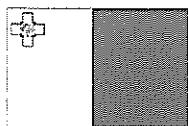


REVISED ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2011

- Initial version
 Revised version (Version 2, date 17/11/2011) following dialogue with the Commission
 Version revised for other reasons

MEMBER STATE:	Republic of Malta
FUND:	European Refugee Fund
RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY:	Funds and Programmes Division, Office of the Prime Minister
YEAR COVERED:	2011

General Programme Solidarity & Management of Migration Flows
European Refugee Fund (ERF)



Co-financing rate: 75% EU Fund; 25% Beneficiary's Funds (I propose to take this out because not correct for emergency measures)

Sustainable Management of Migration Flows



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

The Annual Programme 2011 proposed by the Funds and Programmes Division, Office of the Prime Minister as the Responsible Authority for this Fund, has been allocated a total of € 1,368,719.12. In addition, funds amounting to € 1,250,000 as emergency measures have also been allocated to Malta. A total of € 119,000 of these Funds will be allocated for Technical Assistance.

In accordance with Article 9 of the Commission Decision laying down the rules for implementation of Council Decision 573/2007/EC, the awarding method shall be employed by the Responsible Authority in order to allocate all of the Actions except for the emergency measures. Such method ensures the prevention against discrimination and the applicability of equal treatment in the process of evaluation of the proposals brought forward. The selection of project proposals will be carried out through the issuance of an open call for proposals. This will ensure maximum publicity among potential beneficiaries. Furthermore, the application form together with documentary guidance will be made available for download for prospective applicants from the website of the Funds and Programmes Division on the following link: <http://www.ppcd.gov.mt/migration>

The selection/award will take place in line with the established Rules of Procedure. Projects will be selected taking into account the minimum criteria stated in Article 14.5 of Decision establishing the European Refugee Fund.

A first call for proposals was issued in August 2010 with a subsequent deadline in September 2010. Since the quantity of project proposals received through such Call was not considered sufficient to allow the Responsible Authority to assign all the available funds – irrespective of their quality – it was deemed that a second call would be issued.

In the second Call, issued in November 2010 with a subsequent deadline in December 2010, it was indicated that priority would be given to projects which address the following key actions under priority 1 within Malta's European Refugee Fund Multi-Annual Programme 2008-2013 (Implementation of the principles and measures set out in the Community Acquis in the field of asylum, including those related to integration objectives):

Key Action 2: Provision of material aid in Accommodation Centres;

Key Action 3: Continued provision of medical care;

Key Action 4: Enhancement of assistance provided to vulnerable persons;

Key Action 6: Continued provision of educational services;

Key Action 7: Provision of cultural orientation classes; and

Key Action 8: Sensitization of local population on the situation of asylum seekers / beneficiaries of subsidiary protection / refugees.

Following the Second Call, the quantity of project proposals received through such Call was still not considered sufficient to allow the Responsible Authority to assign all the available funds – irrespective of their quality. In view of this, the Responsible Authority intends to issue additional Calls in the short-to-medium term.

An impartial Project Selection Committee was tasked with evaluating both the projects received during the first Call and the projects received during the second Call. Since the project proposals received in the first Call addressed at least one of the above key actions it was considered that all project proposals were evaluated on an equal level.

The expected duration of the projects is between 6 months and 2 years. In the case of project proposals that have already been successfully evaluated by an impartial project selection committee, Grant Agreements will be signed as soon as the 2011 Annual Programme is formally approved. Grant Agreements of additional projects (to be evaluated following subsequent Calls) will be signed following verification that they comply with the provisions of the approved Annual Programme. When determining the contents of such project proposals, due consideration will also be made to the remaining eligibility period in order to ensure that the actions contained therein can be feasibly carried out within the remaining time.

In order to address situations of particular pressure the Maltese authorities envisage also implementing a series of Emergency measures. An amount of € 1,250,000 is earmarked for this purpose. Malta intends to ease the situation of particular pressure being experienced due to the exponential increase in arrivals of persons who may be in need of international protection experienced in 2011 through three measures as explained in section 5 of this document.

2. CHANGES IN THE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEMS (if appropriate)

Since the revision of the Implementing Rules in March 2011 this point is deleted.

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

Only Priority 1 of the Strategic Guidelines will be implemented under this Annual Programme.

- Actions related to reception conditions and asylum procedures
- Actions related to integration

Introduction

The population of third country nationals seeking asylum in Malta has increased exponentially over the last years. Although there has been a drop in arrivals of illegal immigrants (boat people) in 2009 and 2010, the disproportionate number of persons who have been granted asylum or some related form of international protection – around 4,000 – has outstretched the limited resources available and has also placed a huge strain on all stakeholders working in the field of asylum.

