

1. LISA

Eesti mitmeaastane programm

ANNEX 1

EUROPEAN REFUGEE FUND
DRAFT MULTI-ANNUAL PROGRAMME (2005-2007)

1. MEMBER STATE:

ESTONIA

2. RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY APPOINTED UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE DECISION ESTABLISHING THE EUROPEAN REFUGEE FUND (FUNCTIONAL BODY OF THE MEMBER STATE OR NATIONAL PUBLIC BODY)

The responsible authority within the meaning of Article 13 of Decision 2004/904/EC

Name: Ministry of the Interior

Address: Pikk 61, 15065 Tallinn, Estonia

Name of person responsible: Märt Kraft, Secretary General

Contact: Marju Kõrts

Function of contact: Adviser of Foreign Aid Bureau of Administrative Department

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Delegated authority within the meaning of Article 13 (1) of Decision 2004/904/EC (where appropriate)

(attach the official document whereby the responsible authority delegated responsibility for implementing ERF actions to the delegated body)

Name: –

Address: –

Name of person responsible: –

Contact: –

Function of contact: –

Tel.: –

Fax: –

Email: –

3. SITUATION IN THE MEMBER STATE

Provide description of the current situation in your country, as regards arrangements for reception, asylum procedures, integration and voluntary return of the target groups covered by Article 3 of decision 2004/904/EC. This description should include:

- (1) an overview of trends in relation to the target groups referred to in Article 3 as from 2003 including a succinct description of the social conditions for asylum seekers, refugees and displaced persons (resettlement if applicable);

Asylum Statistics

**Countries of origin of asylum seekers
(1 January 2003 – 31 December 2003)**

Country of origin of asylum seeker	Number of asylum seekers	%
Azerbaijan	3	20.0
Georgia	4	26.7
Iraq	1	6.6
RSA	1	6.6
Russia	5	33.3
Ukraine	1	6.6
TOTAL	15	100.0

In 2003, fifteen applications for asylum were submitted in Estonia: fourteen initial applications and one repeated application. One third of those were submitted by citizens of Russia. One of them submitted a repeated application. Four asylum seekers arrived from Georgia and three from Azerbaijan. One application each for asylum was submitted by citizens from Iraq, the Republic of South Africa, and the Ukraine, respectively. By way of comparison, it may be pointed out that twelve applications for asylum were submitted in 2002; nine thereof were initial and three were repeated applications.

**Countries of origin of asylum seekers
(1 January 2004 – 31 December 2004)**

Country of origin of asylum seeker	Number of asylum seekers	%
Azerbaijan	3	20.0
Georgia	1	6.6
Iraq	1	6.6
Japan	1	6.6
Lithuania	1	6.6
Turkey	7	46.6
Uzbekistan	1	6.6
TOTAL	15	100.0

In 2004, asylum in Estonia was sought by fifteen persons, of whose applications eleven were initial and four were repeated applications. Initial applications were submitted by seven Turkish, one Georgian, one Japanese, one Lithuanian and one Uzbekistani citizen. Repeated applications were submitted by three Azerbaijani citizens and one Iraqi citizen, who had submitted their initial applications in 2003.

**Countries of origin of asylum seekers
(1 January 2005 – 31 December 2005)**

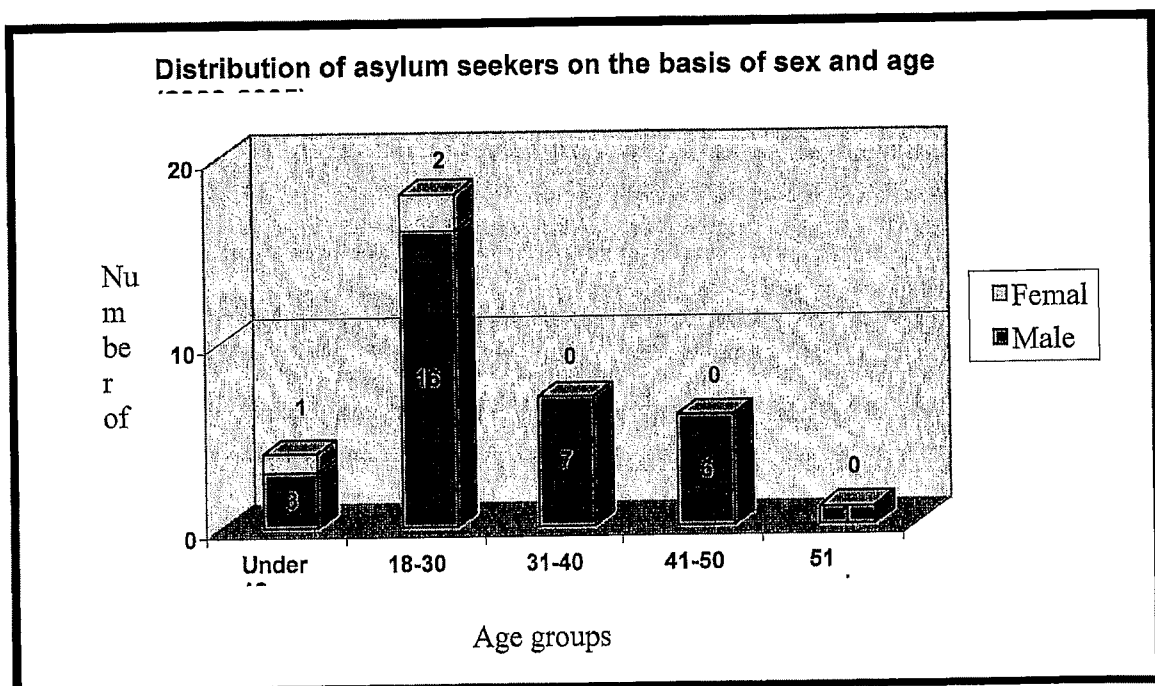
Country of origin of asylum seeker	Number of asylum seekers	%
Iraq	3	27.8
Sierra Leone	1	9.1
Turkey	2	18.2
Russia	4	36.4
Unknown	1	9.1
TOTAL	11	100.0

In 2005, eleven applications for asylum (all of them initial applications) were submitted in Estonia. Four of the asylum seekers arrived from Russia, three from Iraq and two from Turkey. One asylum seeker is a citizen of Sierra Leone and for one asylum seeker, who claimed to be a citizen of Zimbabwe, the actual citizenship is unknown.

It can be said that at least until today, Estonia's accession to the European Union on 1 May 2004 has not affected the number of asylum seekers who request protection from Estonia.

The main countries of origin of asylum seekers in the years 2003–2005 were Turkey, Russia, Georgia, Iraq and Azerbaijan.

