

ANNUAL PROGRAMME

MEMBER STATE: Malta

FUND: External Borders Fund

**RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY: Programme Implementation
Directorate, EU Funds Unit,
Ministry for Justice & Home Affairs**

YEAR COVERED: 2010

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

The Responsible Authority of the Fund shall implement the Annual Programme 2010 of the External Borders Fund by utilising an open call for proposals.

The total budget for this year was made available to the interested stakeholders by way of an open call for proposals, which was issued on the 9th of August 2009 with a deadline for the submission of project proposals on the 14th of September 2009. A total of nine (9) projects were submitted by government entities responsible for the surveillance and patrol of the external borders and issuing of Visas, and by a public liability company responsible for the management of the Valletta Cruise Liners Terminal. The projects were evaluated by an impartial Project Selection Committee (PSC) according to the following Evaluation Ranking Criteria, which are in line with the minimum criteria established in Article 16(5) of the basic act:

(a) CAPACITY of the entity to implement the project.

The potential of the management of the entity submitting the application and its experience and expertise in the running of the operation was evaluated. In particular, the PSC analyzed the experience of the project leader and the people directly involved in the project and their familiarity with EU funding. In addition to this, their technical expertise in relation to the subject-matter of the project was examined. Importance was also given to the overall management capacity of the applicant, as in regards to its administrative and other support services in order to be able to respond to the project demands. Finally, the financial capacity of the applicant entity to be able to fund the required local part of co-financing of the project was examined.

(b) RELEVANCE.

The projects were adjudicated a score according to their relevance to the particular needs and constraints of Malta and the priorities of the Fund.

(c) READINESS to implement the project.

The level of preparedness for the initiation of the project was tested. This was done in order to ensure that the project will not be hindered by lengthy processes (for e.g. it doesn't need permits or studies) and has high probability of being finalized within the set time-frames.

(d) EFFICIENCY in the financial allocation and management of the co-financing provided and the **EFFECTIVENESS** of the actions that will be carried out with the assistance of the Fund.

The proportionality of the budget being requested in respect to the objectives of the project being presented was analyzed. Furthermore, the project was examined in order to ensure the coherence of the overall project design as well as the clarity and feasibility of the plan of action. Finally the sustainability of the actions undertaken was considered.

(e) INDICATORS.

The PSC assessed the clarity and measurability of the indicators provided in the application. It also considered what tangible impacts can be concluded from the indicators presented, in order to evaluate how realistic and reachable the expected results are. The criteria mentioned above were indicated in the guidelines which were issued with the application form with the aim of informing applicants beforehand on what basis their projects will be judged.

Furthermore, in accordance with Article 15(5)(d) of the basic act, complementarity was also addressed as one of the criteria for selection.

Result of the Adjudication

Four (4) projects were approved for co-financing under the External Borders Fund Annual Program 2010. These projects scored the highest amount of points in the selection process and between them and the amount allocated to technical assistance were able to absorb the whole allocation for Malta under the mentioned Annual Program. Initially the number of selected projects was five but one of the selected projects was withdrawn by its applicant organization and the funds released were allocated to another project where the budget had been previously reduced due to the constraints of the EU allocation.

Changes in Projects and the use of the Executing Method

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

3.1. Actions implementing priority 1

No actions are envisaged to be carried out targeting this priority.

Although in the multiannual programme it was foreseen that priority 1 would be targeted in 2010, due to the lack of applications for actions falling under this priority, priority 1 will not be targeted in the EBF 2010 annual programme.

3.2. Actions implementing priority 2: Support for the development and implementation of the national components of a European Surveillance System for the external borders and of a permanent European patrol Network at the southern maritime borders of the EU Member States.

Action 1

***Further enhancing the border control capabilities of the Armed Forces of Malta
- Procurement of an additional fixed-wing Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA)***

