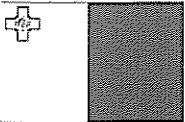


**ANNUAL PROGRAMME 2010 [Revised]**

<b>MEMBER STATE:</b>	<b>Republic of Malta</b>
<b>FUND:</b>	<b>European Refugee Fund</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY:</b>	<b>Funds and Programmes Division, Office of the Prime Minister</b>
<b>YEAR COVERED:</b>	<b>2010</b>



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

**Co-financing rate: 75% EU Fund; 25% Beneficiary's Funds  
*Sustainable Management of Migration Flows***



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

## 1.1 Selection of Projects in 2009

A public call for proposals was issued on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2009 with a deadline for the submission of project proposals of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2009. A total of eleven (11) projects were submitted by different NGO's and government entities responsible for various accommodation centers, as well as the welfare and integration of asylum seekers and refugees. The projects were evaluated by an impartial Project Selection Committee (PSC)<sup>1</sup> 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.

(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**

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<sup>1</sup> The Project Selection Committee was composed of the Assistant Director EU Affairs (MJHA), a senior legal officer (MJHA) and a Policy Development Officer (MJHA). 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.

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

A downloadable version of the documents for the call of proposals attached was made available for prospective applicants on the following link:

[http://www.mjha.gov.mt/eu/eu\\_funds\\_ocfp.html](http://www.mjha.gov.mt/eu/eu_funds_ocfp.html)

### ***Result of the Adjudication***

The call of application was open for 5 weeks. Applicants had the possibility to download their applications from the Ministry's website. In addition to this, prospective applicants were provided with a set of guidelines which provided information about the actual filling of the application and the selection criteria on which the applicants will be chosen. Together with providing a description of the project, the application required prospective bidders to fill in their objectives and to select the priority of the Multiannual Programme under which the project was being submitted. The guidelines also informed prospective applicants that "all private and public entities including NGOs are eligible to apply". The application also required that the legal status has to be specified and a copy of their statute or article of association together with the audited accounts of the last financial year had to be submitted. Once the selection process was completed, the selected applicants were informed with a letter which also specified the changes that were made to their application and budgets. The letter also included information about the publicity requirements. In addition to this, on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2009, a seminar was held for 2009 and 2010 beneficiaries that ensured that they were informed about the publicity requirements.

### ***Priorities***

Eight (8) projects were retained for co-financing under the European Refugee Fund Annual Programme 2010. These projects scored the highest amount of points in the selection process and together with the amount allocated Technical Assistance will be able to absorb the whole allocation for Malta under the mentioned Fund. The projects will all be implemented by making use of the awarding body method.

## **1.2 Revision of the Annual Programme**

In view of the fact that a number of selected projects were withdrawn, the Responsible Authority is proposing an amendment to the 2010 ERF Annual Programme. The Responsible Authority is proposing that these available funds are used for the provision of food supplies for third country nationals residing in closed centres as well as the provision of security services to ensure the safety of people residing in open centres.

The Responsible Authority has opted to implement these projects through the executing method since the Detention Services and the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS) enjoy a form of monopolistic situation as they are the only government organizations currently addressing the issues related to the provision of food and security.

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

Not applicable.

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

It should be noted that in the case of possible overlaps with the European Social Fund and the Integration Fund, 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 Integration Fund 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 ERF, the former does not allow for any purchasing of equipment. In addition to this, the focus of ESF 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.**

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

*Introduction*

During 2009, the number of arrivals of asylum seekers to Maltese shores experienced a slight decrease as compared to previous years. Although this has served to decrease the pressure on Maltese authorities, catering for the present population living on the island still presents a challenge which requires assistance from different fronts including integration, education and reception. Additionally, the number of arrivals who file their application for asylum protection must also be catered for. This requires different levels of expertise which include the conduction of interviews, analysis of documents etc in order to ensure that only the genuine cases receive the necessary attention. To this end the Office of the Refugee Commissioner will be implementing an action on document analysis.

The other actions will focus mainly on different aspects of integration of asylum seekers/refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection. These include language training, cultural orientation and basic IT teaching. Different entities will be implementing cultural orientation classes which will entail various activities. In addition to this, an integration action focusing on employment will take place. This initiative will focus on providing legal and stable employment with the aim of helping this specific target group to stabilize their position and become more independent. These actions target different levels of the target group population which include adults, unaccompanied minors, etc.

