

<p><b>MEMBER STATE: REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA</b> <b>FUND: EXTERNAL BORDERS FUND</b> <b>RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY: MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR</b> <b>YEAR COVERED: 2007</b></p>
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## **1. GENERAL RULES FOR SELECTION OF PROJECTS TO BE FINANCED UNDER THE PROGRAMME**

### **1.1 Method of implementation**

The responsible authority (RA) acts under the annual programme (AP) 2007 as an executing body and implements the projects in association with competent national bodies.

All the national competent bodies described in the multi-annual programme (MAP) who act as possible beneficiaries (the Board of Border Guard, the Police Board) have the monopoly in internal security matters in their specific area. The characteristics and the security reasons linked with defined actions leave therefore no choice as to implement them by the aforementioned authorities. The objectives set out in the basic act, the Estonian MAP and AP 2007 are met only by these national authorities.

All relevant provisions laid down in the basic act and the implementing rules concerning the conditions under which the RA may act as executing body will be specified in an agreement signed by the RA and the national competent body. The agreement is equivalent of the grant agreement signed with the final beneficiary when the RA acts as awarding body.

### **1.2 Preparation on programming documents**

The annual programme of the External Borders Fund (EBF) for the year 2007 is in conformity with the provisions of the MAP.

The key actions described in the MAP under the priorities from the strategic guidelines for EBF were discussed and prepared by the Migration and Border Policy Department (MBPD) of the Estonian Ministry of the Interior (MoI) who is the responsible authority designated for coordinating the implementation of the EBF. During the preparation of the MAP, all the relevant partners – national competent bodies who are also the only possible final beneficiaries (due to their monopoly situation in the relevant field, e.g border guarding, elaborating visa policy) were consulted. The draft multi-annual programme will be approved by the Government of the Republic.

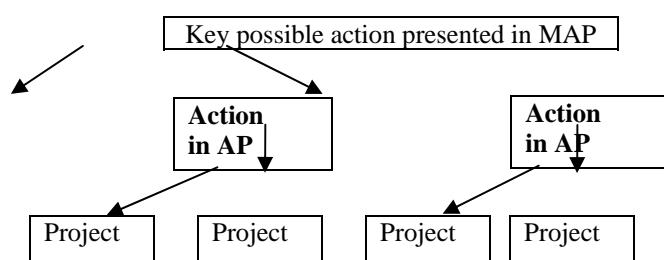
The annual program of the EBF is prepared on the basis of the MAP and the additional and clarifying information presented by the national competent bodies. The national competent bodies are consulted not only while preparing the MAP but during the preparation of the annual programme as well. Mainly, the communication is via e-mail but if the need occurs a meeting is called.

### 1.3 Selection of projects

General rules for selection of projects to be financed under the programme are as follows.

Even though the key actions for co-financing under EBF in 2007-2013 have been presented upfront in the MAP, there still is a selection process for the AP. This is due to the fact that in the MAP the list of key actions is not comprehensive and they may include several specific projects. The national competent bodies therefore have an opportunity to present actions for AP which are in compliance with the key actions presented in MAP (see the figure below).

After the approval of programming document(s), the national competent bodies submit project proposals which must comply with the actions defined in the MAP and the AP. The RA will choose for financing the ones which are the most justified and prioritised by (among the priorities set by the Commission) taking account the eligibility of the activities of the project, national development plans and the complementarity with other actions supported by the EU or with the state budget (if applicable). Thereby, the selection criteria are consistent with minimum criteria defined in the basic act (art 16(5)). Several project proposals may be presented regarding one action in the AP. As shown on the figure below within one key action presented in the MAP there is basically a possibility to implement quite several projects.



Whether the possibility to implement several projects within one key action presented in the MAP is used or will there be only one project for each action depends on the specific action and this becomes evident during the programming process each year.

The MBPD carries out administrative and eligibility check on these proposals before presenting them to the Monitoring Committee. If there are any insufficiencies in the proposals (a check-list is used), these are asked to be eliminated before further processing.

After passing the administrative and eligibility check by the MBPD, the project proposals presented by the national competent bodies are looked through and approved by the Monitoring Committee. The aforementioned committee consists of high officials from the MoI and national competent bodies. Subsequently the Secretary General of the MoI approves by directive the final list of projects to be financed. The Secretary General does not take part in the selection process.

### 1.4 Procurement procedure

In case the projects involve public procurement of services or goods, the national competent bodies are responsible for carrying out the public procurement according to national law (Public Procurement Act (entered into force on 24 January 2007)) and in accordance with Article 11 of the implementing rules. The minimum threshold for carrying out the public procurement procedure in Estonia is 40 000 EUR for goods and services and 250 000 EUR

for construction works. If the value of the planned contract (not including the VAT) is less than the abovementioned threshold, the simplified procedure of public procurement is carried out. By that procedure the basic requirements of the public procurement principles must be followed by the final beneficiary (effective and efficient use of resources, the transparency of actions etc).

Public procurements are initiated by the national competent bodies or, if the international value threshold is exceeded, by the RA. The tender documentation will be submitted to the initiator of the public procurement.

For contracts which exceed the minimum threshold of carrying out the public procurement procedure a public procurement commission is formed involving all relevant specialists. When the procurement does not exceed the international value threshold, the commission is formed by the national competent body; otherwise the commission is formed by the MoI. The commission is responsible for compiling contract documents (incl. technical specifications, evaluation criteria etc.) and evaluating the tenders. The procurement contract is signed by the head of relevant national competent body or, if the international value threshold is exceeded, by the Secretary General of the MoI.