In total, 41 applications for asylum by 36 persons were submitted in Estonia between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2005. Out of these 36 asylum seekers, 33 were male and three female. Thus, the percentage of female asylum seekers has been only 8.3 while the percentage of males was 91.7. The share of asylum seekers aged between 18–30 years is the largest – they make up exactly one half of all applicants. There were four minors among the asylum seekers, which accounts for 11.1% of the total number of applicants.



No person was granted the status of a refugee by the Citizenship and Migration Board between 1 January 2003 and 31 August 2005. In 2005, supplementary legal protection was granted to an Iraqi citizen, who was refused the primary application. Furthermore, in 2003, supplementary legal protection was granted to a Turkmenistani citizen who had already submitted an application for asylum in 1999.

With regard to applications for asylum submitted between 1 January 2003 and 31 August 2005, twelve decisions to refuse a residence permit have been adopted; applications for asylum have been rejected in eleven cases; in eight cases the proceedings have ended and six applications are being examined by the Citizenship and Migration Board. In addition, complaints against three decisions are being examined by the courts.

Country of citizenship	Refused	Rejected	Proceedings ended	Examined by CMB	Examined by courts
Azerbaijan	3	3	-	-	-
Georgia	3	2	-	-	-
Iraq	1	-	-	3	-
Japan	-	1	-	-	-
RSA	-	-	1	-	-
Lithuania	-	1	-	-	-
Sierra Leone	-	-	-	1	-
Turkey	3	2	3	1	1
Ukraine	-	-	1	-	-
Uzbekistan	-	1	-	-	-
Russia	2	2	3	-	2
Unknown	-	-	-	1	-
TOTAL	12	12	8	6	3

Reception Conditions

In accordance with the Refugees Act, an applicant for asylum who has submitted an application for asylum during his or her stay in the country is required to stay in the initial reception centre but not for longer than 48 hours. According to the Refugees Act, the initial reception centre is a state agency administered by the Ministry of Social Affairs but in reality, the Ministry of Social Affairs has not yet introduced an initial reception centre.

Generally, an asylum seeker is required to reside in the reception centre during asylum proceedings. This means that during the daytime, the applicants may move freely but during night-time (from 22.00 to 06.00) they are required to stay in the reception centre.

An applicant may reside outside the reception centre with the written permission of the Citizenship and Migration Board if:

- (1) the accommodation and support of the applicant is ensured by a person legally residing in Estonia;

- (2) the applicant has sufficient financial resources to ensure his or her accommodation and support;
- (3) it is necessary for the applicant to reside outside the reception centre in order to ensure his or her safety.

The reception centre is a state agency administered by the Ministry of Social Affairs, the duty of which is to organise the provision of necessary services to aliens during asylum proceedings.

In Estonia, there is one reception centre, namely the Illuka reception centre for asylum seekers. It was opened in May 2000 and it is situated in the village of Jaama in the Illuka rural municipality of the county of Ida-Viru. The distance of the centre from Tallinn is 220km. The closest city is Jõhvi, which is situated 50km away. The Illuka reception centre for asylum seekers can house a maximum of 35 asylum seekers.

Integration

An alien who is granted asylum may stay at the reception centre until he or she settles in the territory of a local government. In accordance with the Refugees Act, the Ministry of Social Affairs organises the settlement of a refugee into the territory of a local government within four months in agreement with the local government, taking into account the refugees' state of health, the location of the residence of his or her relatives by blood or marriage, and considering housing and employment opportunities for the refugee as well as the proportional allocation of refugees among local governments. An alien may participate in the selection of the local government most suited to him or her.

The reception of a refugee is organised by the local government, which, if necessary, assists refugees in:

- (1) finding housing;
- (2) obtaining social and health services;
- (3) arranging for translation and Estonian language instruction;
- (4) obtaining information concerning their rights and duties;
- (5) resolving other issues.

Expenditure relating to the settlement of a refugee into the territory of a local government is covered from the state budget under the conditions and pursuant to the procedure established by the Government of the Republic.

During his or her stay in Estonia, a refugee has the right to receive state allowances, family benefits, employment services and state unemployment benefits, social benefits and other assistance on the same grounds as a permanent resident of Estonia as provided for by law and pursuant to the conditions and procedures established by the Government of the Republic.

Voluntary Return

In accordance with the Refugees Act, a refugee who returns to his or her country of nationality or country of permanent residence, or resettles in another country may be paid a one-off benefit from the state budget to an amount which partially or totally covers his or her

travel expenses, pursuant to the conditions and procedures established by the Government of the Republic. Although voluntary return of asylum seekers to their country of origin is not explicitly brought out in the Refugees Act and in the Provision of International Protection to Aliens Act, it is stated in the law that the applicant has the right to get orally and in writing information about his rights and duties in asylum proceedings. Information about voluntary return is considered as one of the rights. Also according to § 35 of the Constitution of the Republic of Estonia everyone has the right to leave Estonia. (This right may be restricted in the cases and pursuant to procedure provided by law to ensure the administration of court or pre-trial procedure, or to execute a court judgment).

The Estonian Migration Foundation is an organisation dealing with the processes necessary, plus financing, for enabling voluntary return from Estonia. The Estonian Migration Foundation was established on 10 June 1992 by Order No 241-k of the Government of the Republic. The founder's rights are exercised by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The purpose of the Foundation is to support the migration and integration processes and to raise funds so as to undertake these tasks.

In the years 2003–2004, the amount of 3.6 million kroons was annually appropriated to the Migration Foundation by the Government of the Republic; 2.8 million kroons thereof were appropriated for migration support. The largest part of the migration support has been made up by remigration support for aliens (2.3 million kroons).

Registration support must be applied for in writing from the Migration Foundation. The Foundation's management board will decide on a case-by-case basis whether or not to pay support to the applicant.

Remigration support is composed of principal support and supplementary support:

- (1) principal support of up to 5000 kroons;
- (2) supplementary support for a minor of up to 3000 kroons per child;
- (3) retired person's supplementary support of up to 5000 kroons (paid if the applicant receives pension from the Estonian state and forfeits this right by remigration);
- (4) allowance for acquisition of housing of up to 10,000 kroons;
- (5) compensation for expenses of transport of personal assets of up to 10,000 kroons.

Remigration support may not exceed 15,000 kroons.

In 2003, the Migration Foundation paid remigration support to a total of 280 persons to the total extent of 2,532,000 kroons. Out of these persons, eighteen were retired military forces members and seventeen family members of retired military forces members. The total amount paid to retired military forces members and their family members was 337,000 kroons. Of the persons who left Estonia in 2003, 109 were retired persons, 54 were officially employed, 26 were unofficially employed and 52 were unemployed. Persons who left Estonia with support from the Foundation also included three released prisoners and 36 children. On average, every person leaving Estonia received support of 9043 kroons.