The description of the actions chosen for implementation with the assistance of the Fund is found below.

## **Action 1: An employment support initiative for refugees and beneficiaries of international protection**

### **Falling under Key Actions: 1 and 6 of the Multiannual Programme**

#### ➤ *Purpose and scope of the action*

This action focuses on two key actions – the improvement of current facilities and integration of the refugees, beneficiaries of subsidiary protection or those who have applied for either of these two statuses above. The first phase of the project focuses on the upgrading of working facilities at the Marsa Open Centre and Hal Far tent village through the purchasing of office furniture and other necessary equipment for the upgrading of two employment support offices.

After the completion of this phase, the integration activity will commence. This will start with the vacancy recording and job profiling together with the job matching according to skill competence. This information will be stored in a database including employment engagement and the date of termination if applicable. This phase of the action will also include a marketing campaign which aims to inform the target population as well as employers and the business community in general in order to launch the service.

Although, this action departs from Key Action 6, its focus remains integration and the provision of tools supporting self-sufficiency, as stated in the last paragraph of the indicators of the said action “Population ..... is armed with the tools to better integrate with the Maltese society through improved communications skills and better prospects of entering the labour market”.

Expected duration of the Action is twenty four months. The action will commence with the recruitment of staff and their training. These staff will operate the employment support offices. This will be carried out concurrently with the setting up of offices. Once this phase is completed, the marketing campaign, focusing on both local employers and the target population, will be launched. The project will be concluded with a conference with the aim of presenting outcomes and best practices.

#### ➤ Expected Grant Recipients

Organizations responsible for the implementation of national legislation and policy concerning the welfare of refugees, persons enjoying international protection and asylum seekers. (in this case the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum seekers)

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

The indicators utilized in this case are divided into performance and results. The performance indicators focus on the actual work to be done, for example, the purchase of furniture and leasing of ICT equipment, material printed for marketing campaign and a one-day conference. The result indicators focus on the establishment of a service system focusing on the provision of employment support services. This includes the establishment of around two (2) offices and the provision of training for people working within these offices together with the implementation of a marketing campaign to promote the said service to both employers and target group.



➤ Visibility of EU Funding

The assistance received from the ERF will be made visible through a marketing campaign which will serve to publicize the services offered to both the employers and the target group. All relevant ERF funding logos will form part of this campaign. The same applies to the final conference which will present the project's outcomes and the best practices of the employment support offices. Both employment support offices will be endowed with a plaque specifying the contribution received from ERF funds.

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

See introductory part of Chapter 3.

**Action 2: Better quality of life for residents at the Marsa Open Centre.**  
**( Falling under Key Actions: 2, 3, 6, 7 of the Multiannual Programme)**

➤ Purpose and Scope of the Action

This action will be implemented in the most populated open accommodation centre in Malta. Although, on a smaller scale than previous projects carried out under this action, it is intended to further build on the work carried out so far at the Marsa Open Centre, as well as to maintain and improve current services provided to residents. This will be targeted through three complementary components, namely education, health and living conditions. The educational component will be composed of the provision of training for residents through the continued use of the educational centre in the areas of basic computer skills and cultural integration. These will be carried out through the services of specialised teachers. An open call for the teachers will be hired through an open call for applications. Those teachers who are employed presently are free to reapply.

For this purpose, the services of teachers will be sought and the necessary materials like stationary items e.g. notepads, writing utensils and books will be purchased. The action also aims to provide better healthcare through the provision of medical care services by a doctor and a nurse who are easily accessible to the residents. The medical services will be sought through an open call for tender. Additionally, the budget provides for medical supplies. This means that in cases residents at the Marsa Open Centre are required to take some medication this is readily available. Improvements in the current living standards will also be effected through the provision of hygiene materials and health and safety materials. Healthcare will also be improved through the provision of services of a social worker, a psychologist and a psychiatrist. Finally, it is the intention to lease two (2) multi-purpose vans in order to facilitate the movement of residents and to further accomplish the standards of wellbeing of the residents at the Marsa Open Centre. The leasing of the vans will continue throughout the implementation of the project.

The said vans will in no way be overlap with the use of the vans purchased under the Emergency Fund 2009 since these are utilised to cover the needs of the other seven (7) centres (but not the Marsa Open Centre) managed by AWAS.

The project is expected to be implemented over a two-year period. The first quarter will be dedicated to the preparation of the implementation plans and procurement documents. Actual publishing of procurement documents and procurement of material will be carried out during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter whilst implementation will commence in the last quarter of 2010 and continue until the end of 2011.