The Annual Programme 2011 being proposed for co-financing from the financial allocation for Malta under the European Refugee Fund, targets entities (both public authorities and non-governmental organisations) which operate in the area of asylum by either managing accommodation centres and/or work directly with the migrant communities providing basic services and assistance. Priority will be given in assisting such entities in providing accommodation and basic material needs to asylum seekers, refugees and persons enjoying subsidiary protection, as well as improving operational structures and management systems in accommodation centres resulting in increased efficiency and contributing to the integration of such target groups. Therefore, these projects shall contribute to improving reception conditions for asylum seekers and the prospects for integration for the target groups, which together constitute the heaviest burden on the budget of the Maltese Government.

It should be noted that in the case of possible overlaps with other Funds, in particular the European Social Fund and the European Fund for the integration of third-country nationals (EIF), the Planning and Priorities Co-ordination Directorate (the entity responsible for the management of structural funds), co-ordinates the 'Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Capital'. The said Committee aims to demarcate the objectives of the different funds and ensure that there is no overlapping. The Responsible Authority for the management of the EIF is also represented on this Committee. It is also important to clarify that although there are some similarities between the European Social Fund (ESF) programme and the European Refugee Fund, the former does not allow for any purchasing of equipment. In addition to this, the focus of the European Social Fund lies on employability.

3.1. Actions implementing Priority 1: Implementation of the principles and measures set out in the Community *acquis* in the field of asylum, including those related to integration objectives.

ACTION 1: RECEPTION CONDITIONS

Component 1: Provision of material aid and medical or psychological care (Falling under Key Actions 2, 3, and 4 of the Multiannual Programme)

➤ **Purpose and scope**

This activity shall provide financial assistance in order to cover the provision of material aid, medical and/or psychological care to TCN, both those who have been granted international protection (namely refugees and persons benefitting from subsidiary protection) and Asylum Seekers and who are residing in Open Centres distributed throughout the territory of Malta. This includes the provision of:

- emergency medical care (by creating a doctor-on-call system);
- services of a nurse for the preparation of psychotropic medications intended to be administered (where applicable) to target groups that are classified as vulnerable and for the actual administration of such medications to the above-mentioned vulnerable target groups;
- services of a psychologist to assist residents in dealing with related conditions, in particular Post Traumatic Stress Disorder;
- services of a psychiatrist on call for cases of emergency in dealing with residents suffering mental related illnesses;
- social workers and case workers in order to cope with vulnerable residents.

➤ **Expected Grant Recipients**

Organisations which are responsible (directly or indirectly) for the management of Open Accommodation Centres in Malta and NGO's that are operational in the area of asylum. These will be contracted (through the signing of a Grant Agreement) via an open call for proposals.

➤ **Expected quantified results and indicators to be used**

The action will provide for additional medical support through the services, per Accommodation Centre, of one doctor on call (covering emergency medical situations) one nurse, one psychologist, one psychiatrist covering emergency cases and a minimum of two social workers and case workers. The engagement of such persons will ensure that a higher quality of service is provided within Accommodation Centres.

➤ **Visibility of EU Funding**

The assistance received from the ERF will be publicised through an article published in local media, which will describe the type of assistance and the amount of money received. One should add that all projects (beneficiaries) should also ensure adequate visibility of EU funding (F.ex. by way of announcements; stickers on equipment, etc...)^o.

➤ **Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EU instruments, if appropriate.**

This action builds on similar work already carried out by activities co-financed under previous ERF Annual Programmes.

Component 2: Improving Health and Safety Conditions within Accommodation Centres
(Falling under Key Action 6 of the Multiannual Programme)

➤ **Purpose and scope**

This activity shall focus on improving the existing accommodation infrastructures within the Open Centre and the services offered therein. Priority will be given to the following:

- Provision of training in a number of educational areas including on the prevention of fire and on emergency evacuation drills;
- employment of a health and safety officer to assist in training and implementing related measures;
- provision of information on safety, in conjunction with entities working in the fields of health and safety, such as the Civil Protection Department;
- provision of clear safety labels - no smoking signs, exit signs, fire extinguisher signs, etc;
- maintaining and improving the health and safety conditions of the Open Centres, including the improvement of security within the centres (meaning authorized access, ensuring proper conduct and a more secure environment).

➤ **Expected Grant Recipients**

Organisations which are responsible (directly or indirectly) for the management of Open Accommodation Centres in Malta and NGO's that are operational in the area of asylum.

➤ **Expected quantified results and indicators to be used**

The volume of training hours on the prevention of fire and on emergency evacuation drills shall amount to a total of 500 hours and will target an audience of 1000 persons. Such training will decrease the risks of fires breaking out within Accommodation Centres and will increase general awareness of emergency evacuation drills which will be developed and subsequently put in place.

The action will also provide for additional health and safety measures through the employment of a health and safety officer, per Accommodation Centre. The engagement of such persons will ensure an improvement of health and safety standards within the Open Centres.

This action will also ensure a more secure environment within the reception centres through improved access control and assurance of proper conduct by residents.