In 2004, the Migration Foundation paid remigration support to a total of 235 persons to the total extent of 2,403,000 kroons. Out of these persons, 23 were retired military forces members and 23 family members of retired military forces members. The total amount paid to retired military forces members and their family members was 521,000 kroons. Of the persons who left Estonia in 2004, 91 were retired persons, 46 were officially employed,

seventeen were unofficially employed and 51 were unemployed. The persons who left Estonia with support from the Foundation also included six released prisoners and 24 children. On average, every person leaving Estonia received support of 10,226 kroons.

In 2005, as of 31 August 2005, the Migration Foundation has paid remigration support to 159 persons to the total extent of 1,390,000 kroons. Out of these persons, eight were retired military forces members and twelve family members of retired military forces members. The total amount paid to retired military forces members and their family members was 215,000 kroons. Of the persons who left Estonia between 1 January 2005 and 31 August 2005, 47 were retired persons, 40 were officially employed, twelve were unofficially employed and 32 were unemployed. Persons who left Estonia with support from the Foundation also included 28 children. On average, every person leaving Estonia received support of 8742 kroons.

Among asylum seekers and refugees, there have been no persons repatriating voluntarily.

- (2) *an indication of public resources actually spent on reception, asylum procedures, integration and voluntary return as from the beginning of 2003;*

Reception of asylum seekers and asylum proceedings

In Estonia, asylum proceedings are mainly handled by the Refugees Department of the Citizenship and Migration Board. If an alien submits an application for asylum on the border, the initial procedure will be carried out by officials of the Border Guard. No separate account of expenses relating to asylum proceedings is kept in Estonia.

The Citizenship and Migration Board is a sub-office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and does not keep a separate account of expenses per department. Therefore, on the subject of expenses relating to asylum proceedings, we can only refer to the operational expenses from officials of the Refugees Department (five officials). This is exclusive of administrative expenses on asylum seekers, expenses related to the preparation of travel documents for refugees etc.

Operational expenses for the Refugees Department (in EEK)

Expense item	Actual expenses in 2003	Actual expenses in 2004	Expenses planned for 2005
Salaries	539,409	491,796	806,000
Taxes and payments on salaries	180,716	164,752	270,010
TOTAL	720,125	656,548	1,076,010

In addition, we can point out the salary cost expenses and the respective taxes and payments for the interpreters who have been used in asylum proceedings. In 2003, the amount of 8100 kroons was used for interpreters in asylum proceedings; in 2004 that amount was 29,700 kroons and in the first nine months of 2005, that amount was 21,600 kroons. This totals up to 59,400 kroons. At this point, it must be noted that these amounts are approximate and depend, *inter alia*, on the number of Russian-speaking or English-speaking asylum

seekers, for whom interpreters are not used by the Citizenship and Migration Board from one year to the next.

In 2004, the Citizenship and Migration Board purchased the means of taking fingerprints for the amount of 7745 kroons, taken from public funds. That purchase was aimed at fulfilling the duty of a EU Member State to forward fingerprints to the EURODAC fingerprints database.

In 2005, the Citizenship and Migration Board purchased a conference telephone for the Refugees Department in order to communicate with interpreters abroad during asylum proceedings. The cost was 8800 kroons.

The expenses involved in receiving asylum seekers and conducting asylum proceedings can also be regarded as including the books and magazines on refugee subjects purchased for the total amount of 23,000 kroons by the Refugees Department of the Citizenship and Migration Board in 2005.

In the near future, the Citizenship and Migration Board should have received a fingerprint scanner (booking station) but this will be obtained within the framework of the EU AFIS project, i.e. not from state funds.

The funds granted in 2004 by the European Refugee Fund have been used by the Citizenship and Migration Board for the reconstruction of one section of its office building on Mäekalda Street in Tallinn in order to establish a registration centre for asylum seekers. For such a project, co-financing was also required and since the Citizenship and Migration Board is a public institution, co-financing was received from the state budget. The amount of co-financing by the state was 450,936.70 kroons.

During asylum proceedings, asylum seekers are generally accommodated in the reception centre for asylum seekers, which is situated at Illuka in Ida-Virumaa. Therefore we hereby provide reference to the budget expenses on the reception centre in the years 2003–2005 (excluding personal incomes).

Expenses for the reception centre for asylum seekers (in EEK)

Actual expenses in 2003	1,205,444.50
Actual expenses in 2004	1,080,025.00
Expenses planned for 2005	1,186,265.00
TOTAL	3,471,734.50

Integration

In 2003, the training programme 'Teaching Refugee Children' was provided to teachers at general education schools. The training programme was financed through the Centre of Educational Programmes, which is a structural unit of the Non-Estonians' Integration Foundation (operating with state-budget funds). The cost of the training programme was 50,000 kroons.

A project entitled 'Increasing the Readiness of Estonian Society for Integrating Asylum Seekers within the framework of the EQUAL programme of the European Social Fund' is financed within the EQUAL initiative. The project is carried out by the Jaan Tõnisson Institute and the partner is the Ministry of Social Affairs. The project's total budget is 1.7 million kroons, of which 403,750 kroons is provided by the Estonian state. The rest of the funds are provided by the Jaan Tõnisson Institute (85,000 kroons) and the European Social Fund (1,211,250 kroons). An awareness survey has been conducted.

Voluntary Repatriation

No public funds have been appropriated in 2003–2005 for voluntary repatriation of asylum seekers or refugees and persons receiving supplementary legal protection.

- (3) *main results of actions/projects financed by national funding (outwith ERF) since 2003 with regard to reception, asylum procedures, integration and voluntary return. Please provide a global assessment of the impact of these actions/projects;*

Twenty teachers from general educational schools in Tallinn, Tartu and Paide and ten teachers from the Illuka Basic School participated in the 80-hour training programme 'Teaching Refugee Children' coordinated by Narva College at the University of Tartu in 2003. The training programme was initiated at the request of Illuka rural community and Illuka school, as at that time, two Kurdish children, who lived at the Illuka reception centre for asylum seekers, were studying in Illuka Basic School. The training programme was financed through the Non-Estonians' Integration Foundation.

In the years 2003–2004, a project entitled 'Organisation of Education in Migrant Workers in Estonia' was carried out in Estonia within the framework of the Dutch Matra programme. Although no Estonian public funds were used for the project (the funding came from the Netherlands), refugee children studying in Estonia will benefit from that programme. Namely, the activities of the programme encompassed, and resulted in, an Estonian textbook for pupils, a book for teachers and a handbook for educational workers, a training programme for teachers and information materials for the public. At present, these materials are already in use, as two children of Iraqi origin, who are living at the reception centre for asylum seekers, are pupils of the Illuka Basic School.