<p>Purpose & Scope of the action</p>	<p>The scope of this action, <i>addressing Priority 2 (specific priority 3), Objective 2</i> of the Multi-Annual Programme, is to provide the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) with a more extensive, deployable, cost efficient and technology based operational air capability.</p> <p><u>Further Enhancing the border control capabilities of the Armed Forces of Malta: Procurement of an additional fixed-wing maritime patrol aircraft (MPA)</u></p> <p>The AFM's air assets currently in use to control Malta's blue borders and maritime activities on the southern maritime flank of the EU, offer relatively slow response times and restricted operational radii. These assets offer limited surveillance capabilities and the meteorological envelope within which they can operate is restricted. The need for new air control capabilities has been clearly identified at European level and in a report issued by the Schengen Evaluation Team for the maritime and air borders.</p> <p>With the contribution of the External Borders Fund, Malta will invest in yet another, more capable Maritime Patrol Aircraft, complementing another one which is in the process of being procured under the EBF 2009 annual programme. This asset will be deployed on border control missions beyond the territorial seas and the contiguous zone in order to detect, identify and coordinate operations in case of unauthorised crossing of the southern maritime border. This capability will allow faster and more effective response to incidents, while also maximising operational effectiveness which will allow an increased deployment profile within existing financial constraints. The capability will also be deployed in support of EU cooperation missions.</p> <p>The project will also address the support issues related to operating such a system. These include the training of personnel to operate and maintain the capability as well as extended field support from the eventual contractor.</p>
<p>Grant recipients</p>	<p>The grant recipients are the Armed Forces of Malta which are responsible for the surveillance and control of the maritime borders.</p>
<p>Expected Quantified Results</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Maritime Patrol Aircraft procured, equipped with electronic equipment for the surveillance of the maritime borders and for the exchange of real time information. - Approximately 20 personnel trained in maintenance and operation of the maritime patrol aircraft - Field-support package for the aircraft and equipment contracted. - Increased area of deployment: This action will result in the Armed Forces of Malta having the air capability to deploy to any Mediterranean EU member state and beyond on joint operations. - Significant enhancement of the AFM's capability in joint operations: The communications infrastructure on board would make it possible to integrate with foreign National Coordination Centres, other air and naval assets and also with different border surveillance agencies.

<p>Key Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procurement of a Maritime Patrol Aircraft equipped with electronic equipment for the surveillance of the maritime borders and for the exchange of real time information. - Training of selected personnel in maintenance and operation of the maritime patrol aircraft - Contracting of a field-support package for the aircraft and equipment <p><u>Procurement</u></p> <p>Public procurement regulations will be complied with, in order to carry out this project.</p>
<p>Targets:</p>	<p>The target is to provide the Armed Forces of Malta, in its role in border control, with a more deployable, faster, cost-efficient and technology-based operational capability in the air.</p> <p>Through the implementation of this project, Malta will be carrying out a recommendation of the Schengen Evaluation Team which inspected Malta's maritime and air borders in February 2007.</p> <p>It is also envisaged that training of personnel be carried out, in order to operate and maintain the new capabilities.</p>
<p>Indicators:</p>	<p>The project will result in the procurement of a Maritime Patrol Aircraft equipped with electronic equipment for the surveillance of the maritime borders and for the exchange of real time information. Training of selected personnel in the maintenance and the operation of the aircraft will be carried out. Additionally, a field-support package for the aircraft and the equipment will be contracted.</p> <p><i>Impact Indicator</i></p> <p>Strengthening of air capability for external border surveillance and patrol, reducing transit time to incidents and direct operating costs, as well as improving ability to deploy directly to other Mediterranean EU member states and beyond on joint operations.</p>
<p>Visibility of EC Funding</p>	<p>It is envisaged that on project completion the project will be publicised through all local media, giving details on the assistance received from the External Borders Fund. The project will also be published on all major aviation publications such as Flight International and Airforces Monthly. The aircraft and equipment will be clearly marked with appropriate identification that the project was funded from EU funds.</p>
<p>Complementarity with similar Actions financed by other EC instruments</p>	<p>The Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) have benefited from EU assistance for the purposes of surveillance through projects of much smaller scale, for instance through Pre-Accession Funds and the European Regional Development Fund.</p> <p>The Annual Program 2008 of the External Borders Fund has catered for the strengthening of the capability at sea of the Armed Forces of Malta through the procurement of inshore patrol vessels. The Annual Program 2009 will enhance the</p>

	<p>air capability of the Armed Forces of Malta with the procurement of a maritime patrol aircraft which is expected to be delivered in 2010.</p> <p>The annual program 2010 shall thus improve the overall capacity of Malta to carry out surveillance and patrol of the maritime borders with the procurement of a second maritime patrol aircraft.</p>
Financial Information	The budget allocated to this action shall be of € 9,696,497.00 out of which € 7,272,372.75 shall be financed out of the External Borders Fund and € 2,424,124.25 shall be public co-financing.

