

ANNEX

REVISED ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2008

MEMBER STATE: Republic of Malta

FUND: European Refugee Fund

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

YEAR COVERED: 2008

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

A public call for proposals was issued on 7th November 2007 with a deadline for the submission of project proposals of 11th December 2007. A total of eight (8) projects were submitted by different NGO's and government entities responsible for closed accommodation centres, open centres, as well as the welfare and integration of asylum seekers and refugees. The projects were evaluated by an impartial Project Selection Committee (PSC)¹ according to the following Evaluation Ranking Criteria:

(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.

¹ The Project Selection Committee was composed of the Director Policy Development, MJHA; Director Corporate Services (Courts of Justice) and a case officer from the Office of the Refugee Commissioner. This composition ensured a board with a sound background on the subject-matter of ERF while at the same time being impartial on the projects submitted.

(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.

Result of the Adjudication

Four (4) Projects were approved for co-financing under the European Refugee Fund Annual Programme 2008. These projects scored the highest amount of points in the selection process and between them will be able to absorb the whole allocation for Malta under the mentioned Fund. The selected projects, through their restructured and finalized budgets, will ensure maximum overall effectiveness with the amounts available and relieve some of financial burden on the budget of Malta.

The other 4 projects, *although scoring less in the selection procedure*, had the potential for implementing interesting and valuable actions, yet these could not be co-financed due to the limited amounts of funds available. Unfortunately, the demand for financial assistance in the various fields related to receiving and assisting asylum-seekers and refugees, was by far higher than the available Funds from ERF for the year 2008. This underlines the outstretched resources of Malta in this respect and the need for continuous and more substantial financial assistance from the EU, in order for Malta to be able to more effectively and efficiently receive and bear the consequences of receiving persons seeking asylum.

Copy of the documents for the call of proposals attached (Annex 1, 2, 3²) A downloadable version was made available for prospective applicants on the following link: http://www.mjha.gov.mt/eu/eu_funds_ocfp.html

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

The fund will be managed according to the management and control system description that has been drafted by Malta and vetted by the European Commission. A signed version of the approved document will be forwarded to the European Commission in the coming days.

² Annex 1: Advert of the call for proposal on local newspapers
Annex 2: Application for projects
Annex 3: Guide to Applicants

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

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.

- 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. Receiving and providing the needs of these asylum-seekers has outstretched the limited resources available and also placed a huge strain on the asylum process, as amply described in Malta's Multi-Annual Programme.

The Annual Programme 2008 being proposed for co-financing from the financial allocation for Malta under the European Refugee Fund, shall assist the entities which provide accommodation and the basic material needs to asylum-seekers, as well as improving operational structures and management systems in open accommodation centres resulting in more efficiency and contributing to the integration of the 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.

The details of four projects chosen for implementation with the assistance of the Fund are found below.

Action 1: Provision of essential services for the management of reception centres for TCN's.

➤ *Purpose and scope of the action*

This project shall provide financial assistance for the provision of essential services related to accommodation, to TCN's seeking asylum in Malta, residing in closed accommodation centers found in compounds of the Armed Forces of Malta (AFM). This includes the provision of supplies to provide and sustain hygienic standards in the compounds, including provision of items for personal hygiene, clearance of cesspit and skip emptying services; and provision of bedding items.

The Armed Forces are continuously providing these essential services and supplies, and the assistance from ERF shall reduce the pressure of this recurrent expenditure on the local budget available. Hence, the ERF will be assisting Malta in providing the basic needs for the reception of TCN's seeking asylum on these islands.

➤ *Expected Grant Recipients*

The grant will be received by the Armed Forces of Malta, which are responsible for supplying the needs of the reception centers found on their compounds. The grant

will partly be spent, as explained above, on items (personal hygiene items like soap, shampoos, toothpastes etc) that will be distributed amongst the asylum seekers residing in the relevant centers.

- Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

The indicators set for this project being co-funded from ERF funds relate to the frequency of services for waste disposal and sanitary service (six days per week and 3 times a day, respectively) , as well as the amount of TCN's(asylum seekers) that will be provided with basic accommodation needs (1000persons).