A development partnership entitled 'Increasing the Readiness of Estonian Society for Integrating Asylum Seekers within the framework of the EQUAL programme of the European Social Fund', lies within the framework of the EQUAL initiative subject 'Support for social and employment integration of asylum seekers'. The project is implemented by the Jaan Tõnisson Institute and the partners are the Ministry of Social Affairs and Euronext Consulting OÜ. The project is aimed at working out proposals for government agencies, local governments and third-sector organisations on how the social and employment integration of asylum seekers should be organised. This objective involves the study of the potential extent of the problem in the coming years by conducting a study on the possible number of asylum seekers and their geographic, social, cultural and religious backgrounds. This will be followed by a study of the readiness of Estonian state institutions and local governments and society in general to receive asylum seekers. The studies and analyses will result in appropriate proposals to the institutions concerned for the adoption (e.g. the Regional Development Act, currently under preparation) or amendment of legislation, and in a review on measures necessary to integrate asylum seekers (a programme for the integration of asylum seekers).

- (4) *main results of the actions/ projects co-financed in your country by the European Refugee Fund in its previous year(s) with regards to reception, asylum procedures, integration and voluntary return. Please provide a global assessment of the impact of these projects;*

Since Estonia acceded to the European Union on 1 May 2004, the finances of the European Refugee Fund have only been available to Estonia since 2004.

The finances granted by the European Refugee Fund in 2004 have been used to support two projects, both of which are covered by the action 'conditions of reception and asylum procedures'.

One of the projects was entitled 'Promotion of the access to justice and legal aid for asylum seekers and refugees'. That project was carried out from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005 by the Legal Information Centre for Human Rights (MTÜ Inimõiguste Teabekeskus). The main objective of the project was to provide legal aid to asylum seekers and refugees arriving in Estonia. During the project, legal aid was provided to 20 persons, and six persons were represented in the courts. The project also involved the preparation of an information leaflet containing information necessary for asylum seekers. The leaflets are available on the web site of the Legal Information Centre for Human Rights in the Estonian, Russian, English, Turkish and Dari languages. That project was both useful and required, as otherwise the asylum seekers would have been threatened by the danger of being deprived of professional legal aid. As a matter of fact, the State Legal Aid Act, whereunder free or partly paid legal aid would have been available in principle to, *inter alia*, asylum seekers, only entered into force on 1 March 2005. Unfortunately, the information leaflets prepared by the Legal Information Centre for Human Rights will not be usable for long, as on 1 July, the Provision of International Protection to Aliens Act will enter into force, resulting in the repeal of the Refugees Act. The information leaflets were prepared by the Legal Information Centre for Human Rights on the basis of the Refugees Act.

The other project, which was carried out by the Citizenship and Migration Board, is 'Registration Centre for Asylum Seekers'. The project was started on 1 April 2005 and it ended on 31 December 2005. That project was aimed at reconstructing a section of the Mäekalda client service building of the Citizenship and Migration Board in Tallinn into a registration centre for asylum seekers. Reception rooms, accommodation rooms for asylum seekers, questioning rooms and service rooms for the Refugees Department were built. The registration centre is meant for the conduct of procedural acts and, if necessary, the accommodation of asylum seekers. These are extremely necessary activities which assist the improvement of the reception conditions for asylum seekers, given the fact that the Illuka reception centre for asylum seekers at is situated in Ida-Virumaa, which has given rise to a number of logistical problems and security issues. Also, the project facilitates the implementation of Article 6 of EU Council Directive 2003/9/EC, which states that the asylum seeker's certificate must be issued within three days from lodging the application. The family room of the accommodation facility contributes to meeting the requirement of Article 8 of the said Directive that the unity of the family must be preserved.

- (5) *an analysis of the deficits within your country with regard to reception, asylum procedures, integration and voluntary return.*

Reception of asylum seekers and asylum proceedings

Initial reception centre

The applicable Refugees Act, as well as the Provision of International Protection to Aliens Act, which will enter into force on 1 July 2006, provide that the area of the administration of the Ministry of Social Affairs includes the reception centre for asylum seekers as well as the initial reception centre. However, until now, the Ministry of Social Affairs has not appointed or introduced any initial reception centre, and therefore, the observance of the procedure for the stay of an asylum seeker in Estonia and the procedure for the application for asylum as provided in the applicable Refugees Act and the draft Provision of International Protection to Aliens Act is not ensured. The aforementioned provisions are about preventive measures in order to ensure national security. Those provisions are also aimed at ensuring a swift examination of applications for asylum. In accordance with the applicable Refugees Act, all asylum seekers are required to stay in the initial reception centre for up to 48 hours after the submission of the application. After that period, an asylum seeker may be detained in the initial reception centre with the permission of an administrative court judge in the following cases:

- (1) the identity of the applicant has not been not ascertained, including cases where the applicant does not co-operate in, or hinders the identification process;
- (2) for the performance of the acts specified in the Act;
- (3) for establishing circumstances relevant to the asylum proceedings if the applicant does not co-operate in establishment of circumstances or hinders the establishment thereof;
- (4) there is good reason to believe that the applicant has committed a serious criminal offence in a foreign state;
- (5) the applicant has repeatedly or seriously violated the internal procedure rules of the reception centre;
- (6) the applicant fails to comply with the surveillance measures applied with respect to him or her, or the applicant fails to perform other duties provided by the Act;
- (7) the applicant's stay in the initial reception centre is necessary in the interests of national security and the upholding of public order.

The absence of an initial reception centre has given rise to a situation in which applicants who have arrived in Estonia illegally by using assistance from criminal persons and groups organised for that purpose do not cooperate with the authorities in the examination of their applications for asylum and, instead, move freely around in the territory of Estonia. Furthermore, supervision of their activities is practically impossible. Therefore, it is essential that the Ministry of Social Affairs introduce an initial reception centre.

Strategy concerning temporary protection

Estonia will transpose EU Council Directive 2001/55/EC on the minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof by the Provision of International Protection to Aliens Act, which will enter into force on 1 July 2006.

At present, ministries are preparing a plan for resolving emergencies, which is a general plan on the actual course of action in the event of an emergency. A common opinion has been

reached that even an event of the mass influx of refugees into a country constitutes a potential emergency. The aforementioned plan is a general plan on how to act in an emergency. At the same time, there is no analysis on how to act particularly in the event of a mass influx of persons. It can be supposed that in reality, we are not ready for a mass influx of persons. Therefore, it would be important to create a national plan of action in the event of a mass influx of persons.