<p>Action 2</p> <p><i>Improving the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) ground support facilities at Air Wing (AW) – improving hangar and maintenance space.</i></p>	
Purpose & Scope of the action	The scope of this action, <i>addressing Priority 2, Objective 2</i> of the Multi-Annual Programme, is to provide the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) with improved ground support facilities, allowing faster response times for air units deployed on border patrol missions.
Grant recipients	The grant recipients are the Armed Forces of Malta which are responsible for the surveillance and control of the maritime borders.
Expected Quantified Results	<p><u><i>Improving the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM) ground support facilities at Air Wing (AW) – improving hangar and maintenance space.</i></u></p> <p>The Armed forces of Malta (AFM) is currently in the process of procuring a maritime patrol aircraft under the External Borders Fund 2009 annual programme and a second one under the EBF 2010 annual programme with the aim of providing the force with a more deployable, cost-efficient and technology based operational air capability, able to deploy on external border control missions beyond territorial seas and the contiguous zone.</p> <p>Ground support facilities currently available at the AFM Air Wing for air units deployed on border control are severely limited with inadequate hangar and maintenance space for the new aircraft.</p> <p>The provision of robust ground support to air assets will allow for faster, more effective response in detection, identification and coordination of operations including FRONTEX missions.</p>
Key Actions	-The building of a new Hangar at the AFM Air Wing to house the new maritime patrol aircraft and provide an adequate area for the maintenance of these assets,

	<p>while providing ground support to foreign assets on FRONTEX missions.</p> <p><u>Procurement</u></p> <p>Public procurement regulations will be complied with, in order to carry out this project.</p>
Targets:	<p>The target of this action is to provide the Armed Forces of Malta's Air Wing with added hangar and maintenance space needed for the new maritime patrol aircrafts. These facilities could also be used by foreign air assets deployed on FRONTEX operations resulting in improved sustainability for FRONTEX joint operations, delivering an improved service to both AFM and foreign units on such missions and enhancing rapidity of response of units (local/foreign) based at AFM AW through improved ground support facilities.</p>
Indicators:	<p>The project will result in the building of robust ground facilities available to AFM and foreign air assets to provide faster, effective and coordinated Maritime Border Surveillance operations.</p>
Visibility of EC Funding	<p>It is envisaged that on project completion the project will be publicised through all local media, giving details on the assistance received from the External Borders Fund, adding to this, the facilities will be clearly marked with appropriate identification that the project was funded through EU funds.</p>
Complementarity with similar Actions financed by other EC instruments	<p>The External Borders Fund 2009 Annual Program will enhance the air capability of the Armed Forces of Malta with the procurement of a maritime patrol aircraft which will be delivered in 2010. Under the annual program 2010 the overall capacity of Malta to carry out surveillance and patrol of the maritime borders will be improved with the procurement of a second maritime patrol aircraft. This action will consolidate these investments by providing the appropriate hangar and maintenance space for these air assets.</p>
Financial Information	<p>The budget allocated to this action shall be of € 602,393 out of which € 451,795 shall be financed out of the External Borders Fund and € 150,598 shall be public co-financing.</p>

3.3.Actions implementing priority 3: Support for the issuing of Visas and the tackling of illegal immigration, including the detection of false and falsified documents by enhancing the activities organised by the consular and other services of the Member States in third countries.

Action 3

Purchase of equipment for the detection of false and falsified documents

Purpose & Scope of the action	The scope of this action, <i>addressing Priority 3, Objective 2</i> of the Multi-Annual Programme, is to strengthen the capacity of consular outposts to detect false and falsified documents ensuring a safe Visa issuing mechanism.
Grant recipients	The grant recipient is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which is the entity responsible for the issuing of Visas in Malta.
Expected Quantified Results	<p align="center"><u><i>Purchase of equipment for the detection of false and falsified documents</i></u></p> <p>This action will result in the procurement of equipment for the detection of false and falsified documents such as retro-check equipment and synthetic magnifiers to be distributed in various consular missions in non-EU countries and the training of embassy staff for its use. Embassies to be covered include New Delhi, Toronto, Riyadh, Geneva, Cairo, Tripoli, Tunis, Canberra, Moscow, Washington, Melbourne, Sydney, Ramallah, Tel Aviv, New York, Beijing, Istanbul and Dubai. Local authorities will also be equipped with such equipment. The training programme for mission staff will be carried out at their location abroad, whilst training for local authorities will be held in Malta. It is expected that training will be given to a minimum of 250 persons. This equipment is useful for the Visa issuing process in which false and falsified documents can be detected ensuring a safe issuing mechanism for Schengen Visas.</p>
Key Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The procurement of equipment for the detection of false and falsified documents in different consular missions in non-EU countries. - Training of embassy staff in using the above mentioned equipment <p><u>Procurement</u></p> <p>Public procurement regulations will be complied with, in order to carry out this project.</p>
Targets:	The target of this action is to strengthen the capacity of consular missions to detect false and falsified documents and ensure a safe Visa issuing mechanism.
Indicators:	The project will result in a safer Visa issuing mechanism through the detection of false documents.
Visibility of EC Funding	It is envisaged that on project completion the equipment will be clearly marked with appropriate identification that the project was funded through EU funds. Visibility will also be achieved through coverage in local media, where EU funding will be specified.