The procurement contracts are in general principle signed after the formal approval of the programming document(s), but in cases the need occurs, the contract may be signed before that date (but after the start of the eligibility period!) after very carefully considering the eligibility of the action and probable risks. In any case, as the procurement procedure (incl. the preparation time) may take a while before concluding the procurement contract, the RA together with the final beneficiary bears that in mind in light of the rules of the eligibility period.

There are also exceptional cases described in the Public Procurement Act when contracting authority is not obliged to implement the procedure provided for in the act (e.g when the contract to be awarded or the design contest to be organised is related to state secret for the purposes of the State Secrets Act or classified information of a foreign state or security information or the information not subject to disclosure or provided the fulfilment of the contract presumes the meeting of special security requirements resulting from the legal acts or when the application of the exception is directly needed to protect the significant state interests). In these cases the procedure is simplified and the rules followed as well as the contract parties defined depend on the subject of the procurement. Any exceptions will be properly documented and justified.

Taking into consideration that Council Decision 574/2007/EC foresees multi-annual projects (for a period of no more than three years) we have provided the applicants with the possibility for carrying out multi-annual projects. The multi-annual project is described accordingly (in the AP and in the project proposal submitted by the national competent body).

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

Not applicable

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

The objectives described in Article 3(1) in the Decision No 574/2007/EC (the basic act) are taken into account while presenting the actions under the priorities.

Information given below under the priorities is as precise as it is possible to present at the stage of time of compiling the annual programme. The expected quantified results and indicators to be used together with the financial plan define the framework in which the projects will fit. The concrete projects to be financed under the EBF are approved by the Monitoring Committee and they must correspond to the multi-annual programme and the annual programme 2007 of the EBF. Each action may include several sub-projects for achieving the expected results.

#### 3.1 Actions implementing priority 1

##### Actions under the Article 3(1) (a) in the basic act

##### ***3.1.1 Updating and upgrading the surveillance equipment at the Estonian external land border together with improving the infrastructure.***

The general objective described in the Article 3(1) (a) in the basic act is an efficient organization control, covering both checks and surveillance tasks relating to the external borders. The action of updating and upgrading of surveillance equipment at the Estonian external land border together with improving the infrastructure will be implemented under this objective.

As the action concerns procurement procedure, the public procurement is carried out according to national law and in accordance with Article 11 of the implementing rules. The principles of carrying out the procurement procedure are described under point 1.4. The specific type of procedure, the contracting parties and the date of implementation of the contract concerned will be determined in accordance with the rules described above, the description of management and control systems and taking account the period of eligibility of the action. The project(s) in the framework of the action shall be finished by the 31.12.2009.

<b>Purpose and scope of the action</b>	<p>The purpose for use of EBF allocations of the year 2007 of this project is to renovate the surveillance system at most critical part of Estonian-Russian border (dry river bed at Narva city) and to start a creation of integrated surveillance system for Lake Lämmijärv (the narrowest part of Lake Peipsi at Estonian-Russian border) by renovating at the moment separately existing systems and integrating these renovated systems all together with the control centre at Mehikoorma Border Station at Estonian-Russian border.</p> <p>At Narva city dry river bed existing surveillance system will be upgraded Upgrade may include for example cameras, moving detection sensors, guarding fence (for ca 25% of the total length of dry river bed), data communication, servers, control centre, shelter for equipment, renovating 2 manned patrol positions.</p> <p>UPS and radar signal processing system for Kulgu radar at Narva water reservoir will be upgraded (this part of the project will be implemented together with creating integrated surveillance system for</p>
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	<p>Lake Lämmijärv).</p> <p>Creation an integrated surveillance system for Lake Lämmijärv includes renovation of Mehikoorma radar tower, replacing radar at Mehikoorma, upgrading radar signal processing systems for Piirissaar and Mehikoorma radars, installing surveillance camera to Mehikoorma radar tower, renovating Mehikoorma border station and integrating all surveying systems for Lake Lämmijärv (at Mehikoorma, Piirissaar and Terepniki) into one system with control centre at Mehikoorma border station. Additionally will be created video surveillance system for Gulf of Kulje with signal transmission to Väraska border station.</p> <p>At South-Eastern part of Estonian-Russian border system of mobile sensors will be upgraded (includes mobile moving devices, data transmission, servers, displaying of the statuses of sensors).</p>
<p><b>Expected grant recipients</b></p>	<p>The grant recipient in this project is the MoI (the MBPD) as the RA in the executing body mode. RA implements the projects together with the Board of Border Guard (BBG) as the governmental institution in the governing area of the MoI which is in monopoly situation in the field of border guarding. Thereby the BBG has the competence and interest in updating and upgrading of surveillance equipment at the Estonian external land border together with improving the infrastructure. The BBG signs an agreement with the MoI in order to fully meet the provisions laid down in the basic act (Decision No 574/2007/EC) and the implementation rules of the EBF and to implement the project accordingly.</p>
<p><b>Justification regarding project implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body</b></p>	<p>Due to the <i>de jure</i> monopoly situation of the BBG and security reasons linked to the implementation of the projects of updating and upgrading of surveillance equipment at the Estonian external land border together with improving the infrastructure co-financed by the EBF, the responsible authority (MBPD of the MoI) will act as an executing body. The MBPD will implement the projects in association with the relevant national authority (the BBG) competent on account of its technical expertise, its high degree of specialization and its administrative powers. The responsible authority and the BBG will sign an agreement (equivalent of the grant agreement) as foreseen in the rules for implementation (adopted in 05 March 2008). This agreement will contain all relevant provisions laid down for grant agreements in the Implementing rules. The agreements will be drafted by the MBPD in close co-operation with Legal Department of the MoI and signed by the Deputy Secretary General of Internal Security of the MoI and by the head of the BBG.</p>
<p><b>Expected quantified results and indicators to be used</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The surveillance system is renovated at dry river bed at Narva city;</li> <li>2. For creating an integrated surveillance system for Lake Lämmijärv at the moment separately existing systems are renovated;</li> </ol>