In addition to the above, the following should be pointed out as the most important shortcomings in the procedures for the reception of asylum seekers and the asylum proceedings:

- The lack of interpreters has been one shortcoming in asylum proceedings. Since Estonia is a small country and there are not many interpreters for the native languages of various asylum seekers, the officials of the Citizenship and Migration Board have often had to use interpreters from abroad, e.g. via telephone conversations. It would be good to have a greater involvement of interpreters in asylum proceedings: this would be useful both to asylum seekers as well as the officials examining applications for asylum. Interpreters would be needed not only in the conduct of asylum proceedings but also in all other activities directed to applicants for international protection.
- The applicable Refugees Act as well as the Provision of International Protection to Aliens Act, which will enter into force on 1 July 2006, provide that the reception centre for asylum seekers will organise, during asylum proceedings or proceedings for temporary protection, *inter alia*, Estonian language instruction for the applicant, as necessary. Unfortunately, in practice the situation has developed in such a manner that, since the number of asylum seekers living in the reception centre is small, asylum seekers have sometimes not received sufficient instruction on the Estonian language.

Integration

The number of refugees and persons who have received supplementary protection is very small in Estonia and for that reason, not much attention has been paid to them on the state level. In Estonia, there are no integration programmes concentrating particularly on persons who have received international protection and taking into consideration their ethnic, cultural, religious and other differences. Integration programmes would be aimed at assisting persons who have received international protection to adapt themselves to Estonian society. If necessary, integration programmes should certainly pay attention to providing psychological assistance to persons who have received protection. Since language skills are the first step that helps a person to integrate in a new society, the persons receiving international protection must be taught the Estonian language.

Separate integration programmes could be intended for the children of persons who have received international protection and these could, *inter alia*, be programmes for the integration of children into the education system. The fact that the number of persons who have been provided with asylum in Estonia is presently small does not mean that this situation will not change. In any case, we must be ready to see that the number of refugees and other persons receiving international protection in Estonia can grow. There must also be a readiness to provide Estonian language instruction to persons who have received international protection: both to children and to adults. Until now, the main problems are constituted by the fact that Estonian schools have no experience in dealing with new immigrant children, i.e. minors who receive international protection, and therefore the problem is not perceived until

the school suddenly receives notification that they will receive a new pupil with a foreign native language. Another shortcoming is the lack of preparation by teachers and a psychological fear of their inability to cope.

Voluntary return

Until now, no person who has sought asylum in Estonia and no person who has received protection in Estonia has voluntarily repatriated to their country of origin. One of the possible reasons for that may lie in the fact that different authorities and bodies have not been able to even offer the option of return to persons who have applied for or have received international protection. Unfortunately, no non-profit association yet has been engaged in seeking information about the countries of origin and providing assistance to persons who would like to return to their homeland. The subject of voluntary repatriation would certainly require more attention.

4. ANALYSIS OF REQUIREMENTS IN THE MEMBER STATE

Provide an analysis of requirements in your country in terms of reception, asylum procedures, integration and voluntary return and an indication of the operational objectives designed to meet these requirements during the period covered by the programme (2005-2007), taking into account the Commission's multi-annual planning guidelines on priorities as detailed below:

Priority 1

Implementation of the main actions including those related to integration set out in:

(a) Council Regulation (EC) No 343/2003 of 18 February 2003 establishing the criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an asylum application lodged in one of the Member States by a third-country national,¹

(b) Council Regulation (EC) No 2725/2000 of 11 December 2000 concerning the establishment of 'Eurodac' for the comparison of fingerprints for the effective application of the Dublin Convention,²

(c) Council Regulation (EC) No 407/2002 of 28 February 2002 laying down certain rules to implement Regulation (EC) No 2725/2000 concerning the establishment of "Eurodac" for the comparison of fingerprints for the effective application of the Dublin Convention,³

(d) Council Directive 2001/55/EC of 20 July 2001 on minimum standards for giving temporary protection in the event of a mass influx of displaced persons and on measures promoting a balance of efforts between Member States in receiving such persons and bearing the consequences thereof,⁴

¹ OJ L 50, 25.2.2003, p. 1.

² OJ L 316, 15.12.2000, p. 1.

³ OJ L 62, 5.3.2002, p. 1.

⁴ OJ L 212, 7.8.2001, p. 12.

(e) Council Directive 2003/9/EC of 27 January 2003 laying down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers,⁵

(f) Council Directive 2003/86/EC of 22 September 2003 on the right to family reunification;⁶ as far as provisions related to refugees are concerned,

(g) Council Directive 2004/83/EC of 29 April 2004 on minimum standards for the qualification and status of third country nationals or stateless persons as refugees or as persons who otherwise need international protection and the content of the protection granted⁷

- **Readiness for the mass influx of persons into Estonia**

Since no adequate analysis has been made in Estonia on how to act in the event of a mass influx of persons, we can assume that in reality, we are not ready for a mass influx of persons. Therefore it is important to prepare a national plan of action in the event of a mass influx of persons (including persons receiving temporary protection). That plan should set out more specifically the action of authorities, the procedures for the exchange of information, etc. In that regard, the methods used should be the most effective and least cumbersome for persons receiving temporary protection or for asylum seekers. In addition to a document concentrating on the mass influx of persons, it would be good to have practical training regarding the same situation. If training were conducted and a strategy were prepared, the authorities would be more prepared in reality for a situation involving the mass arrival in Estonia of persons receiving temporary protection.

- **Provision of International Protection to Aliens Act**

On 1 July 2006, the applicable Refugees Act will lapse and, instead, the Provision of International Protection to Aliens Act will become applicable; the area of regulation of the latter act is significantly more extensive than that of the Refugees Act and the new Act will harmonise several EU Council Directives. For the introduction of the new Act, the following activities, *inter alia*, will be necessary:

- (1) The training of officials and other persons coming into contact with asylum seekers and persons who have received international protection. Training could be provided to, for example, border guard officials, officials of Citizenship & Migration, persons employed at the reception centre for asylum seekers as well as local government officials, labour market officials, lawyers and judges. Directive 2003/9/EC and Directive 2004/83/EC both stress that institutions and organisations implementing the Directives must have received the necessary training.
- (2) Renewal of information and information materials distributed to asylum seekers and persons who have received international protection; such information should reflect the rights and duties of persons applying for international protection, the asylum proceedings, integration and options to return to one's native country. The duty to inform asylum seekers of their rights and duties is also provided by Directive 2003/9/EC. Directive 2004/83/EC provides the same with regard to persons receiving international protection.

⁵ OJ L 31, 6.2.2003, p. 18.

⁶ OJ L 251, 3.10.2003, p. 12.

⁷ OJ L 304, 30.9.2004, p. 12.