➤ **Visibility of EU Funding**

All training and information material will include references to the EU logo and to the fact that the action is co-financed under the European Refugee Fund. Furthermore the assistance received will be made visible through an article published in local newspapers, which will describe the type of assistance and the amount of money received.

- **Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EU instruments, if appropriate**

This action builds on similar work already carried out by actions co-financed under previous ERF Annual Programmes.

Component 3: Improving Methods of Transportation (Falling under Key Actions 2 and 3 of the Multiannual Programme)

- **Purpose and scope**

The increase in the number of persons belonging to the ERF target groups has created logistical problems related to transportation. Such target groups require regular transport for a number of engagements including medical appointments. Currently the transportation means available to entities managing accommodation centres are limited and do not cope with the number of persons requiring transport for such daily appointments, leading to cancellations and delays. Adding to this are problems with the timely transport of supplies needed in the accommodation centres due to the limited availability of vehicles.

Basing on the experiences gained in the implementation of the emergency measures (within the European Refugee Fund 2009 Annual Programme), providing for the procurement of minibuses for transport, the most feasible option is that means of transport are leased. Accordingly such activity will allow Beneficiaries to lease means of transport (such as multi-purpose vans) to be used for transporting residents of Accommodation Centres and also for the transportation of supplies and other materials covering the needs of Accommodation Centres.

- **Expected Grant Recipients**

Organisations which are responsible (directly or indirectly) for the management of Open Accommodation Centres, in particular Centres for Minors, in Malta and NGO's that are operational in the area of asylum.

- **Expected quantified results and indicators to be used**

The lease of at least two multi-purpose vans per Accommodation Centre.

- **Visibility of EU Funding**

Vehicles leased will show the EU logo and will make reference to ERF Co-financing. Furthermore, the assistance received from the European Refugee Fund will be publicised through an article published in the local media, which will describe the type of assistance and the amount of money received.

- **Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EU instruments, if appropriate**

This action builds on similar activities already carried out through actions co-financed in previous Annual Programmes, in particular the emergency measures implemented under the 2009 Annual Programme.

Component 4: Basic needs, accommodation, medical assistance, etc - to be activated in case of need (during calendar year 2011).

- **Purpose and scope**

In view of the present unrest in North Africa which could potentially lead to a massive influx of immigrants from such region to Malta, a part of the allocation made available under the 2011 Annual Programme is being earmarked to cover reception activities, in particular the provision of basic needs (including material aid, accommodation and medical care). The implementation of such activities under this component are subject to the materialization of the indicated influx and will be funded through the transfer of funding envisaged to be used under components 1 – 3.

- **Expected Grant Recipients**

Organisations which are responsible for dealing with an emergency situation developing in view of a massive influx of immigrants in Malta.

- **Expected quantified results and indicators to be used**

All persons (belonging to the target groups of ERF) will be provided with basic needs, including material aid, accommodation and medical care.

- **Visibility of EU Funding**

The activities which would be carried out under this component would be publicised through an article, published in the local media, which will describe the type of assistance provided and the amount of money utilised.

- **Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EU instruments, if appropriate**

This action would build on similar activities (addressing the provision of basic needs) already carried out through actions co-financed in previous Annual Programmes, in particular the emergency measures implemented under the 2009 Annual Programme.

ACTION 2: INTEGRATION

Component 1: Educational Training
(Falling under Key Actions 6 and 7 of the Multiannual Programme)

➤ **Purpose and scope**

This activity will target providing educational training, including language training, which will improve the social status of the persons concerned. Training will be provided for residents of Open Accommodation Centres in a number of areas, including English Language, Basic Computer Skills, Food Handling Courses, First Aid and also training aimed at facilitating Cultural Integration.

➤ **Expected Grant Recipients**

Organisations which are responsible (directly or indirectly) for the management of Open Accommodation Centres in Malta and NGO's that are operational in the area of asylum.

➤ **Expected quantified results and indicators to be used**

The number of training hours shall amount to a total of 2000 hours, reaching a target audience of 200 persons. Such educational training will increase the employment possibilities of the target group and facilitate their integration in the Maltese community.

➤ **Visibility of EU Funding**

All training and information material will include references to the EU logo and to the fact that the action is co-financed under the European Refugee Fund. Furthermore the assistance received will be made visible through an article published in local newspapers, which will describe the type of assistance and the amount of money received.

➤ **Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EU instruments, if appropriate**

This action builds on similar work already carried out by actions co-financed under previous ERF Annual Programmes.

Component 2: Promoting Interaction and launching Awareness Campaigns
(Falling under Key Action 8 of the Multiannual Programme)

➤ **Purpose and scope**

This activity will focus on providing information to local communities as well as training of staff of local authorities in order to increase interaction between local communities / authorities and persons belonging to the target groups of ERF who are residing in Malta. It is expected that such interaction will take place through the organization of cultural activities – such as music nights and sports events. Furthermore personnel of stakeholders involved in the different aspects of asylum will be provided with training

on how to interact with such target groups providing also a forum for sharing experiences. Other envisaged activities include the organization of clean-up campaigns and other environmental initiatives with Local Councils in order to raise awareness about the impact of the Open Centres on the local communities and the positive contribution of this specific category of migrants to the local community.