<p><i>Complementary with similar Actions financed by other EC instruments</i></p>	<p>Actions involving the further development of the Schengen Information System (SIS) and the Visa Information System (VIS) were undertaken under different EBF annual programs. Under the EBF 2007 annual program a number of consular outposts were upgraded to ensure compliance with the Schengen Code and the integration of the NVIS (National Visa information System) with the CVIS (Community Visa Information System) was tackled. Under the EBF 2008 the migration from SIS I+ to SIS II platform and from SIRENE I to SIRENE II was tackled.</p>
<p><i>Financial Information</i></p>	<p>The budget allocated to this action shall be of € 300,000.00 out of which € 225,000.00 shall be financed out of the External Borders Fund and € 75,000.00 shall be public co-financing.</p>

3.4.Actions implementing priority 4: Support for the establishment of IT systems required for implementation of the Community legal instruments in the field of external borders and visas.

<p><i>Action 4</i></p> <p><i>Strengthening Malta's capacity to Issue Visas</i></p>	
<p>Purpose & Scope of the action</p>	<p>The scope of this action, <i>addressing Priority 4, Objective 1</i> of the Multi-Annual Programme, is to upgrade and develop the Malta Visa system, enabling it to handle EU requirements such as changes in the VISION system and VIS mail requirements.</p>
<p>Grant recipients</p>	<p>The grant recipient is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which is the entity responsible for the issuing of Visas in Malta.</p>
<p>Expected Quantified Results</p>	<p><u><i>Strengthening Malta's capacity to Issue Visas</i></u></p> <p>Malta will have by the end of 2009 successfully completed compliance requirements to enable Malta to participate in the EU VIS programme. In 2010 it is envisaged that further development would be required to the National Visa System to take on board the new requirements/initiatives as outlined by the new Visa Code.</p> <p>Under this action changes in the VISION system (which will be used until the VIS system is running) will be made to reflect changes emanating from the Visa Code and the Malta National Visa System will be prepared for the new VIS Mail</p>

	<p>requirements.</p> <p>This action will result in the development and upgrading of the Malta National Visa System to enable it to handle EU requirements including secure communication on Visa issues amongst member states.</p>
Key Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The development and upgrading of the Malta National Visa System, in relation to the VISION and VIS Mail systems, enabling it to handle EU requirements emanating from the Visa Code. - On site training for embassy staff. - The publication of documentation/manuals. - Disseminating information on the system to the general public. <p><u>Procurement</u></p> <p>Public procurement regulations will be complied with, in order to carry out this project.</p>
Targets:	<p>The target of this action is to ensure that Malta is in line with EU visa requirements including communication with other Schengen partners. This will be achieved through changes to the VISION system and the eventual migration to the VIS Mail system. The action also includes training of embassy staff and dissemination of information to the general public.</p>
Indicators:	<p>The project will result in Malta's adherence to the EU Visa Code requirements.</p>
Visibility of EC Funding	<p>It is envisaged that on project completion the equipment and publications will be clearly marked with appropriate identification that the project was funded through EU funds. Visibility will also be achieved through coverage in local media where EU funding will be specified.</p>
Complementarity with similar Actions financed by other EC instruments	<p>Actions involving the further development of the Schengen Information System (SIS) and the Visa Information System (VIS) were undertaken under different EBF annual programs. Under the EBF 2007 annual program a number of consular outposts were upgraded to ensure compliance with the Schengen code and the integration of the NVIS with the CVIS was tackled. Under the EBF 2008 the migration from SIS I+ to SIS II platform and from SIRENE I to SIRENE II was tackled.</p>
Financial Information	<p>The budget allocated to this action shall be of € 1,290,000.00 out of which € 967,500.00 shall be financed out of the External Borders Fund and € 322,500.00 shall be public co-financing.</p>

3.5. Actions implementing priority 5

No actions are envisaged to be carried out targeting this priority.