	<p>3. The renovated systems are integrated all together with the control centre at Mehikoorma Border Station at Estonian-Russian border.</p> <p>4. At South-Eastern part of Estonian-Russian border system of mobile sensors will be upgraded (includes mobile moving devices, data transmission, servers, displaying of the statuses of sensors).</p>
<b>Visibility of EC funding</b>	<p>All project applicants and grant beneficiaries will be informed about EBF co-financing. <u>Agreements between the Ministry of the Interior and the national competent body will contain specific provisions</u> whereby the grant beneficiaries must ensure the visibility of EBF co-financing (e.g print the EU logo and signs indicating the EBF co-financing to all items of equipment obtained, and to all buildings and rooms renovated, with support from the Fund. EBF co-financing must also be mentioned if the project is presented to the public). The MBPD monitors the implementation of the projects and conducts on-the-spot checks for that purpose at least once during the project.</p>
<b>Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate</b>	<p><u>Under the Schengen Facility the following actions were supported:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providing the surveillance centres<sup>1</sup> with necessary equipment (228 496 EUR).</li> <li>- Developing technical surveillance of land border (total amount 4 329 799 EUR): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o transformation of information from Smolnitsa radar position to the command centre;</li> <li>o in 2006 – 2007 cameras installed on the border for reinforcing control in places that require the clockwise surveillance;</li> <li>o electronic surveillance systems and other equipment necessary;</li> <li>o construction of a new observation tower equipped with surveillance equipment.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Under the PHARE program the following actions were supported:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stationary/fixed surveillance system in Mustajõe border station (North – Eastern Border Guard Region) in the second half of 2006. Total cost 1 207 930 EUR (Phare 901 154 EUR).</li> <li>- In 2006, 2 pieces of mobile surveillance equipment for land border. Total cost 546 445 EUR (Phare 409 035 EUR).</li> </ul>
<b>Financial information</b>	<p>The project will be in total amount of 1 773 356 EUR out of which the Community contribution form 1 330 017 EUR (75%) and public co-financing 443 339 EUR (25%).</p>

<sup>1</sup> Surveillance system carrying out surveillance of the sea areas via radars and identifying vessels is managed via 4 sub-centres (Kuressaare, Kunda and Kärdla, whereas Tallinn is the leading centre where all radar information gathered by regional centres is forwarded).

### 3.1.2 Updating vessels communication and navigation systems

The general objective described in the Article 3(1) (a) in the basic act is an efficient organization control, covering both checks and surveillance tasks relating to the external borders. The action of updating vessels communication and navigation systems will be implemented under this objective.

As the action concerns procurement procedure, the public procurement is carried out according to national law and in accordance with Article 11 of the implementing rules. The principles of carrying out the procurement procedure are described under point 1.4. The specific type of procedure, the contracting parties and the date of implementation of the contract concerned will be determined in accordance with the rules described above, the description of management and control systems and taking account the period of eligibility of the action. The project(s) in the framework of the action shall be finished by the 31.12.2009

<p><b>Purpose and scope of the action</b></p>	<p>The purpose of this project is to update the border guard vessels communication and navigation systems for guaranteeing their conformity with the international requirements – the vessels are possible to use as temporary mobile radars in suitable geographical location when the radars on shore are disabled or cannot be used because of bad visibility. Border guard vessels will be provided with wireless data communication. For high reliable navigation they will be equipped with a new and modern radar, gyro compass, Global Positioning System (<i>GPS</i>) and Automatic Identification System (<i>AIS</i>) receiver-transmitter. By using high speed data communication border guard vessels are able to provide an input to the Estonian Sea Surveillance System and act as a backup to the whole surveillance system raising so the capability of detection of the illegal activities at sea.</p>
<p><b>Expected grant recipients</b></p>	<p>The grant recipient in this project is the MoI (the MBPD) as the RA in the executing body mode. RA implements the projects together with the Board of Border Guard (BBG) as the governmental institution in the governing area of the MoI which is in monopoly situation in the field of border guarding. Thereby the BBG has the competence and interest in updating the vessels communication and navigation systems. The BBG signs an agreement with the MoI in order to fully meet the provisions laid down in the basic act (Decision No 574/2007/EC) and the implementation rules of the EBF and to implement the project accordingly.</p>
<p><b>Justification regarding project implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body</b></p>	<p>Due to the <i>de jure</i> monopoly situation of the BBG and security reasons linked to the implementation of the project of updating the vessels communication and navigation systems co-financed by the EBF, the responsible authority (MBPD of the MoI) will act as an executing body. The MBPD will implement the projects in association with the relevant national authority (the BBG) competent on account of its technical expertise, its high degree of specialization and its administrative powers. The responsible authority and the BBG will sign an agreement (equivalent of the grant agreement) as foreseen in the rules for implementation (adopted in 05 March 2008). This agreement will contain all relevant provisions laid down for grant</p>