➤ **Expected Grant Recipients**

Organisations which are responsible (directly or indirectly) for the management of Open Accommodation Centres in Malta and NGO's that are operational in the area of asylum.

➤ **Expected quantified results and indicators to be used**

The number of training hours shall amount to a total of 500 hours, reaching a target audience of 100 officials. Furthermore it is envisaged that at least 5 cultural activities are organised bringing together such persons and the receiving society, such as the general public, local authorities, refugee associations, voluntary groups, social partners and the broader civil society.

➤ **Visibility of EU Funding**

Throughout all training sessions, reference will be made to EC Funding, including the printing of the EU logo on all printed materials. Any promotional campaigns for cultural activities and related initiatives will clearly indicate that such events are being co-financed under the European Refugee Fund and, if applicable, placards/billboards will contain also such references.

➤ **Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EU instruments, if appropriate**

Not applicable.

**Component 3: Provision of services to vulnerable groups
(Falling under Key Actions 4 and 6 of the Multiannual Programme)**

➤ **Purpose and scope**

This activity will focus on vulnerable persons (as defined in Article 9 of the Basic Act) within target groups of the ERF. The aim will be to develop a sustainable programme of social, educational and recreational services for such persons residing in Open Accommodation Centres. The services to be provided include language training (in English and/or Maltese), vocational training, social integration, intercultural exchange and recreational activities.

➤ **Expected Grant Recipients**

Organisations which are responsible (directly or indirectly) for the management of Open Accommodation Centres, in particular Centres for Minors, in Malta and NGO's that are operational in the area of asylum.

➤ **Expected quantified results and indicators to be used**

At least 300 training hours allocated to the project, reaching a target audience of a minimum of 50 migrant minors.

➤ **Visibility of EU Funding**

All training and information material will include references to the EU logo and to the fact that the action is co-financed under the European Refugee Fund.

➤ **Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EU instruments, if appropriate**

Not applicable.

3.2. Actions implementing Priority 2: Development of reference tools and evaluation methodologies to assess and improve the quality of procedures for the examination of claims for international protection and to underpin administrative structures in an effort to respond to the challenges brought forward by enhanced practical cooperation with other Member States.

Such action was targeted in both the 2009 and the 2010 AP's through two projects carried out by the Office of the Refugee Commissioner. Considering that the eligibility period of such projects will overlap (in part) the eligibility period of the 2011 AP it has been considered that no actions will be pursued under this priority for under the AP 2011.

3.3. Actions implementing Priority 3: Actions helping to enhance responsibility sharing between Member States and third countries

Following an assessment of the current local situation it has been deemed that efforts will focus, in the short term, on the completion of the Pilot project for Intra-EU re-allocation from Malta, co-financed under the ERF Community Actions 2009. In view of this, no actions will be pursued under this priority for the annual programme 2011.

4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

4.1. Purpose of the Technical Assistance

The four Funds, the External Borders Fund, the European Refugee Fund, the European Return Fund and the Integration Fund, are now managed by the same Responsible Authority and the other stakeholders (the Treasury Department¹, the Certifying Authority and the Audit Authority) are common to all of the Funds. Technical Assistance (where applicable) will be shared between the four Funds.

Technical Assistance is aimed at enhancing the implementation of the Program by providing the above-mentioned authorities with appropriate support. In the course of the activities undertaken by the new RA in the transition period, it has become clear that with the onset of new Programmes, there is a need to enhance capacity, particularly in the RA. In June 2011 the two RAs² had 3 full time officers and one officer on reduced hours with heads that had additional responsibilities within the respective Ministry. It is clear that the fragmentation of the Programmes as well as the relatively high participation of NGOs (particularly in the European Refugee Fund and the European Integration Fund) that there is a need for increased capacity, quantitatively but also increased opportunities for staff training. In this regard, the RA has issued relevant calls and will be engaging additional personnel and will also be undertaking relevant training actions (capitalising on the fact that within the larger structure there are persons with experience in certain issues, including reporting, the management of an electronic system and management verifications).

As at end October 2011, there is also no fully fledged electronic management and information system for the Funds. Currently there is only basic electronic storage of information and a payment system used by the Treasury. The new RA shall seek to establish a more consolidated system, also in view of a more focused use of electronic systems in the new programming period post 2013.

Technical assistance will be considered as one entire project consisting of small operations. This project will be managed by the Responsible Authority. The procedures for applying for technical assistance will be outlined in the Manual of Procedures. The RA will also ensure adequate separation of function within the RA in this regard. The implementation of the Technical Assistance project will comply with the relevant rules and procedures, including public procurement regulations.