➤ Expected Grant recipients

Organizations involved in managing open centres (Marsa Open Centre), on behalf of the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS).

➤ Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

As indicated, this action is focused on different areas which include teaching activities, provision of psychological services and supplies and the leasing of vans. The teaching activities, which will involve basic computer skills and cultural

integration, aim to reach approximately a total of 100 students. These are planned to receive approximately a total of 200 hours of lecturing for each program. Attendance sheets will be kept in order to ensure a continuous following and also to keep a check on the drop-out rate. This type of educational training will increase the employment possibilities of refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection and facilitate their integration in the Maltese community. The latter is provided as an impact indicator and is difficult to measure since it is subject to market forces.

➤ **Visibility of EU Funding**

The infrastructure component of the project will be publicised mainly through the EU logos and reference to ERF co-financing that will be printed on all material used for the integration classes and vocational training material.

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

This project builds upon the work carried out by actions co-financed under ERF Annual Programmes for 2008 and 2009. Since the population of the Marsa Open Centre is continuously being supplanted due to the arrival of people released from closed centers, more training programmes are needed to target the new arrival. The target group population also necessitates a continuous provision of services e.g. psychological and medical to ensure a better quality of life to the residents of the Marsa Open Centre.

**Action 3: Provision of language training for residents of open centres**  
**( Falling under Key Action: 6 of the Multiannual Programme)**

➤ Purpose and Scope of the Action

This action aims to provide English language training classes for residents of open centres through the co-ordination of existing services between AWAS – MJHA and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sport. AWAS chose to focus on open centres because a large number of people left the closed centres and therefore started living in the open centres making the demand for this kind of activities greater in open centres. Additionally, a previous project financed through the Solidarity in Action programme focused on closed centres and it was decided that it would be more fruitful for the action proposed here to focus on open centres. The target group includes people who have acquired refugee status or subsidiary protection or have applied for any of these two. It aims to assist the above mentioned target groups in their efforts to become more independent, improve integration possibilities and be able to find more stable employment. This will also help in taking up challenges with future resettlement or relocation possibilities. Additionally, participants of the courses will attain a certification however only on successfully satisfying all requirements which are established by the Education Authorities.

The action is planned to be implemented over a period of two years, starting in quarter 2 of 2010 and ending in quarter 1 of 2012. The project will start with the recruitment of teachers and the setting up of classrooms. After these tasks are completed actual provision of English classes will be carried out.

➤ Expected Grant recipients

Organisations involved in the implementation of national legislation and policy concerning the welfare of refugees, persons enjoying international protection and asylum seekers in this case the Agency for Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS).

➤ Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

The action will be implemented in 3 consecutive phases. The first phase will focus on the setting up of classrooms. This includes the purchasing of chairs, 1 desk, 1 white board, a photocopy machine, air-conditioning units, portable computers and a projector. The recruitment of teachers and the assessment of students will also be done during this phase. The assessment of students will be carried out by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth and Sports. They have prepared an assessment form which will be given to open centres and which will be utilised to assess the level of English of prospective students.

The second phase will mark the beginning of a 16-week course which will be held in the main open centres and in the premises of a secondary school (after school hours). The classes will contain a maximum of 18 students each. There will be 2 new classes every 16 weeks.

The third phase consists of the progress report and gathering of information which will be disseminated during the closing conference. This phase also includes the assigning of certificates by the Malta Qualifications Council (MQC).

➤ **Visibility of EU Funding**

Visibility of the EC Funding will be imparted on the stationary material that will be provided to students attending these courses. Additionally, the closing conference will also ensure the necessary visibility for the ERF fund.

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

The training provided under this action will form part of a number of projects focusing on language training and will be a continuation of training projects provided under previous annual programmes.

See introductory part of Chapter 3.

**Action 4: Provision of sheltered accommodation and psycho-social support to vulnerable asylum seekers to whom such services are not otherwise available.**

(Falling under Key Action 4 of the Multiannual Programme)

➤ Purpose and Scope of the Action

The action is service based task and addresses the situation of vulnerable persons who suffer from mental health problems, persons with disabilities, persons with serious and/or chronic medical problems and victims of trauma and torture.

The aim is to consolidate and develop the services currently being offered in order to be able to offer a single consolidated service which consists of a residential facility manned with trained staff and a multidisciplinary team of professionals offering specialised support to vulnerable individuals.