	agreements in the Implementing rules. The agreements will be drafted by the MBPD in close co-operation with Legal Department of the MoI and signed by the Deputy Secretary General of Internal Security of the MoI and by the head of the BBG.
<b>Expected quantified results and indicators to be used</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 6 vessels are equipped with the aforementioned communication and navigation systems.</li> <li>2. Estonian Border Guard ships' communication- and navigation aids system is conformed to EU member states' relevant systems and interoperability is achieved. Improved systems correspond with the directive of Government of the Republic 29.01.2004 No 24.</li> </ol>
<b>Visibility of EC funding</b>	All project applicants and grant beneficiaries will be informed about EBF co-financing. <u>Agreements between the Ministry of the Interior and the national competent body will contain specific provisions</u> whereby the grant beneficiaries must ensure the visibility of EBF co-financing (e.g print the EU logo and signs indicating the EBF co-financing to all items of equipment obtained, and to all buildings and rooms renovated, with support from the Fund. EBF co-financing must also be mentioned if the project is presented to the public). The MBPD monitors the implementation of the projects and conducts on-the-spot checks for that purpose at least once during the project.
<b>Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate</b>	N/A
<b>Financial information</b>	The cost of updating the systems is about 24 286 EUR per vessel plus the installation costs. The total cost is 253 888 EUR out of which the Community contribution form 190 416 EUR (75%) and public co-financing 63 472 EUR (25%).

### ***3.1.3 Procurement and renovation of border-guard vessels***

The general objective described in the Article 3(1) (a) in the basic act is an efficient organization control, covering both checks and surveillance tasks relating to the external borders. The action of procuring and renovating vessels will be implemented under this objective.

As the action concerns procurement procedure, the public procurement is carried out according to national law and in accordance with Article 11 of the implementing rules. The principles of carrying out the procurement procedure are described under point 1.4. The specific type of procedure, the contracting parties and the date of implementation of the contract concerned will be determined in accordance with the rules described above, the description of management and control systems and taking account the period of eligibility of the action. The project(s) in the framework of the action shall be finished by the 31.12.2009

<p><b>Purpose and scope of the action</b></p>	<p>Renovating 1-2 border guard vessels (the need for renovating is for PVL-107 „KÖU“ and PVL-109 “VALVAS“ (incl. procuring a patrol boat for one vessel).</p> <p>Border guard vessel PVL-107 “KÖU” was built in 1963 and was partly renovated in 2006. The need for further renovation is still foreseen, e.g for safety reasons 4 water-proof doors are changed, old piping system is renewed, the measuring instruments on the systems (thermometers, manometers etc). The investments are needed for guaranteeing the sustainability of the ship. The safety level will increase, the need for emergency repairs decreases and the work load of the crew regarding the repairs lessens and they can concentrate on the duties related to border guarding.</p> <p>Border Guard vessel PVL-109 “VALVAS” was built in 1946 and, it has the ice breaker capabilities. The ship was renovates in USA in 1991. The ship is used for sea border control, radar watch etc. Today “VALVAS” needs several alterations and repairing works, e.g the new anchor winch controller, the renewal of the hydraulic system etc. A patrol boat for the ship is also procured for the use in the areas of the sea where big ship cannot get access – then the smaller boat is launched. The investments are needed for guaranteeing the ship’s conformity with international standards and norms, the reliability of the ship increases and the technical devices on the ship are used more operatively.</p> <p>The decision whether to renovate 1 or 2 vessels is made on a later stage (when presenting the specific project proposals under this action)</p>
<p><b>Expected grant recipients</b></p>	<p>The grant recipient in this project is the MoI (the MBPD) as the RA in the executing body mode. RA implements the projects together with the Board of Border Guard (BBG) as the governmental institution in the governing area of the MoI which is in monopoly situation in the field of border guarding. Thereby the BBG has the competence and interest procuring and renovating the vessels. The BBG signs an agreement with the MoI in order to fully meet the provisions laid down in the basic act (Decision No 574/2007/EC) and the implementation rules of the EBF and to implement the project accordingly.</p>
<p><b>Justification regarding project implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body</b></p>	<p>Due to the de jure monopoly situation of the BBG in the field of border guarding and security reasons linked to the implementation of the project of procurement and renovation of border-guard vessels co-financed by the EBF, the responsible authority (MBPD of the MoI) will act as an executing body. The MBPD will implement the projects in association with the relevant national authority (the BBG) competent on account of its technical expertise, its high degree of specialization and its administrative powers. The responsible authority and the BBG will sign an agreement (equivalent of the grant agreement) as foreseen in the rules for implementation (adopted in 05</p>

	March 2008). This agreement will contain all relevant provisions laid down for grant agreements in the Implementing rules. The agreements will be drafted by the MBPD in close co-operation with Legal Department of the MoI and signed by the Deputy Secretary General of Internal Security of the MoI and by the head of the BBG.
<b>Expected quantified results and indicators to be used</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1-2 border guard vessels repaired</li> <li>2. A patrol boat for one vessel procured</li> <li>3. The reliability and the sustainability of the border guard vessels increases. The safety level rises.</li> <li>4. The reaction time for border incidents is shortened.</li> </ol>
<b>Visibility of EC funding</b>	All project applicants and grant beneficiaries will be informed about EBF co-financing. <u>Agreements between the Ministry of the Interior and the national competent body will contain specific provisions</u> whereby the grant beneficiaries must ensure the visibility of EBF co-financing (e.g print the EU logo and signs indicating the EBF co-financing to all items of equipment obtained, and to all buildings and rooms renovated, with support from the Fund. EBF co-financing must also be mentioned if the project is presented to the public). The MBPD monitors the implementation of the projects and conducts on-the-spot checks for that purpose at least once during the project.
<b>Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate</b>	N/A
<b>Financial information</b>	The project will be in total amount of 447 382 EUR out of which the Community contribution form 335 536 EUR (75%) and public co-financing 111 846 EUR (25%).