The amount of € 119,000 has been earmarked to be used as technical assistance and accordingly, the following activities are envisaged to be implemented:

- Expenditure related to the fulfilment of the obligations assigned to the designated authorities (e.g. salaries of officials within the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Finance, the Economy and Investment and the Internal Audit and Investigations Department (IAID), purchase of computer software, computer equipment, furniture, stationary and consumables, administrative costs);

¹ Delegated by the RA to undertake the payment process.

² MJHA for EBF, ERF and RF and MEEF for IF

- Expenditure (including travel costs and subsistence allowance) aimed at sharing of experience and good practices between local stakeholders and European counterparts (such as meetings with other RAs) with the aim of improving the system and making it more effective and efficient. Costs charged to Technical Assistance will include accommodation for a number of Member State officers travelling to Malta or Maltese officers travelling to other Member States as well as organisation of meeting/s;
- Expenditure related to project selection, monitoring, reporting, management verifications as well as audit and control;
- Expenditures related to external expertise – e.g the fulfilment of other tasks e.g. evaluation;
- Expenditure related to translation and interpretation (as appropriate);
- Expenditure necessary for the preparation and dissemination of documentation and information (e.g. compilation and publication of manuals of procedure, explanatory documents and publication of calls for proposals);
- Expenditure (including travel costs and subsistence allowance) relating to participation of officials in various meetings (e.g. SOLID Committee), different workshops and training conferences which are directly related to their function;
- Expenditures related to the training of officials and stakeholders, including Beneficiaries and partner organisations;
- Expenditures related to publicity and information activities (including programmes on local media regarding the results and impacts of the Programme, organization of seminars and information meetings for potential applicants etc...);
- Expenditure related to the setting up of an electronic management information system.

4.2. Expected Quantified Results

The main result of the use of Technical Assistance is the successful implementation of the 2012 Program. Expected results, depending on the actual activities carried out, will be as follows:

- 70 % increase in capacity³;
- Successful implementation of the Programme;
- Effective announcement of Open Calls (in newspapers, websites, etc);
- The organisation of at least 6 bilateral monitoring meetings;
- The organization of at least one conference to be organized per year for beneficiaries and stakeholders;
- Engagement of external evaluators to carry out an independent external evaluation of the annual program after closure of projects where necessary;
- The setting up of an electronic management information system;

³ This figure refers to all 4 funds.

4.3. Visibility of EU Funding

The EU logo will be applied to all materials prepared (instruction documents, application forms, advertising materials, etc) and also equipment which is purchased (e.g. computers). When required, information activities (for launching of call, etc) will be carried out and media articles will be published in order to publicise any relevant development.

The RA also intends to publicise the results of the Programme using different media.

5. OTHER OPERATIONS – EMERGENCY MEASURES

In order to address situations of particular pressure the Maltese authorities envisage also implementing a series of Emergency measures.

A. Description of the situation of particular pressure requiring emergency measures

1 An indication of the exceptional character of the situation

Due to its geographical position on the main migration routes from Africa to Europe, Malta has, in recent years, received a high number of irregular immigrants seeking asylum. This situation, coupled with the inalienable realities that are typical of the smallest island State in Europe – extraordinarily high population density and, small geographical footprint – automatically give rise to a situation where Malta is obliged to carry a burden substantially disproportionate to its physical size and financial capabilities.

The continuous influx experienced in the past years has been exacerbated in the recent months in view of dramatic events taking place within the respective territories of Malta's southern neighbours, in particular Tunisia and Libya. A constant flow of immigrants undertaking long and dangerous journeys across the Mediterranean Sea aboard flimsy boats in order to seek refuge in Europe picked up even greater momentum in the wake of the North African upheavals as recourse started being made to larger boats carrying much higher numbers of migrants. A number of these ended up in Malta over the period April-May 2011, thereby exacerbating even further an already unsustainable situation .

2 The number and nature of arrivals

During 2011⁴, Malta has so far received 1,535 illegal migrants arriving by boat. When compared with the number of arrivals in previous years, the figure exceeds the total number of arrivals for 2009 and 2010 (combined) and is practically at par with figures attained in previous years (the average number of arrivals between 2002 and 2010 is 1,464). Moreover most of the illegal migrants would subsequently apply for asylum.

Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Number	1686	502	1388	1822	1780	1702	2775	1475	47	1535

3 The effects of these arrivals on reception capacities, the asylum system or infrastructure

The afore-mentioned exceptional amount of arrivals has led to unsustainable pressures on the country's reception capacities and infrastructure. One of the most urgent effects

⁴ As at 31st October 2011

of this situation is the provision of basic material reception conditions. Coupled with the increase in arrivals is the obvious increase in the need for basic supplies, in particular the provision of food.

Furthermore, such overburdening has seriously affected the security (controlled access) within the open centres - both with regards to access to such establishments as well as access to activities undertaken within, thus jeopardizing the safety of the residents and having a negative effect on their quality of life and privacy.