The project plan will commence through the setting up of a core team that will be responsible for the development of the project and the co-ordination of the services provided by project partners. The Core Team will conduct a mapping exercise to identify existing gaps in the services provision, draw up guidelines to work on the development of a co-ordinated service, assist with the training of staff and monitor project development.

When this is completed, recruitment of 4 care workers and 1 residential social worker will commence. Additionally, volunteers will be recruited to assist with the running of the centre. After the provision of training, they will start working with residents to identify individual needs and prepare a care- plan which aims to achieve the greatest measure of independence. The care-plan will be utilised as a basis for the provision of the necessary social work and psychological care services.

Other than this, the action also aims to (1) seek to enhance collaboration between players providing a service in this field to ensure that as many people as possible receive the service they need and that the services provided are co-ordinated; (2) provide training and capacity building for persons working with vulnerable asylum seekers; and (3) explore existing long-term solutions and advocate for greater access to mainstream services for those who need them.

The duration of the project is expected to be of approximately 1 year. The project is divided into different stages starting from the setting up of the core team, recruitment of staff, provision of professional services which include social work, psychological and nursing care.

➤ Expected Grant recipients

NGOs, local authorities, other public bodies and any other organisations with the capacity to carry out this action.

➤ Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

The action provides a number of output indicators which focus on the actual work carried out. It aims to reach about 150 people with social work services and about 80 people with psychological services. These will be measured through actual number of cases helped. Additionally, the training given to beneficiaries will reach about 50 people

which include reception personnel, psychologists, nurses and psychiatrists. The selected accommodation centre will be provided to approximately 35 people.

➤ Visibility of EU Funding

Visibility to ERF funding will be disseminated mainly through the training materials which will be given to participants and also during the training programmes themselves. Additionally, the adverts published in the local media to recruit staff etc will also ensure visibility to the fund. Finally, in order to ensure visibility, two (2) plaques will be placed on site.

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

Not applicable.

**Action 5: Befriending refugees and asylum seekers through language learning**  
**( Falling under Key Action: 3 of the Multiannual Programme)**

➤ Purpose and Scope of the Action

This action aims to strengthen the knowledge and use of English language amongst the target population. The project targets migrants who have either acquired refugee status and asylum seekers. It plans to deliver training courses for a wide range of participants in order to integrate them better with the Maltese society through improved communication skills thus improving their prospects to enter the labour market.

This action aims to cater for 500 people of the target population mentioned above and will offer 2 courses – an intensive basic English language course and an intensive Intermediate English Language course to two (2) main clusters which consist of adult refugees currently living in the community and to refugee children aged between 6 and 18 years who are enrolled in local public schools.

The duration of the project is expected to be of 2.5 years. The action will commence with the preparation of an implementation plan and the selection of target users in order to determine their grade level. Preparation of educational materials for e.g. text books, exercise books and questionnaires will also be carried out. After this section is completed, actual English sessions will be carried out. These are planned to take place over a period of 15 months. The action will be closed with a final conference which includes the evaluation and publication of final report.

➤ Expected Grant recipients

Organisations capable of the implementation of national legislation and policy concerning the welfare of refugees, persons, persons enjoying international protection and asylum seekers (in this case the Geminarie Group).

➤ Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

The action aims to reach about 500 people. In fact this is the total amount of text and exercise books that will be produced. These will be provided with an average of 1200 hours of teaching which will be measured through actual delivery of work by the recruited teachers. These hours will be divided over the implementation period. The action aims to help the target population integrate with Maltese society by reducing communication barriers.

➤ Visibility of EU Funding

Visibility of the EC Funding will be imparted in the design and printing of exercise books which will be utilised during the lectures. Additionally, the final conference will also disseminate information about the European Refugee Fund and the support it provided.

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

Although implemented by different entities, the action will focus on language training similarly to that implemented under action 3.



See introductory part of Chapter 3.

**Action 6: Emigrants Commission immigrant assistance and sheltering programme**  
**( Falling under Key Actions: 5 of the Multiannual Programme**

➤ Purpose and Scope of the Action

The action aims to assist the target group population, which includes people who have either acquired refugee status, enjoying subsidiary protection or have applied for asylum to overcome a number of challenges which include possibilities for integration by helping them better orient themselves through hefty bureaucratic systems to obtain a recognised status. This action will include the provision of an ICT setup for the Emigrants' Commission itself in order to store data about the people currently residing at the centres managed by the Malta Emigrants Commission and better co-ordinate information and the management of numerous shelters.