### 3.2 Actions implementing priority 4

#### Actions under the Article 3(1) (b) in the basic act

##### ***3.2.1 Modification of Estonian SIS central system (E-SIS), SIRENE workflow system and if possible the related authorities' information systems in connection with the exchange of information within SIS II***

In accordance with the general objective described in the Article 3(1) (b) and specific objective in the article 4 in the basic act, among others, promotion of efficient, real-time consultation of data at border crossing points through the use of large scale IT systems, such as the SIS and VIS is supported. So the action of modifying Estonian SIS central system and other relevant systems will be implemented under this objective.

From the 1 March 2008 the common institution for dealing with the ICT development in the governing area of MoI - IT and Development Centre -was formed. According to the statute of the IT and Development Centre the centre organizes and partly implements the ICT systems'

procuring, developing, administering and maintaining. As the Centre is today still taking over the functions given to them, it is not clear whether they will also have a part in the project in the coming years. Any changes will be properly communicated to the Commission.

The SIS II project will be implemented according to the Public Procurement Act. The need for exception (if any) will be properly justified and documented. The project(s) in the framework of the action shall be finished by the 31.12.2009.

<p><b>Purpose and scope of the action</b></p>	<p>Currently the Schengen Information System is operational in Estonia. It is based on development of national information system called E-SIS. SIS data is accessible by necessary authorities – e.g. the police, border guard, Citizenship and Migration Board, the consular officers. All those authorities use the SIS data via integrated user interfaces of their information systems.</p> <p>There is a need to take Schengen Information System SIS II into use by relevant authorities. The need for that is recorded in different documents, e.g. Decisions of JHA meeting on 28.02. 2008 on the subject of development of SIS II, Development strategy of Ministry of Interior (incl Police Board) 2009-2011, Activity plan of the Police Board 2008.</p> <p>During the project Estonian national SIS, Information system of the SIRENE bureau and if possible the systems of related authorities are modified and connected in order to enable exchanging data with the European SIS II central System</p> <p>E-SIS that currently operates with SIS I data will be modified for being able to manage SIS II data (data input, exchange and queries) according to the timetable of development SIS II set by EC.</p> <p>Information system of the SIRENE bureau and the systems of relevant authorities will be able to exchange data in SIS II format and the SIS II related functionality will be implemented</p> <p>As a result of the project, there is possible to reach adequate SIS information in time by all related authorities in Estonia, to exchange the corresponding Estonian information to other Schengen member states and to benefit from added data categories and data integration (in comparison of SIS II with SIS I)</p> <p>Enhanced capabilities of the police and continuing level of quality of service of the police, border guard and other authorities thus ensuring better activities in fighting international crime and illegal immigration.</p>
<p><b>Expected grant recipients</b></p>	<p>The project will be implemented by the MoI (the MBPD) as the RA in the executing body mode together with the Estonian Police Board who is responsible for developing and maintaining SIS national interface, managing corresponding development projects and ensuring technical availability, integrity and confidentiality of SIS data. The SIRENE bureau which is situated in department of criminal intelligence of the Central Criminal Police is responsible for data</p>

	<p>quality in relation to Estonian data in SIS. The Police Board signs an agreement with the MoI in order to fully meet the provisions laid down in the basic act (Decision No 574/2007/EC) and the implementation rules of the EBF and to implement the project accordingly.</p>
<p><b>Justification regarding project implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body</b></p>	<p>Due to security reasons linked to the implementation of the project of modifying Estonian SIS central system and SIRENE workflow system co-financed by the EBF, the responsible authority (MBPD of the MoI) will act as an executing body. The MBPD will implement the projects in association with the relevant national authority (the Police Board) competent on account of its technical expertise, its high degree of specialization and its administrative powers. The responsible authority and the Police Board will sign an agreement (equivalent of the grant agreement) as foreseen in the rules for implementation (adopted in 05 March 2008). This agreement will contain all relevant provisions laid down for grant agreements in the Implementing rules. The agreements will be drafted by the MBPD in close co-operation with Legal Department of the MoI and signed by the Deputy Secretary General of Internal Security of the MoI and by the head of the Police Board.</p>
<p><b>Expected quantified results and indicators to be used</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Estonian national SIS is modified and is able to exchange data with the European SIS II central System (data input, exchange and queries).</li> <li>2. Information system of the SIRENE bureau is modified and is able to exchange data in SIS II format and the SIS II related functionality will be implemented.</li> <li>3. It is possible to reach adequate SIS II information in time by all related authorities in Estonia and to exchange the corresponding Estonian information to other Schengen member states.</li> <li>4. Continuing level of quality of service of the police, border guard and other relevant authorities thus ensuring better activities in fighting international crime and illegal immigration.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Visibility of EC funding</b></p>	<p>All project applicants and grant beneficiaries will be informed about EBF co-financing. <u>Agreements between the Ministry of the Interior and the national competent body will contain specific provisions</u> whereby the grant beneficiaries must ensure the visibility of EBF co-financing (e.g print the EU logo and signs indicating the EBF co-financing to all items of equipment obtained, and to all buildings and rooms renovated, with support from the Fund. EBF co-financing must also be mentioned if the project is presented to the public). The MBPD monitors the implementation of the projects and conducts on-the-spot checks for that purpose at least once during the project.</p>
<p><b>Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate</b></p>	<p>In 2006 under the Schengen Facility 5 123 475 EUR were used for procuring the needed hardware for SIS II central system and SIRENE workflow system. The procured hardware is used in this project.</p>

<b>Financial information</b>	The project requires total amount of 447 382 EUR of funds, including 335 536 EUR (75%) from the EBF and 111 846 EUR (25%) of the national co-financing.
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### ***3.2.2 Supplementary developments of Border Guard Information System for linking it with SIS II (Schengen Information System) and improving the existent queries***

In accordance with the general objective described in the Article 3(1) (b) and specific objective in the article 4 in the basic act, among others, promotion of efficient, real-time consultation of data at border crossing points through the use of large scale IT systems, such as the SIS and VIS is supported. So the action of developing the Border Guard Information System for linking it with SIS II and improving the existent queries will be implemented under this objective.