- Visibility of EC Funding

The assistance received from the ERF will be made visible through an article published in local newspapers, which will describe the type of assistance and the amount of money received. The project, once approved from the Commission, will be put, together with the others, on the website of the Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs.

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

Assistance similar to this project was received under the ARGO Emergency programme and the ERF 2006 and 2007 annual programmes. The assistance of the Annual Programme of 2008 will complement and continue to support the Armed Forces of Malta in accommodating TCN's falling under the target group of the Fund.

Action 2: Provision of Food supplies and medical support for TCN's residing in closed centers

- Purpose and scope of the Action

The second project being proposed entails the provision of material aid specifically that of food supplies and medical care, for TCN's(asylum seekers) residing in closed centres while waiting for the decision on their application for refugee or subsidiary protection. These services are understandably the most essential and they are provided by the Maltese Government year after year, with the total costs per year well exceeding the 2Million Euros.

Even though the Maltese allocation of ERF by far does not cover the total expenditure for the provision of these basic services, it shall cover part of the costs that will be incurred in 2008, thus assisting the Maltese government in carrying this recurrent costs directly arising from receiving immigrants seeking asylum in Europe.

- Expected Grant recipients

The Grant recipients of this project shall be the Detention Services, under the Ministry for Justice & Home Affairs, which is responsible for the provision of meals and medical care to TCN's(asylum seekers) residing in closed centres. It will be responsible for tendering and adjudication of the contracts.

- Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

The total expenditure of the project covers a daily supply of meals for 1300 TCN's (asylum seekers) and the provision of the services of 2 doctors and 2 nurses for a period of 1 year. Residents of Safi, Hal Far and Ta' Kandja closed reception centres will be provided by a continuous and reliable supply of food, provided by one contractor thus ensuring the quality is always of a high standard. Medical support will be provided by a separate contractor, who will ensure that two medical teams (composed of a doctor and a nurse) report at the centres on a daily basis.

The ERF co-financing of this action shall thus assist the Maltese government in meeting the minimum standards of reception of TCN's (asylum seekers), reducing the burden on local budget (in providing food and medical care) by 14%.

- Visibility of EC funding

Similarly to the above project, the assistance received from the ERF will be publicized through an article published in local newspapers, which will describe the type of assistance and the amount of money received. The project, once approved from the Commission, will be put, together with the others, on the website of the Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs.

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

Similar actions were financed in the past under the ARGO Emergency programme and the ERF Annual Programme 2007

Action 3: Biometric IT-based platform for the management of open accommodation centres

- Purpose and scope of the Action

The implementation of this project, which may be defined as an integration-related one, will ensure accurate biometric registration of persons, amounting to over 2000, who are enjoying refugee status or subsidiary protection, or are awaiting the decision on their application for asylum while residing in open accommodation centres. The system will ensure an effective and efficient mode for the distribution of entitlements provided by the government as a daily allowance/contribution to the cost of living. It will also facilitate their access to services such as legal employment, education. Thus the system will doubly assist in the integration of asylum-seekers and refugees in the community.

Presently a manual registration system is in place, with registrations being carried out three times a week and payments made in cheques and cashed directly in the centres. This takes a lot of time to administer and is tying up human resources of the centres to a point, that it has become their major task. Furthermore, the lack of one centralised record keeping system increases the possibility of fraud and double payments, which cannot be accepted in a situation, where resources are already overstretched.

This action intends to implement Key Action 5 of the MAP, namely the computerisation of the registration system at open accommodation centres.

A new centrally operated database with biometric registration will ensure a fair and transparent Registration and Daily Allowance System, which is less labour intensive and more efficient. Residents will register in the system through fingerprint readers, which will be counterchecked against a profile database. It should be noted that the information gathered to operate this system will be solely used for the purpose of registration and the eventual distribution of allowances. The use of unique biometric information shall remove any possibility of double-registrations and abuse of the system.