- (3) Notification of the public about new Acts and different forms of international protection in order to increase society's tolerance towards asylum seekers and persons who have received international protection. The notification of the public could, for instance, include the publication of articles in newspapers and magazines, as well as notification through audio-visual media, in which case television and radio programmes on asylum-related subjects would also be necessary.
- In Estonia, not much attention has yet been paid to the provision of psychological and social assistance for asylum seekers. We believe that such assistance would be needed particularly by child asylum seekers, especially unaccompanied children, but also by pregnant women, elderly people and other applicants for international protection with special needs.
 - Given that the number of asylum seekers and persons who have received international protection will probably grow in Estonia, the respective integration programmes should be prepared, concentrating particularly on persons who have received international protection and taking into account their ethnic, cultural, religious and other differences. The integration programmes would be aimed at helping persons who have received international protection to adjust into Estonian society. Article 33 of the so-called Qualifications Directive also provides that the Member States will prepare appropriate integration programmes in order to facilitate the integration of refugees into society or create preconditions to ensure the availability of such programmes. In the preparation of the integration programmes, account should be certainly taken of the need to assist persons receiving international protection in their access to the labour market, and training facilities and vocational training should also be offered to them, if necessary. Besides all that, persons who apply for protection in Estonia and persons who have received international protection should, of course, be provided with Estonian language instruction since knowledge of the language is the first step in helping a person integrate into a new society.
 - More attention should be paid to the voluntary repatriation of asylum seekers and persons who have received international protection, insofar as one of the reasons why no person who has applied for asylum in Estonia or received protection in Estonia has yet repatriated may be constituted by the fact that various authorities and institutions have not managed to adequately propose the option of return to the persons who have applied for or received international protection. Unfortunately, no non-profit association has yet been engaged in seeking information about the country of origin or in providing assistance to people who would, at the bottom of their hearts, like to return to their homeland. Nevertheless, Article 34 of Directive 2004/83/EC sets out that Member States may provide assistance to beneficiaries of refugee or subsidiary protection status who wish to repatriate.

Priority 2: *The preparation of the implementation of principles and measures foreseen in the Council Directive of 1 December 2005 on minimum standards on procedures in Member States for granting and withdrawing refugee status in Member States*

- **Legal aid to asylum seekers**

The assistance of non-profit associations is still needed to advise asylum seekers, provide legal aid to them and represent them in court. Even though, since March 2005, when the State

Legal Aid Act entered into force, asylum seekers can, *inter alia*, apply for state legal aid, it would be good if non-profit associations could also help asylum seekers by providing legal aid and advice. In practice, several countries have confirmed that provision of legal aid and advice by an independent NGO is the best guarantee that the applicants are sufficiently informed about their rights and duties during the proceedings. Certainly, with regard to providing legal aid to asylum seekers, non-profit associations have the advantage that the asylum seekers have more trust in non-governmental organisations. However, it would be necessary to develop the government's capacity to provide legal aid to asylum seekers. In its third report, drawn up in 2005, the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) reiterates the recommendation given in its report of 2001 that the Estonian authorities should establish a legal assistance system to enable the asylum seekers to explain the reasons of their applications thoroughly to the authorities.

- **Interpreters and translators**

A greater engagement of interpreters and translators in asylum proceedings would in all respects assist the asylum proceedings. The importance of interpreters in asylum proceedings is also set out in the so-called Procedures Directive, which provides, *inter alia*, that asylum seekers must have the option to receive the services of an interpreter for submitting their case to the competent authorities whenever necessary. Interpreters and translators would be needed not only for conducting asylum proceedings and translating documentation but also for all other activities directed to persons applying for international protection.

Receiving country of origin information is very important to asylum authorities, therefore the increasing of capacity is needed in that field. This is also connected with ensuring necessary equipment for the authorities, in order to work more effectively.

Another need is to train relevant officials to work with (unaccompanied) minors and other vulnerable persons. Because of the lack practice with these kinds of asylum seekers the training done may have been forgotten and needs renewal.

Priority 3: *The implementation of actions aimed at improving the quality of procedures for the examination of claims for international protection in Member States, for example through:*

- *achieving a single procedure for the assessment of claims for international protection;*
- *strengthening of compilation, evaluation and the effective use of information on countries or regions of origin;*
- *strategies to address particular pressures on the asylum systems and reception capacities of Member States resulting, inter alia, from their geographical location;*
- *independent, qualitative reviews of the asylum systems in Member States, undertaken in co-operation with the asylum authorities;*
- *strengthening the quality of first instance decision-making to expedite end-to-end procedure and ensure robust final decisions;*

- *actions to reinforce the integrity of the asylum systems in Member States, undertaken in cooperation with the asylum authorities;*
 - *strategies to identify and address caseloads where a simplified or accelerated procedure or particular arrangement for reception may be appropriate.*
- Investments would be needed by the reception centre for asylum seekers as well as the registration centre. As regards the registration centre, the European Refugee Fund has already financed the launching of construction activities but the repair work should be carried on (there is a need for plumbing work, a fence around the centre, repairs to the building's façade, etc). In addition, furniture and some equipment for asylum proceedings should be obtained for the centre. The establishment of an initial reception centre for asylum proceedings should, of course, also be started.
 - Creating of a secure system of providing legal services to asylum seekers would be necessary. Lately there have been problems because of the lack of NGO-s working in that field. Of course the lack of NGO-s comes from the small number of asylum seekers.
 - Improving the availability of information regarding voluntary return and identification of potential candidates for voluntary return is needed.

Priority 4: *The implementation of measures relating to asylum seekers, refugees or beneficiaries of temporary or subsidiary protection, minors, in the respect of the principle of the best interests of the child.*

In addition to the fact that children, including unaccompanied children, should be offered psychological help, there should be more activities for children in the reception centre. Secondly, it would be necessary to prepare integration programmes for children, which would, *inter alia*, be concentrated on the adaptation of children to the Estonian system of education, considering the probably completely different cultural and religious backgrounds of persons who receive international protection. Of course, great attention should be paid to the Estonian language instruction of minors receiving international protection as well as persons seeking protection, as the applicable Refugees Act and the Provision of International Protection to Aliens Act, which will become applicable on 1 July, both provide that asylum seekers must also receive Estonian language instruction. Certainly, in this regard, the training of teachers is also necessary. It is also important to learn from the best practises of other Member States. Therefore study visits would also be useful. Identifying needs and deficiencies of (unaccompanied) children by means of research is needed.

Priority 5 (optional): *For Member States having established or who are willing to establish resettlement schemes, actions which address, in particular, the reception and orientation of persons admitted to the Member States under such schemes and the management of such schemes.*

Estonia is not planning a resettlement scheme or any participation in activities related to resettlement during the years 2005–2007.

5. STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES

(a) Give a presentation of an appropriate strategy to achieve the objectives stated above (4) and the priority attached to their attainment. Please describe briefly the kinds of action envisaged to implement these priorities; How do these requirements address the priorities identified above?