From the 1 March 2008 the common institution for dealing with the ICT development in the governing area of MoI - IT and Development Centre -was formed. According to the statute of the IT and Development Centre the centre organizes and partly implements the ICT systems' procuring, developing, administering and maintaining. As the Centre is today still taking over the functions given to them, it is not clear whether they will also have a part in the project in the coming years. Any changes will be properly communicated to the Commission.

As the action concerns procurement procedure, the public procurement is carried out according to national law and in accordance with Article 11 of the implementing rules. The principles of carrying out the procurement procedure are described under point 1.4. The specific type of procedure, the contracting parties and the date of implementation of the contract concerned will be determined in accordance with the rules described above, the description of management and control systems and taking account the period of eligibility of the action. The project(s) in the framework of the action shall be finished by the 31.12.2009.

<b>Purpose and scope of the action</b>	<p>SIS II queries must be enabled for the border guard officials for tackling illegal immigration and countering cross-border criminality.</p> <p>Estonia gets access to SIS II through national information system. With this project the needed equipment, and software for transition to SIS II on the border are procured and mobile work stations created. If possible, the software for Border Guards mobile border check devices are procured - devices are meant for mobile, online password and fingerprint queries to SIS II and European Visa register databases.</p> <p>With this project the needed and required SIS II queries for Border Guards Information System are implemented and by procuring the needed software for mobile check devices fast online SIS II and visa register queries from trains, ships, busses etc is ensured.</p> <p>A modern technology on the border is used by which the border guards' capability to tackle illegal immigration and to counter cross-border criminality increases.</p>
<b>Expected grant recipients</b>	The project of developing the Border Guard Information System will be implemented by the MoI (the MBPD) as the RA in the executing body mode together with the BBG. The BBG signs an agreement with the MoI in order to fully meet the provisions laid down in the basic

	act (Decision No 574/2007/EC) and the implementation rules of the EBF and to implement the project accordingly.
<b>Justification regarding project implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body</b>	Due to the <i>de jure</i> monopoly situation of the BBG in the field of border guarding and the security reasons linked to the implementation of the project of developing the Border Guard Information System for linking it with SIS II and improving the existent queries co-financed by the EBF, the responsible authority (MBPD of the MoI) will act as an executing body. The MBPD will implement the projects in association with the relevant national authority (the BBG) competent on account of its technical expertise, its high degree of specialization and its administrative powers. The responsible authority and the BBG will sign an agreement (equivalent of the grant agreement) as foreseen in the rules for implementation (adopted in 05 March 2008). This agreement will contain all relevant provisions laid down for grant agreements in the Implementing rules. The agreements will be drafted by the MBPD in close co-operation with Legal Department of the MoI and signed by the Deputy Secretary General of Internal Security of the MoI and by the head of the BBG.
<b>Expected quantified results and indicators to be used</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The needed equipment, and software for transition to SIS II on the border are procured</li> <li>2. If possible, the mobile work stations created and software for Border Guards mobile border check devices procured.</li> <li>3. Access to SIS II for the BBG through national information system enabled.</li> <li>4. By procuring the needed software for mobile check devices the needed SIS II queries for Border Guards Information System are implemented and fast online SIS II and visa register queries from trains, ships, buses etc is ensured.</li> </ol>
<b>Visibility of EC funding</b>	All project applicants and grant beneficiaries will be informed about EBF co-financing. <u>Agreements between the Ministry of the Interior and the national competent body will contain specific provisions</u> whereby the grant beneficiaries must ensure the visibility of EBF co-financing (e.g print the EU logo and signs indicating the EBF co-financing to all items of equipment obtained, and to all buildings and rooms renovated, with support from the Fund. EBF co-financing must also be mentioned if the project is presented to the public). The MBPD monitors the implementation of the projects and conducts on-the-spot checks for that purpose at least once during the project.
<b>Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate</b>	Under the Schengen Facility the basic query interface into the National SIS (SISONE4ALL) from Border Guards Information System (18 477 EUR) was developed
<b>Financial information</b>	The project requires total amount of 166 171 EUR of funds, including 124 628 EUR (75%) from the EBF and 41 543 EUR (25%) of the national co-financing.

### 3.2.3 Supplementary developments of Border Guard Information System for linking it with Visa Information System (VIS)

In accordance with the general objective described in the Article 3(1) (b) and specific objective in the article 4 in the basic act, among others, promotion of efficient, real-time consultation of data at border crossing points through the use of large scale IT systems, such as the SIS and VIS is supported. So the action of developing the Border Guard Information System for linking it with VIS will be implemented under this objective.

From the 1 March 2008 the common institution for dealing with the ICT development in the governing area of MoI - IT and Development Centre -was formed. According to the statute of the IT and Development Centre the centre organizes and partly implements the ICT systems' procuring, developing, administering and maintaining. As the Centre is today still taking over the functions given to them, it is not clear whether they will also have a part in the project in the coming years. Any changes will be properly communicated to the Commission.

