

ANNUAL PROGRAMME

**MEMBER STATE: Republic of Malta**

**FUND: External Borders Fund**

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

**YEAR COVERED: 2008**

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

The Responsible Authority of the Fund shall implement the Annual Programme 2008 of the External Borders Fund by utilising the two implementing methods.

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 12<sup>th</sup> December 2007 with a deadline for the submission of project proposals of 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2008. A total of five (5) projects were submitted by government entities responsible for the surveillance and patrol of the external borders 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.

***Result of the Adjudication***

Two (2) projects were approved for co-financing under the External Borders Fund Annual Programme 2008. These projects scored the highest amount of points in the selection process and between them were able to absorb the whole allocation for Malta under the mentioned Annual Programme.

***Changes in Projects and the use of the Executing Method***

Unfortunately, unforeseen circumstances in the confirmation of the provision of the local-co-financing and the resultant delay in the launching of the tendering procedures, have negatively affected the possibility of timely implementation of one of the projects chosen through the awarding method. For this reason, the project was withdrawn and it will not be carried out under this annual programme. The amount of funds that were released was re-allocated by the RA, by the executing method, to another action that will be carried out by the Armed Forces of Malta. The latter have de-jure monopoly in maritime border control.

The actions being presented will thus be carried out by two projects, which will (Action 1) assist Malta in strengthening its operational capability at the maritime borders and the ability to participate in Joint Operations, as well as (Action 2) invest in the IT systems required to integrate in the Schengen Information System II as a continuation of Malta's commitment to the implementation of the Schengen acquis. The financing of these two projects will result in maximum effectiveness with the funds available in strengthening Malta's surveillance and control of its external borders.

**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.

#### 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.

The project that shall be financed under this priority aims at achieving general objective 1(a) as described in Article 3 of the basic act, i.e. efficient organisation of control, including surveillance and checks at the external borders. This action falls under **specific priority 3**.

<i>Action 1</i> <i>Procurement of inshore patrol vessels for the Armed Forces of Malta</i>	
<b>Purpose &amp; Scope of the action</b>	<p>This action, targeting <b>objective 2 listed under Priority 2 of the MAP</b>, shall provide the Armed Forces of Malta with replacement inshore patrol craft which will provide enhanced presence at sea and more rapid intervention capabilities.</p> <p>The current legacy inshore patrol craft operated by AFM are in excess of 30 years old and thus difficult to support from a logistical point of view as well as ensuring operational availability.</p> <p>This project will provide for the procurement of new inshore patrol platforms which will be more cost-efficient to operate. They will also provide enhanced capabilities when compared to existing platforms most notably in the areas of sea-keeping, speed and ability to launch and recover small craft, which is a key capability when conducting interdictions of illegal immigration operations.</p>
<b>Expected grant recipients</b>	The Grant Recipients shall be the Armed Forces of Malta which are the entity responsible for the control and surveillance of the external maritime borders.
<b>Expected Quantified Results</b>	The project implementing this action shall result in the procurement of 4 replacement inshore patrol craft.
<b>Key Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Procurement of four (4) replacement inshore patrol craft;</li> <li>- Commissioning of said craft subsequent to factory, harbour</li> </ul>

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	<p>and sea acceptance trials;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training of selected personnel in maintenance and operation of the technology associated with the new platforms;</li> <li>- Contracting of a logistics package and field-support package for the system.</li> </ul> <p><b>Procurement</b></p> <p>National Public Procurement regulations will be abided with and an open tender is envisaged to be issued in October 2008. The tender shall cover the procurement of the patrol craft, the training component and the field support requirements.</p>
<p><b>Targets:</b></p>	<p>Procurement of patrol crafts with</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- enhanced supportability,</li> <li>- increased deployment speed and duration,</li> <li>- improved sea-keeping and small-boat operations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicators:</b></p>	<p>The following indicators shall be completed by the end of the eligibility period (end 2009):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delivery of mentioned equipment and successful completion of all specified trials;</li> <li>- Delivery of complete initial training package and schedule for on-the-job training contracted;</li> <li>- Service support agreement contracted and all specified spares delivered;</li> </ul> <p>The implementation of this project shall result in overall enhanced patrolling capability at sea.</p>
<p><b>Visibility of EC Funding</b></p>	<p>Visibility of the funding received will be achieved as from the tendering stage. The tender will be publicised both in local government gazette and the EU official journal, indicating the source of co-financing.</p> <p>On completion of the project, a commissioning ceremony will be held whereby local (and possible foreign media) will be invited to cover this event. Publicity on some major publications is also envisaged. Furthermore, the patrol vessels and other associated equipment will also be adequately marked, advertising the use of EU funding for this procurement.</p>
<p><b>Complimentarity with similar Actions financed by other</b></p>	<p>Not applicable</p>

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<i>EC instruments</i>	
<i>Financial Information</i>	The total cost of this action shall be € 9,600,000, out of which € 7,200,000 shall be financed out of the External Borders Fund and € 2,400,000 shall be public co-financing.

