: 22.500,00 euro

3.4.2. Action 10 – Organising training seminars for national, regional and local authorities on relevant international human rights standards on return

A. Purpose and scope of the Action

For the purpose of effective application of EU standards on return, training seminars for national, regional and local authorities (judges, migration authorities, police, etc.) need to be organized focusing on international human rights standards in all aspects related to return activities, especially the European Convention of Human Rights, the European Convention for the Prevention of Torture standards provided in the Return Directive approved in December 2008, etc.

B. Expected grant recipients

Migration Directorate-MoI, international organizations, NGOs, public or private bodies

C. Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the RA acting as an executing body

N/A

D. Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

The implementation of Action 10 will enhance the knowledge and experience of the Bulgarian authorities in the field of international standards regarding the return, will contribute to strengthen the effectiveness and will promote the uniform application of common standards on return.

Indicators:

- number of training seminars organized ;
- number of authorities and officials trained;
- number and type of topics discussed;
- number and type of topics covered.

E. Visibility of EC funding

Any notice or publication by the RA and the Beneficiary/ies concerning the above Action, including those given at a conference or seminar, will specify that the action has received EU funding.

The Beneficiary will take all necessary steps to publicise the European Union funding of the actions under the Return Fund MAP/APs. Visibility measures will comply with the relevant rules on the visibility of external actions laid down and published by the Commission.

In particular, the Beneficiary will mention the European Union's financial contribution in information given to the final recipients of the relevant action, in its internal and annual reports, and in any dealings with the media. It shall display the EU logo wherever appropriate.

F. Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate

Other EC instruments have not been used for similar actions so far.

G. Financial information

Total: 103.000,00 euro.

EC contribution – 75%: 77.250,00 euro

4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

In order to ensure good implementation of the activities under the Return Fund, preparatory measures, management, monitoring, evaluation, information and control measures, as well as measures for the reinforcement of the administrative capacity for the implementation of the Fund are envisaged for financing in 2008.

Using the Technical Assistance financial means, the International Projects Directorate as Responsible Authority, will be able to support the administrative management of the Fund and therefore create a good management system.

4.1 Purpose of the technical assistance

- The purpose of the TA is to support the effective implementation, evaluation, management and control of the Return Fund in the Republic of Bulgaria;
- The TA expenditures shall be incurred for strengthening the administrative capacity, including staff training of the Responsible Authority, the Certifying Authority and the Audit Authority, as well as the Delegated Authority while implementing the RF.

- The TA shall cover expenditure relating to the preparation, selection, appraisal, management and monitoring of actions (including computer equipment and consumables).
- Expenditure relating to audits and on-the-spot checks of actions or projects;
- Expenditure relating to evaluations of actions or projects;
- Expenditure relating to information, dissemination and transparency in relation to actions;
- Expenditure on the acquisition, installation and maintenance of computerised systems for the management, monitoring and evaluation of the Funds;
- Expenditure on meetings of monitoring committees and sub-committees relating to the implementation of actions (such as interpretation and/or translation);
- Expenditure on salaries, including social security contributions.

4.2 Expected quantified results

- Administrative capacities of relevant management and control Authorities enhanced - sufficient number of staff allocated, number of staff trained, clear administrative procedures introduced, relevant equipment provided;
- Effective functioning of the RF management and control systems - number of evaluation/monitoring/audit reports; number of projects implemented, % of financial allocations absorbed;
- Effective mechanism for projects selection established - all selected projects correspond to the priorities of the RF;
- Effective monitoring of actions exercised and corrective measures taken, if applicable - number of monitoring missions and follow-up reports;
- Information campaigns for popularization of the RF in Bulgaria carried out; one information activity presenting the achievements of AP 2009 organized (as per Art. 33 (2) (a) of Implementing rules of the fund); website of RF implementation in Bulgaria developed;
- Translations of RF materials and interpretation during RF related meetings or events;
- Manuals and Guidelines developed (consultants involved);
- Regular contacts with the EC and MS maintained (travel and subsistence expenses covered).

4.3 Visibility of EC funding

The Responsible Authority shall use the EU logo and distribute information on co-financing both in the information that is distributed by participating authorities to prospective applicants through the authorities' websites and in information sent out by letters. All project proposal requests, guidelines, application forms and letters sent to applicants and other administrative documents include the EU logo. The agreement signed by recipients in connection with co-financing shall clearly stipulate the requirement for visibility of RF co-financing.

5. DRAFT FINANCING PLAN

Annual Programme - Draft Financial Plan								
Table 1 - Overview table								
Member State: Bulgaria								
Annual programme concerned: 2009								
Fund: European Return Fund								
<i>(all figures in euro)</i>	Ref. priority	Ref. specific priority (1)	Community Contribution (a)	Public Allocation (b)	Private Allocation (c)	TOTAL (d= a+b+c)	% EC (e=a/d)	Share of total (f=d/total d)
Action 1	Priority 1	Spec. Pr. 1.1	112.500,00	37.500,00 *	0,00 *	150.000,00	75,00%	16,73%
Action 2	Priority 1	Spec. Pr. 1.2	37.500,90	12.500,30	0,00	50.001,20	75,00%	5,58%
Action 3	Priority 1	Spec. Pr. 1.2	75.000,00	25.000,00 *	0,00 *	100.000,00	75,00%	11,15%
Action 4	Priority 1	Spec. Pr. 1.3	75.501,00	25.167,00	0,00	100.668,00	75,00%	11,23%
Action 5	Priority 2	Spec. Pr.	31.027,00	10.343,00	0,00	41.370,00	75,00%	4,61%
Action 6	Priority 2	Spec. Pr.	82.500,00	27.500,00	0,00	110.000,00	75,00%	12,27%
Action 7	Priority 3	Spec. Pr.	92.250,00	30.750,00 *	0,00 *	123.000,00	75,00%	13,72%
Action 8	Priority 3	Spec. Pr. 3.2	7.500,00	2.500,00	0,00	10.000,00	75,00%	1,12%
Action 9	Priority 4	Spec. Pr. 4.2	22.500,00	7.500,00	0,00	30.000,00	75,00%	3,35%
Action 10	Priority 4	Spec. Pr. 4.2	77.250,00	25.750,00 *	0,00 *	103.000,00	75,00%	11,49%
Technical assistance			78,437,65	0,00	0,00	78.437,65	100,00%	8,75%
Other operations (2)			0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00%	0,00%
TOTAL			691.966,55	204.510,30 *	0,00 *	896.476,85	77,20% **	100,00%

(1) if appropriate

(2) if appropriate

* The share of public and private allocation of funds may vary depending on the contractor's status – private or public body.

** Including Technical Assistance

Dimitar Cherkezov:
Director of
International Projects Directorate-MoI