Additionally, this ICT system will help staff members to keep better track of the various applications made by residents of their progress and what are the aspects that need to be tackled.

In addition to this, counselling services which include social worker and psychological support and medical assistance will also be provided. This service is planned to be of most relevance to categories of refugees like unaccompanied minors, single mothers and individuals suffering from significant traumas. The ICT system will also help in keeping updated information about people who are identified as going through specific traumas and are undergoing treatment and counselling.

Since the current system utilised by the Malta Emigrants Commission is held manually, it depends on files and gives rise to various inefficiencies when these are transferred from one centre to another one. Since there are 14 centres to manage various records about the individuals living in these centres need to be kept. Obviously a manual system makes it more difficult to assist these individuals particularly when they are being followed by specialists or when they have applied for resettlement or other type of assistance.

The duration of the action is expected to be of two and a half years. It will commence with the recruitment of a project manager. Following this, the purchase of the IT system will commence together with the provision of counselling services. Publicity of the project will be carried out throughout its implementation.

➤ Expected Grant recipients

NGOs, local authorities, other public bodies and any other organisations with the capacity to carry out this action (in this case the Malta Emigrants' Commission).

➤ Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

The action aims to upgrade the current ICT system through the purchase (depreciation costs only) of a server and a number of computers. Currently, the premises of the Malta Emigrants Commission are visited daily by a significant number of asylum seekers who seek the various services it offers. An upgraded system will facilitate record keeping and ease a lot of processes for the applicant organisation.

In addition to this, the MEC aims to provide a number of services to the people currently residing in its premises. These include support services of social workers, psychological support and medical assistance.

➤ Visibility of EU Funding

The visibility measures included in this project include a number of initiatives, for example, newspaper adverts and articles, notification on the MEC website and other activities.

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

Not applicable.

**Action 7: Implementing a socio-educational programme for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers under a care order.**  
**(Falling under Key Actions: 3,4, 5 of the Multiannual Programme)**

➤ Purpose and Scope of the Action

To provide a safe residential setting for youths, belonging to the target group population, under a care-order, focusing on education, socialisation skills, preparation for legal employment, appropriate recreational activities and cultural orientation. These youths have experienced various forms of trauma and separation and the environment around them should help to improve their situation and give them the necessary aid to move forward in life.

The duration of the action is expected to be of approximately two and a half years. It is planned to commence with the upgrading of the common room and of the education/meeting room. After the completion of these 2 phases, the socio-educational activities will be implemented. Evaluation will be carried out at the end of this action.

➤ Expected Grant recipients

Organisations responsible for the implementation of national legislation and policy concerning the welfare of refugees, persons enjoying international protection and asylum seekers (in this case the AWAS).

➤ Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

The action will work on the improvement of the infrastructure of the specific open centre so that various socio-educational activities will be implemented by upgrading the common area and study/meeting area to be equipped for the required activities. The common area will be set up to cater for group activities. An educator will be employed on a part-time basis for socio-educational activities. The study/meeting area will be equipped with appropriate fixtures and furniture to be used as a hub of academic and technology related activities. This room will also be used to conduct individual meetings with residents.

In addition to this work it is envisaged to hold, socio-educational activities about three (3) times a week. The aim of these activities is to encourage personal growth, developing social and creativity skills and assist these young persons in their development towards independence.

➤ Visibility of EU Funding

The visibility measures included in this action include the placing of a plaque on the premises of the centre. The material which will be utilized for the educational activities will also bear information about the ERF funds.

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

Not applicable.

**Action 9 (New action): Provision of food supplies for asylum seekers in closed accommodation centre**

**(Falling under Key Action 2 of the Multiannual Programme)**

➤ **Purpose and Scope of the Action**

Malta is bound to provide basic reception services to asylum seekers seeking international protection in Malta. In recent years, the constant influx of immigrants and the increasing number of asylum seekers has placed a financial and administrative burden on the Maltese institutions which are managing the relevant structures.

Upon arrival migrants entering the territory irregularly are transferred to Closed Accommodation Centres. A significant number of these migrants seek international protection and they remain in the closed accommodation centre until their application for asylum at first and second instance is processed or until their maximum term within the closed accommodation centre expires following which, on being released in the community, they are placed in Open Accommodation Centres.

During their period in the closed accommodation centre, these asylum seekers are regularly provided with basic services, including food, accommodation and medical care.