The increase in the number of arrivals has also led to problems related to accommodation. Despite the overstretched resources, Malta has provided (and continues to provide) housing for such persons. However, the burden of accommodating the continuously increasing amount of asylum seekers is exerting exceptionally heavy and urgent demands on the reception capacities available in the accommodation centres. The sheer number of persons in both reception centres has had a detrimental effect on the infrastructure with basic services failing repeatedly because of the demand generated by so many people accommodated together. In certain places maintenance demands have overtaken maintenance capabilities contributing to decline in living conditions. This situation has been further aggravated with the high numbers of arrivals in 2011 having a domino effect on both the closed and open centres. As a result, the reception centres already characterized by a high level of population density, are increasingly experiencing overcrowding, with inevitable negative impacts on the standard of living of the residents.

4 The urgent needs

This situation has put considerable additional stress on Malta's reception capacities and asylum infrastructure which are already constantly stretched to the limits to cater for the large number of persons. The increase in arrivals in 2011 has put tremendous pressure on existing administrative and financial resources in order to provide basic provisions, in particular food. In this regard, the related authorities are struggling to cope with such financial burden which is over and above the amounts earmarked for this purpose in the ERF Annual programme 2011 and also above the amounts initially projected in the national budget to be spent in 2011 for such purpose.

Security introduced prior to 2011 was severely put to the test during the year following the afore-mentioned sudden influxes of immigrants. Moreover, the increase in arrivals also led to a proportional increase in the number of persons being placed in open accommodation centres (following their release from detention) thereby swelling the numbers thereat and making increased security an even more pressing requirement. Security meaning authorised access to visitors, ensuring the proper conduct by residents of the centre and ensuring a secure environment within the centres.

One of the basic needs that has to be addressed urgently is the provision of adequate accommodation within the reception centres. Considering that the emergency situation does not allow for short/medium-term plans to upgrade the present infrastructure, the only feasible alternative is that a number of mobile homes are procured as soon as possible in order to relocate residents to a more hospitable, secure and private

environment, especially for the family units which arrived in far greater numbers than in previous years during 2011.

5 The short-term objectives

The objective of the Maltese authorities is to ease the situation of particular pressure that is being experienced due to the exponential increase in arrivals of persons who may be in need of international protection experienced in 2011. The resultant exceptionally heavy and urgent demands placed on the reception centres have had (and still need) to be addressed immediately. Such demands include the provision of food; a more secure environment through the provision of security and more appropriate and comfortable accommodation, namely mobile homes.

B. Emergency measures envisaged

In view of the emergency situation being experienced (described in previous sections) and the exceptional and urgent demands that are being placed on the accommodation facilities, the Maltese Authorities are requesting the assistance of the Emergency Measures of the ERF 2011.

Measure 1: Provision of Food Supplies

Purpose and scope of the measure, including target groups

In the immediate term, the huge number of arrivals in a very short span of time (1454 over a mere seven weeks in March/May 2011) placed enormous financial and administrative burdens on the Maltese institutions which are responsible for covering reception conditions, in particular the provision of food. The spike in costs arising from these major influxes of boat people was particularly pronounced given that arrivals had tailed off in 2010 and budgetary allocations for 2011 had been correspondingly curtailed.

Upon arrival the irregular immigrants are transferred to the Closed Accommodation Centres where they are retained until their asylum request is processed (or, eventually, until their maximum term of detention expires, following which, on being released in the Community, they are placed in Open Accommodation Centres). In Malta, the primary responsibility for the management of Closed and Open Accommodation Centres falls upon the Detention Service (DS) and the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS) respectively.

Provision of food is covered through a tender, issued in 2009 and adjudicated to a catering establishment, which contains provisions for the supply and service of breakfast, lunch and dinner to Third Country Nationals within closed centres. The tender also covers, through an amendment to the original provisions in September 2010, the more vulnerable of the residents housed in selected open centres run by AWAS. Such an amendment was required in view of the exponential increase of the target groups in the Open Centres (following release from the Closed Detention Centres in the

course of 2009 and 2010). It was expected that, as per the terms of the tender, the provision of food would be evenly spread out over an estimated three years (up till 2014) and, on average, 1,000 meals would be delivered on a daily basis. In view of the massive influx, the indicated figures had to be revised and the projected expenditure was increased very substantially during the emergency period within this year accordingly. The target groups covered under this action are residents within the reception centres which form part of the categories listed in Article 6 of Decision 573/2007/EC establishing the European Refugee Fund.

Duration of the measure

1st June 2011 – 30th November 2011

Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as executing body

In view of the urgent situation of a high influx of irregular immigrants who may be in need of international protection and the resulting impending needs to be catered for in a short period of time, the RA shall use the executing body method. Implementation will be carried out by the Detention Service and AWAS. The RA has opted to act by this method of implementation because the Detention Service and AWAS, enjoy a form of monopolistic situation since they are the main Government Organisations currently addressing issues related to closed and open accommodation centres in Malta, especially in the light of the afore-mentioned arrivals which urgently require immediate action to be taken.