The system will also serve as a Management Information System, thus meeting the needs for accurate statistical information, and will improve the management and forward planning of the resources of open accommodation centres.

However, most importantly this system will enhance the management of the population of open centres and thus improve the integration prospects of the residents. The system will be a very valid tool in identifying appropriate training requirements and opportunities and improve employment matching. It will also help in improving the deliverance of services to the residence such as mail delivery. Freeing the staff of these centres from the manual administration of a time-consuming system, means they will also have more time to concentrate on supporting the residents towards integration.

➤ Expected grant recipients.

The Grant recipients of this project shall be the Organisation for the Integration and Welfare of Asylum-Seekers, which is the organisation within the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity³, which is tasked with the social welfare of the target groups. They are the organisation responsible for the administration of the open accommodation centres and the provision of services therein.

➤ Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

Apart from the procurement of the equipment and the installation of the Biometric Software that will set up the centralised database, the results of the project will be tangible also in other ways. The operation of the Registration and Daily Allowance system will be more efficient and the possibility of fraud and duplication will be eliminated. Thus, the introduction of this centralised registration database will assist in the better management and distribution of the already outstretched financial resources. Another important indicator of the results achieved by this system shall be that the social workers will be refocusing on their central role of assistance and not on manually registering the residents. Employment matching activities and identification of training requirements and opportunities will be other results achieved through this project. Additionally, by the end of the implementation of the project, a management Information System will be in place.

³ Following the general elections of March 2008, and the reshuffling of the government ministries' portfolios, the Organisation for the Integration and Welfare of Asylum-Seekers and the management of the open accommodation centres now fall under the remit of the Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs.

- Visibility of EC funding

A press release will disseminate this projects achievements and its co-financing from the ERF Fund. Due to the nature of the project and its long-term effect a permanent plaque will be set up outside each open accommodation centres were the Biometric registration system will be used. The equipment bought (depreciation value only funded by ERF) with the assistance of the Fund will be identified by EU logos

- Complementarities with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate

No similar actions have been undertaken to date.

Action 4: Strengthening infrastructure and integration services for residents through self-empowerment at the Marsa Open Centre.

- Purpose and Scope of the Action

This project will be implemented in the most populated open accommodation centre in Malta. It is composed of two complementary components. Primarily, the project aims at providing a better quality of life for the residents of the Marsa Open Centre, by upgrading two kitchens, improving the recreational areas and providing medical care (including psychological care) services. These reception measures shall be supplemented by measures aimed at increasing the integration capacities of the residents. This will be achieved by the setting up of a limited education system which will empower residents in the following areas: English language, basic IT skills and cultural integration. A research will also be carried out to seek good practices from Italy, Spain, France and the UK.

- Expected Grant recipients

The Grant recipients of this project will be the Suret il-Bniedem Foundation, which manages, on behalf of the Ministry for Family and Social Solidarity, the Marsa Open Centre.

- Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

As indicated, this project is two pronged, including both infrastructural works and integration measures. 2 kitchens will be upgraded, while outdoor furniture will be installed in the recreational areas. One research report on the identification of good practices will be produced. On the integration balance, the volume of training hours in English language, Basic Computer skills and Cultural Integration shall amount to a total of 1980 hours, reaching a target audience of 140 persons. Such educational training will increase the employment possibilities of asylum-seekers / refugees and facilitate their integration in the Maltese community.

- Visibility of EC Funding

The infrastructure component of the project will be publicised by a permanent plaque put up on site. Furthermore, EU logos and reference to ERF co-financing will be

printed on all material used for the integration classes and vocational training material.

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

This project builds on the work carried out by actions co-financed under ERF Annual Programme 2005 and Annual Programme 2007.

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.

No actions are envisaged under this priority for the year 2008.

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

No actions are envisaged under this priority for the year 2008.

4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

4.1 Purpose of the technical assistance

The technical assistance will be utilized in order to carry out an independent external evaluation of the annual programme after the closure of the projects. This shall ensure an impartial professional evaluation of both the implemented projects and the management system of the Fund.