Considering that, as indicated above, expenditure being incurred is placing a massive burden on the state, the Responsible Authority is proposing that this expenditure is covered under this Annual Programme. This would ensure that the strain on Malta's financial resources is partially eased.

Such action would be in line with the provisions within Malta's ERF Multiannual Programme whereby it is stated that one of the operational objectives shall be financial assistance for the provision of daily essential needs such as food and which is covered by key action 2 (provision of material aid in the centres). Furthermore this will also complement similar projects carried out in the past, in particular Project ERF 2008 entitled the "Provision of Food Supplies and Medical Support for TCNs residing in Closed Centres".

**Expected grant recipients**

**Detention Services** Detention Services are the only organization that have a monopoly status in Malta in relation to food provisions in closed centres.

➤ **Expected quantified results**

The continuous supply of food on a daily basis

➤ **Indicators to be used**

Improved standard of living for migrants through the provision of food in closed accommodation centres.

➤ **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 through the ERF. Furthermore the grant receipts will publish an article in the media to inform the general public of such assistance which has been received through the ERF. Notices will be also put up in kitchens in order to provide details on the source of funding.

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

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 of 2008 Annual Programme, titled “Provision of Food Supplies and Medical Support for third country nationals residing in closed centers” and the ERF 2009 Annual Programme “Emergency Measure” entitled “Procurement of Supplies for the Immigrant Population in the Open Centre”. Moreover another project entitled ‘Provision of Food Supplies’ will be also funded under the Emergency Measures of 2011.

**Action 10: (New Action) Provision of security services to ensure the safety of people residing in open centres**  
**(Falling under Key Action 1 of the Multiannual Programme)**

➤ **Purpose and Scope of the Action**

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 deal with this issue structured access control systems to ensure that entry is restricted solely to authorised persons are required. The security services will also serve 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.

• **Expected grant recipients**

The Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers (AWAS) enjoys a monopoly status since this is the only organization that currently addresses issues related to open accommodation centres in Malta.

➤ **Expected quantified results**

- **The provision of 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 through the ERF. Furthermore signs will be installed by AWAS at the main security areas indicating that the provision of such services is being co-financed by the ERF.

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

Such measure compliments other actions supported by the ERF that has been carried out along the years to improve the living conditions of the target groups. In particular similar actions were carried out under the 2008 Annual Programme titled “Provision of essential services for the management of reception centres for third country nationals”, the ERF 2009 Annual Programme entitled “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” as well as the 2010 Annual programme entitled “Better Quality of life to the residents of the Marsa Open Centre”.



**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.**

*Introduction*

In line with Priority 2 of the European Refugee Fund, and in view of the continuous increase in the number of arrivals belonging to the ERF target group population in Malta, another objective standing high on Malta's priority, is that of strengthening the capacities of the Office of the Refugee Commissioner which is responsible for the asylum determination process in Malta.

The Annual programme 2010 being proposed for co-financing shall assist in the strengthening of the structural as well as logistical capabilities of this entity by tackling the difficulties faced in the communication with asylum-seekers and ensuring the adequate infrastructure for the carrying out of the asylum determination process. This would result in a better equipped setup, and thus more efficient system of processing asylum applications under the Office of the Refugee Commissioner.

The details of the action chosen for implementation under priority 2 with the assistance of the Fund are found below.

**Action 8: Document Analysis in the asylum determination process, training and implementation**  
**(Falling under Key Actions: 1 of the Multiannual Programme)**

➤ Purpose and Scope of the Action

The action focuses on improving the asylum decision process by training asylum determination officers in the field of documentation analysis and providing different level group workshops for asylum in the same area.

Different level groups will be focusing on (i) newly recruited asylum officers; (ii) asylum determination officers; (iii) mentoring and coaching of a number of asylum determination officers in order for them to reach the level of trainers in the field.

Apart from the training activities, the action includes the purchase of forensic equipment (depreciation costs only) that serves to verify covert and overt security features in documents such as UV fibres, watermark, infrared and visible inks, details of printing, hologram images etc. which will assist in this examination. It will also assist in the developing a field of expertise on a national level in the field of civil status certificates.

The action aims to enhance Malta's capacity to develop, monitor and evaluate asylum policies in the light of international obligations and the future legislation relating to the Common European Asylum System. It also aims to develop a high level of expertise within the field of document analysis and thus improve the quality of decision making within the Office of the Refugee Commissioner by ensuring the asylum determination process is not only speedy and efficient but a process which thoroughly examines every aspect of an asylum claim including an expert analysis of the asylum seekers documents including civil status certificates e.g. birth certificates, ID cards etc.