In order to achieve these objectives, Estonia will adhere to the following strategy:

- The reception conditions and asylum proceedings measure is, for Estonia, still the most important measure under the European Refugee Fund. At the moment, a successful implementation of the Provision of International Protection to Aliens Act is very important for Estonia. For that reason, the priorities of Estonia are the training of officials with regard to the new Act within the framework of ERF II, the preparation of new information materials on the rights and duties of persons applying for international protection and the provision of information to the public about the new Act and about the forms of international protection.
- Implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive: by the Provision of International Protection to Aliens Act, which will enter into force on 1 July 2006, Estonia will transpose the Temporary Protection Directive. In order to be ready for a mass influx of persons receiving temporary protection as well as other persons applying for international protection into Estonia also in reality, it is already essential to prepare, in the framework of ERF II, a national plan setting out how various authorities should act. Practical training about the aforementioned situation should certainly be conducted in order to be sure that everything functions properly. Therefore, the preparation of such a plan should, by itself, also cover training as that should pinpoint various weaknesses, which may still need improvement, in the cooperation between the authorities.
- Integration: integration measures have not received particularly great attention as yet. This has definitely been due to, *inter alia*, the fact that the number of refugees and persons who have received supplementary protection has been very small. Given that the number of asylum seekers and persons who have received international protection may increase, it will be necessary to pay greater attention to integration measures. One of Estonia's priorities in this field is employment — provision of jobs to persons who have received international protection. As regards employment, it is important to note that this does not concern only refugees, persons receiving supplementary and temporary protection but also asylum seekers. Namely, the Provision of International Protection to Aliens Act, which will enter into force on 1 July 2006, provides that an asylum seeker may be employed in Estonia if the Citizenship and Migration Board has not adopted a decision regarding that person's application for asylum for reasons independent of the asylum seeker within one year after the submission of the asylum application or if the decision of refusal of asylum has been disputed in a court by the asylum seeker, provided that the employment will not hinder the examination of that person's application for asylum, the court proceedings or the enforcement of the decision. Given that court proceedings may last for several years, asylum seekers may quite probably be willing to exercise their right to employment. Therefore we are planning to train officials in the Labour Market Board, prepare information materials, deal with matters of vocational and continuing education, etc. The provision of Estonian language instruction to persons applying for or receiving international protection is naturally also a priority in the field of integration.

- Voluntary return: until now no asylum seeker or person who has received protection in Estonia has expressed a wish for voluntary return. We find that within the framework of ERF II, we should also begin more activities in relation to voluntary return. This means that this option must be offered more to persons, and if a person wishes to return, he or she should receive any assistance for that purpose.
- Cooperation with national and international non-profit organisations, whose activities cover the fields of asylum and migration, in the preparation and implementation of projects. There are quite a few projects in which non-profit associations can participate: the provision of legal aid to asylum seekers, the representation of asylum seekers in court; the provision of advice to asylum seekers; the training of various officials and other persons coming into contact with asylum seekers or persons receiving international protection; assistance for repatriation, etc.
- Since the year 2006, the state is providing (through the Ministry of Internal Affairs) all European Refugee Fund projects with 15 percent of their financing. This means that since 2006, the project applicant themselves must finance only 10 percent. We hope that this change will also result in an increase in the number of project applications. In the year 2005, project applicants still had to finance 25 percent of the cost of the project.
- The priorities brought out show the needs of Estonia, where assistance and improvement is necessary. When selecting ERF projects for years 2005, 2006 and 2007 the preference will be given to those projects which target the before-mentioned priorities. In order to make things easier for project applicants we foresee the possibility to implement multi-annual projects.
- In the call for proposals for using ERF funds it is brought out which are the project proposals most expected. For example in the 2005 call it was set out that the call is awaiting proposals on the following topics:
 - provision of free legal aid (counseling and representation in court) to asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection;
 - provision of free social assistance and psychological care to asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection;
 - teaching of Estonian and other languages if needed to asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection;
 - training of officials dealing with asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection (border guards, migration and citizenship board officials, judges, lawyers, asylum seekers reception centre officials, labor market board officials, local government officials etc);
 - improvement of reception conditions in reception centre and in registration centre;
 - creating the initial reception centre;
 - compilation of information materials for asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection informing them of their rights and obligations, asylum procedure and voluntary repatriation options;
 - inclusion of interpreters into the asylum procedure;
 - compilation of action plan in case of mass influx of asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection (including conduction of training);
 - increasing the awareness towards asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection in Estonian society through the media;

- provision of integration programs concerning the Estonian education system to children of beneficiaries of international protection;
 - assistance to beneficiaries of international protection with finding accommodation and work, also with vocational training;
 - distribution of information to asylum seekers and beneficiaries of international protection and also to persons who have been denied international protection about voluntary repatriation, social and legal counseling in the matters of voluntary repatriation;
 - transmission of information about country or region of origin or former country of inhabitation, including working possibilities and social welfare;
 - assistance with arranging travel documents;
 - provision of a moderation service between a person belonging to the target group and his/her country of origin representative;
 - assistance with reintegration in the country of origin (assistance with finding accommodation and work, and ,if necessary, financial aid, training etc);
 - training of non governmental organizations and other organizations to assist persons belonging to the target group with voluntary repatriation.
- Taken into account that reception measures and asylum procedures are most important to Estonia, we plan to distribute the funding allocated to projects as follows:

	2005	2006	2007
Measure A: Reception	60% of amount provided by ERF	55% of amount provided by ERF	55% of amount provided by ERF
Measure B: Integration	35% of amount provided by ERF	35% of amount provided by ERF	35% of amount provided by ERF
Measure C: Voluntary return	5% of amount provided by ERF	10% of amount provided by ERF	10% of amount provided by ERF

(b) Describe the consultation process undertaken with the appropriate partners provided for in Article 13(3a) of Decision 2004/904/EC.

By the Minister of Internal Affairs Directive No 306 of 25 July 2005, the European Refugee Fund working group was established with the task of preparing the Estonian position regarding the European Refugee Fund programme for 2005–2007 and the programme of the year 2005. The working group was composed of representatives from the current Citizenship and Migration Policy Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs as well as representatives of the Citizenship and Migration Board, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Bureau of the Minister of Population. In addition, the European Refugee Fund working group included representatives of such non-profit associations as the Legal Information Centre for Human Rights, the Tallinn Office of the International Migration Organisation, and the Representation of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in the Baltic and Nordic states.

6. COMPATIBILITY WITH OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Please indicate whether and in which way this strategy is compatible with other regional, national and Community instruments.

The aforementioned programme for Estonia is completely compatible with other national and Community instruments, *inter alia*, taking into account the priorities laid down by the Hague programme in the field of asylum. For example, by the Provision of International Protection to Aliens Act, which will enter into force on 1 July 2006, Estonia will also transpose the Asylum Procedures Directive (2005/85/EC), which, according to Article 43 of the Directive, should be transposed by 1 December 2007.