The strengthening of the monitoring procedures by the Responsible Authority is also envisaged. A digital camera shall be purchased and utilized during monitoring visits. The ongoing implementation of projects, especially the ones which have a physical component such as, construction/ renovation of sites or purchasing of equipment, will be also visually recorded. This will enable the Responsible Authority to record its monitoring of the projects co-financed by ERF in computerized form and thus supplement the reporting recorded in text.

It is envisaged that the RA produces a printed Manual of Procedures as a reference point for all the authorities and beneficiaries on the processes to be followed in managing and implementing the fund. The technical assistance will be utilized to print an official version of the Manual to be disseminated among all those involved.

4.2 Expected quantified results

The technical assistance will result in one (1) independent professional evaluation at the end of the annual programme 2008 and the purchasing of one(1) digital photographic equipment for on-going monitoring of projects. Furthermore, other measures will be carried out during the duration of the annual programme with the aim of strengthening the management capacity and quality of the RA and the other designated authorities possibly through the utilization of IT systems and equipment. Amongst them a Manual of Procedures will be created and printed for ease of reference by the designated authorities and beneficiaries.

4.3 Visibility of EC funding

As part of its commitment to disseminate as wide as possible the financial assistance received from the ERF fund, the Responsible Authority will carry out an information activity in order to launch the approved Multi-Annual Programme or the achievements of the Annual Programme. A press release/ conference shall present the strategy for the fund and/or the details of the projects selected under the annual programme. Part of the press release will also be dedicated to advertising the direct assistance received as technical assistance for the management of the fund itself. The Manual of Procedures that will be printed and distributed will bear the logos and wording making reference to the technical assistance received to produce it. Furthermore, in any other dissemination measures regarding the annual programme that may be undertaken, the Responsible Authority will also make reference to this technical assistance.

5. OTHER OPERATIONS

Under the Annual Programme 2008, the Maltese Authorities shall also be implementing an action under the Emergency Measures, related to the provision of enhanced accommodation facilities for asylum-seekers.

A. DESCRIPTION OF THE SITUATION OF PARTICULAR PRESSURE REQUIRING EMERGENCY MEASURES

A.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 the last years received a high number of irregular immigrants seeking asylum per year with 1780 arriving in 2006 and 1702 in 2007. This situation, coupled with the inalienable realities of a very high population density and smallest island state in Europe, means that Malta is and continues to carry a burden disproportionate to its physical constraints and financial capabilities.

The continuous influx experienced during the year is exacerbated in the summer months when arrivals peak and become a daily reality. The already unsustainable situation reaches emergency status during this period. Indeed as further indicated below, this situation has already been initiated throughout the month of June 2008, where a large number of these asylum-seekers arrived over a very short period of time.

A.2 The number and nature of arrivals

During the summer months of 2008, Malta has received a very high number of asylum seekers. The majority of these asylum seekers originate from Africa, particularly from Somalia and others come from countries such as Nigeria, Sudan, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Eritrea and Mali. These persons go through a long dangerous journey aboard flimsy overcrowded boats. By the end of August 2008 the total number of illegal immigrants, the greatest majority of whom seek asylum, that has reached our shores amounted to 2335 (when compared to 1379 over the same period in 2007) and this trend is foreseen to continue throughout the month of September 2008. In fact until the 12th of September yet another 170 arrivals were registered. The below table indicates the increase of arrivals over the last three years and the concurrent increase in applications for asylum.

| Year | Number of Arrivals | Applied for Asylum | Did not Apply for asylum |
|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2006 | 1795 | 1307 | 488 |
| 2007 | 1715 | 1680 | 35 |
| 2008 | 2523 | 2523 | - ¹ |

Note:

1) From those arriving this year only 263 have yet to indicate whether they will be applying for some form of protection or otherwise. The rest have already applied for some form of protection. From indications at hand, it is however foreseen that all will be applying

This emergency situation has further aggravated the already enormous pressure, in particular on the provision of accommodation facilities.