Expected grant recipients

The Detention Service and the Agency for Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS)

Estimated Cost

€ 386,250

Expected quantified results

The continuous supply and service of food on a daily basis.

Indicators to be used

Improved standard of living for migrants through the provision of food in two closed centres (Hal Safi and Hal Far Lyster barracks) and two Open Centres (Hal Far Hangar and Hal Far Tent Village).

Visibility of EU funding

In order to ensure the visibility of EU funding, the food supplier and the recipient target groups will be informed through a formal communication that the expenditure has been covered as part of the Emergency Measures. Furthermore, the grant recipients will

publish an article in the media in order to inform the general public of such assistance which has been received through such Emergency Measures. Notices will also put up in kitchens in order to provide details on the source of funding.

Complementarity with existing actions supported by the European Refugee Fund

Such a measure complements other actions, supported by the ERF that have been carried out along the years to improve the living conditions of target groups. In particular a similar action was carried out under the ERF 2008 Annual Programme, titled 'Provision of Food Supplies and Medical Support for Third Country Nationals residing in Closed Centres' and the ERF 2009 Annual Programme (Emergency Measure) titled 'Procurement of supplies for the immigrant population in the open centres'.

Measure 2: Enhancing Security within Open Centres

Purpose and scope of the measure, including target groups

In the local system, open centres are residential set-ups open to registered residents, staff, and accredited visitors. The larger centres cater for a resident population that runs into several hundreds and comprises a highly varied mix of cultures and creeds in what is generally a relatively small area in physical terms. Unfortunately, over the years, such centres had come to be perceived as being open to the public at large. This is obviously not the case because, while residents have unrestricted freedom of movement to enter and exit the centre, it had never been the intention to have unauthorised persons entering and roaming about at will. To nip such undesirable practices in the bud, AWAS has introduced structured access control systems to ensure that entry is restricted solely to authorised persons. The system was introduced in mid-2010 and security personnel transferred on assignment from the Detention Service were deployed to this effect. The system worked very well and the presence of such personnel also served to prevent the occasional minor incidents that invariably crop up between residents from developing into large scale risk situations which put the safety of both residents and staff in jeopardy. Unfortunately, the sudden influxes of migrants that were experienced in the spring of this year had a negative impact on this set-up on two fronts. The security personnel had to be recalled back to their first call of duty within the Detention Service, thereby obliging AWAS to make recourse to the services of security personnel from the open market in order to meet its requirements in this respect at considerable expense. Moreover, the sudden substantial influx of immigrants led to a proportional increase in the number of immigrants being placed in open accommodation centres (following their release from detention) thereby giving rise to an added need for personnel responsible to see that the rules of the centres are followed by residents and visitors. This ultimately results in a more secure environment for staff and residents alike.

The target groups shall be residents within the open centres which form part of the categories listed in Article 6 of Decision 573/2007/EC establishing the European Refugee Fund.

Duration of the measure

1st June 2011 – 30th November 2011

Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as executing body

In view of the urgent situation of a high influx of irregular immigrants seeking asylum and the resulting impending needs to be catered for in a short period of time, the RA shall opt for the executing method. Implementation of the project will be carried out by AWAS. The RA has opted to act by this method of implementation because AWAS enjoys a form of monopolistic situation since it is the main Government Organisation currently addressing issues related to open accommodation centres in Malta especially in the light of the afore-mentioned arrivals which urgently require immediate action to be taken.

Expected grant recipients

The Agency for Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS)

Estimated Cost

€210,000

Expected quantified results

The provision of a regular security service within the Open Centres.

Indicators to be used

- Improved standard of living for migrants in the open centres.
- Improved safety for residents
- Decrease in situations threatening security

Visibility of EU funding

In order to ensure the visibility of EU funding, the service provider and the recipient target groups will be informed through a formal communication that the expenditure related to the provision of security has been covered as part of the Emergency Measures. Furthermore, signs will be installed by AWAS at the main security areas indicating that the provision of such service is being co-financed through such Emergency Measures.

Complementarity with existing actions supported by the European Refugee Fund

Such measure complements other actions, supported by the ERF that have been carried out along the years to improve the living conditions of target groups. In particular similar actions were carried out under the ERF 2008 Annual Programme titled 'Provision of essential services for the management of reception centres for Third Country Nationals', the ERF 2009 Annual Programme titled 'Provision of essential services for the management of reception centres for Third Country Nationals' and 'Providing a better quality of life to the residents of the Marsa Open Centre' and the ERF

2010 Annual Programme titled 'Better quality of life for residents at the Marsa Open Centre'.

Measure 3: Procurement of Mobile Homes

Purpose and scope of the measure, including target groups

Accommodation of persons who may be in need of international protection / asylum seekers is provided in a varied mix of reception centres which include military barracks, adapted buildings, an ex-aircraft hangar, tent villages and mobile home areas. Every effort, (within the limited resources available) is employed to ensure that living conditions are acceptable and as humane as possible and that the potential of the various facilities is maximised for the benefit of the residents who are housed therein. Obviously, however, the current inherent limitation of some of the facilities requires much needed improvement. The situation is not helped when sudden influxes of incoming persons in relatively short periods of time lead to centres being full to capacity and stretched to the limits.