As the action concerns procurement procedure, the public procurement is carried out according to national law and in accordance with Article 11 of the implementing rules. The principles of carrying out the procurement procedure are described under point 1.4. The specific type of procedure, the contracting parties and the date of implementation of the contract concerned will be determined in accordance with the rules described above, the description of management and control systems and taking account the period of eligibility of the action. The project(s) in the framework of the action shall be finished by the 31.12.2009.

<p><b>Purpose and scope of the action</b></p>	<p>Part of this project (the procuring of software for Border Guards mobile border check devices) is implemented in the framework of project described under 3.2.2. This is due to the fact that the devices possibly procured for mobile work stations will be used for both, the queries to SIS II and European Visa register databases.</p> <p>The Border Guard Information System's compatibility of changing demands of the Schengen visa area must be guaranteed.</p> <p>Today the Border Guard Information System is linked with the national Visa Register by which a query is enabled for border guards to get access to the data of visas and visa applications. Although the national Visa Register will also be intermediating VIS data to the Border Guard Information System, this will be a separate query which will be realised which this project. As there will be fingerprints involved as an input of a query, there is a need to integrate the scanners as well. With this project fingerprint readers are integrated with Border Guard Information system. This enables online fingerprint queries from European Visa Register (online visa validity checking). The fingerprint readers are already procured for the BBG and this is not the part of this project. This Project only contains software development. No new hardware will be bought.</p>
<p><b>Expected grant recipients</b></p>	<p>The project of developing the Border Guard Information System will be implemented by the MoI (the MBPD) as the RA in the executing body mode together with the BBG. The BBG signs an agreement with the MoI in order to fully meet the provisions laid down in the basic act (Decision No 574/2007/EC) and the implementation rules of the EBF and to implement the project accordingly.</p>
<p><b>Justification regarding</b></p>	<p>Due to the <i>de jure</i> monopoly situation of the BBG in the field of</p>

<p><b>project implemented directly by the responsible authority acting as an executing body</b></p>	<p>border guarding and the security reasons linked to the implementation of the project of developing the Border Guard Information System for linking it with VIS co-financed by the EBF, the responsible authority (MBPD of the MoI) will act as an executing body. The MBPD will implement the projects in association with the relevant national authority (the BBG) competent on account of its technical expertise, its high degree of specialization and its administrative powers. The responsible authority and the BBG will sign an agreement (equivalent of the grant agreement) as foreseen in the rules for implementation (adopted in 05 March 2008). This agreement will contain all relevant provisions laid down for grant agreements in the Implementing rules. The agreements will be drafted by the MBPD in close co-operation with Legal Department of the MoI and signed by the Deputy Secretary General of Internal Security of the MoI and by the head of the BBG.</p>
<p><b>Expected quantified results and indicators to be used</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fingerprint readers are integrated with Border Guard Information system.</li> <li>2. Online fingerprint queries from European Visa Register are enabled (online visa validity checking).</li> <li>3. Border guards' capability to tackle illegal immigration on the border increases.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Visibility of EC funding</b></p>	<p>All project applicants and grant beneficiaries will be informed about EBF co-financing. Agreements between the Ministry of the Interior and the national competent body will contain provisions whereby the grant beneficiaries must print the EU logo and signs indicating the EBF co-financing to all items of equipment obtained, and to all buildings and rooms renovated, with support from the Fund. EBF co-financing must also be mentioned if the project is presented to the public. The MBPD monitors the implementation of the projects and conducts on-the-spot checks for that purpose at least once during the project.</p>
<p><b>Complementarity with similar actions financed by other EC instruments, if appropriate</b></p>	<p>The fingerprint readers were procured in the framework of PHARE project therefore this project only contains software development.</p>
<p><b>Financial information</b></p>	<p>The project requires total amount of 25 565 EUR of funds, including 19 174 EUR (75%) from the EBF and 6391 EUR (25%) of the national co-financing.</p>

#### 4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

As the precise and detailed information about the use of technical assistance (TA) is decided during the programme (when the need occurs), the information presented in the annual programme 2007 is more general and may include activities which in real are not covered, but the possibility of covering the costs from the TA is still foreseen, if appropriate. The possible

actions are described in the program and carried out if the need becomes evident. In the phase of compiling the programme, not many concrete actions can be foreseen and there still must maintain an opportunity to carry out other activities that are eligible according to the eligibility rules for the TA stipulated by the EC, if necessary.

#### **4.1 Purpose of the technical assistance**

The TA is aimed at simplifying the implementation of the EBF programme by providing the applicants and the project implementers sufficiently with appropriate information and support in order to ensure the quality and consistence of the programme.

Due to the fact that compared to previous years, there are two new Funds to implement under the Solidarity programme (the External Borders Fund and the European Return Fund) from the years 2007 and 2008 in addition to the European Refugee Fund III and thereby the increasing number of the project proposals and the increasing volume of tasks related to the Funds, there is a need to employ extra personnel (it is planned to finance 2,25 positions from the responsible authority and 0,25 positions from the auditing authority dealing with the EBF). As the auditing authority is the same for all three Funds and the accounting specialist verifies the payment requests for all three Funds as well, the TA is used together for all the Funds mentioned. The CA has also expressed their request on using the allocations of the TA in the future for certifying specialist when the certifying processes are starting (the salary of an officer who conducts the certifying procedures). All staff working part-time under the EBF will fill the time-sheets indicating the time spent on EBF projects and time spent for other duties.

Consequently there is need to arrange work places and means of work for the extra personnel mentioned above and their salaries as well under the TA of the Funds. For example, 2 laptops are planned to be procured (1 for the auditing authority and 1 for the responsible authority). The laptops are needed for working through considerable amount of documents, participating in the workgroup of the EBF or other Funds matters, taking it along to the on-the-spot check while carrying out an audit or monitoring mission etc. The cost of a laptop is paid proportionally from the TA of the three funds mentioned above.