In addition to this, the final part of the action includes the development of a database containing information on the types, images and other details of documents presented by asylum seekers. This will assist the Office of the Refugee Commissioner in having a richer data source and also builds in its capacity of examining trends in relation to documents presented by asylum seekers.

The duration of the action is expected to be two and a half years. It will start with the drafting of the implementation plan and the recruitment of staff. When this is completed, the training in document analysis will be carried out. This will be rounded up with an evaluation exercise.

Expected Grant recipients

NGOs, local authorities, other public bodies and any other organisations with the capacity to carry out this action (in this case the Office of the Refugee Commissioner).

➤ Expected quantified results and indicators to be used

As explained in the previous section the action will provide for the purchase and use of forensic equipment together with expert level training for a number of asylum determination officers in the field of document analysis.

➤ Visibility of EU Funding

Visibility to ERF funds will be imparted mainly through placards with action's name and ERF funds logo and the advertisements on local newspapers and other printed material published to call for applications etc.

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

Although, it will not be targeting the same aspect of the asylum determination process, an action that will focus on increasing the operational capacity of the Office of the Refugee Commissioner will be implemented under the Emergency Measures 2009. This will involve the recruitment of 10 asylum determination officers and interpreters to provide interpretation in different African languages.

**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 2010 as during the call for proposals, there was no interest shown for submitting actions targeting Priority 3.

## 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 managed since 31 October 2011 by the same Responsible Authority and the other stakeholders (the Treasury Department<sup>2</sup>, 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 RAs<sup>3</sup> 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 € 78,306.01 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 Justice and Home Affairs, 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);
- Expenditure (including travel costs and subsistence allowance) aimed at sharing of experience and good practices between local stakeholders and European counterparts

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<sup>2</sup> Delegated by the RA to undertake the payment process.

<sup>3</sup> MJHA for EBF, ERF and RF and MEEF for IF

(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 Program. Expected results, depending on the actual activities carried out, will be as follows:

- 70 % increase in capacity<sup>4</sup>;
- 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;

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<sup>4</sup> 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. FINANCING PLAN

### Annual Programme - Financial Plan (revised)

Table 1 - Overview table

Member State: Republic of Malta									
Annual programme concerned: 2010									
Fund: European Refugee Fund									
	Ref. priority	Ref. specific priority (1)	Union Contribution (a)	Public Allocation (b)	Private Allocation (c)	TOTAL (d= a+b+c)	% EC (e=a/d)	Share of total (f=d/total d)	
(all figures in euro)									
Action 1: An employment support initiative for refugees and beneficiaries of protection	1		134,374.29	44,791.43	-	179,165.72	75%	11.73%	
Action 2: Better quality of life for residents at the Marsa Open Centre	1		96,690.00	32,230.00	-	128,920.00	75%	8.44%	
Action 3: Provision of language training for residents of open centres	1		-	-	-	-	0%	0%	
Action 4: Provision of sheltered accommodation and psycho-social support to vulnerable asylum seekers to whom such services are not readily available	1		150,623.25	-	50,207.75	200,831.00	75%	13.15%	
Action 5: Befriending refugees and asylum seekers through language learning	1		-	-	-	-	-	-	
Action 6: Emigrants Commission refugee assistance and sheltering programme	1		-	-	-	-	0%	0%	
Action 7: Implementing a socio-educational programme for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers under a care order	1		56,647.02	18,882.34	-	75,529.36	75%	4.95%	
Action 8: Document analysis in the asylum determination process, training and implementation	2		130,995.00	43,665.00	-	174,660.00	75%	11.44%	
Action 9: Provision of food supplies for third country nationals residing in closed and open centres	1		363,028.32	121,009.44	-	484,037.76	75%	31.7%	

Action 10: Provision of security services to ensure the safety of people residing in open centres	1		153,987.33	51,329.11	-	205,316.44	75%	13.45%
Technical Assistance			78,306.01	-	-	78,306.01	100%	5.13%
Total			1,164,651.22	311,907.32	50,207.75	1,526,766.29	76%	100%

**Funds and Programmes Division  
Office of the Prime Minister**

Raphael Scerri  
Director General  
Funds and Programmes Division

15<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Date