The programme is also in conformity with the national integration programme for 2000–2007, which was approved by the Government of the Republic on 14 March 2000. The national integration programme for 2000–2007 is composed of four sub-programmes: 'Education', 'Education and culture of ethnic minorities', 'Estonian language instruction for adults', and 'Social competence'. As regards, for example, the Estonian language instruction for adults, one of the missions of the integration programme is to expand the foreign-language-speaking adults' opportunities for learning the Estonian language in order to ensure their competence in the Estonian language at a level necessary for use in everyday situations and at work. The preparation of a national integration programme for 2008–2013 is also underway; the respective terms of reference have already been completed, stating, for example, that due to poor knowledge of the Estonian language, many non-Estonians do not have a sufficient outlet into Estonian society and that lack of Estonian language skills has been the main obstacle to the integration of non-Estonians into the labour market, culture, social and political life.

Immigration projects for new immigrants have since 2003 been the subject of cooperation between the Centre for Educational Programmes of the Non-Estonians' Integration Foundation and the Ministry of Education and Research. One of the activities besides in-service training programmes for teachers, preparation of study materials, etc, was the preparation of the document 'Children of new immigrants in Estonian education. Principles of education policy and education management', in 2004. That document provides an overview of international and Estonian legislation underlying the education management and presents the intended trends and planned measures in education management for the children of new immigrants. In the document, asylum seekers and refugees are also covered by the term 'new immigrants'.

In order to ensure the compatibility of the ERF programme with the Community EQUAL initiative, a representative and a deputy representative of the Ministry of the Interior have been engaged in the monitoring committee for the programme of the EQUAL initiative. The monitoring committee gathers regularly and also information in writing to committee representatives is sent regularly. One of the reasons for having Ministry of the Interior's representatives in the monitoring committee of EQUAL is to guarantee that there is no overlapping between EQUAL and ERF. Given the small number of projects the monitoring committee pretty much discusses matters on project level. At the moment there is only one project in EQUAL which is targeted to asylum seekers. The project is implemented by the Ministry of Social Affairs and by one NGO.

Representatives of the Ministry of Social Affairs were, in turn, members of the European Refugee Fund working group established by the Ministry of Internal Affairs with the task of preparing Estonia's positions with regard to the ERF programme for 2005–2007 and the programme for the year 2005. The members from the Ministry of Social Affairs were the same who are members of the monitoring committee of EQUAL. Also before the ERF programme for 2005–2007 was approved by the Government of the Republic of Estonia, the programme was sent to different ministries, including the ministry of Social Affairs, for

approval. Concerning the Ministry of Social Affairs the programme was approved by the person who is involved with EQUAL as well.

7. INDICATIVE FINANCIAL PLAN

Please prepare an indicative financing plan which sets out, for each year and action the Fund's proposed financial contribution and also the overall amount of public and/or private co-financing.

Indicative Financing plan (3 year multi-annual planning period) (in euros)

		Public allocations				Private	Total
		Community (ERF)	State	Regions	Local governments		
Reception and asylum procedures	Total	741,309.90	95,931.91	0.00	0.00	151,171.39	988,413.20
	2005	261,650.35	–	–	–	87,216.78	348,867.13
	2006	239,813.40	47,962.68	–	–	31,975.12	319,751.20
	2007	239,846.15	47,969.23	–	–	31,979.49	319,794.87
Integration	Total	457,867.25	61,047.57	0.00	0.00	91,574.83	610,489.65
	2005	152,629.37	–	–	–	50,876.45	203,505.82
	2006	152,608.51	30,521.70	–	–	20,347.80	203,478.01
	2007	152,629.37	30,525.87	–	–	20,350.58	203,505.82
Voluntary return	Total	109,015.03	17,442.16	0.00	0.00	18,896.17	145,353.36
	2005	21,804.20	–	–	–	7268.06	29,072.26
	2006	43,602.43	8720.48	–	–	5813.66	58,136.57
	2007	43,608.40	8721.68	–	–	5814.45	58,144.53
Technical assistance	Total	195,240.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	195,240.26
	2005	65,081.58	–	–	–	–	65,081.58
	2006	65,077.10	–	–	–	–	65,077.10
	2007	65,081.58	–	–	–	–	65,081.58
TOTAL		1,503,432.4	174,421.64	0.00	0.00	261,642.39	1,939,496.3
	2005	501,165.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	145,361.29	646,526.79
	2006	501,101.44	87,204.86	0.00	0.00	58,136.58	646,442.88
	2007	501,165.50	87,216.78	0.00	0.00	58,144.52	646,526.80

If the plan is not presented in euros, please use the reference exchange rate established by the European Central Bank and published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 2 May 2005.

The plan has been drawn up in euros.

The funding plan has been prepared on the basis of the principle that in the years 2006 and 2007, the state will provide funding for 15 percent of the cost of the projects so that those responsible for implementing the project will have to provide 10 percent. In the year 2005, the extent of self-financing was 25 percent. In 2005-2007, the European Refugee Fund's financing for the projects is 75%.

8. VISIBILITY OF THE EUROPEAN REFUGEE FUND CO-FINANCING

Financing by the European Refugee Fund must be clearly visible for every action linked to any measures financed within the framework of the project. Methods of ensuring visibility include:

- *printing the EU logo and indicating the presence of ERF co-financing on all materials produced by the national authority responsible for implementing the national programme (calls for project proposals, guidelines, application forms, letters to applicants, etc);*
- *informing all project beneficiaries of ERF co-financing;*
- *printing the EU logo on equipment purchased for the project;*
- *printing the EU logo and indicating the presence of ERF co-financing on all relevant publicity materials, leaflets, letterhead, PR work, etc;*
- *placing the EU logo and indicating the presence of ERF co-financing on grant recipients' premises (e.g. on office walls, entrances, etc);*
- *Informing the audience of ERF co-financing when projects are mentioned at seminars or conferences.*

The following acknowledgement must be used for ERF co-financing:

"The project is co-financed by the European Refugee Fund".

The EU logo can be downloaded from:

http://europa.eu.int/abc/symbols/emblem/index_en.htm

Any publications that acknowledge ERF-co-funding must specify that the publication reflects the author's view and that the Commission is not liable for any use that may be made of the information.

The co-financing of the European Refugee Fund will be made visible primarily by the distribution of information, including different products, reports and other written materials, via the Internet, seminars, articles and interviews to the media.

The EU logo and an indication of the presence of ERF co-financing will be attached to all materials prepared in the Ministry of Internal Affairs (calls for proposals, instructions, application forms, grant agreements, etc). Similarly, the EU logo will be attached to technical equipment purchased within the framework of the project and to equipment purchased by the final recipient of funds from the European Refugee Fund. ERF co-financing will be mentioned at seminars, conferences and other public events where the project is presented or referred to. All final recipients will be informed about the co-financing by the European Refugee Fund and the obligation to use the EU logo in the event of ERF co-financing — such provisions are contained in the grant agreements concluded with the final recipients.