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

One of the most urgent effects of this situation is the provision of basic material reception conditions, in particular the provision of accommodation. Despite the outstretched resources, Malta has and continues to provide housing for these 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 3 closed accommodation centres. This situation has been further aggravated with the high numbers of arrivals, in particular in the period between June and August 2008 when numbers exceeded the 2000 mark. As a result, the accommodation centres already characterised by a high level of population density, are increasingly experiencing overcrowding, with inevitable negative impacts on the standard of living in the accommodation centres.

A case in point is the situation being faced in the closed accommodation centre of Lyster Barracks, in particular the Hermes Block, This closed accommodation centre houses persons entering the islands illegally, the greatest majority of whom apply for asylum. The structure, which was built in the 1950's, originally was designed to accommodate British army servicemen who were in transit in Malta waiting to catch a flight to their

final destination. In more recent years, it was used as an accommodation block for the Armed Forces of Malta personnel. As the reality of yearly influx of irregular immigrants seeking asylum developed over the last decade, the Maltese Authorities faced with the need to provide immediate accommodation to these persons, had no alternative but to resort to converting this structure into a closed accommodation centre. Year after year, as the pressure mounted, this building had to accommodate a higher number of persons than it was designed for. In excess of 400 persons are accommodated in the building which was designed to accommodate 100 persons. The emergency that has suddenly emerged from the beginning of this summer season and the resultant overcrowding has meant that the facilities at this centre have been put under further strain. In such circumstance, the urgent needs indicated below, need to be addressed immediately, in order to continue to provide an adequate standard of living in this centre.

A.4 The urgent needs

The urgent needs in the reception capacities that will be addressed in this measure shall focus on the requirements of the above-mentioned Hermes Block within the Lyster Barracks closed accommodation centre. The building requires a total renewal and adaptation and the immediate replacement of the electrical system, the water supply and the drainage system. The electrical as well as the water supply systems are old and were at the time of construction not designed to cater for the utilisation by such a large number of persons that are now utilising the centre. Similar difficulties are being experienced also with the drainage system. These systems have become obsolete and are not in a position to continue to provide adequate services to the residents of the centre. Indeed, in order to try to continue offering as best services as possible, the Maltese authorities are continuously incurring costs in order to patch the present systems and keep them from collapsing altogether. However, such situation is not sustainable, in particular during such a period of particular pressure on the accommodation facilities as is being currently experienced.

Additionally, the immediate procurement of a solar water heater is needed in order to ensure a constant supply of hot water to the large number of residents in the accommodation centre. Presently, this proves to be rather problematic due to the failures in the electrical system. Such a heater would also reduce the high costs of electricity which are incurred for the use of electrical water heaters. A solar water heater would also put less pressure on the Hermes block's electrical system.

Furthermore, in view of the large population at this accommodation centre, and the pressure that this situation exerts on such basic services as electricity, a generator for electricity is urgently needed. The procurement of this generator would ensure a constant supply of electricity to the block, acting as a backup in case there is a failure with the block's provision of electricity from the national grid.

Conclusively, due to the increasing amounts of residents, there is also the urgent need to enhance further the safety and security at this centre. Metal and aluminium works need to be carried out to continue to provide a safe environment to the residents and ensure privacy between units separately accommodating male and female residents.

A.5 The short term objective

The objective of the Maltese authorities is to address the situation of particular pressure that is being experienced due to the exponential increase in arrivals of asylum seekers experienced in these last months. The resultant exceptionally heavy and urgent demands placed on the reception facilities, in particular the Lyster accommodation centre, need to be addressed immediately. The residents of this centre will be relocated to other accommodation facilities (including to a new accommodation compound at Ta' Kandja), in order to carry out the works indicated.

In view of its already overstretched resources, Malta requires the assistance of the Emergency Funds to continue to provide an adequate standard of living for these asylum seekers through the constant provision of basic needs such as running water, a proper drainage system, electricity supplies and other infrastructural works. This measure will enable the Maltese Authorities to continue to provide for adequate accommodation facilities for the newly arriving asylum seekers in line with its obligations of the Reception Conditions Directive (2003/9/EC).