**3.3. Actions implementing priority 3**

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

**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.**

The action undertaken under this Priority relates to **specific priority 1**( investments linked to the Schengen Information System (SIS)

<p><i>Action 2</i>  <b><i>Migration from SIS1+ to SISII platform &amp; from SIRENE I to SIRENE II</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Purpose &amp; Scope of the action</b></p>	<p>The overall objective of the project, which aims at addressing <b>Objective 4, Priority 4</b> indicated in the Multi-Annual Programme, is to finalise the integration of the Schengen Information System II with national police systems. Following the integration in the SIS+ through the SISone4all project, the lifting of the Sea Borders (December 2007) and the planned lifting of the Air Borders (March 2008), the next step for Malta is to further invest in the IT systems to finalise the migration to SIS II. The Maltese authorities have secured the Italian SISII and SIRENE II applications through existing strong bilateral relations. The final phase requires the integration of these systems with the national systems according to the Schengen regulations.</p> <p>This project will enhance the coordination and cooperation among all relevant authorities and agencies involved in border control and enhance their capacity. The contribution of the External Borders Fund for the implementation of this project will financially assist Malta in fulfilling its obligations under the Schengen acquis and hence further consolidate its external borders.</p>

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<p><b>Expected grant recipients</b></p>	<p>The direct beneficiaries of the project will be the Malta Police Force as the national law enforcement agency. The implementation of the Schengen acquis falls within the portfolio of the Ministry for Justice &amp; Home Affairs.</p>
<p><b>Expected Quantified Results</b></p>	<p>Successful integration with SISII and SIRENEII</p>
<p><b>Key Actions</b></p>	<p>The project will cater for the procurement and installation of hardware and software necessary for the implementation, integration and migration to the SISII platform. Specifically, the following actions will be carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Modification of SISII &amp; SIRENEII software made available by Italian authorities in order to integrate with national police systems.</li> <li>- Modification of national police systems necessary to integrate with SIS II and SIRENE II applications creating a workflow system for end users. This will also create a wider user base of SIS data.</li> <li>- Procurement of hardware, software, single sign on solution and storage devices necessary to support the above SISII integration.</li> <li>- Connectivity of police secondary stations to provide wider access to SIS II data.</li> <li>- Provision of mobile computers to allow for access to SIS II data from patrolling police officers.</li> <li>- Modification of police main and secondary data centres to allow for the housing of SISII equipment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Targets:</b></p>	<p>To successfully integrate in SISII and SIRENE II platforms;</p>
<p><b>Indicators:</b></p>	<p>Output and result indicators will be used to measure the results of the project. The successful migration from the SISOne4All (SIS1+) to the SISII platform and from SIRENE I to SIRENE II will be the final tangible impact of the project, thus strengthening internal security and security at external borders with non-Schengen States.</p>
<p><b>Visibility of EC Funding</b></p>	<p>The dissemination of the contribution received from the EU will be conducted through a number of initiatives. Press releases will cover project initiation and completion, while a commemorative plaque will be unveiled within the Police Headquarters. Furthermore, information slots on the project will be made</p>

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	available on the Police web portal and in the Malta Police magazine.
<b><i>Complementarity with similar Actions financed by other EC instruments</i></b>	Malta's drive towards implementing the Schengen acquis has also benefited from other funding provided through EC instruments. This was mainly achieved through the Transition Facility project 2005/017-511.02.01 related to the integration of national systems in accordance with the Schengen <i>Acquis</i> . The project currently being sought under the External Borders Funds 2008 will see the full completion of Malta's integration with Schengen, by the integration in SIS II and SIRENE II.
<b><i>Financial Information</i></b>	The budget allocated for this project is €3,294,644.10, out of which €2,470,983.08 shall be financed out of the External Borders Fund and €823,661 will be provided by public funds.

### 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

The technical assistance of this Annual Programme shall be utilized by the Responsible Authority to cover part of the staff costs of personnel managing the Fund. The newly recruited staff has strengthened the capacity of the RA for carrying out its tasks and responsibilities.

The Technical Assistance will also be utilized to carry out a press event/ other activities for the dissemination of the assistance received to carry out the projects under this AP

### 4.2 Expected quantified results

- Press event on approval/completion of AP
- Funding of staff costs of 2 EU funds officers working on the Fund.

### 4.3 Visibility of EC funding

The requirements listed in Article 33(2)(a) of the implementing rules of the Fund shall be adhered to. Publicity measures shall be carried out to disseminate the assistance received under the EBF annual programme 2008.



## 5. DRAFT FINANCING PLAN

Annual Programme - Draft Financial Plan										
Table 1 - Overview table										
Member State: Republic of Malta										
Annual programme concerned: Annual Programme 2008										
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 (f=d/total d)		
<i>(all figures in euro)</i>										
Action 1: Procurement	2	3	7,200,000	2,400,000		9,600,000	75.00%	74.03%		
Action 2: Integration of	4	1	2,470,983	823,661		3,294,644	75.00%	25.41%		
Action 3: [...]						0		0.00%		
Action 4: [...]						0		0.00%		
Action 5: [...]						0		0.00%		
Action ...: [...]						0		0.00%		
Action N: [...]						0		0.00%		
Technical assistance			72,373			72,373	100.00%	0.56%		
Other operations (2)						0		0.00%		
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>9,743,356</b>	<b>3,223,661</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,967,017</b>	<b>75.14%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

(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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16/10/08