As regards employment costs, it may also be necessary to pay the costs of auditing (when outsourcing the external audit services) and/or evaluation (when outsourcing the evaluating and program assessment services) from the means of TA provided by the European Commission.

As the number of experts in the field of internal security and guarding the external borders is rather small in Estonia and there can be a possibility that all available experts are engaged in the project proposals as partners or the beneficiaries themselves, there may occur a need to cover the costs related to the recruitment of experts ad hoc basis in the evaluation of the projects outside the Ministry of the Interior. Therefore TA is required for paying the personnel costs to the experts involved in the program evaluation.

In principle, TA is used if the Ministry of the Interior (in addition it may be the Ministry of Finance as a certifying authority when the need occurs) carries out on-the-spot check while monitoring the projects' implementation. As the grant beneficiaries and the objects of the projects can be located outside Tallinn and they are situated some other places in Estonia, travel costs inside Estonia either by car or by public transport can be covered by TA. The costs of participating in various meetings such as the SOLID Committee and different

workshops arranged by the European Commission are also covered by TA. In the cases of assignment (internal or foreign) the allowance per diem are paid from TA.

The use of means of TA will be used for the translation of different documents into the Estonian language and from the Estonian into the English language.

It is important to train the personnel of the team that administers EBF in order to master their skills in project management, evaluation of the projects, monitoring and accounting, reporting of the irregularities. TA is used for these activities.

For implementing the rules set for the visibility of the EU support the TA is used. When organizing informational activities (e.g meetings with the final beneficiaries) the costs of the meeting which are eligible according to the implementation rules are also covered by the use of TA.

To meet the requirements of Article 33(2)(a) of the implementing rules for the EBF, the RA publishes the launch of a multi-annual programme and the annual programmes on the homepage of the MoI. The achievements of the annual programmes (the results and the usage of the funds) are also published on the home page. If there will be any press releases or articles in commercial newspapers on the subject, these will be financed by the TA.

#### **4.2 Expected quantified results**

The main result of the use of TA is a successful implementation of the EBF Programme 2007 (implementation of the planned activities)

Possible expected results, depending on the actual activities carried out, will be as follows:

- sufficient number of competent and trained officials in the designated authorities (effective and timely consulting of the final beneficiaries, monitoring, auditing and certifying activities);
- work-places and means of work for officials implementing the EBF, e.g 2 laptops for the AA and RA.
- preparation of information materials about the EBF (all the relevant equipment for working are guaranteed for the officials implementing the EBF);
- well-prepared grant agreements;
- well-prepared and timely prepared reports to be presented to the European Commission;
- at least one on-the-spot visit to each grant recipient;
- fast translation of the necessary documents, which assist the implementation of the EBF Programme 2007;
- The external auditors outsourced, if appropriate;
- The external experts/evaluators outsourced, if appropriate;
- The travel and subsistence costs for officials of relevant authorities when participating in the implementation of the EBF are covered (incl. allowance per diem);
- The visibility of EC funding is ensured in accordance with the implementing rules of the EBF;
- The exchange of information between the designated authorities and national competent bodies (e.g in a form of a meeting) is ensured.

### **4.3 Visibility of EC funding**

The EU logo and the sign of EBF co-financing will be applied to all materials prepared by the Ministry of the Interior (instructions, application forms, advertising materials, information sheets, etc). Equipment purchased using the technical assistance resources (e.g a laptop) will be provided with the EU logo. Informational activities (press releases etc) consist of a notice on the EBF co-financing.

## 5. DRAFT FINANCING PLAN

According to the article 16(4) in the basic act, as Estonia is also covered by the Cohesion Fund, the Community contribution is increased to 75% per action.

**Annual Programme - Draft Financial Plan**  
**Table 1 – Overview table**

Member State: <b>ESTONIA</b> Annual programme concerned: <b>2007</b> Fund: <b>EXTERNAL BORDERS FUND</b>								
<i>(all figures in euro)</i>	Ref. priority	Ref. specific priority (1)	Community Contribution (a)	Public Allocation (b)	Private Allocation (c)	TOTAL (d=a+b+c)	% EC (e=a/d)	Share of total (d/total d)
Action 1: Updating and upgrading the surveillance equipment at the Estonian external land border together with improving the infrastructure.	1		1 330 017	443 339	0	1 773 356	75,0	55,7
Action 2: Updating vessels communication and navigation systems	1		190 416	63 472	0	253 888	75,0	8,0
Action 3: Procurement and renovation of border guard vessels	1		335 536	111 846	0	447 382	75,0	14,0
Action 4: Modification of Estonian SIS central system (E-SIS), SIRENE workflow system and if possible the related authorities' information systems in connection with the exchange of information within SIS II	4	1	335 536	111 846	0	447 382	75,0	14,0
Action 5: Supplementary developments of Border	4	1	124 628	41 543	0	166 171	75,0	5,2

Guard Information System for linking it with SIS II and improving the existent queries								
Action 6: Supplementary developments of Border Guard Information System for linking it with Visa Information System (VIS)	4	2	19 174	6391	0	25 565	75,0	0,8
Technical assistance (incl plus 30 000 EUR)			72 226,34	0,0	0	72 226,34	100,0	2,3
Other operations (2)			0	0	0	0	0,0	0,0
TOTAL			2 407 533,34	778 437	0	3 185 970,34	75,57	100%

(1) if applicable  
(2) If applicable