B. EMERGENCY MEASURE ENVISAGED

Hermes Block, Lyster Accommodation Centre. Adaptations to the infrastructure to be carried out urgently for the needs of emergency situation

Introduction

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, in particular the above-mentioned centre, the Maltese Authorities are requesting the assistance of the Emergency Measures of the ERF 2008. This measure, made up of 4 components, aims at improving this accommodation facility in order to be able to offer adequate standard of living to the asylum seekers.

B.1 Purpose and scope of the measure, including target group

a. This first component of the project entails the immediate replacement of the electrical system, the water supply and the drainage system. The replacement of the electrical system would result in a safer environment for the residents in the centre due to a reduction in the danger posed by the present system and also a more reliable system with less faults and maintenance needs. A new water supply system would result in a system needing less maintenance and providing a constant supply of water. As regards the replacement of the collapsed drains and the sanitary fittings they would aid in providing a healthier environment for the residents in the Hermes Block. The centre will also need some other urgent adaptations (for instance, installation of new doors, floor and wall tiling, painting of walls etc) in order to provide a healthier living environment, thus ensuring an acceptable standard of living for its increased number of residing asylum seekers.

Estimated cost: € 320,220

b. The project includes also the procurement of a solar water heater which would improve the living conditions of the people residing in the Hermes block by enhancing the provision of hot water. Such a measure would also relieve some of the pressure on the electrical system and make the provision of hot water more sustainable in the longer term.

Estimated cost: € 85,760

c. The procurement of a generator is also included in the measure. A generator as a backup for the electricity supply from the main grid would assure a constant supply of electricity to the Hermes Block and thus the constant availability of electrical light and other utilities.

Estimated cost: € 37,270

d. the enhancement of safety in the Hermes Block will also be tackled through the appropriate aluminium and metal works. This shall result in a safer environment for those living within, by enhancing security and ensure the separation and privacy between male and female residents.

Estimated cost: € 76,750

Target Group

The target group of this measure shall be the residents of the Hermes Block, Lyster Barracks closed accommodation centre, which have entered the Islands illegally and have applied for asylum.

B.2 Duration of the measure

The measure shall be carried out over a six months period, starting in October 2008 and running through to March 2009.

B.3 Where appropriate justification regarding project(s) implemented directly by the Responsible Authority acting as an executing body.

In this case the Responsible Authority, being the Programme Implementation Directorate within the Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs will act as an executing body. In view of the urgent situation of a high influx of irregular immigrants seeking asylum, as described above, the impending need is to provide immediate adequate first reception accommodation. The RA thus decided to act by this method of implementation and not issue an open call for proposals, in order to speed up the process. Furthermore, in Malta the national entity responsible for the management of the closed accommodation centres is the Detention Service, which enjoys a monopoly situation. The project will thus be implemented by the RA in conjunction with the Detention Service.

B.4 Expected Grant Recipients

The recipients of the Grant shall be the Detention Service, as the national entity, under the Ministry for Justice and Home Affairs, responsible for the management of the Hermes Block, Lyster accommodation centre.

B.5 Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

- Results

Appropriate living conditions ensured for more than 400 asylum seekers

New electrical, water and drainage systems at the Hermes Block, Lyster accommodation centre;

;

Procurement and installation of a solar water heater;

Procurement of a generator;

Enhancement of the security features by metal works.

- Indicators

A continuous, more reliable provision of water and electricity, capable of catering for the amount of asylum seekers residing in the centre;

A healthier environment, with a drainage system more capable to keep up with the demands of the residing population;

A reliable backup for the provision of constant supply of electricity;

A more sustainable provision of hot water and a reduced cost on electricity bills in the longer term;

Enhanced safety and security and separation of units housing male and female residents (asylum seekers).

B.6 Visibility of EC Funding

In order to ensure the visibility of EC funding, a permanent plaque will be installed at the entrance of the centre, clearly indicating the funding source. Furthermore, a press release will be made, to inform the general public of the assistance received from the ERFIII Emergency Measures.

B.7 Complementarity with existing actions supported by the European Refugee Fund.