By way of improving reception and accommodation conditions, mobile homes are being acquired to replace tent-based housing in both the reception centres. Mobile homes are considered to be a better substitute for tents since they are more durable and cost-effective than the latter which, in the Maltese climate, last only around 8 months. Moreover, such homes offer better protection in inclement weather and offer more privacy and security to the respective residents, especially for the family unit which arrived in far greater numbers than in previous years during 2011.

This process of upgrading was being undertaken by Malta in a phased manner, in tandem with the resources available. However, the recent influx of persons and the somewhat unusual composition thereof – a much larger number of family units than was the tendency in previous years – have impacted on this process in two ways. In the first instance the sudden increase in numbers has forced the authorities to step up the process to meet the resulting extra demand. Secondly the type of groups (more families) arriving in 2011 have also resulted in the urgent need to increase the number of such homes to be acquired because the larger number of family units require more privacy than would have been the case if, as in previous occasions, most incoming migrants were single males.

In view of this, it is being proposed that the emergency measures are utilized in order to purchase 80 mobile homes (the actual figure is dependent on the actual cost of each mobile home and related shipping costs), replacing the tents and providing better living conditions. It has to be pointed out that residential mobile homes are not available in Malta, either for purchase or for leasing and therefore the related shipping costs would have to be covered as well.

The target groups shall be residents within the reception centres which form part of the categories listed in Article 6 of Decision 573/2007/EC establishing the European Refugee Fund.

Duration of the measure

15th December 2011 – 15th June 2012

Where appropriate, justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as executing body

In view of the urgent situation of a high influx of irregular immigrants who may be in need of international protection and the resulting impending needs to be catered for in a short period of time, the RA shall use the executing body method. Implementation will be carried out by the Detention Service and AWAS. The RA has opted to act by this method of implementation because the Detention Service and AWAS, enjoy a form of monopolistic situation since they are the main Government Organisations currently addressing issues related to closed and open accommodation centres in Malta, especially in the light of the afore-mentioned arrivals which urgently require immediate action to be taken.

Expected grant recipients

The Detention Service and the Agency for Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS)

Estimated Cost

€ 905,000

Expected quantified results

The procurement of mobile homes to be used for housing residents within the reception centres.

Indicators to be used

Improved standards of living for migrants including migrant families in the reception centres through relocation within the 80 mobile homes.

Visibility of EU funding

In order to ensure the visibility of EU funding, the service provider shall be informed through a formal communication that the procurement of the mobile homes has been covered as part of the Emergency Measures. Furthermore, signs will be installed by the grant recipients on the mobile homes, clearly indicating the source of funding.

Complementarity with existing actions supported by the European Refugee Fund

Such measure complements other actions, supported by the ERF that have been carried out along the years to improve the living conditions of target groups. In particular, similar or parallel actions were carried out under the ERF 2009 Annual Programme

(Emergency Measures) titled 'The Setting up of mobile homes to be used as isolation and treatment units by the Health Department which were used for a different purpose than that envisaged to be used by Detention Service and AWAS..

C. Eligibility rules

1 Start date and end date of all the measures

All measures will be implemented over the period 1st June 2011 – 15th June 2012. However, the eligibility period for each individual measure will not exceed 6 months as indicated in point B above under each of the Measures.

2 Derogations to the eligibility rules on expenditure, referred to in Annex 11 of this decision, in accordance with Article 5 of the basic act

NA

6. FINANCING PLAN

Annual Programme - Financial Plan										
Table 1 - Overview table										
Member State: Republic of Malta										
Annual programme concerned: 2011										
Fund: European Refugee Fund										
	Ref. priority	Ref. specific priority (1)	Union Contribution (a)	Public Allocation (b)	Private Allocation (c)	TOTAL (d= a+b+c)	% EU (e=a/d)	Share of total (f=d/total d)		
<i>(all figures in euro)</i>										
Action 1: Reception Conditions	1		869,976.29	289,992.09		1,159,968.38	75%	34.61%		
Action 2: Integration	1		428,742.83	28,914.27	114,000.00	571,657.10	75%	17.05%		
Technical Assistance			119,000.00			119,000.00	100%	3.55%		
Emergency Measures			1,201,000.00	300,250.00		1,501,250.00	80%	44.79%		
Total			2,618,719.12	619,156.36	114,000.00	3,351,875.48	78.13%	100%		

Funds and Programmes Division
Office of the Prime Minister

Raphael Scerri

Director General

Funds and Programmes Division

14/11/2011
Date