4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

4.1 Purpose of the Technical Assistance

Since the External Borders Fund, the European Refugee Fund and the European Return Fund are managed by the same Authorities (the Responsible Authority, the Treasury Department – delegated with the payment function, the Certifying Authority and the Audit Authority), Technical Assistance (where applicable) will be shared (equally divided) between the three Funds.

Technical Assistance is aimed at enhancing the implementation of the Fund Program by providing the above-mentioned authorities with appropriate support. The amount of € 75,000.00 has been earmarked to be used as technical assistance and accordingly, the following activities are envisaged to be implemented:

- Expenditures related to the fulfillment of the designated authorities (e.g. salaries of officials within the Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Economy and Investment and the Internal Audit and Investigations Directorate, purchase of computer software, computer equipment and consumables, administrative costs)
- Expenditures related to the fulfillment of tasks of external consultants (e.g. to carry out an independent external evaluation of the annual program during and after the closure of the projects/ programme, in order to ensure an impartial professional evaluation of both the implemented projects and the management system of the Fund)
- Expenditures 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)
- Expenditures relating to participation of the officials implementing the Fund in various meetings (e.g. SOLID Committee, different workshops and training conferences which are directly related to the Fund)
- Expenditures related to exchanges of information (e.g. in the form of meetings) between the designated authorities and their counterparts within other Member States, including travel costs and subsistence allowance
- Expenditures related to the trainings of the officials implementing the Fund and for stakeholders (e.g. project management, evaluation of the projects, monitoring and accounting, reporting of irregularities, certification and auditing)
- Expenditures related to information activities (e.g. organization of seminars aimed at beneficiaries of projects, organization of meetings for potential applicants and activities aimed at presenting the achievements of the annual program)

Public procurement regulations will be complied with for expenditure under Technical Assistance.

4.2 Expected quantified results

The main result of the use of Technical Assistance is the successful implementation of the 2010 Program of the Fund. Expected results, depending on the actual activities carried out, will be as follows:

- Sufficient number of competent and trained officials in the designated authorities
- Successful completion of all projects
- Adequate compilation and distribution of information to potential applicants and to project beneficiaries (through the organization of workshops and distribution of information materials)
- Effective announcement of Open Calls (in newspapers, websites, etc)
- The organization of at least one conference to be organized per year for beneficiaries
- Engagement of external evaluators to carry out an independent external evaluation of the annual program after closure of projects
- Coverage of travel and subsistence costs for officials of relevant authorities when participating in the implementation of the Fund
- Visibility of EC Funding is ensured in accordance with the implementing rules of the Fund
- Exchange of information (e.g. in the form of meetings) between the designated authorities and their counterparts within other Member States, including coverage of travel and subsistence allowance

4.3 Visibility of EC 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.

5. DRAFT FINANCING PLAN

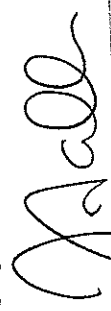
Annual Programme - Draft Financial Plan										
Table 1 - Overview table										
Member State: Republic of Malta										
Annual programme concerned: Annual Programme 2010										
Fund: External Borders Fund										
	Ref. priority	Ref. specific priority (1)	Community Contribution (a)	Public Allocation (b)	Private Allocation (c)	TOTAL (d= a+b+c)	% EC (e=a/d)	Share of total (=d/total d)		
<i>(all figures in euro)</i>										
Action 1: Further enhance	2	3	7,272,373	2,424,124		9,696,497	75.00%	81.05%		
Action 2: Improving the	2		451,795	150,598		602,393	75.00%	5.04%		
Action 3: Purchase of e	3		225,000	75,000		300,000	75.00%	2.51%		
Action 4: Strengthening	4		967,500	322,500		1,290,000	75.00%	10.78%		
Action ...: [...]						0		0.00%		
Action ...: [...]						0		0.00%		
Action N: [...]						0		0.00%		
Technical assistance			75,000			75,000	100.00%	0.63%		
Other operations (2)						0		0.00%		
TOTAL			8,991,668	2,972,222	0	11,963,890	75.16%	100.00%		

(1) if appropriate

(2) if appropriate

Note: The figures in the above table are rounded up

[signature of the responsible person]



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DIRECTOR
PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
MINISTRY FOR JUSTICE AND
HOME AFFAIRS