The urgent adaptations to the Hermes Block Lyster Accommodation Centre complements other actions supported by the ERF which have been carried out along the years to improve the living conditions of asylum-seekers living in the closed centres managed by the Detention Service and reduce the pressure on the government's resources. In the ERFIII Multi-Annual Programme for the programming period 2008-13, the Responsible Authority has identified as part of its strategy, actions relating to the improvement of accommodation facilities and the provision of material reception conditions. Indeed, one such action has been chosen for co-financing under the Annual Programme 2008. It aims at providing food supplies and medical support for TCNs residing in closed centres, in order to ensure the nutrition and wellbeing of asylum seekers.

The proposed measure could not be included in the Annual Programme 2008, as the emergency emerged later during the year, after the document had been already submitted and all funds allocated to other actions. This measure, due to its urgency, needs to be addressed immediately and can thus not wait to be included in the Annual Programme 2009, which has yet to be drafted. Furthermore, the limited financial resources allocated to Malta this year shall be allocated to different beneficiaries by the awarding method. Indeed, an open call for proposals has been launched to select the projects.

C. ELIGIBILITY RULES

C.1 Start date and end date of the measures.

The measure shall be carried out in the period October 2008 and March 2009.

C.2 Derogations to the eligibility rules on expenditure.

The derogation on the purchase of equipment, renewal or adaptation of buildings to address the emergency situation (Derogation (b), Section 1.5 Eligibility Rules in Document SOLID/2008/10), shall be used. In line with this, and in view of the fact that such activities are directly linked with the project (indeed they constitute the project), the full cost shall be charged to the measure.

D. FINANCIAL PLAN (emergency measure)

| Measure | Type of activity | Component | Community Contribution (a) | Public allocation (b) | Private Allocation (c) | Total (d=a+b+c) | % (a/d) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| 1. Urgent adaptations to the infrastructure of the Hermes Block (Lyster Accomodation Centre) | Reception and accommodation | (a) | € 256,176.00 | € 64,044.00 | € 0.00 | € 320,220.00 | 80 |
| | | (b) | € 68,608.00 | € 17,152.00 | € 0.00 | € 85,760.00 | 80 |
| | | (c) | € 29,816.00 | € 7,454.00 | € 0.00 | € 37,270.00 | 80 |
| | | (d) | € 61,400.00 | € 15,350.00 | € 0.00 | € 76,750.00 | 80 |
| Totals | | | € 416,000.00 | € 104,000.00 | € 0.00 | € 520,000.00 | 80 |

6. FINANCING PLAN

| Annual Programme - Draft Financial Plan | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| Table 1 - Overview table | | | | | | | | |
| Member State: Republic of Malta | | | | | | | | |
| Annual programme concerned: 2008 | | | | | | | | |
| Fund: European Refugee 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 (f=d/total d) |
| <i>(all figures in euro)</i> | | | | | | | | |
| Action 1: Provision of | 1 | | 202,418 | 67,473 | | 269,890 | 75.00% | 7.72% |
| Action 2: Provision of | 1 | | 334,021 | 2,051,844 | | 2,385,865 | 14.00% | 68.22% |
| Action 3: Biometric IT | 1 | | 48,803 | 16,268 | | 65,071 | 75.00% | 1.86% |
| Action 4: Strengthenir | 1 | | 174,821 | 58,273 | | 233,094 | 75.00% | 6.67% |
| Action 5: [...] | | | | | | 0 | | 0.00% |
| Action ...: [...] | | | | | | 0 | | 0.00% |
| Action N: [...] | | | | | | 0 | | 0.00% |
| Technical assistance | | | 23,348 | | | 23,348 | 100.00% | 0.67% |
| Other operations (2) | Emergency Measures | | 416,000 | 104,000 | | 520,000 | 80.00% | 14.87% |
| TOTAL | | | 1,199,410 | 2,297,857 | 0 | 3,497,268 | 34.30% | 100.00% |
| (1) if appropriate | | | | | | | | |
| (2) if appropriate | | | | | | | | |

[signature of the responsible person]